

## **Candidate Questionnaire from CBC**

**What will be your top three priorities as mayor? Why these three? (300 words max)**

Stop the DEED.

Reign in out-of-control spending.

Work with the Province to find a path to purpose built long-term shelters removed from residential and commercial areas of our city.

**Police budgets go up year after year but Saskatoon still has some of the highest crime rates in the country. What is your plan for addressing crime? (200 words max)**

The previous Police Chief lost focus for public safety. Our new Chief is back on track and we need to do all we can to give the reasonable tools to Police to improve public safety. The large movement to populate the City Police with ARO's is a back door way to defund actual fully capable Police Constables. While ARO's have a selected use and benefit, what we need are fully trained and capable officers with better direction from the Police Leadership. A Mayor has no direct input in the Police Service, however, the Mayor can support important initiatives that Police require when it is clear these will benefit the city as a whole.

**Do you have a target for tax hikes during your term and how would you achieve that target? (200 words max)**

Currently, there is a mostly unquantified amount of deferred expenditures that will hit our civic budgets over the next years. Out of control spending will now come to roost in our budget and we will have to deal with the mess that previous Councils have created. My absolute hope is to make changes so these added costs will not end up in higher taxes as a start. The ultimate goal is to lean out our civic operations without losing on the ground services and that these savings will help lower our tax implications. Stalling or stopping poorly conceived projects will also be a good source of savings where possible. I can not make any promises as no one on this side of the in-camera meetings will fully understand our current financial situation, but know that I take excessive wasteful spending seriously and I will continue to root out and expose poor operations as my years of track history already show.

**Do you support the zoning changes (allowing 4plexes by right, allowing up to 8 units on a lot near bus stops) brought about by the Housing Accelerator Fund? Why or why not? (200 words max)**

No. The publicly debated and described Corridor projects are completely different than the vaguely presented and hastily approved over-arching HAF changes. Adding density near transit corridors is a smart long term planning step. But the HAF is an unpredictable mess of situations not properly reviewed, engineered, or costed. The 41 million dollar carrot that the Federal Government dangled to entice our Mayor and City Council to take away land owner rights in one action was not warranted. Supporting the agencies trying to provide low-income housing should be supported regardless. The huge long term financial and cultural change that Saskatoon will endure due to the actual HAF implications was never worth the "bribe" that I feel the Federal Government used to get their way. A

weak Mayor and some similarly uncaring Councillors who were not running again regardless, moved to change the city forever. As Mayor, I will work hard to reverse this and to stop any City Administration who are trying to enact these damaging efforts. Our new leadership will be brave and bold on this matter. A distinct and noticeable change from the Mayor and City Council of only a few months ago!

**The city is currently not meeting its growth targets-having a 50/50 split between suburban growth and infill growth inside existing neighbourhoods. Do you agree with those targets and what would you do to meet them? (200 words max)**

For the past two election campaigns, our former Mayor bragged how he would save our city \$500 million or half a billion dollars by growing inwards. Yet in one of his last statements as Mayor, he bragged about how he was at the helm when so many new greenfield communities were created under his leadership. My wife and I have repeatedly hand mapped every street in Pleasant Hill, Mount Royal, and Westmount to create a photo inventory and map of every boarded up, abandoned, and vacant property within. I can prove that the infill situation in these areas has not been a concern of our former Mayor, regardless of all his bolstering. That will change if I am the Mayor. I have put the work in and I will continue to fight hard to get all available properties into the hands of groups like Quint, Habitat for Humanity, and the Metis Association. These groups will gladly build reasonable infill properties to be populated with people thankful for the housing. More infill residents will increase security in these areas and will lower the costs to the City of Saskatoon for Fire and Police services. Beyond this, the City holds vast areas of property in our city core. They are unable or unwilling to suitably move ahead with projects throughout. As Mayor, I can motivate them to move ahead with purpose. I plan to publicly hold them directly to account in the Council Chambers regardless of how the remainder of City Council feels on the subject.

**Do you support building new homeless shelters in the city? If yes, where should they be located? If no, why not? What is your plan for addressing homelessness in the city? (200 words max)**

New semi-permanent, modular, purpose-built shelters in the far north light industrial area is the only reasonable response to this situation. Give dignified care and accommodation to people in need but stop allowing out of control people from using parks and streets however they wish with no accountability. Simply homeless people can be housed safely in normal housing situations. But complex needs "hard to house" people on the streets cannot be housed in normal housing as they might start fires, or physically destroy the unit. It is these "hard to house" people that need a proper treatment facility away from the draw of the street and away from the havoc they create in residential areas like Fairhaven.

**Would you put pressure on the provincial government to reverse the SIS changes that mean social assistance money no longer goes directly to landlords? (200 words max)**

I would definitely have discussions with the Province about this situation and how the changes have had such a negative impact on my city.

**Do you support building a downtown arena? If yes, do you support spending tax dollars to build it? If no, why not and what is your plan for downtown revitalization? (200 words max)**

I am not in favour of the DEED as presented. I believe it is poorly conceived and very poorly planned for. I see no chance that they will ever be able to keep to the explosive budget they already claim is needed either. There absolutely should be a plebiscite on such a massive project with significant taxpayer implications. And yes, the DEED is already guaranteed to add additional costs to every taxpayer in Saskatoon for the next 30 years. Charlie Clark even admitted that fact, live on the air with CKOM radio host Evan Bray back a few weeks ago. Cynthia Block is the only one who refuses to admit she has already approved things that have taxpayer impact.

As for downtown revitalization, I believe we should improve TCU Place and it is my understanding that the Federal Government will give Saskatoon \$100 million for this purpose but that they will NOT give the same for the arena project of the DEED. Improvements to TCU Place could bring larger conventions to Saskatoon, 7 days a week, morning, afternoon, and evening. More street traffic throughout. Use this to build up our small businesses again in the downtown core. Incremental improvements backed by real people who take their own hard-earned money to invest in a downtown business. Like Broadway, 20th Street, and 33rd Street shows, a vibrant mix of businesses can realistically revitalize an area.

**Do you support building the new downtown library? Why or why not? If not, how would you reverse the decision and what is your plan for the city's public library system? (200 words max)**

I am not in favour of the new library nor the false pretense that they used to get a further tax increase in the last budget. It is too late to stop the actual library building build, but there are significant changes that can be brought to bear against this situation for the future. And I am prepared to take all actions needed to reign in this Library Board.

It is time the Library Board start actually providing proper care and attention to the librarians on the ground that provide a great service to our city every day. The current Library Board has completely lost focus and are not financially accountable. I plan to push hard back at this out-of-control behaviour by a select group of entitled people currently in charge.

**How will you address the city's housing affordability crisis (200 words max)**

The City cannot afford to be a large-scale developer. The best we can do is help identify as many suitable infill locations where capable builders can create new housing of various scales. The City can offer tax abatements for projects that prove a great benefit to the city on top of that.

**Do you support building new downtown bike lanes? Why or why not? (200 words max)**

I do not support any new bike lane discussions while so many current misaligned planning documents refer to a host of not yet realized bicycle pathways. We have to clearly know where we are before we try to add or change things further. That has not been properly done so far.

**How would you as Mayor ensure that all communities, especially marginalized ones, are represented and supported in city policies and services? (200 words max)**

Every citizen deserves fair and equal treatment. And access to essential services needs to be enforced. Washrooms are a good example of this. I have a plan to allow our many washroom facilities to get back into full operation.

**What is your plan to improve the efficiency, affordability and safety of Saskatoon's transit system? (200 words max)**

We have to provide basic safety for bus riders and drivers alike. Drivers deserve the right to refuse service to unruly or perpetually aggressive patrons. We give dignity back to bus drivers and peaceful riding patrons alike. Right now, our BRT system will not meet the original design criteria used to create the system. There are many serious pitfalls in the current design that I have personally proven will fail if implemented as designed. At the eleventh hour, many groups are starting to agree with my assessment and the building voice of opposition is making slow headway within City Administration. As Mayor, I will have a direct conduit to expose these future failures including proposed simple solutions already envisioned. Transit is an essential service. Senior administration regularly fail to provide this in the manner required. Excuses have been proven false by the City's own internal auditor yet the mess continues. I will bring the change required to get a predictable bus service back for Saskatoon.

**Should the city invest public money to build more hockey/skating arenas in the city? (200 words max)**

We have a rapidly growing population. But areas of the city are devoid of traditional hockey arenas. We are also devoid of proper cricket fields for the tens of thousands of Saskatoon residents that grew up with soccer, rugby, and cricket. Putting money into real recreation facilities for residents to participate in is a core service that all cities should aim for. Creating spaces that will be used directly by our citizens brings communities together through the seasons.