COUNCIL VACANCY APPLICATION FORM-PART 2

Name of Candidate: Ardis Proulx-Chedore

Explain why you would like to serve on Council (if extra space required, please attach)

I've always been passionate about helping my community, whether through my work with the Cochrane Regional Food Bank or my involvement with the Legion.
Serving on town council would be another way to make a difference.
~~I see firsthand the struggles many residents face, and I want to be a strong voice for them.~~
Food security, social services, and support for local organizations are things I care deeply about, and I'd push for better resources and funding to help those in need.
Cochrane is a great town, but there's always room for growth and improvement.
I want to make sure that as we move forward, we're listening to residents, supporting local businesses, ~~and preserving the small-town values that make this place home.~~

At the end of the day, I just want to see our community thrive, and I believe I can help make that happen.

Advocating for Social Services – my experience with the food bank has given insight into the struggles of vulnerable community members. I could push for better support systems, funding for food security, and programs that help families in need.

Community Development – With my hands-on approach to community initiatives, I might want to improve Cochrane's infrastructure, public services, or economic opportunities.

Giving a Voice to Residents – I already engage with many people in town through my work.
Serving on council would give me a stronger platform to represent their concerns and ensure their voices are heard in decision-making.

Strengthening Local Organizations – I understand the challenges non-profits face, so I could advocate for policies that support local charities, small businesses, and volunteer-driven initiatives.

Preserving Cochrane's Identity – I have a strong connection to the town's history and community values. I want to ensure that Cochrane grows while maintaining its small-town character.

Signature of Candidate: *Ardis Proulx-Chedore*

Date: *March 28/25*

ONTARIO, CA
COCHRANE
WONDERFULLY UNEXPECTED

Why Ardis Proulx-Chedore is the Right Choice for Council

Ardis Proulx-Chedore is a dedicated community leader with a proven track record of advocacy, problem-solving, and service. Her experience managing critical local programs, combined with her deep understanding of Cochrane's challenges, makes her the ideal candidate for council.

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1. Proven Leadership in Community Support

As the manager of the Cochrane Regional Food Bank and the Neighbour to Neighbour Thrift Shop, Ardis has spearheaded efforts to combat food insecurity. Under her leadership, the food bank achieved a **reduction in product waste to just 2% within a year**—a milestone that reflects her commitment to efficiency and responsible resource management. *(Food Banks Canada, 2023)*

📖 **Source:** Food Banks Canada. "Food Banker Spotlight: Ardis Proulx-Chedore." Food Banks Canada

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2. Innovative Problem-Solving Skills

Cochrane's food insecurity crisis has reached unprecedented levels, with **73% of residents relying on the food bank in 2024**. To address this, Ardis introduced a **free community food pantry**, ensuring access to essentials without barriers or stigma. This forward-thinking initiative reflects her ability to **find real solutions to local problems**. *(TimminsToday, 2024)*

📖 **Source:** TimminsToday. "Staggering number of people using Cochrane food bank." TimminsToday

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3. Effective Collaboration with Local Organizations

Ardis understands the power of partnerships. She worked closely with organizations like **the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), securing a $3,000 donation** to support Cochrane residents. This demonstrates her ability to engage with stakeholders and bring much-needed funding to community programs. *(TimminsToday, 2023)*

📖 **Source:** TimminsToday. "Cochrane Food Bank picks up $3K donation." TimminsToday

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4. Deep Understanding of Local Challenges

Ardis has witnessed firsthand the economic struggles Cochrane faces, from **rising food costs** to **job losses following the Rockshield mill fire**. She has worked tirelessly to provide relief, ensuring that no family is left behind. *(TimminsToday, 2023)*

📖 **Source:** TimminsToday. "Inflation, job losses drive massive increase at Cochrane Food Bank." TimminsToday

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5. Commitment to Transparency and Excellence

Under Ardis's leadership, the Cochrane Regional Food Bank became **the first in northeastern Ontario to receive accreditation from Food Banks Canada**, meeting strict food safety and financial accountability standards. This reflects her dedication to **transparency, integrity, and responsible governance**—values essential for a councilor. *(TimminsToday, 2024)*

📖 **Source:** TimminsToday. "Staggering number of people using Cochrane food bank." TimminsToday

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6. Passion for Community Engagement

Ardis has played an active role in preserving Cochrane's history, sharing insights through local media to **keep the town's heritage alive**. Her dedication to community storytelling underscores her belief in the importance of **Cochrane's past, present, and future**. *(MyCochraneNow, 2023)*

📖 **Source:** MyCochraneNow. "Cochrane History: The Public Library in 1963." MyCochraneNow

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7. Personal Experience with Community Support Systems

Having experienced food insecurity in her childhood, Ardis brings a **unique and deeply personal perspective** to her work. She understands what it means to struggle and is **committed to ensuring no one in Cochrane has to face those hardships alone.** *(Food Banks Canada, 2023)*

📖 **Source:** Food Banks Canada. "Food Banker Spotlight: Ardis Proulx-Chedore." Food Banks Canada

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Ardis Proulx-Chedore: The Right Choice for Cochrane

Ardis has already demonstrated her **dedication, leadership, and ability to get things done** for Cochrane. Electing her to council means choosing a representative who is **passionate, experienced, and committed to making a real difference**.