

Anita Kai – Village of Elbow Councillor Hopeful

Enthusiastic and competent Administrative, Event and Facilities Coordinator with direct sales, customer relationship management and computer application expertise for the purpose of office support, sales / marketing, and public relations. Extensive experience in recreation, culture and sports, plus the food and beverage industry. A quick learner with attention to detail, and the aptitude / abilities to work successfully alone or with a team, to develop and maintain programs and services consistent with the resources, needs and interests of the business, community or organization. Equipped with a 24/7 sales mentality from a successful career as an independent admin contractor. Seeking a positive culture in which to personally grow, thrive and contribute with near ridiculous efforts and attitude!

What inspired you to run for this position and what is your goal?

It wasn't so much inspiration as a challenge from a respected village resident. I am intrigued with the processes and procedures and am always game to learn or experience something new.

What previous community experience do you have? How have you contributed to the community (projects, initiatives, etc.)?

Since high school, I've always participated on a committee or board, or volunteering for diverse groups. I enjoy creating and growing projects with inspirational and intelligent people.

1. Many of my experiences were selfish, as was the Great West Ladies Recreation Fastball League – fastball was my favourite past time, and to keep our sport alive and available in Saskatoon, we put in the time.
2. Some experiences were essential, the Farm in the Dell Saskatchewan for instance - to support my special needs son's group home, I helped with their early mandate planning.
3. To more recently, the Annual Post Harvest Celebration as Co-Chair, and the Elbow Palliser Library Board - F. Scott Fitzgerald said it best... ""That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong."

Tell us about yourself. What experiences have prepared you to serve as a Councillor?

Honestly, I have limited experience in local governance. But I can tell you this, since I became a resident in April 2021, I have fallen in love with this little village. It is my home. It contains the greatest of people and I want to contribute to our sustainability, growth and enjoyment of the area. For the first while, I may be limited to a learning experience, however, I am not afraid to ask hard questions, listen intently to our residents, business partners and neighbors, and put in the work and research required.

What are the top 3 priorities you see for Elbow moving forward?

1. Balance – moving forward with local investments while maintaining a safe and comfortable village for our full-time and seasonal residents.
2. Local vs Global - push back against global agendas and reallocate toward local priorities, empowering local governance
3. Community - according to a study by the American Psychological Association, people who feel a strong sense of community have better mental health and greater life satisfaction. Communities also play a crucial role in shaping our identities. They influence our values, beliefs, and behaviors.

How do you plan to maintain and establish new partnerships, given our reliance on them? Or what would you like to see in partnerships?

I need to research and learn / understand experiences and outcomes of past initiatives before I can answer this question.

What do you see as your role and responsibility as a Councillor towards staff and taxpayers?

As mentioned earlier, I will be in an “audit” or learning phase for the beginning of this term (if elected). I have been reviewing the past meeting minutes but need to get some “emotional intelligence” in addition to data and stats. I can immediately be the Village Rep for the Library Board as I am already involved and have the aptitude and attitude to assist where ever needed with research and “Elbow grease”... pun intended.

Thank you for reviewing my bio and ideas. I hope I can be of positive assistance and presence to our fabulous Village.

- Anita Kai
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