

January 7, 2021

Castlegar City Hall
460 Columbia Avenue
Castlegar, B.C. V1N 1G7

Chris Barlow and Council

I regret to inform you that I must tender my resignation as of *January 8th, 2021*, as the Mayor of Castlegar. As you know change is hard to cultivate and prior to my inauguration this community and council had operated a certain way, under certain leadership for many decades. At the time of running for Mayor, I thought that although it would be challenging, it wouldn't be as insurmountable as it has been to cultivate the change this community asked for upon voting me in.

As humbled and honoured as I have felt to be a leader in this community, it has equally been difficult. When I embarked on my political journey, perhaps I was naïve in thinking it wouldn't affect me and my family in the ways it has. But as time has gone on, my position as Mayor has unfortunately challenged my physical health, as well as the toll bullying and hypocrisy within the media has taken on my spirit. When it effects my family, it is not acceptable.

It is with a heavy heart that I choose to move on because I have come to understand that the work this community needs to do to create systemic and lasting change is far greater than my body and my mind can do. However, it is with gratitude that I say thank you to those people within the community that have unconditionally supported me on my journey and to those who continue to show their kindness towards myself, my family and to one another and the community itself.

It goes without saying that I have been a target of harmful and bullying behaviour along with outright disrespect within the systems I have operated in upon my arrival as Councilman over 6 years ago. To me, with my own moral compass guiding me, I find it extremely disheartening that certain council members who wish to stand for inclusion, advocacy and awareness around mental health have come to be the very people instigating and inflicting pain onto others. This and the already mentioned reasons above guided my decision to step down from my role as Mayor. Lateral violence is something that should not be taken lightly as it impedes the valuable work that is required to successfully support a thriving economy and community.

As I have never been a quitter and as hard as this is, I deeply regret that I am no longer able to serve in this position and represent my constituents. My family, my mental and physical health must come first. I wish the Council, City of Castlegar, fellow colleagues and the friends I have come to know, the very best in their future.

Sincerely,

Mayor Bruno Tassone