A Fair Share for Kamloops

Kamloops has a **structural tax deficit**.

For too long, City of Kamloops taxpayers have been carrying the cost of services and infrastructure that are increasingly being used by people and businesses located outside our municipal boundaries.

We need to broaden our tax base, make sure those who benefit from the amenities in Kamloops contribute their fair share, and reduce the tax burden on the residents and businesses that currently carry it.

I believe there are two significant opportunities to address this structural tax deficit.

Sun Rivers and Sienna Ridge

Residents of Sun Rivers and Sienna Ridge are using City of Kamloops parks, beaches and recreation facilities while paying only a fraction of the City's capital and operating costs associated with those services.

This has been happening for a significant period of time, but it is becoming increasingly relevant as Sun Rivers and Sienna Ridge grow and the City of Kamloops moves forward with the **Build Kamloops** program and makes major investments in new and expanded existing parks and recreation facilities.

By default, when growing communities outside our municipal boundaries use City facilities without contributing toward their costs, **City of Kamloops taxpayers are paying a higher tax rate and effectively subsidizing those communities.**

The residents of Kamloops cannot continue to subsidize communities outside our municipal boundaries.

My goal would be to see increased contributions from Sun Rivers and Sienna Ridge that will have a structural tax decrease to City of Kamloops taxpayers by approximately $800,000.00 - $1,000,000.00 or 0.5%-.65%. The new contributions would mirror the taxes paid by residential homes in the City of Kamloops for Parks and Recreation.

Kamloops Is Moving West

Over the last two years, there have been significant movements and announcements demonstrating that **Kamloops is growing west — but outside our municipal boundaries.**

This presents both a challenge and an opportunity for the City of Kamloops.

Tourism Kamloops has announced discussions around a potential **iconic structure just outside our municipal boundaries**, creating the potential for another major tourism destination immediately west of the City.

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District has also unanimously endorsed a new trails master plan that identifies the **Kamloops Lake Trail**, a potential mountain biking and hiking connection from **Kenna Cartwright Park through to Tobiano.** The proposed trail would create a regional recreational corridor extending west from Kamloops.

At the same time, in December 2025, Kamloops City Council amended the Official Community Plan to accommodate additional mixed-use residential and commercial development as the community continues to grow west. The City's updated KAMPLAN identifies growth management and connections to Kenna Cartwright as part of the planning framework for this area.

We need to recognize what is happening around us and adapt accordingly.

New Gold

I believe **industry should help industry.**

Historically, Kamloops has had a significant heavy-industrial tax base, particularly in mining and forestry. Over the last 15 years Kamloops, with the closure of the **Arclin Canada facility and the Lafarge mine**, went from 4 to 2 heavy industry tax rate payers. Today, there are only two major heavy-industry taxpayers remaining in Kamloops: **Kruger Pulp and Tolko Industries.**

At the same time, British Columbia's mining industry has seen record breaking investments and profits.

One of the most significant industrial operations immediately outside Kamloops is **New Afton**, operated by New Gold.

New Gold benefits from everything that makes Kamloops a great place to live and work: a high quality of life for its employees, access to our housing market and workforce, and proximity to the City without the costs associated with operating a remote workforce camp.

The TNRD is the closest equivalent to a municipal tax authority in this circumstance. In 2026, New Gold paid approximately **$15,611to the TNRD**, which is roughly equivalent to the property taxes generated by only 3 average homes in Kamloops.

The City of Kamloops is the only level of government that does not receive taxation from New Gold including the Provincial Government, Federal Government and Tk̓emlúps te Secwépemc. I believe this needs to change.

If a portion of Area J containing New Afton were annexed by the City of Kamloops there will be **no loss of current or future taxation for the TNRD from Area J**, while creating a new municipal tax base for Kamloops. **To be clear no residential properties in Area J will be part of any proposed annexation.**

New Gold should contribute its fair share to the municipality that provides the community, workforce and quality of life that its operation depends upon.

Based on the preliminary numbers, I anticipate that bringing New Afton into the City of Kamloops could result in a **structural tax decrease of approximately 1%–1.5% for City of Kamloops taxpayers.**