

A little about Sam Stewart:

I have been a resident of the Crowsnest Pass for almost 5 years. During that time I have worked in the community building civil infrastructure and residential construction. I am a Civil Engineering Technologist graduate from Lethbridge College and have been working in geotechnical engineering for over 10 years alongside regulatory bodies in Utah, Alberta and British Columbia. I have extensive experience with ensuring standard and code compliance is being met and a well rounded understanding of development requirements. I am the business owner of Triple S Water Solutions, a local small business contractor that designs and installs private civil infrastructure. I strive to provide the community with the much needed service of private water and wastewater maintenance and development.

I am a father of two children and have a close relationship with the many community programs that help ensure a high quality life for my family. We enjoy many of the same activities as the rest of the community like hiking, camping, and snow activities that make the Crownsest Pass unique.

I am running because the community deserves transparency, integrity and respect from their council. I understand the necessity of proper development with the focus on maintaining the local culture and interests. I am choosing to serve my community because I love the Crowsnest Pass and all it has to offer and do not want to live anywhere else.

Where do you stand on heavy industry in the Pass, including the proposed coal mine?

Heavy Industry is essential to the economy and way of life in the Crowsnest Pass. However, industries must carry the respect and responsibility of keeping the community safe.

Do you agree that Alberta should remain in Canada? Please answer yes or no.

No comment. This question does not pertain to showcasing the candidates ability to appropriately fulfill the requirements of municipal governance as the Alberta sovereignty issue is under provincial and federal jurisdiction.

If the public expresses strong opposition to a council initiative (e.g., in a public hearing), are you willing to listen, consider, and implement changes — even if it differs from your personal view?

Yes, if the change is what the majority of the community is wanting. There are many different groups within the Crowsnest Pass all with separate values. A loud group may not always have the support of the majority. No decision by council will be unanimously approved by all residents and it is important that changes are made for the better of the community as a whole.

Yes or no: Are you in favor of allocating budget funds each year to subsidize senior transportation?

Yes, as long as the use of funds are being used correctly and operations are verified as being financially efficient.

Regardless of the outcome of the Northback operation, what is your Long-term (10–30 year) vision for Crowsnest Pass, and how can you best contribute to laying the groundwork towards achieving this vision?

My vision is a community that still has neighbors who can rely on each other. A city that has grown effectively with affordable houses that young families can grow into a home, and a healthy economy that can support workers that come home every night without financial fear.

I plan to help lay the groundwork by keeping the community engaged with the local politics, ensuring the municipality is still in touch with their residents. I plan to establish incentives to developers who can ensure homes are being built in enough quantities to support the demands. I plan to help new and established businesses see the potential in our community especially with the arrival of the Highway 3 Twinning project.

How do you plan to reduce future tax increases, when there are so many outstanding infrastructure projects that keep getting shuffled to new budgets?

The issue of increasing future taxes is a very important one. By analyzing the potential overspending in subsidies, we could find alternative payment plans to help optimize subsidies while continuing to assist the businesses that need assistance.

New lanes of revenue should be sought after, for example; in areas like the Pass Powderkeg, operating lifts in the summer for mountain bikers could bring in additional funds and reduce the subsidy on operation costs.

A municipality that is welcoming of industries will directly benefit from the business taxes. When a community blocks potential business from setting up shop, they make the home owners carry the costs that would have been otherwise covered. Costs from upgrading and maintaining infrastructure will cause higher taxation and there is little that can be done to avoid this. However, by cleaning up the budgets and reducing subsidies to only the necessary amounts, we can ensure tax increases are reflective of the investment into the infrastructure which has the greatest benefit of all.