

Dear Council Members and constituents of the Municipality of Kincardine (MoK),

My name is Christina Bandomir and I would be honoured to be selected to fill the Ward 1 seat on the MoK Municipal Council recently vacated by the unfortunate passing of our beloved community member, Doug Kennedy. I knew Doug to be a kind man and devoted civil servant and advocate for this municipality. While I can't promise to have the same enthusiasm for hockey as Doug did, I believe I possess a similar dedication to this community. I have broad and deep experience in a number of areas that I think can add value to the Municipal Council.

My family moved to Kincardine in 1978, when I was just four years old. My dad, part of the construction division of Ontario Hydro, moved here to help build Bruce B. I attended elementary school locally, and high school, university, and graduate school in other parts of Ontario: Whitby, Kingston, and Guelph respectively. I returned to Kincardine in January 2006, and have called it my home since then.

Like my dad, I came to Kincardine to work at the same Ontario Hydro site, by then known as Bruce Power. And, like my dad, I also helped to build that company, but in a very different way. I had been working on my PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at the University of Guelph in 2005, when I met another excellent, and since deceased, member of our community, David Khan, who encouraged me to apply to Bruce Power. While I had been going to school, I had also been working to support my educational endeavors and augment my learning. By the time I met Dave, I had become a subject matter expert in the areas of: Recruitment and Selection; Adult Training; and Employee Communication. Dave knew then that Bruce Power was about to announce the refurbishment of Units 1 and 2 at Bruce A and that the company would have to hire thousands of new employees to run an eight-reactor site and also to replace hundreds of employees scheduled to retire in the subsequent decade.

I was thrilled to get the job and spent the next year and a half revamping Bruce Power's recruitment and selection methods to attract talent and ensure reliable and valid hiring practices. During that time, I also oversaw and directly participated in the hiring of approximately 1,000 new employees, but also: strengthened ties with local First Nations Reservations; liaised with and recruited from high-potential colleges and universities; and worked to increase Bruce Power's brand recognition in order to attract diverse and skilled expertise to the area. During my career at Bruce Power, I also became an expert in: Project Planning, Management and Execution; and Organizational Efficiency. As a result of that employment, I am also experienced in Labour Relations and Workplace Health and Safety.

I had planned to leave this area after my dad passed, but when that time came, I realized that I had put down some significant roots and had built a wonderful life here. So, I pivoted my career to finance and investment, an area that did not require moving away. In the last decade, I built a small but successful real estate portfolio and started studying finance. While I don't formally practice in that field, I have been able to use my knowledge and experience on a voluntary basis to help others make their small businesses more successful. I have also facilitated business growth and home ownership for several people via loans. I am a passionate advocate of financial literacy and fiscal conservatism. I use objective data and financial analysis to guide my decision-making about investment, which is a skill set that would be beneficial on the Municipal Council.

I have a long history of volunteering in this community and elsewhere. During my undergrad, while visiting home in the summer, I volunteered at the Bruce-Grey Women's House. At grad school, I was a member of the Judicial Committee and the Graduate Student Association. While at Bruce Power, I was the Professional Development Chair of the Young Generation in Nuclear group, which helped to connect younger employees with more experienced employees on site, and gave them access to development opportunities. I was involved with the board of the Bluewater Summer Playhouse as an Event Coordinator and fundraiser. I tutored students having difficulty in math, via the Bruce-Grey Adult Learning Centre. I was involved with Canada Revenue's

community volunteer program, which assists lower-income individuals and families with the preparation of their tax returns. I spent several years helping victims of a financial scam navigate the process of understanding what had happened to them, and then, succeeded in helping a number of victims get their money back via the legal process. Lately, I have been volunteering with Kincardine Pride, the Nimrod Gun Club, and on Wednesday mornings in summer, I can be found with the other volunteers at the Labyrinth Garden, planting and weeding.

Because of my background in psychology, I have long been a student and critic of social media. In addition to my other activities during the last decade, I have been studying the rise of mis- and disinformation online and elsewhere and am now a subject matter expert in that field. I have seen firsthand how disinformation has invaded our communities and our politics, from local to global levels and as such, I am passionately dedicated to objectivity and the use of scientific methodology in research and communication. I aim to rely on valid and reliable information in my decision-making, which has served me well when I have been faced with time-sensitive yet emotionally fraught decisions. I know that we are home to a diverse community with many differing opinions on local, provincial, federal, and global events, but I believe this discipline would help me to serve the community on the MoK Municipal Council in a fair manner.

Having lived and worked in this community for over 40 years, I understand the diversity of geography in this region: we are a major agricultural centre and home to a significant number of farmers; we are a beach community that attracts thousands of tourists in summer; we are home to the second largest nuclear site in the world which employs over 10,000 permanent and temporary employees. As a rural community, we often struggle with fewer amenities and infrastructure such as availability of public transportation. Each of these conditions brings with it potentially conflicting needs: for example, how can we balance the desire to retain the small-town feel of MoK with the need to house local employees and their families? How can we support local business growth and success within the constraints of a rural community that simultaneously supports one of Canada's largest employers?

I understand that Municipal Council is limited in its ability to affect change in areas that are impacting this and many other communities. For example, local challenges with housing availability and affordability are widespread issues that extend far beyond the MoK. I also understand that many of our current Canadian crises (e.g., inflation and increases in the cost of living, availability of health care, and shortages of other critical services) are complex issues that require coordinated efforts between local, provincial and/or federal governments. As an investor, I am attuned to current events, but I am also a student of history, both of which are necessary to understand the complexities of our integrated world. Having this depth and breadth of knowledge, along with my curiosity about the world, and my dedication to life-long learning, ability to innovate, plan, curate reliable research, and make data-driven decisions would help me to contribute to local problem-solving in a manner that will help our community progress and thrive. I am self-employed and am currently privileged to have a flexible schedule. As such, I have the time and energy to dedicate to learning and understanding the responsibilities of a Municipal Council member and the current matters before Council. I understand that it can be difficult to join a Municipal Council mid-term but I am a fast learner and, if chosen, pledge to dedicate myself to quickly becoming a contributing member of our local government. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Christina Bandomir.

Christina Bandomir

911 Patt's Place, Kincardine, ON (home address)

319 Penetangore Row, Kincardine, ON (property owned in the MoK)