

AUPE Questionnaire with Tom Shaw

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Mon 2021-09-27 6:40 PM

To: Tammy Tangedal <t.tangedal@aupe.org>

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Hi Tammy,

Thanks for the opportunity to answer these questions and provide a bit of a perspective on my thoughts. I have provided my answers below with each question.

Thanks.



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City Council Candidate

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Will you oppose privatization of municipal services and infrastructure, including Public-Private-Partnerships aka P3s? Will you support bringing previously privatized services in-house?

P3's certainly allow for efficient build starts with access to immediate private sector funds, but inherently there are a few risks to the owner based on procurement, contracts, and understanding the ongoing operations and maintenance.

I continually talk about the way the city implements initiatives. Whether they be social programs, major projects, maintenance, or in city promotion - we need to ensure viability of the programs before we spend, be fiscally responsible in our action, and continually monitor the result to ensure what we're doing is working and adding value.

I believe in-house services should be provided for many aspects because of the care, attention, and relationship building characteristics possessed by internal staff. Also needing to be mentioned is the abundance of historical information that can be used for mentorship and continuity of operations. We need to work in collaboration with front-line staff to realize the efficiencies from experience in the field, for meaningful community engagement, and in the implementation of our initiatives.

I would need to review which services specifically were privatized, but for the reason previously mentioned I would suggest in-house staff is vital to operations.

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?

A living wage is a must but there most certainly needs to be a balance between full time hours and other desires considering the city service environment. As an employee with Alberta Health Services, I understand the complexity of Union/Employer agreements. Collective bargaining seems to be a standard portion to these agreements as does the relative considerations for job security.

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?

LAPP needs proper management to maintain our expectations of what we have invested. The idea of cuts is not acceptable when so many have invested for so long, not just financially, but in their areas of work. I am not too sure how one restricts a right to strike considering agreements that are in place, but there does need to be an understanding of the essential services that need to be maintained in relation to life safety.

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?

Edmonton must do its part to reduce our taxes, encourage development, promote ourselves through action as a business hub, and invigorate our communities. Efficiencies can be sought in our administration and operations through the reduction of process overridden policies, we can concentrate on what we as an organization can do to simplify and expedite business and other community needs, procurement practices can be evaluated to generate more value from our vendors/contractors, and we can promote and support our local industries and businesses giving them, and us, a chance to prosper.

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?

The Provincial Government is responsible for the directives on health and should be exercising those in the interests of Albertans. However, the Province seems to be abdicating responsibility in the light of the 4th wave.

The City itself is not isolated with many cross regional interactions, so I find it difficult to understand how the city will even enforce the mandate rules, and without enforcement is there really a way to have a policy at the municipal level. This also causes confusion and frustration, a couple of things that created significant challenges when the pandemic began.

That being said, I do have immune compromised family members and friends, I work in an Acute Care facility, have elderly parents and young children, so I do take precautions such as being immunized and continuously wear a mask in many public spaces. I do not feel it is all that onerous to wear a mask, combined with proper hand hygiene and relative distancing

As for mandatory vaccinations, I would need to be exposed to a lot more detailed information on such a mandate. There are just so many things to consider like the Charter of rights, legalities, preferences and religion, etc. of which I do not believe the City has resources for such a directive.

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

Service fees and fares are needed to help keep our programs and services viable, but there most certainly need to be consideration for subsidies to ensure our most vulnerable are able to access many of these services.

From: Tammy Tangedal <t.tangedal@aupe.org>

Sent: September 20, 2021 3:53 PM

Subject: Ward 11 Karhiio Questionnaire

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) Committee on Political Action (COPA) and their Chair Mike Dempsey.

The Committee has written a survey for candidates seeking municipal office that they are hoping you will **complete by Tuesday, September 28th.**

The Committee intends to review the responses and publish them on the week of October 4 to help the 90,000 AUPE members across Alberta make an informed choice in the election.

Please send your responses to this email, as well as any questions you might have about this survey.