

Dylan Bressey responses

Candidate for Grande Prairie City Council

1. P3s very rarely deliver the increased service or decreased tax burden they promise. I'm generally very skeptical of them. One example in our community: Council decided to get the City out of daycare. This was a mistake: those daycare spots we got out of didn't survive the pandemic, while they would've if they had remained City operated. This is one example of a service that it might make sense to bring back in house.
2. Absolutely. People who work hard for our residents deserve to have security and quality of life.
3. Absolutely. I've been vocal against these provincial actions, especially Pension changes. It isn't the proper way to treat people. It also makes recruitment (which is already difficult) more challenging for us.
4. In the City of Grande Prairie, we have put a comparatively high cost burden onto our tax base, especially on the residential side. So I am leery of property tax increases. However, there are a wide variety of fees and charges that are low in Grande Prairie compared to others. Utility fees are a great example of this: we charge low franchise fees for gas/electric, and do not charge a stormwater utility fee at all. Our next Council should be expanding these where appropriate.
5. I trust our City Manager in consultation with labour representatives to manage OH&S better than Council can, so am hesitant to say what specific mandates we should have. But our Administration has demonstrated that it takes COVID in the workplace seriously, and has taken (sometimes controversial) steps to guard against it. Administration has my full support in creating a safe working environment.
6. When it comes to affordability, property taxes are also problematic, especially for families that have recently lost income but can't readily downsize their home. So I don't think slashing all fees at the expense of raising property taxes is necessarily wise. However, I do think that fees which disproportionately impact lower income folks (transit is a great example) should be lowered. And when it comes to recreation, I don't know if I could support a blanket lowering of fees. But I've advocated strongly for there to be easy and dignified channels available for folks with lower income to get free or subsidized access.