

BRIM Candidate Questionnaire — Detailed Responses

Lucas McKinnon

Candidate for City of Mission Council, 2026

Downtown Mission · 19 years in the community

About me

I am a longtime Mission resident, an award-winning young entrepreneur and a dedicated community volunteer. I advocate for equitable opportunities for young people and want to help build a forward-thinking, sustainable community. My platform focuses on stronger support for small businesses; a more diversified tax base to fund public services; expanded parks and recreation, particularly by removing barriers to youth sports; and a City government that communicates openly about its challenges, objectives and proposed solutions.

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About these responses

BRIM's questionnaire provides the options of support, neutral or opposed. I believe several of these questions deserve more than a simple selection, so I have responded to each one individually to explain my position and any important qualifications.

Energy, emissions and environmental accountability

1. Support electrification of new buildings.

I support electrifying new buildings. However, parts of Mission may need substantial electrical infrastructure upgrades to make this feasible. I would not want to see projects—particularly housing—significantly delayed or abandoned solely because the necessary infrastructure is not yet in place.

2. Incentivize electric heat pumps and air filtration systems.

I do not believe the City of Mission should directly subsidize heat pumps or air-filtration systems using municipal tax revenue. I do, however, support streamlined permitting for installations and any electrical upgrades they require. Where provincial or BC Hydro incentives are available, our permitting process should not become another obstacle. Making these improvements easier

and less costly to undertake is consistent with my broader approach to supporting small businesses and bringing vacant buildings back into use.

3. Incentivize renewable energy, battery storage, and smart-grid technologies in new and existing buildings to improve energy security.

My position is similar to the one above. I support making renewable energy, battery storage and smart-grid improvements easier to install through an efficient permitting process, but I do not believe their installation costs should be subsidized through municipal taxes. A clear, accessible path to these improvements may be more practical than having the City cover a portion of the cost.

4. Scale up energy retrofits for existing homes, businesses, and public buildings.

We should absolutely look at retrofitting public buildings. When I opened my business, I replaced high-energy lighting with efficient fixtures. I did not receive a subsidy, although I understand some BC Hydro programs may have been available. The fixtures have since paid for themselves, and in four years I have not had to replace a bulb or fixture. One local opportunity I would like examined is converting the large field lights at Mission Sports Park to energy-efficient fixtures. This could reduce electricity use and operating costs, including costs borne by user groups. For homes and businesses, I would also focus on making voluntary retrofits easier to undertake.

5. Implement a 'right to cool' bylaw to protect tenants during extreme heat events.

I support allowing tenants to use portable air conditioners where their rental homes do not already provide safe, reasonable indoor summer temperatures, provided installation and use are safe. Although this summer was relatively moderate, we have experienced extreme heat before and must be prepared for it again. Any local bylaw should account for relevant provincial requirements as well as the needs of people living in existing buildings.

6. Endorse the fossil fuel treaty and commit to phase out fossil fuels.

Mission faces a complicated question here. Moving toward electric options in existing buildings and new developments would align with the treaty's broader goals. I also believe we can reduce fossil-fuel consumption by creating more opportunities for employment, recreation and services here at home, so residents do not have to travel outside Mission as often. Reducing the need for those trips may be more immediately achievable than converting every resident to an electric vehicle. Ultimately, I believe endorsing the proposed treaty would be sensible, or, at the very

least, that Mission should make local decisions consistent with reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

7. Enact a moratorium on AI data centres to protect our energy and water resources.

My concerns about AI data centres involve both their environmental demands and the local benefits of a proposed development. Based on the community conversations I have heard, many Mission residents (including myself) would strongly oppose a large data centre here. I have concerns about its visual impact and energy and water requirements. At the same time, a large facility could create construction jobs and generate long-term property-tax revenue. Mission needs industrial development, but our limited industrial land should be used strategically. I believe other industrial projects could generate comparable tax revenue while providing substantially more permanent employment. With our geography limiting the industrial land available, I want long-term local employment to be central to how we assess proposals.

8. Pursue available legal options to recover a fair share of the climate costs facing our community from fossil fuel companies and other big polluters.

I do not believe Mission taxpayers should fund the currently proposed class action against fossil-fuel companies, at least not at this time. I do believe large companies should be held accountable for environmental damage they directly cause to our community, and that development should leave Mission in better condition wherever possible. We should continue advocating to the Province for improved flood and fire mitigation infrastructure. If the provincial government determines that fossil-fuel companies should bear the cost of those improvements and pursues recovery, I would support that action.

Ecosystems, land use and food security

9. Protect and restore ecosystems, which are essential to human survival, health, and economic well-being.

Fully support.

10. Expand and protect tree canopy, parks, and green infrastructure to cool neighbourhoods, clean air, and manage stormwater.

I support this. We need more housing in Mission and across the province, but the long-term quality of life of those residents matters too. Protecting green infrastructure is an important part of that. I grew up exploring Mission's forests and natural spaces, and they remain a vital part of what our community has to offer and what it should preserve.

11. Prioritize native tree planting in all areas, especially those with low tree cover, higher population densities, and more vulnerable residents.

Fully support.

12. Create connected urban greenways for people and wildlife.

A connected urban greenway would be an incredible accomplishment for Mission, but I question the feasibility of a comprehensive new network given our existing development, critical transportation routes and infrastructure. At this time, maintaining, improving and connecting existing parks and trails where practical seems to be the more achievable approach.

13. Build affordable homes near jobs, schools, shops, and transit.

Mission's geography makes it challenging to build housing within immediate walking distance of jobs, schools, shops and transit. Much of our commercial and industrial land lies along the highway at the bottom of the hill, and I believe those areas should primarily remain available for employment-generating development. Expanding local employment and significantly improving transit would help residents meet more of their needs within Mission without sacrificing our economic potential. We also need to improve walkability in existing neighbourhoods, particularly in areas below 14th Avenue.

14. Upgrade critical infrastructure for heat, fire, flood, and storm resilience.

Fully support. These needs are easy to overlook until an emergency forces us to confront the consequences of earlier decisions.

15. Increase food security by supporting local agriculture and community gardens.

I would be happy to explore additional ways to improve food security in Mission, particularly given the affordability pressures facing residents. My understanding is that more research is needed to establish how much community gardens improve household food security and how cost-effective they are. I also recognize their social value as shared gathering spaces. Those community benefits may, on their own, justify some level of municipal support.

Transportation, water and waste

16. Deliver reliable, frequent, affordable local transit.

Fully support. Mission is long overdue for improvements to local public transit.

17. Advocate to improve regional public transit between communities.

Fully support. It should be considerably easier for Mission residents to reach nearby communities and essential destinations, particularly hospitals, clinics, medical specialists and the University of the Fraser Valley.

18. Build bike and roll networks that are safe for everyone.

I support alternative transportation, but Mission's steep geography creates real challenges for cycling across the city. Some routes may be practical for experienced cyclists, but transportation investments should be as accessible as possible to a broad range of residents. I would assess proposed routes with those practical limitations in mind.

19. Expand EV charging infrastructure.

I do not believe Mission should expand EV charging infrastructure using municipal tax revenue at this time.

20. Implement water conservation plans and educate the public to conserve drinking water.

Mission is fortunate to have excellent drinking water, and we have an obligation to protect both the resource and its sources. Public conservation education has a role, but I would also like to examine large commercial and industrial water users more closely. Understanding consumption across different sectors would help us determine where conservation efforts could have the greatest impact.

21. Protect and restore watersheds as vital municipal infrastructure.

Fully support.

22. Develop and implement a water security plan.

Safe, accessible water should always be a guiding principle. Planning for water security will become increasingly important as Mission develops industrial land and residential areas expand into more rural parts of the community.

23. Support the development of a circular economy to eliminate waste and improve resilience.

As the owner of a business that sells and champions sustainably sourced and produced clothing, I understand the importance of reducing the environmental and social impact of our purchases. I have also seen growing interest in thrifted and gently used goods, though meaningful cultural change takes time. One idea I would love to see in Mission is community swap meets: they can be social, enjoyable and a practical way to extend the life of goods.

24. Implement bylaws to eliminate waste from new buildings, renovation, and demolition projects and to use existing buildings as efficiently as possible.

Developers and contractors should minimize waste and their environmental impact. However, I would be cautious about introducing overly restrictive bylaws that drive up development costs, extend timelines or make Mission less competitive. I also support a more straightforward, accessible process for bringing older buildings up to code and returning them to use.

Personal contribution to climate action

25. How have you contributed to climate action in your community through advocacy, past work, advisory committees, volunteer work, and/or reducing your personal carbon footprint?

My most direct contribution has been through my business. Since opening, I have spoken with customers about the benefits of choosing more sustainable clothing, including natural fabrics, ethical sourcing and garments built to last. That approach is not always the most profitable in a fast paced fast-fashion landscape, but I believe it is the most honest and responsible way to operate. In the long term, I hope to influence West Coast fashion culture to place greater value on the environmental and social impact of the clothing we buy.

Mission-specific questions

26. Are you in favour of accelerating Mission's adoption of Level 4 of the Zero Carbon Step Code, currently mandated by the province by 2030?

I believe the Province's current 2030 timeline is reasonable. If Mission moves substantially faster than surrounding municipalities, I am concerned we could lose development opportunities or negotiating flexibility on other important development considerations.

27. Would you support making an updated Environmental Charter the foundation policy against which all other policies and strategies are measured?

If elected, I would look forward to taking an active role in reviewing and updating Mission's Environmental Charter in 2027. The affordability crisis and other immediate pressures can make it easy to overlook the long-term environmental effects of our decisions. I would first want to understand how many existing charter objectives have been achieved and help determine our next priorities. Giving the charter a stronger mandate than it currently has would require careful consideration of how that change would affect other important municipal goals.

28. Would you support a policy of evaluating all decisions for their effects on future generations? (i.e. the effect on Mission in 20 or 50 years)

Absolutely. As the young candidate, thinking about the impact of today's decisions on future generations(including my own) is central to my approach to this election and politics as a whole. Short-sighted policies that fail to consider their long-term consequences frustrate me, both in Mission and at the provincial and national levels.

29. Would you support mandating EV charging points in all new residential construction?

I would not support mandating EV charging points in all new residential construction. I am concerned that the additional cost would compound our housing-affordability challenges. We should, however, make it as straightforward as possible for residents and developers to install charging equipment voluntarily.

30. Would you support developing an anti-idling policy for the municipal fleet?

I support an anti-idling policy for the municipal fleet. I would want to understand how it could be implemented and monitored in practice, beyond relying entirely on an honour system. Unnecessary idling has environmental consequences, and reducing wasted fuel is also a straightforward opportunity to control operating costs.