

Election Questionnaire

1. City Council has set a vision statement for Regina that says, *"Imagine Regina 2020, Canada's most vibrant, inclusive, attractive, sustainable, community where people live in harmony and thrive in opportunity."* Are you aware of what the City is doing to ensure that people who have a disability are a full part of that vision?

Yes No Please explain:

I am aware of the vision statement and that the city has endeavoured to focus on transit and Paratransit, pedestrian traffic, and snow removal to be more inclusive of citizens with disabilities as well as education and awareness.

Are you satisfied with the progress the City of Regina has made in providing accessible services and facilities to people with disabilities and ensuring their "full and effective participation and inclusion in society"(quote from -*U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities-CRPD*)?

Yes No Please explain:

While some progress has been made, I am dissatisfied with the progress to date. I received an email from a citizen who is in a wheelchair and expressed concern that the city is not ensuring that businesses are wheelchair accessible and to minimize abuse of handicap parking in terms of enforcement. I feel this is a very frustrating and significant concern for those who are disabled. The individual contacted the city about who enforces parking at businesses and was informed that the businesses are responsible. When the person asked businesses to intervene with people parking "illegally" in handicap stalls, businesses refused. The person also stated that the city police act on other illegal situations

that affect a business, but parking enforcement is not contacted for parking.

I responded to the citizen and indicated that I have friends in wheelchairs so the inclusiveness of people with disabilities is close to my heart. If elected as Mayor, I plan to look into matters related to people getting around with wheelchairs as a few months ago I witnessed someone in the north end go for a pita and had to wheel all the way to the end of the strip mall (past 4 or 5 stores) for the ramp and then back to the other side. I would certainly like to set up something, even a reporting system to administration or the clerk's office, and perhaps a policy to fine a business if they do not comply with access requirements. We need to do something. As far as businesses with stalls, I recall years ago that people were fined at the mall if they parked in a handicap stall, but I thought it was the city parking enforcement. I would definitely look into that because sometimes a little enforcement can go a long way to create awareness and then people stop being lazy. I participated in a pedestrian workshop in July at City of Regina and I do know that administration has plans to improve the ramps on sidewalks for wheelchairs, but it's a matter of money. I would definitely address these issues as priorities. We need to generate revenue for the city to ensure that we have the means to act on the issues and make the necessary improvements. People with disabilities have enough challenges in the day. I believe that we can put in more effort to improving mobility and quality of life.

These issues and the lack of responsibility of the city are concerning and need to be addressed.

2. In April 2012 IDEA forwarded a paper to the cities Access Advisory Committee (AAC) entitled **The Next Steps**. This paper included three recommendations:
 - That the AAC commit to using the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities (CRPD) as the foundation for its work and particularly for the development of a comprehensive access plan for Regina.

- That the AAC adopt a more active strategy to involve people with disabilities and their organizations directly in developing a comprehensive plan.
- That the AAC call on city council to publicly endorse the CRPD and commit to using the principles, goals, structure and collective wisdom outlined in the CRPD in setting future policy direction.

Do you support these three recommendations?

Yes No Please explain:

I am very disheartened to learn that citizens with disabilities have been asking the city for a more active strategy since 2009, and again in 2012, with minimal results. While some progress has been made, I agree that such progress has been unacceptably slow.

Additional Comments:

As a psychologist, I follow a code of ethics that involves protections for vulnerable persons, such as to seek an independent and adequate ethical review of human rights issues. Psychologists uphold the code of ethics with respect to demonstrating an active concern for the welfare of any individual, family, group, or community with whom they relate in their role, including those both directly and indirectly involved in their activities. Furthermore, a psychologists' greatest responsibility is to protect the welfare of those in the most vulnerable position. The principles also state that the psychologist encourage others to respect the dignity of persons. For example, education and awareness should involve not only citizens and

businesses, but also city employees. As Mayor, as a responsibility to society (also an ethics principle), I will continue to act in accordance with the code of ethics as I consider people with disabilities to be vulnerable. I will prioritize the concerns that have been raised.

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