

Inner City Coalition Survey Responses
From Jag Aithal
Ward 7

Q1. Yes, I agree

1. Promote Housing Cooperatives. Support these Coops by engaging the province to provide them with initial startup capital, even if it is in the form of borrowings.
2. Audit all subsidy support provided under public housing for abuses
3. Raise public funds for affordable housing through public borrowings. Re-invest the profits made into affordable housing only
4. Allocate more public housing for senior citizens
5. Legislate the provision of more affordable housing in every new development in the inner city as well as suburbs
6. Remove obstacles in the land bylaws so that more units of “high density” (16 storeys or more) buildings can be built.
7. Educate communities and community associations on the benefits of developing secondary suites
8. Legalize secondary suites
9. Develop long-term strategies to deal with affordable housing. This issue is not going to go away soon.

Q2. Yes, I agree on the Transportation dilemma

1. Yes, contesting in the civic elections is itself my acceptance to provide leadership
2. The Go Plan has several defects. We need to revisit them to adapt to changed realities. The three principles of balanced growth espoused by the Go Plan have merit. However, we need to have measurements for these and also need to monitor what we have achieved. An objective without measurement is impossible to achieve.
3. The main defect of the GO Plan is that it envisages on providing public transport after communities are built. It would be ideal to follow the reverse. Establish a skeleton public transport and then build communities around it. This way, it would be easier to balance growth in relation to capacities.

Q3. Yes, I agree that the current tax system is unfair.

1. Engage the province to move away from assessing taxes based on a property’s market value. Instead value the property for its utility in contributing to the stated civic objectives such as Smart Growth, sustainability, cleaner environment, and public safety.
2. Ensure that tax monies collected from a community is utilized for the benefit of that community, except where services provided to that community is part of a city wide service such as for policing and transportation.
3. Encourage mixed developments that provide for residences, job centers, recreation, etc.

4. DO NOT raise taxes without public consultation.
5. Seek and obtain frequent feedbacks from the public.

Q4. Yes, I agree.

1. We need to gravitate towards Smart Growth to reduce urban sprawl.
2. De-link the City's vision for land use that is related to mobility. Land use should provide for LIVING SPACES. Transportation should be one of the elements guiding land use and not the main one.
3. The Municipal Development Plan (Calgary Plan), a legal document that guides the city's growth needs to have a separate vision and not borrow its vision from the GO Plan. The City's vision should promote living spaces, not transportation.
4. Implement measurements for all stated objectives and specify the frequency with which they will be monitored.
5. Discourage "use and throw" thinking. Educate people on "re-usability."

Q5. Yes, I agree

1. Bring back the land registry for Aldermen and senior bureaucrats of the city, that was abolished in 1999.
2. Abolish the acceptance of donations from city owned corporations.
3. Set limits on campaign expenses.
4. Legislate that candidates have to disclose their sources of donations and the sum before Election Day.
5. Implement an independent public oversight body like an auditor general to ensure fiscal rectitude of the city.
6. Be transparent. Ensure that all public business is conducted in public. Remove all restrictions on public participation.