

**Sadia Khan responses**  
**Candidate for Red Deer City Council**

1) My first choice would not be P3s. Past records have proven the privatization of services saves very little in terms of costs to taxpayers, resulting in dramatic decline in effectiveness of services for citizens. Many levels of governments have renounced P3s. A local example is the Red Deer Catholic School District, which did not want another P3 project due to high costs and increased red tape associated with this type of building and ownership scheme.

The municipal infrastructure decisions play a big role shaping a community; therefore, local government needs to maintain accountability to its citizens. I will always advocate to keep jobs local for services to build stronger communities. I will also work with the council to push the agenda in the right direction to bring back the jobs in house.

2) I fully support the living wage and maximize full time employment. The City of Red Deer has already passed a motion supporting a living wage for all City employees, as well as for those employed by firms contracted to perform City services. The majority of City staff are already unionized, and it should always be the prerogative of workers to join a union if the majority agrees to take this action.

3) Workers should always retain the right to direct and manage their own pension funds, including employer contributions.

4) Municipal government needs to take a strong stand in dealing with downloading issues from both governments. It's not a black and white answer, it's both! Tax increases versus Cuts need to be carefully assessed with community consultation. What level of service are people willing to live with! Majority of the services provided at the municipal level are essential, and many others help fill gaps in the social safety net in creating equity of the services, and they must be accordingly fulfilled and funded by all government stakeholders. If a higher level of government is abdicating their duty to help provide these essential services, then they should be removed from the decision making model in terms of provision of that service.

5) Human life is the most valuable resource that we have. All citizens, and especially elected officials, should do everything in their power to protect human life, including enacting public health regulations when practicable. In consultation with our legal team, I would do everything possible to protect human life using local ordinances, and also keep our over-burdened local health care facilities and staff from being overwhelmed.

6) All services have a cost, and municipalities are restricted in how much money they can "borrow" for service provision. Balancing revenue against service costs is a fact of life for municipal governments. With that being said, essential services such as transit should be kept as low-cost as possible, especially for those who need the services the most. Essential services should never be viewed as "self-sufficient" in terms of balancing revenue from fees against the total cost of providing that service. In saying that, I'm always thinking of finding innovative ways to find the dollars to make that happen in consultation with the

community. I would be open to discussion and looking at ways for making it easier.