

Responses to AUPE Municipal Survey

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Question 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?

Answer: Municipalities face a great and growing challenges to meet the changing economic, social and environmental needs and expectations of the communities they serve within the constraints of budgets and policies determined at provincial and national level. Privatization of municipal services and infrastructure, including P3s has got its potentials (like efficient services and better-quality services), limitations (like lack of adequate accountability) and challenges (lack of cost savings as a result of high charges). We see this play in the several municipal services and infrastructure around, where the cost outweighs the benefit. I will support bringing previously privatized services in-house IF we see high labor productivity in public service which can be achieved by adequate capital investment, sufficient staffing, increase pay and/or adequate resources for staff training.

Question 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?

Answer: Absolutely. Any forward-thinking municipal will engage in policies that can help reduce employee turn-over, and help retain and sustain their resource capabilities and staffing strength. Yes, I will support employees and the community in ensuring municipality employs staff with the right living wags, full-time hours, job security and the right bargaining rights

Question 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?

Answer: I believe workers are entitled to adequate and reasonable pension plans and I will stand with employees in receiving that which is due to them when they retire. Every Canadian citizen including municipal workers have the freedom to express themselves and to negotiate when it comes to their rights. We've seen workers resolve to strike to make their demands known and there is absolutely nothing wrong in that approach. What I find wrong is not been able to have a timely roundtable discussion to settle and come to an agreement that can be beneficial to both parties.

Question 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?

Answer: I do not favour tax increase. I believe there must be a balance when it comes to spending cuts from federal and provincial government. Spending cut when the economy is in a pandemic doesn't justify the government looking out for the welfare of its citizens. Spending cut across all municipals without taking into consideration the level of growth, population and potentials of each municipal is not acceptable. That being said, municipals need to start thinking of adopting initiatives that can generate other source of income revenue to help sustain the community growth and development.

Question 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?

Answer: I am not anti-vaccine. I do realize people do have reasons based on personal preference, religious reasons, marital reasons etc that does not allow them at this time to engage with the vaccine. That being said, in order to keep others safe and healthy, my stand is the use of Mask when an unvaccinated person is in a large audience. I do not believe in forcing anyone to take the medical treatment, however, those who have refused to take such, should ensure they wear masks at all times they are in public. The mandatory status for teachers is as a result of the nature of their job working with kids under the age that cannot get vaccinated yet - it is first for safety and I will always stand for the safety of the children above personal preference. That also being said, the majority of how we got here can be placed on the Provincial Government allowing the reopening too fast rather than consult adequately with health officials. Unfortunately, that is a position we need to take up to the provincial level. I believe also that if we all do our side of keeping everyone safe, we shouldn't have come thus far in the mandate for passport and mandatory statement for certain workers like the teachers

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

Answer: I believe transit fare should be subsidized not eliminated. The transport system does need adequate maintenance, management and efficient operation. However, the municipal should not 100% rely totally on generating the bulk of its revenue from just the transit fare. It should be subsidized