

Ben Christensen responses
Candidate for Lethbridge City Council

1. I do not support the privatization of services. Doing so results in job loss, and layoffs and serves to contribute to increased burdens on other social services as a result of any layoffs or job cuts. While the cost reduction may seem enticing, the long term economic impact on other social services does not balance out.

2. I support jobs that offer liveable wages, union's that protect these jobs and the creation of job opportunities when possible. No government ought to take this away from their local economy.

3. I would oppose any action by provincial governments at the municipal level to prevent rights to strike or other protected job and job privileges. Municipal services are equally important as the staff that service them and these roles ought to be preserved and not cut or impeded unless absolutely as a last resort.

4. I would rather see funding cuts where it is possible instead of tax increases. We already pay too much tax we ought not need to pay more.

5. Covid safety measures are important but i do not support measures including mandatory vaccinations. Especially where the covid vaccine remains an “experimental treatment” pending approval in 2023. I would not support mandates that force employees to partake of experimental medical procedures. But i support a persons freedom to choose to participate for health reasons and i would support employers who offered incentives to employees to voluntarily opt in rather than making this a mandatory.

Mask mandates are necessary for the protection and safety of the public but if mandatory for this reason should allow for some exemptions and leniencies.

6. I support initiatives which reduce costs to municipalities. I believe that environmentally friendly and more cost effective options should be considered. Should we scrap fees and fares? It is the municipal governments duty to ensure accessibility for everyone, patrons should be able to access mobility and other services freely. If the costs are a barrier to this then they ought to be removed so as to make these services freely accessible to everyone.