

INNER CITY COALITION SURVEY ANSWERS

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LEGEND: Box refers to Box on left of question
Question refers to answer of numbered question asked by survey.

QUESTION 1:

BOX: Agree

(Some actions to end homelessness)

It is obvious that all 3 levels of government that serve the residents of the City of Calgary and the Globalist neo Conservative and neo Liberal political parties do not want to end homelessness otherwise we would not be talking about this issue today. In a province and country with so much wealth it is shameful to see so much poverty.

What can be done at the municipal level? First, the City should lobby the Federal Government (province too) to provide near zero interest rate loans from the peoples own Bank of Canada to build infrastructure to assist in housing the homeless (the practice of using the Bank was basically halted in 1974 to fund infrastructure at near zero interest rates. see www.canadianactionparty.ca Banking reforms). The City owns a lot of land which could be used in part to build short term homeless shelters and long term housing for those struggling to afford a home. Calgary needs to encourage building codes that permit building with lower cost alternative materials such as straw bails and rammed earth (see David Suzuki Nature of Things). Calgary has an abundant cheap supply of suitable soils for rammed earth housing that needs to be exploited. Expansion of low cost mobile home parks is also required. This is a quick way to get people into a cheap home. The City has under utilized buildings that could be used for short term shelters. For example, at the City Bearspaw Yard buildings just store trucks. Park 'em outside and put people inside and extend bus route #1 to the yard for transportation. We need developers to provide non-market housing units in all new neighborhoods. This is not an expensive idea particularly for single person units that just need to be large enough to live. The City needs to articulate the costs of not addressing homelessness particularly for those with mental or addiction issues. When people understand more they are more likely to support housing for such people. Opening up secondary suites, provided it is democratically agreed upon by communities or neighbors must move forward. Furthermore, the City needs to stop promoting the Calgary to slow down/ halt population growth so the homeless situation does not continue to escalate.

QUESTION 2:

BOX: Agree

(transportation/ Goplan)

Years ago I had a copy of the GoPlan but recycled it after politicians appeared to reject it- this was before I entered municipal politics in 2004 for the first time.

The current Calgary Transportation Plan (revised Go Plan) that is basically being ignored by the current council has some excellent points in it although it does not go as far as I would like in terms of densities (average of 7 people/acre is low). The plan also outlined some good economic efficiencies, like not expanding sprawl across rivers, but again has been ignored by the mayor and most Aldermen. In fact the council members who supported urban sprawl in the deep south without proper upgraded transportation infrastructure are indirectly responsible for numerous deaths on the Hwy. 22 bridge. The heavy traffic that their urban sprawl policies resulted in likely contributed to some deaths. Some of those people would likely be alive today if those city council members did not support such a stupid urban sprawl economic decision. As I am for real democracy and the people of Calgary (up to 92%) suggest they want a halt to urban sprawl and uncontrolled growth, I will provide strong leadership if elected to implement the Calgary Transportation Plan and go beyond it. It is time to stop urban sprawl in its footprint tracks and the stupid economic inefficiencies that go along with it. Calgarians realize now that their taxes keep going up because of bad growth strategies and they want it stopped. Democracy must prevail and the corporate fronted real estate developer backed politicians must go plan a new career if Calgarians want the city built in a more community and environmentally friendly way.

QUESTION 3:

BOX: Agree

(Policy initiatives for taxation fairness)

I would push for the City of Calgary to circumvent the current Market Value Assessment (MVA) system. As a democratic people, we have the right to create a tax system without the improvisation from the Provincial Government contrary to what the Conservative Premier or the Mayor may suggest (see "ya" in supreme court boys). I was tax pushed out of my home because of the Market Value System. My experience is the city willy nilly imposes any assessment value they feel like on homeowners. Initially when I bought my home the City put a higher assessment value on it than what I actually paid for it (tens of thousands of dollars). Because I am a fighter, I fought it with the facts and won. It proved to me the system is not a real market value assessment system. The City can put any figure on any property it chooses. This being the case suggests a loop hole in the system that must be exploited for the people. Property taxes should have a "grandfathering" clause and only be adjusted for inflation or some sort of extraordinary problem. Furthermore low income residents who can't afford to pay their taxes due to a crisis should have an option to temporarily defer those taxes. The City could obtain those taxes when the homeowner sells the estate or when the home owner is economically able to pay those taxes. If big rich corporations like Esso/Exxon can defer taxes, so should people who are truly in an economic crisis. The City must ensure that big real estate

developments are not subsidized by the inner city or other residents. The developers and new home owners must pay all costs associated with their development including roads and associated overpasses, facilities, police, etc. and not externalize the costs on other city residents who have likely paid their infrastructure off several times through taxes and levies.

QUESTION 4:

BOX: Agree

(Policies to reduce environmental impacts)

- Push a change in building codes to incorporate greener more fire resistant alternative building materials such as compressed straw bales and rammed earth.
- To halt City from wasting more land resources, ban further land annexations and increase development densities which will increase infrastructure efficiencies while maintaining lower taxes.
- Push to enact policies to encourage a large organic/ pesticide free urban farming industry, while reducing associated transportation infrastructure utility and related pollution of hauling food. Urban farming is the largest growing farming sector in the world today. Roof tops, yards and other spare land will be utilized. Jobs will increase and poverty and hunger within the City will be reduced.
- With the understanding that urban farming must grow, and Calgary's water supplies are dwindling, a push to halt Calgary's growth is necessary. Halting promotion of the City (with a shift in promotion funds to homelessness) and a cap on population is required to achieve environmental sustainability and stewardship.
- Push to improve our health by banning cosmetic pesticide use and getting rid of the toxic cancerous brown cloud that overhangs our heads often over the City.
- To help provide extra non tax and non user fee revenues for the City - push a feasibility study to look at building wind turbine electrical farms in wind areas of the City. Spy Hill, for example, is promising.
- Push City to get tough on environmental polluters and drastically increase fines for those who damage our environment. Enact a polluter pay policy.
- Push to protect our water ways better. The water that passes through the City is used to irrigate crops and quench the thirst of cattle and other animals we eat. To maintain food safety we must protect our waters to protect ourselves. Building water filter/ settling ponds to prevent street water (contamination) from entering our rivers, creeks and reservoir directly is necessary.
- Get more hydrocarbon burning cars off the roads and encourage other forms of transportation.
- Make the City vehicle fleet more environmentally friendly. There are too many V8 and V10 engines in City vehicles that don't need them (as a City employee I see a lot of waste).
- Get recycling moving forward faster. Reduce waste going to landfills by people and businesses.

QUESTION 5:

BOX: Agree

(election financing policies)

Democracy Watch suggests Calgary has the worst democracy in Canada. ELECTION REFORMS ARE JOB #1 with James Kohut because without real democracy the citizens will never have the community they want. Issues such as the environment, social policy, urban sprawl etc. will move forward faster under a real democracy than our current corrupt system. James has garnered the reputation in recent elections as being Calgary's champion for real democracy. Here is why in part:

- Ban the Aldermen and Mayor from collecting as much political donation money as they like from an individual. This is illegal at other government levels in Canada because it leads to an American style 2-tiered "dollarocracy" election system where one rich person can "out donate" most of the average voters. Donations over \$100 are excessive.
- Ban the Aldermen and Mayor from spending as much money as they like during and election campaign. This too is illegal at other government levels because it creates an unfair playing field where money trumps real democracy.
- Ban Aldermen and Mayor from collecting corporate and union donations. Corporations have no right to interfere in the peoples election process.
- Ban Aldermen and Mayor from keeping election donations which is also illegal at other government levels because it leads to **bribes**.
- Ban Alderman and Mayor from transferring election funds from 1 election to another. Half of their previous money suppliers may hate them in the next election but cannot retract their donations or stop those donations from being used.
- To create a fairer level playing field the City could be used to mail out flyers for all candidates in a "one time mailing." If the mayor recently could send out flyers regarding provincial funding (primarily to boost his re-election prospects) to all residents at about 1.1 cents each, then it could be done economically for all election candidates to help create a real fair democratic level playing field.
- Push to incrementally introduce a real Participatory Democracy and potentially eliminate the need for paid politicians in the future. Participatory Democracy is a system where people make more decisions and politicians make fewer (or zero) decisions. This is a growing global movement for the people. In some jurisdictions where there is Participatory Democracy the people are actually making up the budget for the government over a year long process. It is the people deciding whether they need potholes fixed, new facilities or taxes- not some corporate backed corrupt politician. With Participatory Democracy you can have your community your way and control spending.

**THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND
SENDING OUT THIS SURVEY! MAKE DEMOCRACY JOB #1 – UNLEASH REAL
DEMOCRACY!**