

Hi there,

Thank you so very much for your email, and persons with disabilities is a very big deal for me, as one of my best friends is in a wheelchair, and has been since birth. I see on a daily basis how difficult it can be for him to get around the downtown in particular, and I am always happy to help where needed. The thing is, I shouldn't have to help, because our entire City should be accessible for all, and I am bound and determined to ensure it becomes that way. I have identified many pitfalls in our city, and let the City know about them. To date, absolutely nothing had been done about them. From a broken and crumbled sidewalk, to a curb that has no wheelchair ramp, to the doorway to the transit office that has a step up but with a bump opener for those in a wheelchair. It's unfortunate that we are so far behind the times in this regards, but it does provide us a baseline of where to start and where to never be again.

In answer to your questionnaire, please see my answers below:

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 haven't had the chance to talk to the City of Regina to see what they have been doing to enable this vision to happen. As we are only eight years away from that timeline, I feel they have been doing a pretty lacklustre job of putting words into action. _____

2. 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: Absolutely not. It is horrific to see some of the conditions of our sidewalks in particular, not just downtown but in residential neighbourhoods. What bothers me the most is how the City has not bothered to maintain these sidewalks for years, if not decades, and now that they are literally crumbling, they want the citizens to share the cost of replacement or rehabilitation. My policy will be any sidewalks that are 40 years or older are replaced at the City's expense.

3. 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 don't think we need to reinvent the wheel here. If the UN Convention has created some guidelines, and your organization feels it's a good guideline to use as a basis, then let's use it. I don't think we need to spend more money on more consultants to figure out what most of us already know.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to ask.

Best Regards,