

All Candidates Response Form

Village of Harrison Hot Springs



Instructions

1. Complete the Candidate Information below, then answer all questions, including the Lightning Round. These questions apply to all candidates, whether running for Mayor or Council.
2. Type your answer in the response box under each question. Responses may be given in any order.
3. Each response must be no more than 500 words. Lightning Round answers are YES or NO.
4. Your file **MUST** be saved in PDF format and titled with your name, for example: Stephanie_Gallamore.pdf
5. Word documents will NOT be converted to PDF for the website. Files that are not PDFs cannot be posted.
6. When finished, in Word use File > Save As (or Export), choose PDF as the file type, and name the file with your name. Return the completed PDF as directed by the event organizers.

Candidate Information

Candidate name:

Landry Winkles

Running for:

☐ Mayor ☒ Council

File name to save as:

LandryWinklesAllcandidatesresponseform

Click in a box and type. Boxes expand as you type.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

For all candidates

Question 1

When a tourism business wants to expand, do you see that as an opportunity for economic development or a risk to preserving Harrison's character? What criteria would you use to decide?

Your response (maximum 500 words):

When a tourism business wants to expand, I see it as both an opportunity for economic development and a potential risk to preserving Harrison's character. I don't think those two things have to be in conflict if growth is approached thoughtfully.

When considering an expansion, I would first look at whether it meets a need for residents or tourists and whether it adds something unique to the community. I would also consider how it could impact the economy, infrastructure, traffic, the environment, and the overall experience of living in and visiting Harrison.

Most importantly, I think we need to consider whether the expansion fits with the long-term direction and character of the Village, and whether the benefits of the expansion outweigh any potential impacts on the community. We should support unique attractions and experiences that complement what makes Harrison special, give visitors reasons to stay longer and return year after year, and contribute to a healthy year-round local economy.

If a business expansion meets those criteria, I would see it as an opportunity for economic growth while still protecting the qualities that make Harrison a desirable place to live and visit.

Question 2

What is your approach to transparency and accountability? What information do you think residents are not currently getting from council that they should be receiving?

Your response (maximum 500 words):

Transparency and accountability are important in any government. I would like to help residents stay informed about how and why decisions are being made.

Council will sometimes have to make decisions that some residents disagree with. When it comes to accountability, I think it is important to distinguish between a decision that was genuinely poor and one that people simply have different opinions about. When Council does make a mistake, we need to take responsibility, clearly explain the rationale behind the original decision, and wherever possible, take steps to correct it.

I don't necessarily think the issue is that residents are not receiving information. A lot of information is already publicly available. I think there is an opportunity to improve how that information is communicated and make it easier for residents to understand. When staff and Council use lengthy or technical documents to inform decisions, I would like to see plain-language summaries that highlight the key information, recommendations, and implications for the Village.

Closed meetings are another area where clear communication is important. There are circumstances where Council is required or permitted to meet in closed session. Where appropriate, I would support providing a brief, general description of the nature of the meeting while still protecting information that must remain confidential. This could help residents better understand why a meeting is closed and reduce misinformation or rumours.

Question 3

How would you work to strengthen the relationship and communication between the Village of Harrison Hot Springs and the District of Kent, including pursuing a cost-sharing agreement for the regional aquatic centre so Harrison residents can access the same rates and registration opportunities as District of Kent residents, while also strengthening partnerships with other community organizations?

Your response (maximum 500 words):

Since Harrison and the District of Kent are so close, it makes sense for us to maintain a strong working relationship. Because we are both smaller municipalities, regional partnerships can be a great way to provide services that benefit residents in both communities. I support regular communication between our municipalities and councils to identify opportunities to provide better value for residents and improve services in the area.

When it comes to pursuing a cost-sharing agreement for the regional aquatic centre, I am open to exploring a fair contribution so Harrison residents can access recreation facilities at the same rates and with the same registration opportunities as District of Kent residents. When considering a partnership like this, I would approach it with a Harrison-first mindset. In order to make an informed decision, I would want to understand the total cost to the Village, any ongoing financial commitments, and how that commitment could affect our ability to fund other priorities and infrastructure projects. Understanding the long-term impact is critical before making a decision.

I also want to ensure strong relationships with District of Kent leadership and residents, other community organizations, and neighbouring communities. Collaborating with these groups can provide different perspectives, knowledge, and resources. Building these relationships before we need them will make it easier to collaborate on recreation, emergency preparedness, infrastructure, and other shared priorities.

For me, the priority is to look beyond municipal boundaries and ask where partnerships can benefit residents while still being responsible with taxpayer funds and accountable to residents.

Question 4

What specific initiatives would you support to attract visitors in the fall, winter, and spring? What are your priorities for improving Harrison's tourism infrastructure?

Your response (maximum 500 words):

Growing tourism in Harrison isn't just about increasing the number of visitors we welcome. It is about attracting visitors who stay longer, support local businesses, and visit throughout the year. I would prioritize unique attractions, events, and experiences that give people a reason to visit Harrison outside of our already busy summer months.

I would explore more opportunities to utilize our proximity to the lake through sporting events such as triathlons, sailing, and paddling, as well as opportunities to expand events and experiences during the fall, winter, and spring. Sasquatch Days is a great example of how an event can bring visitors to Harrison while building on our partnership with Sts'ailes.

I would also support continuing the Village's work to explore greater public access to the hot springs mineral water. The hot springs are central to Harrison's identity and could provide an opportunity for a year-round attraction that benefits residents, visitors, and businesses.

When it comes to tourism infrastructure, I would prioritize investments that improve the visitor experience while also providing value to residents. We should use Resort Municipality Initiative funding strategically to support tourism projects, public spaces, recreation, and amenities that strengthen Harrison as a destination.

For me, successful tourism growth would mean seeing more visitors throughout the year rather than concentrating growth during our already busy summer months. I would also look at whether visitors are staying longer, supporting local businesses, and whether tourism investments are creating amenities and opportunities that residents can benefit from as well.

Question 5

Harrison Hot Springs Elementary is an aging school in a growing community. If elected, do you support the Village actively pursuing the Civic Campus project in partnership with School District 78 to make a new elementary school a reality? What specific actions would you support?

Your response (maximum 500 words):

As our elementary school ages and our community grows, it is important that we work with both the provincial government and School District 78 to proactively plan for the future. As the Civic Campus project currently stands, I am not in support of it. However, that does not mean I am opposed to working with the District and provincial government to address the demands being placed on our current school and pursue a new school for our community.

There are a number of factors to consider and organizations to collaborate with in order to make a new school a reality. I am not in support of a land transfer between School District 78 and the Village involving Firehall Park. I believe Firehall Park is a valued greenspace in the Village, and I am confident we can support the goal of building a new school while preserving undeveloped parkland.

I would support working with the District to address overcrowding and aging infrastructure at Harrison Hot Springs Elementary. This includes exploring adjustments to school catchments to help manage capacity and ensure students have access to the resources they need to learn. I would also support working alongside School District 78 to advocate for funding from the Ministry of Education for the construction of a new school or renovations to the existing school to meet the needs of our growing community.

If funding for a new school is secured, I would support working collaboratively to identify a suitable location that meets the long-term needs of students and the community without requiring the development of existing greenspace.

Question 6

What are your priorities for emergency management?

Your response (maximum 500 words):

One of my key priorities, if elected, is emergency preparedness. Harrison already has important tools in place, including the Kent-Harrison Emergency Program and the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan, which identifies local wildfire risks and provides actionable steps to reduce potential impacts.

I would support continuing to address concerns identified through these plans, taking steps to optimize evacuation routes, and coordinating with local fire departments, neighbouring communities, and provincial agencies to reduce risk and strengthen our response.

I would also support educating residents on where to find up to date information, holding both in-person and online emergency preparedness meetings, and encouraging residents to build household safety plans, including evacuation go bags.

Harrison is a community full of helpful and caring people, and by having plans in place within our households and neighbourhoods, we can identify individuals who may require transportation or assistance during an emergency. Knowing ahead of time which households may require assistance can help us support our neighbours, where it is safe to do so, and allow first responders to focus their resources where they are most needed.

We also need to ensure Village staff have the training, clear direction, communication tools, and equipment they need to respond safely and effectively. I would support more regular coordination with emergency services and regional partners. Doing this work before an emergency happens can reduce confusion, support staff, and allow responders to focus on the priorities when every second counts.

Question 7

Harrison is a small, close-knit community. How would you keep personal relationships, business interests, or political disagreements from influencing your decisions as an elected official — and how would you handle it when residents strongly disagree?

Your response (maximum 500 words):

In a small, close-knit community like ours, it is important to understand our own potential conflicts of interest and internal biases. Being aware of personal relationships or interests that could influence a decision is an important part of making fair and responsible decisions.

Where there is a conflict of interest, it is important to disclose it to Council and staff and, where required, remove yourself from the discussion and vote. When it comes to personal biases, I think it is important to recognize them, consider different perspectives, and make sure decisions are evidence based and what is best for the Village as a whole.

When residents strongly disagree with me or with a decision made by Council, I think it is important to listen and understand where their concerns are coming from. We are not always going to agree, but residents should feel that their concerns have been heard and considered.

My responsibility as an elected official would be to look at the information available, consider different perspectives, and make decisions based on what I believe is in the best interest of the Village as a whole, rather than allowing personal relationships, business interests, or political disagreements to determine my position.

Question 8

Can you tell us about your involvement in our community to date — whether through serving on committees, volunteering, or attending council meetings?

Your response (maximum 500

Most of my volunteer experience has been with our local rugby community. Our closest rugby club is based in Chilliwack, and I have been involved there for more than 10 years. During that time, I have coached youth teams, helped with first aid, served in various positions on the executive board, and helped establish a senior women's rugby program.

Closer to home, I have volunteered at the gates for the Agassiz Fall Fair. I also attend Harrison Council meetings both online and in person. Over the last few years, I have made an effort to better understand how our Village operates by following Council discussions and reviewing master plans, reports, agendas, and other public documents.

I haven't served on a Village committee to date. My involvement has instead been through attending meetings, staying informed, talking with residents, and learning more about the issues facing our community. Running for Council has also pushed me to become even more involved, ask more questions, and have conversations with people I may not have otherwise met.

Question 9

Council operates under specific rules of procedure, including Robert's Rules of Order and the Community Charter. How do you plan to educate yourself on these, and what commitment will you make to being prepared before your first council meeting?

Your response (maximum 500 words):

If elected, I intend to use the time between the election and my first meeting to familiarize myself with the Community Charter, the Village's procedures and bylaws, and Robert's Rules of Order. I would also take advantage of the resources and training available to newly elected representatives through UBCM.

I understand that when I walk into my first Council meeting, I won't know everything. This will be a new experience for me. What I can commit to is putting in the work beforehand and using the resources available to me, including seeking mentorship from experienced members of Council and asking staff for clarification when needed.

I have already spent time reading Council agendas, minutes, master plans, bylaws, and other Village documents. I would approach learning Council procedures in the same way, by putting in the time to read the material, asking questions when I don't understand something, and continuing to learn as I gain experience.

Before my first meeting, and every meeting after that, I would review the full agenda package, research issues where I need more information, and come prepared with questions. Residents should be able to expect their elected officials to have done their homework before they arrive at the table.

Question 10

What is your top priority for your term in office in Harrison Hot Springs?

Your response (maximum 500 words):

My top priority would be balance. Harrison is a community where we have to balance the needs of a small but growing year-round population with the demands that come with being a tourism-based community.

We need to balance the infrastructure required to accommodate a large influx of visitors during the summer months with the reality that we have a much smaller year-round taxpayer base to spread those costs across. That means being thoughtful about how we plan, prioritize, and pay for infrastructure improvements.

We also need to balance maintaining year-round amenities and services for residents with the realities of a much slower off-season economy. Many local businesses experience challenges during the quieter months but provide important services to residents throughout the year. I would like to see the Village continue looking for opportunities to support a stronger year-round economy, including events and activities that bring visitors to Harrison during the slower months.

Lastly, we need balance in how we approach development. Harrison has a limited amount of undeveloped land, so the decisions we make about land use will have long-term impacts on our community. Development needs to happen at a rate our infrastructure can support and in a way that respects the character of Harrison that both residents and visitors value.

For me, balance means recognizing that these issues are connected and making decisions with both our current needs and the long-term future of the Village in mind.

Question 11

What do you believe is Harrison's most urgent infrastructure problem, and what would you do about it?

Your response (maximum 500 words):

Harrison's master plans identify deficiencies in our water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater systems. I believe addressing these existing infrastructure concerns, based on the priorities and timelines identified in the master plans, is one of the most urgent issues facing the Village.

I would use the recommendations and timelines identified in the master plans to help prioritize upgrades and ensure we are planning for them before they become emergencies. This also means considering the capacity of our infrastructure when making decisions about development.

Infrastructure projects can be expensive, but delaying necessary work can potentially result in more costly emergency repairs down the road. I would support taking a proactive approach by planning and budgeting for identified upgrades, looking for available grant funding, and making sure Council has the information it needs to prioritize projects based on urgency, risk, and available funding.

The priority for me is maintaining the infrastructure we already rely on while making sure it can continue to support Harrison's growth into the future.

Question 12

What is your position on the Village's water and wastewater infrastructure, and how should council approach the significant capital costs involved?

Your response (maximum 500 words):

Harrison's master plans have identified areas of our water and wastewater infrastructure that need upgrades. These projects are expensive, and with a relatively small year-round taxpayer base, we need to be thoughtful about how we plan and pay for them.

I think Council should use the master plans to prioritize the most urgent work and make sure those projects are included in our long-term financial planning. We should be planning and setting aside funds for infrastructure we know will need to be upgraded while actively pursuing grants to help reduce the cost to local taxpayers.

We also need to make sure our infrastructure planning and development decisions go hand in hand. Before approving significant new development, we need to understand whether our existing infrastructure has the capacity to support it and what additional upgrades may be needed. New development should contribute its fair share toward the additional infrastructure and services it requires. As we grow, we need to make sure those costs aren't being disproportionately passed on to existing taxpayers.

We won't be able to complete every project at once, but we can have a clear plan for what needs to be done and when. I think it is better to address known problems in a planned and financially responsible way than continue to delay them and risk facing a more expensive emergency repair later.

LIGHTNING ROUND (YES / NO)

All candidates: check YES or NO for each question

Lightning Question 1

Do you support the Village continuing to pursue the Civic Campus project and a land exchange with School District 78 for a new elementary school?

☐ YES

☒ NO

Lightning Question 2

Would you support the Village pursuing a cost-sharing agreement with the District of Kent so Harrison residents pay the same fees at regional recreation facilities?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Lightning Question 3

Will you commit to holding council wages and expenses at 2026 levels for the next four years?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Lightning Question 4

Do you support stronger protection of Harrison's natural areas even if it limits some future development opportunities?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Lightning Question 5

Have you volunteered with a local organization in the last three years?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Lightning Question 6

Do you believe Harrison should actively encourage expansion of tourism businesses and new tourism investment over the next four years?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Lightning Question 7

Do you commit to respectful conduct to fellow council + staff even when you disagree?

☒ YES

☐ NO