

Ann Iwanchuk, Ward 3

- 1) The City of Saskatoon provides vital public services to its citizens. What public services need to be strengthened through the injection of new financial resources? How would you propose to pay for better public services in Saskatoon?

As our City continues to grow, we need to enhance a number of public services including maintaining our roads and parks, introducing a composting plan, increasing snow removal, etc. I am concerned about the state of our transit usage. If we want our public transit to be successful, we need to direct new financial resources to adding routes and frequency of service. Until it becomes more expedient and convenient to take the bus rather than to get into a vehicle, it will not become the transportation method of choice for the majority of our citizens. The long-term plan is to add BRT routes, and this will increase ridership; however, in the short-term, we also need to find a solution that will enable us to provide more effective service throughout the city.

- 2) What is your view of privatization of public services? Would you reverse the services that have been privatized by previous city governments?

I am opposed to the privatization of public services. I believe our citizens are better served when public services remain public and it has been proven time and time again, that not only is the service as, or more, reliable, it is usually more cost effective because the need to make a profit is taken out of the equation. I was very concerned with the process that was used to establish a mandatory city-wide recycling program. The program itself is a good one, and was long overdue; however, establishing an in-house recycling plan was not even provided as an option. I was very disappointed that the Council of the day did not request a proposal from our Infrastructure Services Department to provide this service to our citizens. I believe our in-house resources could have been expanded to enable us to provide this service in-house in a way that would have been just as, if not more, cost-effective.

P3's - I have been a strong voice on Council to review other options - P3's have been proven across Canada and the world to be more costly and to create problems in the future - this is not the way Saskatoon should be funding its major projects!

- 3) What could the City of Saskatoon do to improve its relationship with its employees? How can the collective bargaining rights of City of Saskatoon employees be better protected?

The City of Saskatoon's Administration successfully negotiated a settlement of all collective agreements except for ATU Local 615. This outstanding agreement is of concern to me. I work as a negotiator for CUPE - and I recuse myself from discussions pertaining specifically to CUPE, so I will refrain from providing further comment with respect to the CUPE bargaining tables. However, with respect to ATU, I have continuously provided advice and guidance to both sides to help facilitate a mutually acceptable settlement. There are no members of Council at the bargaining table, and perhaps that practice should be reviewed in the future. I have had experience at a number of bargaining tables where an elected representative is part of the collective bargaining process (other municipalities, school boards, etc.).

4) What can the City of Saskatoon do to provide safe and affordable housing? How can we ensure that marginalized residents have a say in community and social planning?

We need to continue assisting with the community response to our Syrian Refugees. We need to ensure that community efforts are assisted and enhanced by the City, but not duplicated. While I believe affordable housing is an issue for the provincial and federal government, we have stepped in to fill the gap, including supporting an affordable housing business plan. We also need to continue to work on our infill housing guidelines to ensure that we are building up, and not out, which will assist with providing affordable housing. Working with community organizations will assist with ensuring that marginalized residents have a say in community and social planning.

5) What role do you see for the City of Saskatoon to improve around economic development?

SREDA (Saskatoon & Region Economic Development Association) has replaced the economic development branch that used to be part of the city's direct responsibility. I believe SREDA is well positioned to improve economic development in our city. Two members of City Council along with the Mayor serve on that board, and the goal is to assist with attracting new businesses to Saskatoon and the surrounding region. Good paying jobs are vital to the growth of our community and if we do not attract businesses, we are not providing the economic stimulus that is required for us to continue to grow and prosper.

Trade deals imposed upon us by other levels of government have precluded the City of Saskatoon from having a local component to our requests for proposals. This means we cannot allocate contracts to local business – I will continue to advocate for a change to this practice which is continuing to hurt our economy – Local = Sustainable.

6) What specific initiatives would you propose to move Saskatoon to a low-carbon economy and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions?

If alternate transportation methods such as transit and cycling transportation option of choice, this would go a long way in helping our environment. We need to change from being car-centric to being environment-centric. As mentioned earlier, moving towards a bus rapid transit system would be of great assistance in this area. We also need to move from LEED standard in our buildings to LEED gold standard as a mandatory requirement for all new buildings. Expansion of our composting program would also be a step in the right direction.

7) What can the City of Saskatoon do to promote reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians?

I was the City Councillor who put forward the resolution which was unanimously adopted by Council to dedicate July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 as the year of reconciliation and to direct our Administration to ensure we have met all of the positions that were put forward in

Justice Sinclair's call to action. A number of years ago, the City of Saskatoon held a mandatory training session to educate every employee in Aboriginal Awareness training. To my dismay, the mandatory aspect was eliminated some years ago. My expectation is that this will be brought forward during our next budget deliberations, and it is my intent to ensure this training becomes mandatory for all employees.

We also need to continue to work with the Office of the Treaty Commission and all community partners to ensure that we are leaders in promoting reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

8) If you are an existing councillor, what is one decision you have made over the past 4 years which best demonstrates your leadership and commitment to Saskatoon residents?

I have continuously advocated dedicating resources for our "needs" vs. "wants". For example, we have a crumbling infrastructure, our playground equipment is in disrepair and we are lacking accessible playground equipment throughout the city; and I have continuously advocated that we need to investigate how to bring and maintain our services in-house so that we can provide a better service to the citizens of Saskatoon.

With respect to my ward specifically, I have heard from residents of Pacific Heights that their quality of life was severely being impacted by the noise coming from increased traffic on 22nd Street. I inquired as to when a sound attenuation wall would be built, and learned that with the funding model in place at that time, it would take about 75-80 years for this to happen. Absolutely unacceptable! We arrived at a solution by thinking outside the box, by coming up with a plan that would have very minimal financial impact on the mill rate, yet would improve the quality of life for citizens across Saskatoon. Over a 3 year period, with a tax increase of 0.3 percent per year, we were able to fund nine walls across the city. This is greatly improving the quality of life for citizens. While sound attenuation walls may not be a huge issue for all citizens, it is coming up with a solution to the issue that I am most proud of. This method was so successful, that we saved approximately \$7 million which can be returned to our citizens during the 2017 budget deliberations, or can be used to facilitate other worthwhile programs.