

## City Council Candidate Responses to MacBride Survey (Councillors)

### Questions:

1. Do you support MacBride Museum as a cultural and heritage attraction for the Yukon and Whitehorse?
2. Will you support an immediate and robust review of the Municipal Charges & Community Grants Policy and the City Grant Making Policy?
3. Do you support working to a solution that will ensure MacBride can stay open year round and is not harmed financially by City tax policy?
4. Will you support 100% tax abatement for MacBride as we have had for the past 67 years?

### Responses Provided in Order of the Ballot

#### Eileen MELNYCHUK

1. Yes, I fully support MacBride Museum as a cultural and heritage attraction as well as a significant historic site in Whitehorse and Yukon.
2. Yes, I would be in support of an immediate and robust review of the Municipal Charges & Community Grants Policy. I would like to consider a review of the Grant's criteria to ensure it is meeting the needs of the recipient organizations.
3. Absolutely, there are a number of options to assist MacBride with remaining open year round. This requires an open dialogue to ensure a sustainable future for MacBride, its patrons, staff, residents and visitors to our City.
4. Yes, I would be in support of a 100% tax abatement for MacBride Museum. I would however like to look at the tax abatement structure to ensure sustainability of organizations like MacBride in the future.

#### Dan BOYD

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. I will do my best
4. I will do my best.

#### Steve RODDICK

1. Yes, MacBride Museum is an important heritage attraction and an important resource for Yukon and Whitehorse.
2. Yes, I would support a review of this policy, but know that there are many other pressing issues that the next Mayor and Council will need to address.
3. Yes. I think that Mayor & Council should engage with Macbride staff and the board to explore what opportunities may be available to support the Museums in a way that recognizes MacBrides unique challenges, and is fair to other historical and cultural organizations.
4. At the present time, without understanding the context and previous decisions that have led to the current stand-off between the City and MacBride over this issue, I cannot commit to supporting a 100% tax abatement. But if elected, I will advocate that Mayor & Council take the time to re-engage with MacBride in order to meaningfully explore a resolution to this issue.

#### Darrell HOOKEY

Good Morning, Patricia,

I feel very comfortable answering "yes" to all four of your questions. I feel that Council's decision, in June, effectively penalized your non-profit society for improving your facility and services.

Whether or not I am elected to council, you have my support ... and appreciation.

#### Mike GLADISH

1. Yes
2. No, not immediate. I will support a review of both policies but not immediately as the budget will be the first priority for the new council.
3. Yes.
4. I support the current Grant Making policy because it was a decision by a former council and was deemed to be fair for all. Until it is reviewed and changed I won't support 100% abatement for McBride because it may be unfair to other groups. I might support a temporary abatement but it would depend on hearing all the facts from the city as well as your fact sheet.

#### **Jan STICK**

1. I believe that MacBride is an important heritage attraction and resource for Yukon and Whitehorse.
2. I would support Mayor and Council reviewing this policy but also know that it will be on a list of competing priorities. Mayor and Council will need to decide as a team on how to respond to these issues.
3. Absolutely. We need to work with the staff and board of MacBride Museum to find ways to be supportive in reaching an agreement that is supportive of the Museums agenda as well as being fair to other institutional and historical organizations. I recognize that MacBride is in the unique position of owning the property it is on.
4. Without knowing the City's side of the decisions that have been made in the past, or the implications of a tax abatement on a growing tax bill, I cannot say that I would fully support 100% tax abatement. I do however believe in due diligence and recognize the work and contributions of the staff and board of the museum.

#### **Jim CAHILL**

1. I support the proposition contained in the question.
2. The main reason I am running for office is to encourage the incoming council to revisit issues and policies on a regular basis with input from the public, so I support the request noted in this question as long as public involvement will be a component of the review.
3. Yes, as part of the review in Question #2.
4. Because I agree with Question #1, my first instinct has me leaning towards the 100% tax abatement for MacBride. However, my support for or against will ultimately depend on what is contained in the review you requested in Question #2.

#### **Laura CABOTT**

1. Yes. No question that McBride Museum plays an important role in creating a vibrant, valued City. I would hate to see all its educational, arts, culture and other programs, jobs, and opportunities for youth to be lost.
2. Yes
3. Yes. The City and the Museum need to get back to the table to discuss each other's concerns and come up with a workable, fair solution.
4. Yes, I would support a 100% tax abatement if, through a robust review of the Municipal Charges & Community Grants Policy and the City Grant Making Policy, it was required.

#### **Danny MACDONALD**

1. Yes, happy to see the most recent expansion allow MacBride to display more artifacts.
2. Yes, the model that resulted from the recent review obviously does not resolve issues for groups in the City, and in fact makes the program worse. The current definition of Community Grants is a flawed financial tool for NGOs and inappropriate accounting for the City.
3. Yes, and I understand that the 100% tax abatement will allow MacBride to stay open year round.
4. Yes. I believe we can provide that relief to MacBride and with a review of the current program and scope, find a long term solution that will prevent other groups in the City from facing the same issue in the future.

#### **Andrew SMITH**

1. Yes. Arts, culture and heritage has been a strong part of not only my experience, but was also my career for nearly a decade. MacBride is the kind of place that I would first visit when seeing any new town. Not only MacBride's location, but the facilities they can offer to the public and for private events are extremely important to bringing our community together.
2. I would support this review with the intention of examining the grant cap, comparing the policy to similar jurisdictions in Canada, accounting for the various user groups that access the grants, and perhaps factoring in level of operating support from YG.
3. Yes. As I said, the facility is hugely important for not only educating visitors, but offering an amazing space for our community to gather. It would be an absolute disgrace to only have access to it for portions of the year.
4. Being that the City will not be losing revenue on this, I can support a new approach that will lead to 100% tax abatement. That said (and this is an overall position on all civic issues) I will not accept relying on 'it's always been that way' as the fundamental reason - MacBride's position needs to equitably be put side by side with other similar facilities; that is the reason this has to happen, not because of history. Since this policy has been in such flux over the last 3 years, a fresh, clear, and reasonable approach is required, and now is the time. A new policy cannot exist solely for MacBride, it must fit into more general policy language that accounts for similar situations (though there may not be any others at this time).

Jocelyn CURTEANU did not respond to the survey. She did provide this reply:

I will try to provide my perspective in this email because unfortunately, these next three weeks are unpredictable and I'm finding myself constantly running behind.

As I mentioned before, I really value the work done by all museums because they are the keepers of our history and there is much to be learned from where we came from and how we got here. I also believe that all governments should provide what support they can to these institutions, and I am pleased to see our governments have demonstrated generous support. Furthermore, whether the City's support is in the form of a tax abatement, core funding, community service grant, etc., I feel all museums should be treated equally, which was the crux of where I stood on these debates a few years ago.

Consequently, the City's current grant policies were developed to help the City of Whitehorse disburse grants to support a variety of community organizations in a fair and transparent manner. They also acknowledge the fact that our financial resources are not a bottomless pit and there are limits to what we can sustainably allocate to these grants/rebates. The City Grant Making Policy applies an annual cap and the Municipal Charges and Community Service Grants Policy uses a formula to ensure that we can meaningfully support the great work our NPO's/NGO's do while exercising fiscal responsibility. I'd also like to note that instituting a cap merely reflects what the City can afford, and in no way reflects the value you and other museums and organizations bring to our community - a value which can not be measured by dollars alone.

So in summary, I continue to support providing a tax abatement to MacBride Museum that falls within the City Grant Making Policy and the Municipal Charges and Community Service Grants Policy. I would also encourage the City to review these policies on a regular basis to ensure that they remain relevant and sustainable to our community.

Please feel free to share my response publicly if you wish.

NO REPLY from the following to the survey, in order of the Ballot

- Scott Etches
- David Laxton
- Leonard Boniface
- Cory Adams
- Roslyn Woodcock
- Betty Irwin
- Samson Hartland
- Kim Lisgo
- Oshea Jephson