

Re: Ward 6 Metis Questionnaire

Caroline Matthews <info@carolinematthews.ca>

Tue 2021-09-21 8:18 PM

To: Tammy Tangedal <t.tangedal@aupe.org>

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Hello Tammy, Please see responses below.

Thank you for participating in this survey from AUPE's Committee On Political Action. The Committee is asking for all surveys to be completed by Tuesday, September 28. Please send your responses or any questions of your own to AUPE via email at t.tangedal@aupe.org. The committee intends to publish the responses (or lack thereof) during the week of October 4.

Privatization, including P3s:

AUPE members know very well that privatization regularly fails to find "efficiencies" and any cost savings are often off the backs of workers who become de-unionized, with lower pay and benefits. They also work on the front lines of service delivery and see the problems caused by high-turnover low wage private providers, and the bureaucratic burden caused by having to deal with a third party instead of an in-house provider.

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

A: I support public service unions as the best model for the delivery of public services. I would support bringing previously privatized services in-house.

Municipalities as employers:

As our economies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, good jobs are an important factor. Public sector workers spend in their communities, and many households impacted by private sector recessions have been able to keep the bills paid thanks to a stable public sector job.

2. 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?

A: Yes. The municipality should pay living wages, and offer reasonable work hours, job security, and collective bargaining rights to employees.

3. 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?

Yes.

Funding:

For decades the trend on public services has been cuts and defunding, with fees downloaded onto workers, and the tax burden shifted away from the wealthy and corporations to the working class. At the same time, workers in the public sector know that tax freezes and cuts mean cuts to services and jobs. Any promise political candidates make can only be realized through proper revenues.

4. 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?

Edmonton residents have seen taxes rise and services reduced. This is happening because our city mismanages capital projects which consistently end late & over budget. We need to show restraint on capital projects and invest in the core services residents expect & deserve.

COVID-19 Safety:

With the negligent provincial response to now three preventable waves of COVID-19, municipalities have been put in an awkward position of needing to take measures to protect their citizens throughout the pandemic. Many are introducing measures of their own, but not all have.

5. 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?

COVID-19 restrictions are the purview of Alberta Health Services. They are the body with the expertise & mandate to make informed decisions on public health & safety. The city follows the advice and mandates set out by AHS in numerous public health areas and should do so regarding COVID-19. It is unclear yet on potential union challenges to mandated requirements for continued employment to deal with this covid crisis.

Affordability:

With workers squeezed by increasing costs, municipal fees add to the burden. Service fees are a form of flat tax that require the same payment from a CEO as a low income worker.

Transit affordability is an important piece of working class equity. Fees add an extra burden for many people who can not afford the costs of private transportation in the first place. The reduced emissions on increasing transit ridership can also be a part of how cities take positive action on climate change.

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

I support the reduction of municipal reliance on services fees and fares where it can be done in a financially sustainable framework.

Regards

Caroline Matthews

On Mon, 20 Sept 2021 at 15:53, Tammy Tangedal <t.tangedal@aupe.org> wrote:

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) Committee on Political Action (COPA) and their Chair Mike Dempsey.

The Committee has written a survey for candidates seeking municipal office that they are hoping you will **complete by Tuesday, September 28th**.

The Committee intends to review the responses and publish them on the week of October 4 to help the 90,000 AUPE members across Alberta make an informed choice in the election.

Please send your responses to this email, as well as any questions you might have about this survey.

Kind regards,

Tammy Tangedal

Administrative Professional, Labour Relations I Committee On Political Action