

## **Hans Huizing responses**

### **Candidate for Red Deer City Council**

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?

As a teacher, I have yet to see a P3 school that worked well for students, staff or families. They seem to be more interested in turning a profit rather than create an atmosphere of learning or the development of a community. With so many restrictions put into place for the use of the facility, it makes it an empty shell rather than a place where knowledge and culture are welcomed. I think that would apply to many other P3 projects as well - care for profit over people. As for privatized services, I would ask why it was privatized and if the service provided was superior to what was implemented before. If the quality is worse, why would we have it?

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?

I would support this as an ongoing policy for City workers and contracted staff. While "living wage" may have different meanings to different people, we, as a City, need to have the best workers who are compensated at the best rate so we can retain their services. My dad was a small business owner who had loyal employees for many years because he always said that it was easier to keep good people than to continually retrain new ones. This is a policy I would support for our City as well. We need to have flexibility for workers so they can find a good work/life balance while maintaining a high level of service, which is easier to do when workers feel that they are part of a solution based organization. I believe collective bargaining rights need to be maintained for all groups.

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?

Absolutely. I have lived this for years - I would not impose it upon others. I think my strength as a candidate is to bring diverse groups together, to listen to each other and find common ground. Rather than just cut, cut, cut, let us find ways to work together for the betterment of all.

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?

I am going to answer this with the hope that we can move toward municipalities becoming more independent in their financial endeavors rather than waiting for the funds to trickle down from the feds or the

province. I signed the AUMA pledge mostly because I would like to see financial independence. Then we can grow the tax base and actually benefit from it directly. Right now, it is a balance between cuts and tax increases - a quagmire.

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?

I will do anything that I can stop this pandemic. I can only answer for myself at the moment. As a councilor, I would hold the public trust, so I would seek out as much information, from as many groups as possible, to compile information for an informed opinion and decision. I am so disappointed that this scenario has municipalities making these decision when it should be done at the federal and provincial levels. I see that as an abdication of responsibilities.

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

I am calling for a transportation audit to look at efficiencies in our city, including the bus system and transit fares. I know other municipalities have zero fares for riders under 12 and reduced fares for students, disabled persons and seniors. I will be the first to admit that I do not know much about this area as I have not taken the bus in a long while. I am basing my response off of citizens that discussed this issue with me. Fees are just a tax in a costume and they need to be transparent so citizens know what and why they are paying.