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# South Cumberland NEWS

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# New Council Sworn In For Cumberland Municipality



Members of 2024 new Cumberland municipal council include: CAO Greg Herrett, District 6 Coun. Scott Lockhart, Mayor Rod Gilroy, District 1 Coun. Fred Gould, District 2 Coun. Anthony Fromm, (back, from left) District 3 Coun. Jennifer Houghtaling, District 5 Coun. Angela 'Angel' McCormick, District 4 Coun. Kathy Redmond, District 7 Coun. Carrie Lee and District 8 Coun. Marchel Strong. (Cole - Municipality of Cumberland photo)

Members of Cumberland municipal council were officially sworn into office on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, with outgoing mayor Murray Scott presenting the gavel, representing the transition of power, to the new mayor Rod Gilroy.

Gilroy and the eight members of council were all elected during the Oct. 19, 2024, municipal election. Elections are held every four years within the Municipality of Cumberland. Gilroy is the second mayor elected at large in the municipality's history, after the county changed from a warden-led council to that of a mayor prior to the

2020 municipal election.

"I'm really looking forward to being a part of and working with this council," Mayor Gilroy said. "I'm really looking forward to working with and being part of this enthusiastic team. We have a great blend of experience and people who are on council for the first time. There's lots of knowledge of the issues we're going to face together in the coming months and I have all the faith that we'll do great things."

Gilroy said it's not the work council will do in the next few months or years that's most important, but the legacy it leaves for the future.

Joining Gilroy on council are returning members Fred Gould in District 1, Jennifer Houghtaling in District 3, Kathy Redmond in District 4 and Angela 'Angel' McCormick in District 5.

New councillors include Anthony Fromm in District 2, Scott Lockhart in District 6, Carrie Lee in District 7 and Marchel Strong in District 8. Five of the eight councillors are women.

Gilroy thanked the three outgoing councillors - Mark Joseph, Dale Porter and Carrie Goodwin - for their dedicated service to the municipality. He also thanked Scott for his work as the mu-

nicipality's first mayor. "They did a lot of work these last four years and we're all in a better place as a municipality because of the work they and the previous council did," Gilroy said.

The mayor also thanked staff for its work. "Every day you show you really care about the job you do and how you do it, and that means a lot to me and the councillors. For the new councillors, you'll see in the months ahead how much these people mean to you moving forward. They do a fantastic job and they work hard every day."

(Also see photo on page 2)

# 2024 Nova Scotia Election - Cumberland South Candidate Questionnaires

## Larry Duchense NDP Candidate Cumberland South

(EDITOR'S NOTE: All candidates in Cumberland South were asked to complete a questionnaire unique to the Cumberland South. This reply is from Larry Duchense, NDP Candidate).



Larry Duchense

What topic is raised most frequently while campaigning "door to door"?

I have been sick during the first week of the campaign. So the first week of door-knocking is an opportunity lost. I'll hit the doorsteps in weeks 2, 3 and 4.

The electorate is demanding a higher rate of accountability to their concerns. Nation-wide there is a significant increase of complaints elected officials I staff do not return calls promptly. Do you promise "you personally" or "a senior member of your staff" will return a call to constituent within 24 hours?

I will promise to return calls promptly. I dislike that many MLAs rely on paid staff almost exclusively to deal with constituent problems.

The lack of suitable affordable housing has become a major problem. Remote rural areas face even great challenges with lack of infrastructure such as: conditions of roads, cellphone, acceptable internet and government service. What will you do to ensure infrastructure to these areas is improved to levels consistent with other areas in order to retain current populations or to attract new families to the area?

As MLA I will spend the time necessary to ensure Cumberland South has infrastructure as close as possible to provincial standard. Adequate health care will also help retain and attract people. To that end, I will fight to ensure that one of the first 15 doctor-based health clinics is based in Parrsboro. I also will pursue the idea of senior's rural health check-in centres as a means of reducing the burden on health care professionals

What is the most promising asset / resource to achieve economic growth or population growth for Cumberland South?

Our land base offers much promise. Let's make good use of our forest and agriculture land to maximize employment opportunities. But Let's protect our forests and food land from overuse and poison chemicals like glyphosates. The development of geothermal and tidal power remain largely untapped assets.

With changes in the labour supply market, there is a visible increase in service sector employees from other countries. How extensive is "racism and bigotry" a basic and systemic problem in for Cumberland South? How will you help change it

I am well aware that the number of service sector employees in the service sector has significantly increased. I am not aware of overt racism and bigotry, but I'm sure it is happening There needs to be an easy place people can turn when offended. The MLA constituency office would be a good

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## Liam MacDonald Liberal Candidate Cumberland South

(EDITOR'S NOTE: All candidates in Cumberland South were asked to complete a questionnaire unique to the Cumberland South. This reply is from Liam Macdonald, Liberal Candidate).



Liam MacDonald

What topic is raised most frequently while campaigning "door to door"?

Nova Scotia has become an expensive place to live. I'm hearing about high taxes, the cost of groceries, and the price of energy. I'm glad to be running with a party that has a plan to lower taxes by \$3000 for the average family, has a plan to lower grocery prices by removing the HST from groceries and increasing competition, and has a plan to lower energy prices by removing the carbon tax and ensuring that our renewable energy resources are being used to lower power bills.

The electorate is demanding a higher rate of accountability to their concerns. Nation-wide there is a significant increase of complaints elected officials I staff do not return calls promptly. Do you promise "you personally" or "a senior member of your staff" will return a call to constituent within 24 hours?

As MLA for Cumberland South, yes I would make that promise and barring extenuating circumstances would endeavor to follow thru on that promise for every constituent making contact with me.

The lack of suitable affordable housing has become a major problem. Remote rural areas face even great challenges with lack of infrastructure such as: conditions of roads, cellphone, acceptable internet and government service. What will you do to ensure infrastructure to these areas is improved to levels consistent with other areas in order to retain current populations or to attract new families to the area?

The Nova Scotia Liberals have a plan to invest in infrastructure, get housing built, and ensure that we're working with municipalities to support Nova Scotians. We also have a plan to invest significantly in cell phone networks, to increase coverage across the province and support our population.

What is the most promising asset / resource to achieve economic growth or population growth for Cumberland South?

Cumberland South has some of the most promising renewable energy resources in the world. From our wind to our geothermal potential, we need to be investing to harness these resources. This can lower power bills, reduce emissions, and benefit our local economy.

With changes in the labour supply market, there is a visible increase in service sector employees from other countries. How extensive is "racism and bigotry" a basic and systemic problem in for Cumberland South? How will you help change it?

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## Tory Rushton PC Candidate Cumberland South

(EDITOR'S NOTE: All candidates in Cumberland South were asked to complete a questionnaire unique to the Cumberland South. This reply is from Tory Rushton, PC Candidate).



Tory Rushton

1. What topic is raised most frequently while campaigning "door to door"?

Cost of Living. People are looking for relief and our party has a plan to help

2. The electorate is demanding a higher rate of accountability to their concerns. Nation-wide there is a significant increase of complaints that elected officials I staff do not return calls promptly. Do you promise "you personally" or "a senior member of your staff" will return a call to constituents within 24 hours?

Accountability and responsiveness are at the heart of being a representative for our community, and I take those responsibilities seriously. I've always made it a priority to be a responsive MLA, ensuring that the voices of my constituents are heard and addressed. While serving as a Minister over the past three years has sometimes limited my ability to respond as quickly as I'd like, I have always set aside time to focus on the needs of the people I represent and will continue to do so. Whether it's me personally or my constituent assistant, every concern brought forward by a community member will be acknowledged and responded to. While it might not always be possible to respond within 24 hours due to the demands of the role, I am committed to ensuring that no concern goes unrecognized.

3. The lack of suitable affordable housing has become a major problem. Remote rural areas face even great challenges with lack of infrastructure such as: conditions of roads, cellphone, acceptable internet and government service. What will you do to ensure infrastructure to these areas is improved to levels consistent with other areas in order to retain current populations or to attract new families to the area?

The lack of affordable housing and reliable infrastructure is a challenge that hits our rural communities hard. In areas like ours, the need for proper roads, dependable cell service, high-speed internet, and accessible government services is critical to keeping families here and attracting new ones. Investments like the \$37.8 million for Springhill Elementary and \$1.1 million for NSCC student housing in Springhill are exactly the kind of commitments that help build up our community. These projects don't just improve education; they make our towns more appealing places to live, work, and raise a family. With more people moving in, we can make a stronger case for further investments in infrastructure to support this growth. I will keep pushing for more major investment so we continue to make the case for more that our growing communities deserve the same quality of infrastructure as urban centers

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