



## Stephanie Chard

### 1. What are your thoughts on the proposed event centre? Support? Non-support? Reservations and what are they? Secondary to that as a follow up questions: have you read the complete proposal on the City of Spruce Grove website?

Yes I have read the complete proposal on the cities website. The proposed event center, as it is now, is a small but incredibly expensive fix for a much larger problem that is plaguing the entire tri region. I am well aware that we need more ice surfaces, but beyond that, for recreation, we need another pool, indoor field houses, indoor gymnasiums, and adventure parks as researched by Stantec.

I believe, as a city, we should be more focused on finding ways to meet our needs rather than our wants. To me, the SEC is a luxury item that we simply do not need at this point in time. I feel that council must re-prioritize their projects to better match the needs that have been already identified such as an expansion to many recreation amenities, not just ice surfaces, as well as funding arts and culture, for example, expanding our library that is busting at the seams. If we worked towards actually filling the needs that are felt in the Tri-region, maybe we would have much better results when it comes to regional cooperation. As I see it, our partnering municipalities are not interested in helping to fund the SEC because they recognize we could be doing better. We have the potential to bring many more services to the community by drafting a diverse project that could benefit us all. We should be putting our heads together to find a common solution for our common problems.

No matter where the SEC proposal takes us, we must conduct an independent review of this project's feasibility if the proposal goes forward and we must be much more open and transparent to our residents about the process. Residents should also have the final say in something that is estimated to run almost \$80 million. I would like to see this decision be taken to a plebiscite; similar to the Tri-Leisure Centre was, instead of resting on the shoulders of 7 councillors.

### 2. How does each of you propose to engage with residents after the election?

If elected, I plan to continue door knocking sporadically throughout my term, to engage with residents and learn about what is important to them. During the last 2 months of campaigning, I have learned how effective going door to door is and I would love to continue learning from residents throughout my term.

On top of a door knocking campaign, I also plan to do a "meet your councillor" style of engagements during my 4 year term. I will announce the details of which over my social media and residents are encouraged to come meet me, and discuss their issues in a comfortable way. I would like to be diverse in my engagement style in order to reach a more diverse population. For example, during my campaign, I held an event called "Gaming with A Candidate" where I set up in our local comic book store, Hyperspace Comics, and encouraged residents to come and challenge me to a board game and discuss politics. By diversifying my engagement styles with residents, I feel I will learn more by connecting with a more robust population.

I will also remain active on social media, where again I encourage residents to connect and communicate with me directly or through local chat groups.

I would also like to see our city council meetings be much more accessible to the public. Live streaming council meetings and having those streams saved on our website so residents can watch later would be an incredibly easy step to help make meeting information accessible to the public. Publishing voting records of our council members is another easy and important step towards making council meetings more engaging and open to residents.

I understand this position is to be the voice for the community, and I am committed to this task. I am committed to engaging with residents, speaking and listening to you, and working to creating a Spruce Grove that you are proud to call home.