

- 1 Council members are currently required to disclose their ownership in businesses and property within Winnipeg. Would you support expanding disclosure for council members to include ownership of all businesses or property worldwide? (Circle one answer, space is available if you have any additional comments)

Yes.

- 2 Would you support the creation of an informal freedom of information council committee to hear appeals from the public when the administration has refused to release city records?

Yes.

- 3 Property taxes have been increasing faster than inflation and wage growth. Would you table or support a bylaw capping property tax increases at inflation?

No. While the City of Winnipeg should always seek efficiencies wherever it can before it asks property owners and citizens to pay more property taxes, this is not the right approach. Construction inflation increases faster than regular inflation, and at a time when our city is facing a massive infrastructure deficit we need all options on the table.

We need be able to capitalize on work with other levels of government - for example in the case of matching federal and provincial funds for specific infrastructure projects. As well, the current taxation powers and revenue for the City of Winnipeg are inadequate to sustain our current municipal services and infrastructure needs. The City of Winnipeg needs to examine a restructured civic revenue model that reduces dependency on property-based taxation.

- 4 Roads have been neglected as millions have been spent on nice to have projects (eg. stadium, new museum, etc.) Would you support a four-year freeze on new spending for non-essential projects (eg. art gallery expansion) so that road repair becomes a priority?

Projects such as the new stadium, the new museum and the expansion of the Winnipeg Convention Centre are essential infrastructure projects given the measurable economic benefit that they have already brought and will continue to bring to the City of Winnipeg. These projects grow the economy and the spin offs will lead to new development and new revenue for the City of Winnipeg.

- 5 The city has been raising taxes while putting more money into its pension plans; which allow for city staff to retire in their early 50s. Meanwhile most taxpayers don't have a workplace pension. To be fair to taxpayers, would you start putting new employees in a less costly plan?

Collective bargaining is an important negotiation tool between employers and employees to reach agreements on how to regulate all working conditions, including pensions. The principles of collective bargaining are enshrined in federal and provincial employment laws, and these laws apply to the City of Winnipeg. As such, pensions and other benefits at the City of Winnipeg need to be fairly negotiated between employees and their employer, as per the collective bargaining process.

- 6 Do you support using managed competition (having both public and private sector employees bid for existing services) and gainsharing (sharing savings with employees that bring forward cost saving ideas) to reduce costs?

We need to look at all options when considering service provision and performance incentives for the City of Winnipeg to get the best value for our dollar.