

Dear Candidate,

On behalf of the Lethbridge Fish & Game Association and our over 2000 members, their families and associated friends I would like to thank you for running in the civic election. As a volunteer community service organization, we believe strongly in the democratic processes and respect all those willing to serve the citizens of our community.

We have been active community builders in the City of Lethbridge for over 98 years. During this time we have worked closely with the City of Lethbridge to serve our members and the citizens of Lethbridge. Services we provide are unique and barrier-free educational, sporting, recreational, cultural, environmental, conservational, and social opportunities.

To maintain this high level of community and conservational service and involvement we strongly advise all our members to vote and ask them to encourage their friends and family to also be active voters.

We support this process by giving all candidates in the municipal election a chance to share a message with our members and to answer a short questionnaire that addresses some of the main concerns expressed by members of our community.

By answering as directly as possible and stating your position in clear terms it will send a decisive message to those concerned with these issues on your stance and allow them to vote accordingly.

We have a very large digital/social media following in Lethbridge that represents a far greater number of voters than our direct mail members, we, therefore, will be posting any Candidate messages and question responses to all our social media and web-based platforms. If you choose not to reply this will be noted as well.

We are hoping to receive your message if you wish to send one (you may include a photo/image) and your replies to the questions below no later than Friday, October 8th so we can share them over the weekend to be helpful for those voting in advance polls.

Although we know you must be very busy we trust you are happy to take a few minutes to share your views with the voters of Lethbridge as a matter of record.

LFGA City of Lethbridge Election Candidate Questions.

1) Do you support the continued operation of the Lethbridge Fish & Game Shooting Sports Facility in the current location in Pennaquim Park?

Yes. It's a great facility. When I owned Lethbridge living magazine we did a story highlighting the facility, Lethbridge Fish and Game, and everything the organization has to offer.

2) The Federal government has said it will place the choice of banning handguns in the hands of municipalities. Lethbridge has an extremely active handgun sport-related community and culture. Would you support banning handguns in Lethbridge? Why or why not?

Responsible handgun owners are not the problem and shouldn't be punished. There are laws in place when it comes to using a firearm in the commission of a crime. I would suggest the Federal government strengthen those laws instead.

3) Do you believe a ban on so-called 'assault-style weapons' that were legally owned by law-abiding people involved in the shooting sports makes our communities safer?

No. Again, responsible owners are not the problem, and shouldn't be punished. There are laws in place when it comes to using a firearm in the commission of a crime. I would suggest the Federal government strengthen those laws instead.

Further, fear is a perception as much as it is a reality and the entertainment industry, media, social media, our own biases have done a wonderful job of making us afraid of many things, "assault-style weapons" being one of them. Given the societal, legal and constitutional differences between the U.S. and Canada, this is more an issue of education.

The terms "assault-style" and "assault rifle" are not legal classifications in Canada and are used by government and gun control advocates. Automatic firearms are prohibited in Canada as are high-capacity magazines. I know LFGA does open house tours. Maybe one could be offered with the sole purpose of educating us on our fear and what the laws are in Canada.

4) Do you understand the process of becoming a licensed firearm owner in Canada? Do you have a PAL or RPAL?

Yes, I understand the process. I do not have a PAL or RPAL but I have friends and family members who do and some who are members of the LFGA.

5) Have you experienced sport shooting or ethical hunting yourself? What do you think are the key points to ethical hunting?

I do not have experience in sport shooting or ethical hunting.

I have friends that hunt, and probably the most significant point is to know and respect the law and to set the example through one's own actions.

6) Have you used the Lethbridge Fish & Game Associations Shooting Sports Facility or been involved in any of our many conservation projects or activities?

I have not, but my husband has.

7) Do you support the City's financial support of facility upgrades at the LFGA Shooting Sports Facility?

Yes. We need to ensure we're supporting a wide range of projects and supporting all members of our community.

8) Do you support the statement that the Lethbridge Fish and Game Association Shooting Sports Facility and related organizations represent an important community sport and recreation resource in our community?

Yes.

9) Do you believe that the LFGA Shooting Sports Facility should be treated differently than other sporting venues by the City of Lethbridge. If so, how?

No, it's like any facility that has taken appropriate safety measures to ensure the safe and healthy pursuit of the sport.

10) The LFGA on behalf of its members donates thousands of dollars, and thousands of hours into conservation and habitat yearly. Do you feel this is important at the municipal level and are you involved in any of these activities or do you support wildlife conservation and habitat protection in other ways?

I do support habitat conservation and preservation, and believe it is important for the municipality to play a role in supporting and engaging in activities that maintain a healthy bio-diverse ecology.