



**OSOYOOOS  
STRONGER  
TOGETHER**

For City Council

+

**JOHNNY CHEONG**

**2026 Campaign Platform**

Clear.  
In-depth.  
Actionable.

# A local. Supporting locals.

It has been a privilege to call Osoyoos my home for the last 9 years. As a healthcare practitioner, small business owner and active volunteer, empowered with my strong academic background, I have been an engaged, skilled voice during my 4 years on council. My young family has grown deep roots here. I truly believe that if you have the capacity to help, it is your duty to do so.

In these 4 years, we have overhauled the budget and our financial structure, created sustainability funding to ensure the current and future longevity of our assets, made significant strides in water treatment development, and have been successful in over \$9 million in grant funding. I'm hoping this guide clearly communicates our progress and my vision for the future.

**Osoyoos Stronger Together.**  
**There is more work to be done.**  
**Let's do it together.**



# #1 Priority: Water, water, water

We started with almost nothing. Minimal data, minimal asset information, minimal sustainability funding and minimal water conservation.

## Achievements to date

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### More than \$9 million in infrastructure grant funding

Building valued relationships with ministers and staff have led to direct results. I showed ministers pictures of my daughter's brown bath water, videos from residents, and other pictures posted on social media.

I presented to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, phrasing their grant funding as an investment. Osoyoos contributes \$41 million in tourism related tax revenue. Additional grant funding isn't an expense, it is seed money to empower our local economy. Not only will the province recoup their investment, it will pay in dividends.

Grant funding is largely allocated to shovel-ready projects. We have been working hand-in-hand with provincial staff to get to that point and ease the burden on our community.

# #1 Priority: Water, water, water

## Water conservation plan completed

Water metering installation and education is a crucial component. Since the start of the project, we have seen a steady downward trend in water consumption all thanks to the efforts of this wonderful community.

Less water consumption means a smaller initial plant and flexibility with treatment options. The plant will be a phased plan and expandable to account for future growth and new future technologies. The initial build costs may be much lower.

We make our decisions based on the best information we have. We obtain that information through studies and reports completed by qualified professionals. This allows us to maximize tax dollars and build not just for now, but for the future, ensuring safe and sustainable water supply for generations to come.

The work is not done. I have and will continue to push innovative solutions to continue water conservation like replacing our grass with clover or yarrow when suitable. This will reduce water consumption, maintain green spaces and reduce operational cost due to lower maintenance requirements.

# #1 Priority: Water, water, water

## Concrete Treatment Plant Progression

The trend in the past was to commission studies and reports which gathered dust as the projects were never completed. I vowed to commit to studies only if we will action on them. We have done just that.

We started with the Osoyoos Water Master Plan (July 2023), which gave us an in-depth view of our current water system. From December 2023 to February 2024, RESEAU conducted pilot well-water treatment testing. This took a year in order to account for seasonal fluctuations in water quality.

The results presented in the Source Water and Treatment Feasibility Study (April 2024) showed significant treatment complexities at the water demand level at the time. As such, surface water treatment was seen as the most viable option, but we didn't have data on lake composition. Larratt, alongside Carollo engineers, started their lake water sampling analysis in Fall 2024 and completed in Winter 2025. This too required a year of data to account for seasonal fluctuations.

The RESEAU and Larratt studies each took two years, half my term, which were absolutely necessary and outside of our control.

# #1 Priority: Water, water, water

Meanwhile, site selection had already started in 2024 with multiple possible candidates. Once a short list was determined, preliminary geological, archaeological and technical assessment was completed on these sites. A comprehensive update was presented in June 2026.

With our most recent Water Conservation Plan presented in August 2026, there was a significant pivot. Our reducing consumption means our well water can be treated with a smaller, lower cost treatment plant. In lieu of additional well development, surface water intake can be increased as population steadily grows, hybridizing the system. This is sustainable, fiscally responsible and the best possible solution with the information we have diligently collected. We are still on track for our targeted 2029 operation.

I will continue to push innovative solutions that balance financial demands and efficacy. We can reduce water restriction enforcement costs by using live water metering data instead of by-law patrols. When we pilot test the treatment system, test Wells #4 and #5 which have the worst manganese, but ensure the pilot system can be integrated with our treatment plant. This way we save on build-out costs and see some improvement in interim water quality.

## #2: Municipal Development Corporation

### **Taking building into our own hands. Reducing obscene costs.**

One of the most shocking lessons learned was just how illogical government procurement procedure is. Our budgets are public knowledge, as such companies bidding on our projects know our maximum spend. We have a transparent and industry standard Request For Proposal (RFP) process. This involves a detailed application where points are allocated based on our assessment criteria. The application with the most points is awarded the project.

By creating our own Municipal Development Corporation, we take matters into our own hands. We save tax payer dollars. Our project timelines are faster. Our funding sources are more diverse.

I believe there is no such thing as a new idea. We take ideas that have been tried, tested and we adapt them to our situation. Creston Valley created their own Municipal Development Corporation, a concept I learned from their CAO through networking and seminars. The learning never stops.

# Municipal Development Corporation

## What is a Municipal Development Corporation

- **Structure:** Operates with its own board consisting of council, local residents, and staff. Appointed local residents with industry-relevant skillset serve as subject matter experts.
- **Funding:** Can raise its own capital like issue bonds, take loans, attract private investment, form public-private partnerships without going through the municipal budget for every project.
- **Oversight & Accountability:** Independent of general procurement rules, but subject to specific regulatory mechanisms determined by council and legal counsel. The parent municipality retains ultimate authority. Board meetings open to the public.
- **Speed:** Generally faster, since it can act more like a business with quicker contracting, more flexible hiring, streamlined decision-making.
- **Cost-savings:** For every project, we save 15% on general contractor markup. The corporation is designed for project completion and service delivery, not profit generation.

# Municipal Development Corporation

## Exploratory Projects

### **Desert Park Multi-purpose Facility**

Modelling after the Tournament Capital in Kamloops, we form agreements with local non-profit and for profit groups that require new facilities to flourish like<sup>+</sup> Desert Sun Counselling, Osoyoos Childcare Center, Arts Council, RCMP detachment, Harness Racing BC, indoor/outdoor Pickleball courts, etc.

This opens up diverse streams of grant funding, gives us more for each dollar spent, and possibilities for Public Private Partnerships.

### **4 Seasons Bathroom**

The project cost estimates are ridiculous. Consulting with local builders, we can build this for significantly less. Let's harness our local talent, keep money in our local economy and thrive together while providing valuable and necessary infrastructure for our residents and visitors.

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# Municipal Development Corporation

## Exploratory Targets

### Staff Housing and Medical Facility

Imagine a 4 story building where the bottom floor is a virtual walk-in clinic, the second floor is staff housing and the top two floors are rental housing. +

One of the top concerns for local businesses is the lack of staff and the common reason is a lack of housing. We work directly with local businesses to determine their needs and provide housing through agreements with long-term cost-recovery. This directly supports our economy. We're open for business.

Healthcare is a must and we have been battling deficiencies for years. Working directly with Oliver on the Supporting Local Physicians Recruitment Working Group, I have seen the regulatory and non-regulatory barriers we face while recruiting crucial medical resources. A virtual walk-in clinic would consist of rooms equipped with computers and web cameras that allow residents without family doctors to access numerous telehealth options. It could also be built in a manner for conversion to an in-person medical clinic to provide our local doctors a new home.

# #3 Generate Additional Tourism-based Revenue Sources

## **Paid Parking**

Local residents park for free and will not be charged at all. I have had preliminary conversations with a Canadian-based company that provides the digital infrastructure for easy to use QR code-based paid parking. This system takes 10 seconds to pay. Initial<sup>+</sup> start-up costs would be recouped within the first few months.

Each property tax paying property including surrounding regions will be given the opportunity to register their license plates which are exempt from paid parking. Enforcement is done through Automated License Plate Readers mounted on pre-existing By-law vehicles where data stays private, housed in Canada, complies with privacy law and stored for a finite period.

In 2025, Tofino had a net revenue of \$663,073 from parking services alone. This revenue funds recreation capital projects. I would earmark our revenues to create a Community Enhancement Fund whose mandate is to, through valued public input, fund projects that invigorate the quality of life for residents and local business.

# #3 Generate Additional Tourism-based Revenue Sources

## Tourism-tiered Water Pricing Structure

Water metering rates will be a contentious topic. The core purpose is to create a fair pricing structure that does not price gouge our local, water-responsible residents. You pay for what you use. Full stop. +

With that said, we know that water consumption starts increasing in April, peaks in July and stabilizes back to baseline levels in November. We also know that between 2:00–6:00 am, during peak summer months, our well water output does not match demand. This is largely attributed to irrigation.

With that said, tourism has a large impact on our water infrastructure and I propose that we create a dedicated water metering framework specific to properties that provide accommodation for tourism. This creates a Water Use Surcharge that can be passed on to the visitors.

### Implementation:

1. Analyze water meter data and compare usage with average Osoyoos household
2. Collaborate with affected properties to determine a reasonable, but measurable fee schedule
3. Funds generated go towards Water Infrastructure Sustainability Fund

# Thank you.

I love this community. I want it to prosper, grow and thrive. This is not about me, it's about building a better place for my family, for future generations and most importantly, for you. This election is a critical turning point for Osoyoos.

My door is always open. If you have questions or concerns, please email me at:

**[johnnycheong@osoyoosstrongertogether.ca](mailto:johnnycheong@osoyoosstrongertogether.ca)**

If you would like to help me and my campaign, please let me know!



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