

KEVEN BOUCHARD Citizen

As soon as I arrived in Glenwood, I was charmed to see that everyone was free to do as they pleased on their own property.

Neither I nor any of the residents I've spoken with have any issue with whether a neighbor's fence is 8 feet or 3 feet high. Shipping containers or truck beds used as sheds, as long as they're reasonably clean. Sometimes a small house behind the main house for the grandmother. A man offering tire installation services from his home. People selling eggs on the side of the road or offering sewing services or even crafting furniture by hand—that's none of my business. None of this bothers me; on the contrary, it inspires a sense of freedom to live. We are not, and we do not want to be, like big cities.

Bylaw amendments too often come from above and are very rarely to our advantage.

I speak from experience; I was a political party leader and won three municipal elections. I also have extensive legislative experience in business, and I know the excesses of government control from the inside.

Furthermore, I saw the same freedom-restricting policies implemented in Quebec 20 years ago.

Adopted by well-meaning elected officials, these measures had little impact at first, but after 10 years, the provincial government provided grants to hire municipal inspectors and enforce the rules rigorously through legal letters and fines; I have even seen people lose their home.

The vitality of our villages has gradually died, and so has the citizens' sense of belonging. Grandfathering clauses have caused confusion and frustration; good neighborhood has turned into mistrust and denunciation.

But rather than wasting your time proving to you just how overly controlling this entire Land Use Bylaw is and how it does not serve the interests of Glenwood's citizens, I want to propose a solution.

May your council take Glenwood's freedom to heart and establish a citizen advisory committee that will take the time to review and revise the entire *Land Use Bylaw* to reflect the values and true will of Glenwood's residents. Even if it takes two or three years. Yes, it's legal, and yes, Cardstone County could be involved.

In closing, please know that I understand you must track property value increases to tax properties fairly, and that permits allow you to identify who is increasing their property value. I accept tracking values through permits, but I oppose restrictions on our property rights. And voting today to grant the AUTHORITY the power to decide on 146 pages of rules is dangerous for our freedoms tomorrow. We need more self-sufficiency. Will Glenwood be among the few places where freedom still makes sense, or will we simply be like the rest, on the path to the end?

The Bible says it in Ephesians 5:15-17

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.