

Mairin Loewen (ward 7)

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?

There are a number of public programs for which residents often request increased investment, but I will highlight three in recognition of the fact that some of the most significant infrastructure pieces (i.e. roads and sidewalks) are being addressed through a dedicated tax levy.

First, I believe increased investment in public transit is essential to the long-term success of our city. We need public transit to compete with single-vehicle travel in order to reduce congestion and avoid major infrastructure investments. Secondly, programs like the Green Bin program are not currently meeting public demand and should be expanded given the strategic and environmental benefits that waste diversion provides for the community. Finally, I believe the level of funding for parks and public spaces should be increased to maximize the use and enjoyment of these spaces during our limited summer months, and to facilitate and support utility of these spaces during the winter.

I would continue to advocate to the province for the ability to utilize new tax tools (like a penny tax for specific projects) in order to decrease the City's dependency on property tax to fund operations and capital investments.

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

The City of Saskatoon offers a high quality of public services to its residents, and I do not believe privatizing these services would offer gains in efficiency or quality of service. I also don't believe it is a strategically wise expenditure of political capital to attempt to reverse previous decisions - instead I would ensure that new services and programs can be considered in-house before seeking contract/external opportunities.

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 is in a period of growth and change, and it is important to engage employees in any transformative processes so that their expertise and knowledge informs changes to programs and service delivery. As an employer, the role of the City of Saskatoon must include strengthening relationships with employees and ensuring that their voices are heard and considered in any decision making processes that occur.

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?

I believe the City has a role to play in providing targeted incentives for the creation of affordable housing, and I also believe that monitoring existing housing stock to ensure its safety is a critical service provided by the City. The City should also continue to support

the considerable work being done by community organizations that serve Saskatoon's most vulnerable populations. Consultation and planning can become more inclusive by moving into the community and away from formal and often inaccessible events at City Hall, etc., and ensuring that planning and consultation initiatives use plain language, offer childcare, and are held at varied locations.

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

I believe the City's current approach to economic development initiatives (specifically that recommendations about tax incentives and other economic development initiatives be handled by SREDA) is an appropriate one. More broadly, I believe that fostering a vibrant and affordable community with strong public services, well-functioning infrastructure, and high quality of life is critical to attracting and retaining investment and residents. I believe investing in the cultural life of the City, including entities like the Meewasin Valley Authority, also bolsters the economic development of our community.

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

The City must continue to expand green energy-producing opportunities within the corporation and should facilitate the increased use of solar power by residents. This should be achieved by implementing programs and incentives within Saskatoon Light and Power that make it easier for residents and organizations in the community to use renewable energy. Finally, the city must improve the energy efficiency of its buildings and operations through energy audits.

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

The City must fully implement the initiatives presented in its response to the TRC's Calls to Action and ensure that this work does not conclude at the end of the Year of Reconciliation. I have advocated for increased training for City staff, not only related to the TRC but to anti-oppression principles in general, to ensure that the City and its staff are educated and empowered to work towards reconciliation in the community. This work must also be embraced by the organizations at arms-length from City Hall such as the Saskatoon Public Library, the Saskatoon Police Service, the Rемаi Modern Art Gallery, and others.

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

I believe the City's endorsement of the growth plan is one of the most significant decisions I participated in over the last 4 years. Although the positive impacts of the plan will ultimately be realized only through full implementation, this plan represents a shift in thinking about the way Saskatoon should grow and function. It provides the blueprint for Saskatoon to become more efficient, move more people via public transit and active transportation, and grow in density versus land mass, all of which will improve the City's environmental performance and quality of life.