

***Questions from No Nuclear Waste in Northwestern Ontario, posed to Dryden City Council Candidates, September 2022.***

***Question #1***

***What do you believe are the top issues that Dryden residents are concerned about and what is your plan to address these issues?***

**David Burch**

The top issues that Dryden residents have come to me with concern about are the violent crime and hard drug issues that have come up in the last few years. Meth seems to be a problem in almost every community. The safety of Dryden residents is my number one priority. I will meet with the OPP and various other service providers to come up with a plan to tackle this problem. It's going to take a team approach. We must be open to ideas from the residents of Dryden and surrounding area.

**Catherine Kiewning**

Top things I think Drydenites are concerned about: healthcare, housing and supportive/accessible infrastructure. Healthcare is huge because living in a rural and remote area, getting the treatment we need is sometimes difficult. Attracting healthcare professionals to our area is a huge barrier to effective care. I would meet with frontline staff to hear ways that they believe would improve the system that we currently have, I would advocate for my city as a welcoming place to live for all kinds of people, and connect professionals with civic engagement opportunities so that they can build social connections and deeper roots here. Safe, affordable housing is one of the easiest ways to address the inequity in our city. When people have safe places to live they thrive in all other parts of their lives. Besides investing in a shelter, I would really like to look into building apartment buildings for young professionals or small families that can also create a bit of revenue for the city. Maybe this building has solar panels that the city can tap into to lower electricity costs, maybe it has childcare in the building, a convenience store in the building. Providing stable and affordable housing for folks who want to live and work and play here is the first step in getting them here. Our infrastructure is hurting across the city currently. With our aggressive debt repayment we should be able to start building up our reserve funds by 2024, if we can do that, it could mean that we could apply for bigger funding opportunities provincially. For many grants you can't even apply for them without already having a percentage of the money already. By staying the course on

repaying our debt we will have more opportunities for different funding. I'd really like to see upgrades made to our urban trails and busy sidewalks, because in many places they are currently inaccessible to community members who use mobility devices. it would also just make Dryden look a lot nicer especially if folks were able to enjoy getting around our city without driving.

### **Bill Latham**

We received no response from Bill Latham.

### **Martin MacKinnon**

1. to continue on the path to financial stability that the previous two councils have initiated by continuing to work hard at eliminating the city's debt
2. To continue to gather information to understand the issue of nuclear waste disposal and how that it will impact our community, that would include that all costs associated with educating our community should be funded by the NWO, city tax dollars should not be used for this purpose. The city of Dryden did not seek that the waste would be stored in our area - but since Ignace has declared itself a willing community and the proposed site is so close to Dryden we need to prepare ourselves for the possibility of that fact.
3. Infrastructure needs - roads are of utmost importance, water/sewer expansion to the Government Dock area to enhance tourism opportunities is important too
4. Work with other social partnerships to combat drug and substance abuse, mental health issues and homelessness in our community
5. To continue to work towards Dryden being an inclusive community
6. Unfortunately, there are no instant/miracle fixes to most problems but we need to access information, expertise, effective practices, government funding, available resources to work towards making things better.

**Rich Noel**

Having lived here most of my life, I can't help but say that the present crime rate, and level of property offences are of utmost importance to the residents. We have had no less than 5 murders here in the last few years. One of them is presently unsolved and another one went unsolved for several years. Each one of them involved either methamphetamine and/or opiates. We have random people wandering into homes and businesses often committing violent acts, or thefts. We have gangs here and the associated issues usually faced by far larger cities. This is the most important issue I feel this city is facing and needs to be front and center as we go forward. In as much as council members can affect this situation, it will be my number one priority to assist in any way I can to make Dryden a city where we can be safe in our homes, feel secure on our streets and be the envy of other communities everywhere in Canada as we once were.

**Brad Pareis**

A: I believe that the citizens of Dryden are quite concerned about the NWMO's plan to place a DGR to bury Canada's toxic nuclear waste in our immediate area. I also feel that citizens are concerned about substance abuse and that the area continues to lack a homeless shelter, the housing situation in general is pretty dire, with both a lack of availability and affordability. Another issue on the radar is safety concerning the highway and semis, especially around the uncontrolled intersection near Tim Hortons, the Coop, and Walmart.

## **Michelle Price**

When asking about my platform for the next election, please take a look at the City of Dryden Strategic Plan it will clearly state in the plan what I want for the future of the City of Dryden. I was very involved in developing the plan with other members of Council and City Staff. You will find the plan on the City of Dryden Website.

If elected I plan to focus on many areas of our community. The impact of homelessness, mental health and addiction in our community is of great concern. I plan to request a seat on the Kenora District Services Board to help address these concerns and come up with suitable solutions. Meeting with our local MP's will definitely become part of my monthly agenda as well as pushing for funding from the province to bring forward change.

The businesses are getting hit regularly with high amounts of theft, I will be working alongside our OPP to help curve this crime. With regular meetings between the OPP and business owners I hope to develop a plan of action. I also plan to keep a positive open line of communication and relationship with the OPP, top of my mind is I want a safe community.

Another of my concerns is the care of our elderly especially those with Alzheimer's and Dementia. I recently spent many hours sitting with a loved one in palliative care and realized how many of our seniors (Pillars of our Community) in hospital rooms were actually waiting for a bed to become available in a seniors home. Again if elected I am hoping to have a seat on the KDSB to become a voice for our seniors and bring more affordable senior housing in the community.

I will continue to keep a close eye on spending, ensuring we stay on the path to clear our long standing debt, helping to keep a balanced budget. I also plan to continue to ensure all aspects of possible funding available is applied for to build or repair our roads, invest in our infrastructure, arenas and library. I feel once the debt is paid in full our community will see many great things happen such as better roads, sidewalks, water & sewer, parks, etc.

Above are just a few of the areas I will be focusing on but I know there will be many more decisions to be made to help Dryden become all that it can be.

## **Bryan Tardiff**

This is a very tough questions to answer as Dryden has such a diverse population especially when taking into consideration the catchment area our city services. In my opinion the list must be broken into two categories: First would be near term issues requiring immediate action and resolution plans. Second would be long term issues requiring intense public engagement, thoroughly reviewed feedback and a detailed strategic plan that ensures our response fairly represents the position and consensus of the City's residents.

Near term issues, regardless whether they are associated with social issues, healthcare, utilities and infrastructure, policing etc. ultimately all circle back to finance. Are you realizing value for your tax dollar and are your tax dollars being spent in a responsible manner that will benefit your quality of life best? Every resident that invests a dollar wants and expects a return on that investment, paying taxes should be no different. If services are not being maintained and/or improved then something is broken within the financial management of our city and needs to be fixed before the issues/services affected will be able to be addressed. This can only be accomplished by reviewing the accountability of those in positions responsible for operating within and/or managing the budgets of their specific departments. Some areas may be doing a good job while others are not, they need to be identified reviewed and directed in a manner that rectifies the issues hampering efficient operations.

Long term, the obvious issue of the DGR. I can honestly say that 10 years ago, after taking part in a learn more information presentation and tour of existing facilities, I did not have issue with the project. I saw it as a long term solution, that could be implemented using the best available technology, to address a problem rather than leaving it to the next generation. As an area businessman I saw it as a stabilizing economic opportunity that would improve a host of medical, social and infrastructure shortfalls in the area while providing youth with opportunity for professional and technical careers here instead of in a city far from Northwestern Ontario. I really only kept it on the peripheral, for the most part after that. Now, no longer a business owner, I still see opportunity but also have concerns with the direction, safety and focus of the project. I struggle with whether I will or will not support the project and continue to research and study what I can so that if and when required I can make the most informed decision possible.

**Question #2.**

**If you are elected, what role would you support for the city of Dryden to perform in relation to the plan proposed by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)?**

**David Burch**

I would support the city of Dryden playing a role in educating the residents of the dangers of Nuclear Waste by parties that are against the repository being built here. The groups that are against this Nuclear Waste Site have not been given the proper representation or forum to present to the public. In discussions and forums these groups have been shut out or unable to comment. While groups or parties that were for the repository had full control to present their side. This was not offered to the parties against it. There must be equal representation for both parties so that the education sessions can be unbiased.

**Catherine Kiewning**

As I understand it, the City of Dryden does not have the final say either way when deciding if the Waste site comes here. However, the proposed site will likely affect every industry in our city.

**Bill Latham**

We received no response from Bill Latham

**Martin MacKinnon**

To continue to work towards Dryden being an inclusive community

**Rich Noel**

My responsibility would be to the citizens of Dryden and what they decide to be the best course of action. At this point, I am not convinced the plan proposed by the NWMO provides enough objective information to fairly deliver both sides of a very serious issue. The information I have reviewed, appears to be one sided and without several definitions that really should be part of the process. Simple things like what does

temporary storage mean? Why do we have to pre-submit questions to the presenters? Until such time that the people of Dryden make this very difficult decision, my role will be to make the process as transparent as possible and expose the questions that don't appear to be widely or easily answered.

### **Brad Prareis**

I feel that the city should be weaned off of the NWMO's funding, and that there should be no closed-door meetings and agreements signed out of the public's scrutiny. I feel that the city should retain an appropriate distance from funding that could appear to be coercive, and be willing and able to critique any flaws in the plan that become apparent.

### **Michelle Price**

Did not answer question.

### **Bryan Tardiff**

As I understand it, after speaking with representatives of the CNSC and IAAC, the current plan is only required to detail the design and compliance of the storage facility. As each threshold of the plan approval is realized I believe the IAAC is open to public input. I'm not clear on what you would define as the city's "Role".

I do feel strongly that the majority opinion of the residents' must be heard and taken into consideration before the project is allowed to proceed. Their mandate of a willing and welcoming host must include the area as a whole. If I were to be elected in the upcoming election and council were to be tasked with voting as part of a final decision on site selection, I cannot say that I would agree that council can make that decision on behalf of the residents of Dryden. The last city election saw a 53% eligible voter turnout. The highest elected councillor voter support was 12%, the lowest was 8%. As a citizen, I don't feel that a councillor receiving their mandate from 1,000 to 1,500 residents, can in good conscience, make a decision for 8000 men women and children that reside in the city. My recommendation would be for a plebiscite to occur; one that would encompass the area residents so that there would be no question as to welcome willingness.

**Question #3.**

**Many Dryden residents feel their voices have not been heard and the previous city council was not transparent in its relationship with NWMO. What would you do to ensure the residents have a voice and are well- informed about NWMO interactions and plans with Dryden City Council?**

**David Burch**

I would make the process to communicate with council easier for residents. I would also open the closed-door meetings between NWMO and the council and mayor. I would like a full audit of where the monies from NWMO have been spent and also which city employees' wages have been subsidized by NWMO.

**Catherine Kiewning**

Transparency is very important to me and one of the values that I am running on in this election. I would encourage citizens to seek out the information being presented to them by We the Nuclear Free North and NWMO - we have a lot to learn from both. There are information opportunities happening constantly in our city- there are marches even. If elected, I would work with city staff to present the information as plainly as possible. This issue has really divided people and both sides have solid points, I can see the benefits to hosting a Nuclear waste site but I can also recognize the potential devastating effects if something were to go wrong during transport, or within the site itself. I think that maybe hosting a council meeting in a larger venue if the time ever came that a vote needed to happen. Citizens are voting for us because they believe we are of sound judgement and can make the best decisions for our city long term. I know that there will be people disappointed with either outcome. I encourage anyone and everyone to please have a conversation with both "sides". I also think that bringing both groups together to speak with citizens might be an idea that way citizens can hear both arguments at the same time.

**Bill Latham**

We received no response from Bill Latham.

**Martin MacKinnon**

I am unclear as to how the council I am a part of has not appeared transparent about our relationship with NWO. I personally have always been open to any inquiries made to me by fellow residents. I have only accessed information from NWO to glean some sort of understanding of nuclear waste. I have spent hours reading information from virtual/ social media sources to educate myself about nuclear waste and its storage, I still feel that I am in a place where I could not fairly make a decision, there are too many unknowns.

**Ritch Noel**

This is a very sensitive topic that should be decided perhaps with a referendum. This should only occur after BOTH sides of this issue are given equal and fair opportunity to express their respective information. Of critical importance is pointing out where potential conflicts of interest may arise depending on who may be benefiting from either acceptance or refusal of the plan. Those with decision making powers must be completely neutral and without outside influences of any kind. Those who don't fall into that category will be challenged to recuse on any decision on this vital decision.

**Brad Pareis**

I partially answered this above, but would attempt (necessarily with support of other council members) to wind up NWMO funding for various positions within city government. I would also support in council either the termination or planned expiry of the memorandum of understanding with the NWMO signed by the previous council. By removing NWMO money from municipal politics, we could regain the status of independence that seems to have been lost by the previous council. At that point, direct communication with the public through the already-established DNEEC would be a possible avenue to keeping the public informed.

**Michelle Price**

Did not answer question.

**Bryan Tardiff**

I cannot speak to the concern of transparency regarding the relationship between the city and NWMO other than to say that any official interaction, decisions or discussions should or would have been of public record and available through freedom of information. I do feel that there are adequate resources, opportunities for engagement, and research information available to

any individual with concerns, or a want for a better understanding and that the opportunity for open minded research, in my opinion, is not being impeded. I commend the city on the formation of the Dryden Nuclear Engagement & Education Committee but I'm not sure what additional measures can be implemented that would provide further information. I encourage all residents to take advantage of the information resources already available and to voice concerns where they see shortfalls or opportunities for additional access. I believe that to have a voice, it is the individual responsibility of those with concerns to take advantage of the resources available to them to stay informed. You cannot sit back, idly digesting regurgitated, second and third hand translations of data and opinions. Ask questions until you are confident that you have received truthful answers. I personally am not entering this race to champion either side, will also not avoid answering legitimate questions or addressing concerns on any subject that I can provide insight.

**Question #4.**

**What do you know about NWMO's plan to bury high-level Nuclear Waste in a deep geological repository outside of Dryden and what is your stance concerning the plan?**

**David Burch**

I am aware that NWMO has a plan to build a repository at least 500m underground. The proposed facility would be massive in scale, about 3X4 kms and house nuclear waste from all reactors in Canada. Once complete the waste would be transported to our area to be stored there indefinitely. I don't support the plan at all and consider the idea foolish and not well thought out. It's all experimental and extremely dangerous. One wrong move and this entire area and possibly the country could be poisoned for thousands of years. I am %100 against any transportation or storage of nuclear waste in our territory. The answer is a hard NO.

**Catherine Kiewning**

From what I understand, NWMO is proposing to host their site 40+ km west of Ignace (basically in the middle of here and there). NWMO determined that this site is one of the safest places to store nuclear waste because of the Canadian Shield. I have a few concerns about the plan but my biggest ones are the transportation of nuclear waste and the fact that nuclear isn't a renewable or clean energy and I wouldn't want to see nuclear being developed more than solar, wind or geothermal options. Ensuring that our city is prepared for climate change is important to protect the investments of taxpayers and others who live here.

**Bill Latham**

We received no response from Bill Latham.

**Martin MacKinnon**

I believe in the end the decision should ultimately be made by a community referendum. Respectfully, Martin MacKinnon

### **Ritch Noel**

This issue, I have discovered, is far deeper than what it appears on its face. It is a decision that should be made in the context of how it will affect numerous generations removed from our own at present. We must get this right. I am happy to say I have been actively educating myself and am most concerned about the potential for what is called “temporary shallow storage”. I must question the apparent lack of transparency relative to what the possible negative consequences might be to accepting this opportunity. I have concerns about issues surrounding transport, especially given the state of the transportation industry and the lack of commitment from both the Federal and Provincial Government to address this very real problem facing all of Ontario. I am alarmed that the upcoming presentation, that I will be attending, requires attendees to submit questions ahead of time and see no objectivity as there appears to be only one side of this issue being actively promoted. Until I am strongly and convincingly swayed that this is a safe opportunity for us to further and enhance the lives of our residents, I am most definitely not on board with the plan to either transport it here, certainly not to “temporarily” store it here and absolutely not to store it in any type of underground facility.

### **Brad Pareis**

As a member of the DNEEC since its inception, I have been exposed to a great deal of information about this plan. I have also studied the issues in detail in independent study of multiple scholarly sources. I feel that I am quite well informed on the subject, and remain firmly against any such project in our area. In my discussions with community members, I find that the vast majority have a similar outlook, and need to have support for their views on city council.

### **Michelle Price**

Finally as per your letter you want to know where I stand with NWMO. I am still learning and have not a made decision, but then again the decision is not mine to make. I can tell you I will continue to ask for funding from NWMO to participate in the studies required to make sure our community is ready for whatever decision is made by the Wabigoon First Nation Reserve and Ignace. Unfortunately Dryden does not have a say on if the community wants a depository in such close proximity to our City therefore, I will focus on making sure our community is prepared for a decision in either direction.

## **Bryan Tardiff**

I have taken recent opportunities to do more research on the DGR project since taking part in initial Learn more presentations 10 years ago. Up until the 19<sup>th</sup> of August I had no intention of running for council, my opinion only mattered to me and I'm embarrassed to say that I just left the issue on the peripheral, just "Trusting in the science" so to speak. Soon after filing my nomination papers, I realized I needed to become more familiar with the most up-to-date information, technology and concerns. I have provided some opinions and concerns of my own, regarding the proposed used fuel storage facility, in my previous answers. My delay replying to your questions, as I previously explained to Mr Riggins when I received your request, was because I was away not returning until Sep 19<sup>th</sup> and that I wanted to take part in the forum before answering. My stance, which may come across as political, is currently undecided but definitely open to discussion. I can foresee many potential benefits, both social and economic, that would easily entice longtime residents who have lived through the many area economic downturns. I understand and sympathize with those who have health and environmental safety concerns. I am confident that, based on conversations with representative of the IAAC and CNSC attending this week's forum, that there are and will be opportunities during the approval and consultation process for public input/ opposition consideration and would hope and encourage everyone, on either side, to take advantage of these.

I hope that as you review my answers you will see that I am tailoring them to appease or court support from either side of the Nuclear storage debate. If asked similar questions by those supporting the project my answers will remain the same. I am not a politician.

