

Hussein Elkadri responses

Candidate for Cold Lake 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?

If we can focus on who bid on the partnerships, this could solve most of our issues, and save the city a lot of money. Depending on the project it may be cost efficient to bring in partnerships, and allow in house staff to focus on other projects. To make this work for everyone we need to focus on clauses to eliminate weaker candidates.

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?

Yes, our main focus is to ensure members of our community have job stability in order to ensure long term success. This will put money in the pocket of our community members, which they will spend when the economy gets better.

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?

No, when times are tough are tough we need to look into cutting other sectors, such as inefficient projects within the city. Our most important goal is to keep our members secure to better position them when the economy resets and begins to climb upward.

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?

In most cases we prefer to do spending cuts, and again removal of least important projects within the city. When performing the cuts we need to strain away from job security with members directly in our community. If funding has decreased, most likely our citizens have also taken a hit in their income. Increasing taxes will only put us in a worse situation in the long run.

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?

If we are advised by health officials that these steps are needed to ensure the safety of our citizens and members, then we should follow. We need to work together as a team to ensure

the health and safety of all our members. Instead of opposing one another, we need to educate our members on how this will help the majority of the team.

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

In the event when cuts are needed to be made, the busing program is a good area to revise. In some cases the timing schedule and cost to operate these busses can be a major loss to the city. Charging a small fee for these services or reviewing operation times, will help eliminate cuts in other areas, and job losses.