

Morgan Nagel responses
Candidate for Cochrane Town Council

1) P3's:

I do not have any sort of agenda to try to privatize the government services in Cochrane, but I also am not opposed to the idea. I will not oppose private services if they make sense. In a community such as Cochrane that continues to grow, I see private options as being more viable for jobs that do not currently exist, and we will almost certainly not be privatizing the roles of existing jobs.

2) Living wages:

In past years we have asked our staff to help offset the burden of Alberta's economic decline by not taking raises, particularly in our senior levels of management. The economy has changed since then. Oil and gas have recovered, employment is on the rise, growth is returning to Cochrane and inflation is coming in hot. I will support returning to providing healthy cost of living adjustments and step increases for our staff.

3) Pension Plan:

I don't intend to actively oppose the provincial legislation changes. There are very few instances where I waded into provincial affairs, and they have typically been limited to our traffic infrastructure, and some of the highly politicized COVID decisions.

4) Tax increase:

I favour a balanced approach that holds spending in line with inflation and growth. Note, inflation is quite high these days, and I think that must be taken into account with our budgeting.

5) COVID restrictions:

I will not actively seek to impose regulations on our staff. To be honest, I would like to see the union stand by their members who are facing losing their job over COVID restrictions. The RCMP union has done it, and I would like to see you fight for your union members who have concerns about their health and privacy. Even though the folks who are upset with the restrictions make up a minority of the staff, I believe it is the union's duty to fight for all employees, even when it is not politically popular.

6) User fees:

I actually think user fees are a great financial tool. They allow us to raise funds for services, from the people who are actually using the services. They are a great way to employ basic market forces to make our government economically viable and efficient.