

Experience & Solutions

# Neville Abbott

Our Village, Our Way

## TRACK RECORD ON COUNCIL

- **100% attendance record** at Council and committee meetings
- **Challenged expenditure:** voted against tax increases, because there was no support to review/reduce expenditure first
- **Consultation:** responsible for Woodburning and Urban Containment Boundary "Have Your Says"
- Council lead on changing our designation from urban to **RURAL**.
- **Transparency:** When possible, moved items from in camera to public agenda including annual Strategic Planning Session
- **Less secrecy:** Continually pushed for reporting out after closed meetings
- Supported residents' right to receive answers during Council meetings
- Re-established Emergency Program Committee and support services, with resident leadership
- Revived **volunteer groups** including Bear Smart and Block Watch
- Initiated new Council Ethics Policy
- Critically reviewed all contract recommendations
- Voted against the **Lions Bay Avenue Connector** project: budget better spent elsewhere
- Challenged choice of **above-ground PRVs**

## COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEER GROUPS

- Member, Infrastructure Committee
- Member, Emergency Program Committee
- Chair, Curly Stewart Memorial Trust Fund (Scholarship) Committee
- Chair, Bear Smart Committee
- Council Liaison, Lions Bay Bird Friendly Initiative
- Councillor responsible for Citizen of the Year/ Distinction awards: residents now have input
- Regular attendee, Climate Action and other committees
- Working on ways for our kids to earn community credits in their own Village

## PLATFORM

My position on the issues over the past 4 years and how I believe we should proceed is on **page 2**.

This is how I have and will represent you on:

**Finance, Administration, Infrastructure, Community, Environment and Good Governance.**

## APPROACH

Consider matters with an open mind, do the homework and consult residents to make the best decisions for the Village, in line with our values. Continue to challenge conventional thinking that hasn't worked in the past to find better solutions.

## ABOUT ME

I arrived in Lions Bay with my wife and son in 2001 and Lions Bay instantly became home, I strongly relate to the passion for our Village once again demonstrated in the Urban Containment Boundary "Have Your Say" last year. I'm no politician but I care deeply for this unique Village with its amazing lifestyle and natural beauty.

In my day job I'm a Project Manager for a large international engineering firm downtown. Problem solving, critical assessments, budgets, contractual negotiations and people management is a large part of what I do, and I apply these skills at the Council table often.

I'm a strong supporter of environmental and nature conservation initiatives and always have been. This is an important part of who I am and there is always an environmental lens in my decision making.

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# PLATFORM



## FINANCE

- Find ways to reduce expenditure before increasing taxes
- Critically review staffing and expenses to identify efficiencies
- Leverage our new rural designation to obtain increased grant funding
- Pursue only revenue opportunities that are in line with the Village vision

## ADMINISTRATION

- Senior staff must return to the office to manage the workforce
- Review staffing plan: revisit the need for positions as staff leave/resign, align salaries with roles and available budget
- Relook "one employee" model (the CAO)
- Become customer (resident) focussed
- Benchmark vs. other similar size municipalities: are we right sized?
- Council to be consulted on the appointment of candidates for employment
- Employment opportunities to be advertised in the Village so that suitable resident candidates can apply
- Implement staff reporting process with SMART objectives determined by Council

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Support a team-based collaboration between mayor and Councillors
- Council to set strategy/tasks for staff to follow
- Continue to push for openness and transparency, including earlier and better communication of what Council is discussing
- Continue to support open dialogue with residents at all times including during meetings and public consultation on important questions and projects
- Uphold the Official Community Plan (OCP) and confirm its alignment with our rural designation

## INFRASTRUCTURE

- Prioritise projects in line with the Infrastructure Master Plan
- Continue to say no to unnecessary/unwanted projects
- Design projects to suit our needs and budget. The strategy of designing best-in-class facilities we cannot afford and then hoping for grants is not working.
- Senior staff to manage projects, not consultants
- Asset Management Plan: our infrastructure deficit must be addressed. The solution is multifaceted, there is no magic bullet
- Shovel-ready projects: only one is required in the pipeline (stop spending on designs we can't afford to build)
- Implement an effective Preventative Maintenance Program that includes roads and drainage
- Restructure the Infrastructure Committee to draw on qualified resident volunteers

## COMMUNITY

- Continue to revitalise and reinstate volunteer groups: remove obstacles
- Return to Village tradition of promoting and facilitating volunteerism
- Update/restructure Village website to provide easy access to information

## ENVIRONMENT

- Prioritise the formulation of a meaningful Climate Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions
- Bring the environment back into our planning
- Continue to support and expand conservation efforts in the Village
- Air quality: ensure clean woodburning through ongoing education

**Vote for continuity, experience,  
insight and better solutions.**

Questions? Comments? Contact me on [nevilleabbott@gmail.com](mailto:nevilleabbott@gmail.com) 604-922-5290

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