

ICC Online Forum
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1) Affordable Housing:

There are a variety of strategies that we must employ to deal with the affordable housing crisis in Calgary. The proverbial low hanging fruit would be allowing secondary suites throughout the city. When looking for initial opportunities for secondary suites, we must first concentrate around transit nodes in order to maximize the affordability.

We must also move to a system of inclusionary zoning, with up to 30% being affordable as based upon LICO. Inclusionary zoning would allow us to develop integrated and mixed use of housing, proven to be the most effective. The city must look for methods to bonus and incent developers to include affordable units.

When looking at homelessness, we must escalate the city's commitment of 200 units a year, to the requisite 400 units per year. As well, we must also begin to look at a program of "Housing First" in order to effectively support and assist our most vulnerable populations.

2) Transportation:

Yes, I will support the "Go Plan". I participated in the 10 year review of the CTP and was part of the discussions on how and why it has not been implemented. I also think that the plan in itself is a good start, but that by itself it cannot achieve the goals that it wishes to unless we seek further integration of the principles of the plan.

We must not only seek to implement TOD throughout the city as we both grow outwards and redevelop our existing neighbourhoods, but the funding must be in place to ensure that transit, and other alternative forms of transportation, is in place at the outset. Our communities must be designed to allow for transit to function effectively and efficiently, and not as an afterthought.

We must also follow through with Council's 10 year old commitment to spend 50% of transportation dollars on transit. We are a long way from that currently.

3) Tax Fairness:

Tax fairness is an issue that must be addressed, whether it is finding sufficient funding, or ensuring that those on fixed incomes are not driven from their homes. A method of tax deferral for seniors should be explored to allow seniors to stay in their homes until they decide to sell them.

As well, we need to look for systems that are more equitable than increased user fees. We must be more selective on user fees to apply them to the behaviours which we wish to discourage, such as waste and garbage, and include costs of positive programs, such as recycling and recreational activities, in the tax base.

4) Environment & Sustainability

In looking at sustainability, we must start with our urban growth patterns. We must begin to build new communities that are based upon Smart Growth principles, we must integrate public transit within these communities, and we must identify areas for urban densification throughout the city.

When we begin to implement new urban strategies based upon sustainability and upon the Imagine Calgary guidelines, we will begin to instill sustainability throughout, and economic, social and environmental sustainability as well.

5) Democratic Process & Policies

I believe the lack of rules around campaign finance at the municipal level opens the system up to corruption and is, at its essence, not democratic. As such, I have implemented for our campaign a Campaign Finance Reform Policy, which I believe should be implemented.

Our campaign will abide by the following rules:

- Will not accept a donation more than \$1,500
- Will disclose our donors on our website within one week of receipt
- Will not spend more than \$0.50 per resident of the ward
- Will only fundraise in the same calendar year of an election
- Will donate all surplus funds to charity when the candidate is no longer running.