

**Ken Johnston responses**  
**Candidate for Mayor of Red Deer**

As to Question 1.....I have always opposed privatized services when our City has the capacity and depth to deliver them directly and will continue to do so. In saying this and with the greatest of respect there are times when P3 projects can work but I don't think of them as our "default" or policy choice but an exception. ....

As to Question 2.....I stand very firm on this question Trevor. I have long been an advocate for the very issues you speak to.....

As to Question 3.....Yes I will.....

As to Question 4.....What a question indeed as we are constantly challenged by downloads. But the answer is not cutting services or cutting spending. Our citizens deserve top quality services and will understand they need to be paid for. It's all about value and if we continue to deliver that our public will support our decisions.....

As to Question 5.....This is an operational question not a governance one. Nevertheless I do support mask mandates and if we are to find our way through CoVid vaccination is crucial. I hate the prospect of forcing people especially when job security is threatened but if we are to have safety for our workers, safety of our public and the ability to continue delivering those services we have to make these tough decisions.....

As to Question 6.....That's a tough question to land definitively on because the overall financial impact to our City,(Red Deer) would have to be fully analysed. I have not encountered this issue in my tenure to date. Service fees and fares represent fair value for the service provided and need to be defensible and transparent to our public. We take pride in being able to do that and in ensuring the cost accounting justifies the fee or fare. As it relates specifically to Transit we already have a fee assistance program for those that need the assistance and our Transit is subsidized about 60% as is. I believe in Transit as a vital community service as the user groups are often lower income folks, the single parent, the senior, the student and the newcomer. I would want to see the full economic impact to all groups and especially our fleet and drivers before making any decision on this. I don't wish to "waffle" on this but this is not something I have had to face in my eight years on Council.