

## Alan Cox responses

### Candidate for Cochrane Town Council

Will you oppose privatization of municipal services and infrastructure, including Public-PrivatePartnerships aka P3s? Will you support bringing previously privatized services in-house?

- **I support a workforce that is confident in their employment status. This contributes to high morale as well as strong results for the employer. If the union is the organization that conveys this to in-house public service employees, I'm all for it. Privatization may save immediate costs, but it's what benefits both the taxpayers as well as the public service employees in the long run that is the ultimate measuring point.**

Will you support your employees and your community by ensuring the municipality employs staff with living wages, full-time hours where desired, job security, and collective bargaining rights?

- **Living wages are important for strong families. As stated above, I support a workforce that is confident in their employment status.**

Will you oppose attempts from the provincial government to legislate against municipal staff including cuts to the Local Authorities Pension Plan, or restrictions on their right to strike?

- **I am not aware of any plan for the provincial government to legislate anything leading to cuts to the Local Authorities Pension Plan. Strong pensions are part of the public services compensation packages, and should be considered when negotiating living wages. I would have to investigate further the restrictions on the right to strike. There are some essential services that society requires for their safety and security.**

How do you propose your municipality deal with funding shortfalls, cuts, and downloading of responsibilities from federal and provincial governments? Do you favour spending cuts over tax increases?

- **All levels of governments need to live within their means. Funding shortfalls need to be addressed, and all avenues of cost savings including promoting employees to investigate potential efficiencies should be investigated prior to tax increases. Job reductions should not be part of these actions.**

Do you support measures such as mask mandates, vaccine “passports”, and vaccine mandates for staff to limit and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in your municipality?

- **I am extremely disappointed the federal government has not made this responsibility as part of their mandate. Covid-19 is real, and everyone’s safety is my top concern. However, I do respect human rights. Forcing someone to inject a vaccine into their body is not right, this needs to remain to be a choice. That being said, this choice should not jeopardize others safety and security, and the federal government needs to regulate what this looks like**

Do you support measures to reduce municipal reliance on services fees and fares, such as eliminating transit fares?

- **The working class appears to be carrying in increasing amount of the burden. I have read somewhere, that only 40% of Canadians are actually paying taxes. This percentage needs to increase in order to maintain our quality of life. Eliminating transit fares will cause taxes to increase. We need to encourage more people to join the working class in order for this to no longer be an issue.**