**Rick for Mayor**

C/O Rick Karp

#21-58 Falcon Drive,

Whitehorse Yukon, Y1A 6V6.

Ph: 867-332-4036

E-mail: rickkarp46@gmail.com

Facebook: Rick for Mayor

**Good Afternoon,**

**My responses to the questions are below, after each question**:

**YUKON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

**Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Yukon Centre**

**Mail: 6160 - 6th Avenue, Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 1N6, Phone: 250-408-4838 E-mail: yukonastronomicalsociety@gmail.com
Website: www.yukonastronomy.com
Facebook: RASC Yukon Centre – Yukon Astronomical Society**

October 08, 2018

**Dear Candidate,**

In addition to the long summer days of the midnight sun, Whitehorse, the Wilderness City is blessed with long, star-filled and aurora rich nights. Sadly, due to light pollution from the City, most Whitehorse residents are being deprived access to the natural treasure. Winter tourism is a fast- growing sector of our economy, but again this investment is at risk because we are losing our dark sky. This is a concern we are hearing more and more from Whitehorse citizens, across the community and across demographics.

The good news is light pollution is reversible and we can reclaim our night sky. It is possible to use light responsibly to enhance the use and enjoyment of the night time environment, enhance public safety and reduce light pollution impacts. But it takes will to make change.

*Question 1:*

There is a growing body of research that proves the negative effects of light pollution on both our natural environment and human health. For example, in 2016 the American Medical Association1 re- affirmed their warning about human health effects from artificial light at night resulting in increasing risks for obesity, depression, sleep disorders, diabetes, breast cancer2 and more. **If elected, what would you do to reclaim our night-sky heritage, protecting the environment and human health from the negative effects of light pollution?**

**My Response:**

**Dear members of the Yukon Astronomical Society, to be honest I did not know that this was an issue. What I would do is to arrange a meeting with the Society to become aware of the research and the suggestions you have to rectify the situation. My immediate thought is that this needs to be communicated with the community, offering guidelines / solutions for households. As to the City, if I am fortunate enough to become Mayor, I would want to share the research with Administration, perhaps have a presentation by the Society at a CASM, and see where it goes.**

*Question 2:*

The bright-white light used in many LED exterior and street lights is now known to cause up to 5-times more light pollution than the current amber coloured street lights. There are a growing number of complaints from Whitehorse citizens and visitors about the negative effects from the bright-white lights on their homes and outdoor experiences. Furthermore, human eyes are more impacted to blue- rich white light because blue light scatters more within the eye, causing glare effects, which has implications for road safety, especially for older eyes. **Would you support and advocate for the responsible use of outdoor lighting: this being limiting use of lighting to areas where needed for safety and convenience and requiring the use of warm-white or amber-coloured night-sky friendly lighting on buildings and roadways?**

**My response:**

**Again, I did not know anything about this. I thought the new lights were energy savers, cost effective, long lasting and that is why everyone was turning to them. I had no idea they may be harmful. To me, I think education is important. Once I have the research, and the Society has explained everything, decisions on what to do could be made.**

**Rick
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