



ELECTION 2016

MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE
SOCIAL ISSUE RESPONSES

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Candidates' Questions and Responses

On behalf of the Yorkton-based human service agencies, we want to congratulate all candidates on their decision to run for public office. Their desire to serve our community's leadership needs is an admirable quality.

As human service providers, we believe a vibrant community is achieved when:

- Economic and social development occur congruently and not to the detriment of one or the other;
- All members of the community are supported and welcomed; and
- Collaboration amongst key community stakeholders occurs.

All mayor and councillor candidates we invited to respond, in writing with 250 words or less, to the following four questions:

- 1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?
- 2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?
- 3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?
- 4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

The following pages contain the unedited responses of those candidates who chose to respond.

The booklet will be available at the October 13, 2016 Candidates Luncheon and can be circulated electronically as well.

1. Mayor Candidate Bob Maloney

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

Affordable Housing continues to be one of the biggest issues facing residents in many communities. Rents have outstripped the ability of people to pay in many communities and Yorkton is one of those. With rents soaring over \$700 and higher many are being forced to share accommodations or “couch” surf with friends and relatives. While the city has had great success in working with the province in the area of senior housing I can't say we have the resources to make a difference in affordable housing for the rest of the community. To be blunt our yearly budgets don't have room for a social housing component. Our focus is streets and roads and aging infrastructure. Years of downloading especially from the Federal government has left small cities in a difficult situation. We are racing to keep up and losing ground every year.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

City infrastructure is pretty simple. Streets, roads, sidewalks, water, sewer, green spaces, recreation and everything in between. In most communities all of these most basic services are getting old and need either replacement or upgrading. Adding Police and Fire Services to the mix takes up about 25% of your budget. Not long ago we were on a 200 year replacement cycle for sidewalks. Sidewalks do not last 200 years. We have \$150 million dollars worth of roads in the city and we do \$2 million worth of work a year. It will take us 75 years to replace the inventory. Roads don't last that long. This is why you hear municipalities lamenting the state of their infrastructure. Something has to change in funding of municipalities. Yorkton has been fortunate to have a growing tax base or costs to maintain of basic services would have been much higher.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

In my capacity of mayor I have always kept regular office hours and been available to meet with people, whether to refer them to other levels of government or to try and help with their current situation. To be clear cities, at least small cities, are not social services departments. We have worked with government agencies to provide housing for individuals that can be hard to house, but our reality is tight budgets and priorities that demand far more than we can provide. We have partnered on seniors busing and housing with great success, but there are some areas where there could be a lot of improvement if we were funded to do that kind of work.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

Poverty is a difficult issue for any municipality. While we deal with the societal issues caused by poverty we have all too few resources to try and meet the needs for residents. We work hard to make sure our community has the amenities we need to attract and keep business. If we can bring in employers and create good local jobs it will go a long way towards dealing with poverty. We have to rely on other levels of government to make sure training is available to ensure that employees will have the skills needed to enter the workforce. As communities are increasingly called upon to meet the needs of new residents and those who have fallen through the cracks in

the system it becomes apparent that funding models need to evolve if expectations are to be met. Working with organizations and individuals will be important if true progress can be made.

2. Mayor Candidate Andrew Probe

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

When I look at Yorkton I see many social and economic issues. To say there is only one big social issue that I should mention is hard to do. But for this question I will mention the health care. We are a community that has a number of people that have certain health care needs that cannot be dealt with here. These people or families have to get their health care from Regina or Saskatoon. This ends up being a costly ordeal for these people. One that, in my opinion, could be avoid by working with the provincial government and the health region to provide the facilities to accommodate the proper equipment and caregivers that these people need. For us to grow we need to be able to care for the people in our community.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

In my opinion, to be socially and economically viable a community needs to provide for all generations in amenities and services, affordable housing and a well planned and maintained public transportation network.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

There are many different marginalized groups and to say I know what all their needs are would be a lie. My goal is to sit down and talk with the people and find out what their needs are. Once I know what the needs are then I will take steps to try and make a difference in their lives. Whether this be volunteering at fundraisers, helping find suitable jobs or just sitting with them and just having a conversation about anything and everything. There are lots of opportunities in Yorkton to help everyone in one way or another we just need to listen to the people and find out what they need help with.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

To reduce poverty in Yorkton is no simple task but I would like to look at bringing in new businesses which would create new job. I would also like to look into lowering taxes. Giving food and or money to the less fortunate is a temporary fix, give them a job that they can do or be trained to do, could feed them forever. Also this would take some financial strain off the community. The city could also look at setting up training programs. If a person wants to work but can't afford to get trained in a specific job it makes it really hard to get that job, so let's look at getting them trained. There are many different ways to train someone without spending a lot of money, we just need to reach out to the other members of our community and set up on site training groups. In some causes the trainee may even get paid for training. I want to help the less fortunate but we have to do it without causing a strain on the rest of the community.

3. Mayor Candidate Calvin Tokarchuk

All Candidates Luncheon Oct. 13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

The Number one social issue facing the city of Yorkton is Transparency. The ability to be honest with the community and to provide them with “all” information related to our city can only help to educate and explain why decisions are made, which in turn will help our citizens feel more comfortable addressing their concerns or questions. That comfort and trust will turn into positivity which will in turn make peoples daily lives more enjoyable, which then creates a new attitude and heart we need to move forward in making our home the best it can be.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

The basic infrastructure a community needs for both social and economical viability is Trust, when Tax payers and citizens trust their Mayor and Council to make the best decisions for the community they call home, The basic needs like proper sewer systems, roads, affordable homes, fair taxes and business growth to create more jobs, should be expected to be accomplished with Trust, As those are the basic expectations of any elected council. To do what is best for the whole community.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

We do not have a city without our community, to engage all members regardless of status, is the job of City Council to create any available means to allow our citizens their right to be heard. Whether it is thru a website or new technology, creating a monthly sit-down forum, or for our citizens that cannot be as mobile, we must create a way to go to them. These are not costly ideas, it is as simple as a phone call or setting a date to meet you, our community.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

To reduce poverty we must make our home more enticing to the rest of the world. By providing affordable housing, fair taxes, spending tax dollars responsibly and ethically, we can create a new heart to our city. An aura that says to everyone not in the City of Yorkton, this is where you want to be. This is our Home, we should not just be proud of that, but we should want everyone to be here. With that mindset and those ideals more industry, more businesses and more people will want to live here, which in turn creates more jobs, less taxing and more money in everyone’s bank accounts.

4. Mayor Candidate Chris Wyatt

All Candidates Luncheon Oct. 13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

I believe that the gap between upper middle class and what people classify as "the working poor" has grown tremendously in the past decade. There are hundreds of people who are working one or two lower paying jobs trying to raise families who can't get ahead. The dream of owning their own home is unachievable as prices on even starter homes has increased dramatically in Yorkton. The cost of developing even the smallest lots in Yorkton is over \$50,000 and that cost is just for the city to break even. To build a small home on that lot costs \$150,000 so a starter home is over \$200,000! The cost of even small homes built in the 60's has almost tripled but wages haven't so these people have to rent and live pay cheque to pay cheque.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

The infrastructure needed for communities to be strong both economically and socially are modern schools, rec facilities and state of the art medical facilities. There must also be government agencies based in the community for social services as well as mental health programming.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

I believe having Recreational facilities that are affordable and available will help people feel engaged in their communities. From green spaces to hockey rinks to the public library Yorkton must continue to provide these opportunities at a price that all can afford. In saying that, when your community has these assets in place it is up to the people to get out there and take advantage of them. I do not agree when I hear the comment "there is nothing to do here", get out into this community and you will see there is a lot to offer!

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

To reduce poverty in your community you must have a robust business community that can offer well paying jobs for people. I believe we have created that environment in Yorkton not only in my time on council but well before. Yorkton always has been the hub for this region and is positioned well for future expansion and opportunities in commercial and industrial ventures. Where there are jobs, there is prosperity for anyone who wants to work those jobs.

COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES

1. Councillor Candidate Don Anderson

All Candidates Luncheon Oct. 13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

I believe the biggest social issue today is a combination of 3 things, bullying, mental health and acceptance of others. Bullying is something that affects everyone; we all have seen it at some time. It is not just a schoolyard thing, it can also be happening in the workplace or at any other place in our lives. The root of bullying is the acceptance of others differences, whether these differences are race, culture, class or sexual orientation. One of the first steps to acceptance is understanding each other. If we as a city can be involved in putting on and promoting multi-cultural events and other awareness events as well as being public faces of acceptance that would be a good start. For those who are already being affected by this, the mental health stigma society has can be a big barrier for some. Support groups can be a big help, talking to someone can be a crucial first step in getting the help people need.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

I think Yorkton is currently in a good place as far as basic infrastructure goes, but we as a city need to strive for more than good and basic as our standards. We need more work in our flood prevention programs as well as our roads will need increased upkeep to get them to where they should be. Socially we need to make sure our schools and programs are well funded for our children giving them the best chance we can for a great future, as they are the building blocks of society. We also need support groups and programs to help people in need. Everyone needs some kind of help sometime and there should be somewhere to go for them when that happens. Economically we are on a major highway, the convergent point of many other highways and on the path of 2 railways making us the commercial hub for this area. These are vital assets for our economy, but we need to have areas for businesses to develop at affordable prices. Further development of the parkland college would also be a great help to this city. Skilled workers are part of a healthy infrastructure in any economy.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

I think getting the public better access to city council is the best way to help the marginalized to be more involved. That may mean having quarterly meetings at a different time, day or place. That may mean having the meeting on a weekend or at the Gallagher center to allow different people better access. Having public meet and greets would also be a great way for people to have a chance to interact with council. Setting up at an intermission of a terrier game or having a booth at harvest show down can be a great way to meet people and let them see what we are doing.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

There are a few ways I would like to try and reduce poverty in Yorkton. The first would be trying to attract more business to Yorkton to create more job opportunities. I am not targeting the big chain stores that would be paying a low wage, but manufacturing and other companies looking

for skilled labour that can hire local and give people a career and not just a job. With this we also need to work with the college to get the training and education available for people to give themselves the first step to a better income. Jobs are only a part of the equation to reducing poverty. More affordable housing and rental developments are a must in a city that has had pricing go up as high as fast as Yorkton has. With cost of living increasing much faster than the average wage it is putting many more people behind so any help people can get can make a difference.

2. Councillor Candidate Les Arnelien

All Candidates Luncheon Oct. 13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

The number one social issue facing Yorkton today is the lack of affordable housing for seniors, low income individuals, and those with special needs. I presently serve as the Chair of the Yorkton Housing Corporation and our mandate is to improve the affordable housing situation in Yorkton. During the past four years we have built two new projects (1) Allan Bay Manor with 22 units and (2) Fromm Manor with 11 units. This brings our total housing units to 143--- an increase of 30%. I am very pleased that the city of Yorkton has more social housing units than any other city in Saskatchewan. We are committed to affordable housing and presently have an application submitted for another housing project that would be financed 70% from our provincial and federal governments and 30% from our Yorkton Housing Corporation. Significant progress is being made for the benefit of all citizens of Yorkton.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

The basic infrastructure that a community needs to be socially and economically viable is to have a healthy community. Healthy communities require basic needs such as nutrition, housing, sufficient income, public health, and safety. They also need opportunities for learning, faith, recreation, artistic expression, community involvement, and a sense of belonging. Our city council and I support this by the programs offered by various organizations and partnerships with a wide variety of community based organization.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

I would engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community by referring them to the groups in our community that specialize in the support that is required. We presently have a large number of Yorkton based human service agencies like SIGN, Kids First, and the Saskatchewan Abilities Council that provide a much needed service within our community. As your city councilor I will continue to support a wide variety of community based services that are accessible, affordable, prevention oriented, supportive, and responsive to the needs of our community.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

I would reduce poverty in our community by providing affordable housing, providing affordable transportation, and promoting a strong business community in a goal of creating job opportunities for our citizens. In the past four years many new businesses have opened or expanded that have created many job opportunities for our residents. Our sustainable economy has and will continue to reduce poverty within our community. On October 26th your vote for Councilor Les Arnelien is a vote to build a better Yorkton and to keep Yorkton the great city it is. Together we can build a better tomorrow.

4. Councillor Candidate Donna Brothwell

All Candidates Luncheon Oct. 13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

If I have to choose one social issue I would say safety is high on the list. As our community has a high number of seniors they have clearly stated that they wish to have safe streets. The ability to stay in their homes longer and feel comfortable is a growing concern among our seniors. Young families also say that safety is an issue when they worry about their children from walking home, to playing in the parks, to bullies at school. Safety is high on their list of social issues.

The ability to have safe streets, well lit, safe to walk on and more is certainly a financial issue. We need to have a well-staffed Police Force and a Fire Department that will be able to do the job when called. This all takes money!!! This money comes from the City and with more businesses paying taxes in the City we bring in more families needing homes also paying taxes and we can afford to have the safety we all feel is important.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

Basic infrastructure does include the ability to have a good drainage system for our rain water. We have seen increased rain water in our community in the last few years and most likely this will just get worse. We need to see this problem solved! I am disappointed that we are not at the stage that this flooding issue has been not only reviewed, but handled and will put much effort into making this happen. Flooding affects us all from shutting down businesses to homes and community structures that all suffer from this type of disaster. When it continues to happen again and again to the same areas these businesses get hit hard and may be detrimental to reopening! Loss of the business would mean loss of jobs and those wages that run through our community 7 times. If you are in the flooded area your costs for insurance is much higher or you are not able to get it at all. This forces the business or home owner/renter to not have a safe, clean and dry place to do business or live. Solving this infrastructure issue must be a priority to our new Council.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

Communication is the key to engaging the marginalized members of our community. Focus groups are a good way to bring these groups in and discuss issues they relate to. Education is key and offering affordable classes and ways to educate helps the marginalized get jobs and engage in the community. Community amenities that are also affordable or at times free, so they can take advantage of the facility, be it a swimming pool or skate park. Supporting the community organizations so they strive and offer the support that all community members needs is crucial to success. Council needs to communicate better and find ways to do that such as social media and focus groups. I believe that better communication will engage all members of the community.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

We have several community organizations that help with poverty and if businesses can stay involved with donations and volunteerism we can help out these groups. I will encourage charity from our community to support our food banks and social groups that help out. I myself

have volunteered at the Soup Haven and got together our retired staff at my place of work at the time to also volunteer. Keeping and growing business in our community means more jobs and more wages and less poverty. More support for the social groups and to give to the less fortunate. I would encourage communication from the Provincial Government with our Civic Government to learn more about poverty in our community and what can be done about it and what social programs are available. Believing that poverty exists is a big step, just volunteer down at the Soup Haven for one lunch and your eyes will be open. I encourage anyone who has more and not using clothing, food, kitchen appliances and more to donate them to the organizations and/or to a less fortunate family.

5. Councillor Candidate Raymond Bucsis

All Candidates Luncheon Oct. 13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

The number one social issue that faces our city is the prevalence of youth in gangs. We have far too many youth that have 'fallen through the cracks.' These young individuals, who could be our family and friends, are not given opportunities nor are they provided with options, therefore, falling prey to people looking to recruit new members for their gang. Violent crimes, a continued presence of theft, vandalism, and rampant drug related activities are all products of gangs. We are seeing an increased interest in the use and sale of drugs in our youth population. One aspect of this issue is the historical and continued marginalization of First Nation youth. There are existing community based organizations that are trying to make a difference, however, there is more that needs to be done. We need to have affordable leisure activities, community based organizations that are adequately funded, a screening system to help identify who needs support, and a solid community based policing system. By addressing this issue, we can move our community forward with an engaged group of youth. We will furthermore see a long term reduction in crime, and an increased sense of safety among community members. The rising youth population taking interest in gangs is an issue that can not wait to be addressed. The young people of our community have had their futures compromised and stolen by gang affiliation.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

The current state of our sidewalks can be summed up as inadequate; we deserve better. Walking down a sidewalk requires you to look down to ensure you don't trip on the many uplifted sections, holes, and unsteady ground. These issues become magnified to those who require a walking aide such as a wheelchair or walker. The sidewalk slopes that connect to the pavement of the road are in even worse shape, making it virtually impossible to get these aides over them safely. Furthermore, sidewalk cleaning in the winter is almost non-existent, creating treacherous walks to your destination. Our youth also need outlets to participate in, which will influence them to deflect gang affiliated influences. There is a need for leisure centres for youth to participate in that can be accessed after school, and during weekends and summer holidays. The economic state of our community can be improved by addressing the crumbling roadways and community based protective services. Our roads constantly require drivers to reduce speed in order to save their vehicle. In the winter, they are not plowed in a timely manner. Our community safety will be greatly increased knowing we are protected by a police force and a fire fighting service that is there when we need them. It is imperative we ensure our fire fighters remain a full time force.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

Marginalized people in our community are a diverse group. They include people with disabilities, First Nations, and elderly people. There is no 'one-size-fits-all' for how we engage with and support people in an inclusive society. It is important that our community has clean sidewalks and an accessible, reliable transportation system. It is not possible to engage with people when they are virtually stuck in their homes due to snow covered sidewalks and a non-user friendly, non-efficient transportation system. By improving

our current transportation system, it will be easier for people to engage in being part of the community. Furthermore, it is important to change the societal views of people with disabilities; the current societal stigma often forces marginalized demographics to stay home in order to avoid the stigma and marginalization. By breaking down inaccurate societal views, marginalized groups can play an important role in their community and participate in opportunities and events the community offers. The youth in our city need to have opportunities to become active outside of school hours. Providing youth with outlets during evenings, weekends, and holidays helps to alleviate the probability of walking the streets and becoming involved in gang related activities. It furthermore gives them an outlet to participate in meaningful activities and gives them an understanding of responsibility. This skill can then be transferred to other aspects of their lives.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

In order to reduce poverty within our community, it is first important to look at what strategies other communities are using and what has worked. One aspect of poverty reduction that is continually mentioned is the ability for a community to have affordable housing. Affordable housing means low income families are able to spend money on other needs within their family such as food, extra circular activities, and quality family bonding time. Affordable housing needs to be available throughout different areas of Yorkton so that we don't inadvertently create an area that is mainly occupied by low income families; each area of the city needs to be inclusive to all income brackets. In addition to affordable housing, there also needs to be an affordable and timely transportation service available to residents. This means that families without a means of transportation can access all parts of our community easily. Moreover, we need to maintain the current in-school nutrition programs. This can be done by being a strong advocate for maintaining and increasing dollars that are allotted by the Provincial Government for these programs. It also means being an advocate for business growth in order to provide residents with increased employment opportunities. Furthermore, we need to strive to ensure these new employment opportunities are of a quality that will provide a living wage. There are far too many people in our community who get up and go to work everyday and still live below or just barely above the poverty line.

6. Councillor Candidate Ken Chyz

All Candidates Luncheon Oct. 13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

I believe that the rising crime rate is an issue that needs to be dealt with. The city of North Battleford has what is known as Community Safety Officers. These CSO's provide assistance with lower-level, lower-risk tasks to alleviate regular RCMP officers from such tasks. This helps by providing the detachment with more capacity to serve the community and maintain high visibility while patrolling neighbourhoods. These CSO's are employed at a fraction of the cost of a regular RCMP member.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

Our city has been dealing with flooding issues since 2010. We need to make the Broadway Street project a top priority. We can't continue to have prominent Yorkton businesses shut down every time there is a major rainfall. Because of the flooding issues, homeowner and business insurance rates have risen significantly.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

I believe that more information needs to be shared. More discussion should happen in open council so that the public is privy to what all is involved and how council has reached their decision.

Let the people know what is going on through more publicity in local media.

If I am elected to council I will open an office so that the people of Yorkton can come to me to ask questions and/or express their concerns.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

I believe that we need to get more new business to locate in Yorkton. We should encourage new and expanding businesses by offering tax breaks for a specified period of time.

More businesses means more jobs which means more people will be working. This will provide a regular income for people that currently poverty stricken

7. Councillor Candidate Kyle Dionne

All Candidates Luncheon Oct. 13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

The number one social issue facing Yorkton today is the increasing need placed on our local health care. Yorkton serves a large area consisting of rural communities and the urban city population and we need to have the proper facilities and staff to serve it well. Seeing new doctors offices open recently has been a help on this issue, but I think a lack of specialists, an aging hospital, and an increasing size of our elderly population continues to make this the most pressing social issue for our city. We need to work on encouraging additional doctors to make Yorkton their home and we need more specialists to address health emergencies here rather than in Regina or Saskatoon. Fixing our problem of an aging hospital may also be the answer to fixing our problem of needed doctors. I believe that evaluating the costs of modernizing the Yorkton Regional Hospital or building a new hospital should be a very high priority for the new council. Addressing the issues of aging facilities and the increasing needs on health care will be a large and difficult problem for the city to overcome, but I believe with the proper perspective and candidate behind it it can be accomplished.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

The basic infrastructure that a community needs to be socially and economically viable is a properly funded, well staffed, and successful school system. Schools are the most important infrastructure to affect a city both socially and economically. Successful schools create socially responsible and intelligent individuals that have a positive impact on their community. They also create well trained and properly prepared citizens for the work environment. When a city has great schools it easily translates into intelligent and productive workers. Schools should be seen as the roots of a city and from their classrooms students branch out and affect all aspects of a city. I believe Yorkton has very successful schools and that the education system here does well to be inclusive, challenging, and a safe place for students to learn and grow. As a city councilor it would be my responsibility to make sure our city continues to do well in regards to our education system and with my background in education I believe it will be one of my strengths.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

As a representative of the city it will be important to me that all citizens of the community feel engaged and that they have a voice. However, those that are marginalized sometimes need additional measures to be taken so they can be heard. I think that luncheons like the one put on by S.I.G.N. are truly beneficial to the community and a great way for citizens to have a chance to address problems that affect them. Being part of city council means that more than ever I should be visible, approachable and interested in my community's ideas, needs, and wants. Continuing to have luncheons, town halls, and public meetings can provide opportunities for citizens to speak with council, but I also think creating an opportunity for the public to speak at council meetings would be beneficial. Having a time where the public can speak will allow people that have opinions on policy to speak on that policy while it is being discussed. I would be in favour of creating a time for the public to speak

at council meetings and feel it would be a great benefit to our city and another chance for all citizens to voice their views.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

I would reduce poverty in our community by strengthening our business community, encouraging jobs in differing commercial sectors and industries, and by doing my part to ensure that the basic needs of all citizens are met. A strong business community can have an effect on poverty. When local businesses are successful and new businesses are opening their doors it brings more jobs to the city, more competition and lower prices, and more opportunities for people to start and grow their own business. A thriving Yorkton creates more opportunities for above entry level positions to be available and a strong commercial sector will affect poverty by not just creating jobs but creating well paying jobs. When Yorkton is seen as an attractive place for businesses to open it is possible to encourage different sectors and industries to make Yorkton their home. To truly affect poverty we need to bring in jobs from the trades, manufacturing, retail, and all other sectors. It is also important to note that creating jobs does not fully deal with all the aspects of poverty. Sometimes people need help having their needs met in times of trouble. I believe that organizations like charitable groups, churches, and soup kitchens are a very important part of our community. These organizations that provide a helping hand in times of trouble can expect a partner in me as a city councillor and someone who will always encourage and believe that they are an essential part of our community.

9. Councillor Candidate Randy Goulden

All Candidates Luncheon Oct. 13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

As our city continues to grow, we need to make sure that our council is taking steps to ensure that it's a fair and balanced approach to growth. We need to make sure that council is creating a city environment where no one is left behind. Economic inequality is one of the greatest concerns that we face, not only as a city but as country, and we need to do better on ensuring that those with the least see just as much personal improvement as those who have more. A huge part of that, especially in terms of municipal governance, is attracting good jobs to the community and keeping them local. But we also need to ensure that the services people need, regardless of personal income level, exist and are accessible within the community. And by having those services we also grow the community; it makes Yorkton a more attractive place to call home for families and individuals, knowing that key amenities are available and affordable in Yorkton. And when we can attract new families and new businesses to Yorkton, we can really build a healthy and vibrant community. Building successful services and infrastructure means we need to invest in people.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

While there are some obvious answers, such as health facilities and roads, there's more to infrastructure than just bricks and mortar. There is a joint infrastructure that each and every individual in Yorkton contributes to and that's the sense of community. We're a community that comes to together, that works together, and that helps one another when needed. As the chairperson for SIGN, I've seen our community welcome refugees and immigrants to Yorkton and open their hearts and homes to our newcomers. And that's very important to be socially and economically viable; Yorkton wouldn't be the same place if we were all insulated and single-minded. We encourage community involvement, and speaking from my own experiences Yorkton has some of the best volunteers in the entire province. We foster and create this sense of community, where we are a city of friends and neighbors, not a city of strangers. And that attitude, that sense of community, is what makes us socially and economically viable. John Dunne said that "no man is an island", and the same is true of our community. We cannot, and we do not, go it alone. Our viability rests on building and maintaining strong relationships with Yorkton organizations, the provincial and federal governments, and concerned corporate partners.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

The most important part is giving a voice to those who feel marginalized. It's very easy to be frustrated and further removed from the community when you feel that no one is looking out for you, or speaking to your concerns, and that's something we need to be mindful of. We need to ensure that council hears not just the good news and success stories of Yorkton; we need to hear the challenges, and we need the views of those who are struggling represented. That means we need to encourage a variety of viewpoints, both on council and for those who make reports before council, to ensure that all aspects of our community are provided representation in our community. We need to continue our partnership with Sask Abilities to provides and improve public transportation. We need to

continue the city's support for the SIGN and the Senior Mobility Car. There is a concern over the looming expiry of several housing agreements. In my role as a Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board Member, I'm actively working on renewing those agreements and providing input into a national housing strategy. We need to further foster our community and remind everyone that we're all in this together. When one of us does well, we can all do well. When one of us is struggling, we need to pull together and help as much as we can. And one of the most important aspects of that is listening and engaging with those who feel underrepresented.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

Poverty has far reaching effects that impact every single person in the community, either directly or indirectly. Communities grow when you invest in people, that means continuing to invest in programs including: the Parkland College Trades and Technology Centre, where people can learn and upgrade their skills here at home; the Hub model, which enables communities to foster crime prevention; working with community partners to establish safe, stable, and affordable housing; advocating for affordable, quality and reliable child care spaces; continue to build collaborative partnerships with community organizations to address the root causes of poverty. Reducing poverty is more than just a council's responsibility, it is an individual's responsibility. I've been able to contribute to our community by being an active volunteer in leadership positions throughout many local organizations. That includes being the chairperson for SIGN, board member for the Mental Health Drop-In Centre, Rotary Club of Yorkton (Meals on Wheels, Reading Program at Dr. Brass Community School), and was a founding member of the Yorkton Nursery School Association.

I truly believe that we can continue to create a vibrant Yorkton through collaboration with key community stakeholders, where economic and social development that occurs hand in hand in a balanced approach. Where all Yorkton residents are supported and welcomed, and where good things happen.

10. Councillor Candidate Brad Haberman

All Candidates Luncheon Oct. 13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

My thoughts on the social issues facing Yorkton are housing and schools. With more immigrants moving into our community we need to make available more affordable housing for these families mostly moving here with their young children. We need to make sure they have the room they need to have adequate space. Along with that come the school issue. Many elementary schools are busting at the seams therefore having to make more classrooms from what they already have thus taking away from different programs and the space they utilize. As council I think more forward thinking has to go into these issues sooner rather than later. We have to be prepared to have the city grow not wait until it is too late and address the issue now.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

As the City of Yorkton continues to grow council has to have a more forward thinking on infrastructure. I feel the most important things are our hospital and our rec facilities, especially the Kinsmen arena. With plans of a new hospital the city has to be prepared to get funds in place along with the government so when it is ready to go ahead we are prepared. A new hospital brings many advantages like retaining our medical staff, bringing in new staff and the services to prevent people in our community from having to travel for medical appointments. The Kinsmen arena is another concern of mine as the facility is almost too far gone to repair and the city needs more ice surfaces. We have young families traveling out of Yorkton to practice due to the fact there is no ice available in Yorkton. Not only will either fixing or adding on to the Kinsmen arena benefit the people of Yorkton but could also attract young families to our community.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

I feel we would have to get funding in place to get these community members the training they need to succeed in the community. Find their strengths and utilize that to their advantage. With proper training and support from the proper organizations the city would benefit from having these community members involved in any capacity they can.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

To reduce poverty I would like to see more low income housing available in the City of Yorkton. Housing is a concern for many lower income people, many of them having to move several times due to their rent going up or simply not being able to afford it on a month to month basis. I would also like to see programs put in place for skills training and support for people who would like to get any kind of training to benefit themselves but simply can't afford to do it on their own. This would benefit not only the individual but the city as well.

11. Councillor Candidate Quinn Haider

All Candidates Luncheon Oct. 13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

I believe that safety is the most significant issue facing Yorkton's families today. Unfortunately, violent criminal activities within our city have been making headlines all too often lately.

Growing up in Yorkton, I always felt safe no matter where I was in the city, and I am sure that my parents felt the same while I was away. I want to make sure that my children, my students, and their families feel the same way for years to come.

So, how do we ensure that Yorkton is still a safe place for its citizens? Well, there are no simple quick fixes. But, we can begin by collaborating with our RCMP, firefighters, and EMS. During my nearly ten years as a member of the Protective Services Committee, I have had the pleasure of learning about how all of these groups work tirelessly to keep us safe. As a member of City Council, I look forward to supporting them, as well as to working together with them as we explore options and programs to expand public awareness of how they can help each of us. Crime itself has many underlying causes. However, statistics show that children who are involved in positive extra-curricular activities are less likely to participate in crime when they get older. Now is the time to explore options for new recreational facilities, as well as cost friendly activities that can be held in our current ones. Such measures would be beneficial to all of Yorkton's families.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

When the flood of 2010 hit Yorkton, we hoped that it was a once in a lifetime occurrence. Now, with continued flooding taking place during the following years, it appears that massive amounts of rainfall have become the norm for our area. As a result, I believe that drainage is our most pressing infrastructure need. I know that since that time, a great deal of work has been done in this area, and progress has been made. But, when homes flood, our families suffer. They may lose irreplaceable precious items, and may even live in unsafe conditions afterwards. Our downtown businesses suffer also. I have been blessed that my own home has suffered any damage during our floods, but I feel that each of us has a moral obligation to our fellow citizens to contribute to the solution of this problem.

During the planning stages of any major infrastructure work, I believe that keeping the public informed is crucial. In particular, the families and businesses most directly influenced by any potential long-term construction projects need to remain informed and involved. There are going to be some very difficult decisions to be made, and open lines of communication throughout the various stages of the entire process can help to ease some of the stress, frustrations, and concerns that our citizens will have.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

I chose to run for City Council at this point in my life because I am blessed to have a successful career, as well as a supportive family. My days are undoubtedly very different than those that many of our marginalized citizens experience. However, as a school administrator I have the opportunity to work with some of Yorkton's most vulnerable families. They have shared their concerns, frustrations, fears, and their hopes. What

I have learned most is that these people, just like anyone else, need a voice. They need someone to listen to their concerns and to speak on their behalf, because often they are not able to effectively do so for themselves. As Yorkton continues to grow, so does the number of different types of families who choose to call our city home. It is crucial that all of our citizens are considered.

If elected to Council, I look forward to having conversations with citizens from a variety of ages, races, economic standing, as well as those who are new to Canada. I have no doubt that their stories, thoughts, and viewpoints would help to shape my own perspective about how to serve our entire community.

My campaign slogan is “A Vote for Quinn Haider is a Vote for Your Family.” My purpose is to be a passionate voice for all of Yorkton’s families, and to show compassion to all of our citizens.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

One of the ways in which our schools have become very effective over recent years is how we collaborate in an attempt to solve problems. The first step is to identify what the specific problem is. Then, we collect data so that we know what might be the main causes of the problem. From there, our teams create a plan based on that data.

When dealing with different types of poverty, I would follow a similar method. First, I would invite representatives from the support agencies to share information that they have already gathered in regards to what our families are lacking, and what the potential barriers are. Once we have identified these shortcomings, we could then identify any commonalities, such as living area or language issues that may be present. Finally, I would invite these professionals to share their findings and concerns with City Council. Imagine the good that we could do if we could focus the efforts of all of these groups into a shared plan.

As our city continues to grow, it is important that Council is aware of the types of poverty that exist in Yorkton. People often think of poverty as a lack of food and money. It can also mean a lack of suitable living arrangements, or access to opportunities among other issues. If our current community support agencies could develop a shared vision with City Council, perhaps we could begin to solve some of these issues.

12. Councillor Candidate Brent Hamm

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

I believe public safety is the number one social issue facing Yorkton today. On a personal note I'd like to say we had a home invasion in our neighbourhood right across from where I live. When many people are scared to go out after dark in their neighbourhood that is a problem. This is Yorkton no one should be afraid and why are people afraid?

Two home invasions drug problems and the latest a murder. The police are doing a great job but I think they need extra help. I know there are steps that can be taken within city council to address this issue within our city. If elected this will be one issue I address.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

I believe to be socially and economically viable we need proper infrastructure and roads. Roads are the main topic of conversation for most people these days. Even people who are not from Yorkton complain about this situation. Now if we could eventually get the roads fixed in Yorkton that would be one less thing on people minds.

Thus letting people focus on what a great city they visit and we live in, and start bringing more business into Yorkton.

If we do not have proper roads and infrastructure how can the city expect to invite new and up coming industry to Yorkton when the first thing they see are terrible roads?

Not the most inviting situation or first impression which does not really reflect an image of us caring about our city.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

First of all I think it is terrible that anyone in our city is marginalized. Everyone should be treated as equals.

People who may be marginalized include; children and families, mental and physically challenged, immigrants, homeless, low income. The list goes on....

To engage these members in our community there must be a joint effort between the city and the marginalized population.

We can encourage opinions and for them to voice their concerns or approach any councillor any time. We are to be the voices for every citizen in Yorkton.

One example that come to my mind is;

Create chances within the city for the opportunity to meet new people whether they be volunteers themselves or citizens of Yorkton, and help our community not to see race, colour, income or any marginalized characteristics.

All of us need to support the marginalized population to participate in community events

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

I believe to reduce poverty in our community we need more jobs within the city. To get more jobs for people we need to have more industry. It is within the power of our city and city council to invite more industry into Yorkton. This will simply mean more jobs and more money for our citizens.

We also need to consider other ways of doing projects that provide low income housing for the young, the middle aged and the old.

13. Councillor Candidate Mitch Hipsley

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

My biggest concern with Yorkton's social issue is about children receiving less than home and school life than required. The family thread of care and comfort is necessary for growth and hope. Proper nourishment, education, and a safe & comfortable home is vital to nurture a new beginning right thru to adulthood. It has all the potential that can forever change children's origins. The sooner they are exposed to help and positive environments, the better. I know and realize that we as a community are trying to provide this, but I also know we need to do more. SIGN, Big Brothers & Sisters, The Family Center are great starts but we can & should do even more. Both, breakfast and lunch meals at schools are a necessity and not an option. Programs should be revisited regularly and changed as needs change. After school programs should be revisited and offered automatically to those in need.

I feel that the city should be involved somehow in continuum financially.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

Needless to say, ALL spending has to be questioned! I am NOT one to accept answers that are supported with "that's the way it's always been done". Taxation is an absolute necessity for the operation of a community. Tax payers money is earned with hard work and council needs to be smart in how it is used. City council needs to not only listen, but to act accordingly.

Open door communication with all departments is absolute, NOT an option.

Yorkton needs to build an automatic funding into its budget for social programs and invite all people wish to help make change for those in need. We could use their experiences as a sounding board to educate city council to shape what is needed. Perhaps a meeting a month for information, suggestions and requests before it is brought before city council would be a great place for change. The very same could be used for the business sector whereas business members can "bounce" ideas off council members for change and needs in the business community. If the business community is healthy, everybody benefits. The two go hand in hand and nurture each other for positive growth. They are the catalyst to a strong community

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

We need to invent a more full spectrum community programs where a citizen can become involved in the process of design. The more people we have involved, whatever their status, the better. All citizens should be welcomed to a table of regular meetings. When a citizen grows in a positive environment and becomes a better human being, the entire community benefits and everybody wins!

New mandates need to started with everyone welcomed. The world is changing quicker than it ever has before and we need to mirror that change as well. What worked a year or two ago may not work today. In today's world of communication, it is very simple to get meetings known, so we have no excuse like we may have before

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

POVERTY.....who would have thought we would ever have poverty in our City? For those who eat every day, it is perceived as a bygone era! Until council recognizes this terrible situation, it cannot be corrected! It needs fixing.

I would like to see that every school have a program in place and financially supported by the city without question. Of course a system would need to be carefully designed that would make food available to those who truly need it. Other supportive organizations should also be welcomed and involved within the city mandates.

For those outside of the education system, “when possible “we could implement a system whereby they could in some way contribute to our city by way of their time or talent to “earn” their meal (ie. Helping seniors who still live in their homes, or cleaning up our streets, or working at SPCA, etc. etc.) No one should ever go hungry in a healthy viable community as Yorkton. If they are, then we are simply spending our tax dollars wrong. City council should meet regular with the committee organizers for updates and ideas to stop this horrific dilemma.

15. Councillor Candidate Aaron Kienle

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

One of the major social issues facing our community is the heavy amount of case loads our social workers have to deal with. So many children living in difficult home situations, people with special needs, our seniors, and families needing more support. A recent example is the current media spotlight on the shortage of foster homes in Yorkton. With caseloads ever increasing there may not be the resources available to all who need them.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

Access to free or inexpensive activities that encourage healthy family outings. The community play parks, skateboard park, and disc golf course are good examples. We need to look for more ways to bring infrastructure of this nature to our city. We need our current residents to have a sense of pride in their city and places where they can spend quality family time will help with that. It will also help to attract more businesses and people to our community if these types of spaces become a priority.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

I've always been very approachable and with working my businesses people know where to find me. It's not uncommon for a morning to go by at work and all that's been accomplished is good conversation with people that need someone who cares to listen to them. If elected I plan on continuing the conversation and staying connected with all residents of our city.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

We need to look for better ways to create incentives for business growth and expansion. Also there are excellent programs in place from organizations like Partners in Employment that need to be talked about more. Communication again comes into play. Just because the program is there doesn't mean everyone knows about it. We need to help these organizations spread the word!

16. Councillor Candidate Mike Kirby

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

The number one social issue I see within our city is the lack of resources needed for dealing with substance abuse in minors and young adults. We are not alone in this short coming. Saskatchewan as a whole is struggling with this issue. Through my work I am exposed to the realities that are hidden behind so many doors in this community. We are a lucky city to have such an active mental health facility and many people must travel to Yorkton to seek the help they need. We could work to find the resources to fund an institutional-type youth drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. We would need to build a partnership with the health region's mental health facility so we could give our at risk youth a fighting chance. In conjunction with this last resort facility I would like to address the root of many substance problems within our youth. Why do they resort to substance abuse? It is proven that youth who are exposed to positive environments filled with character-building activities are less likely to become substance abusers. This is where supporting our local youth groups comes into play. Our city is lucky to have many well run youth based groups that work hard to maintain funding but with city support I feel these groups could expand their programming and have an impact on more youth. I feel we would see a drop in youth crime, injury and substance abuse.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

Infrastructure in the city is a difficult topic. We see the roads crumbling and green spaces are being built on or neglected. To see economic viability we need to have a long term plan in place to rebuild our city's roadways and infrastructure. This means managing our money for capital projects as if it were our own money. Common sense money management means spending it as carefully as possible and to look at the way each dollar spent affects Yorkton. The goal should be to get the best price for the required work needed. I also see a need to use local businesses to complete this work and to build a relationship with our business partners to achieve a financially sustainable plan for our roadways and infrastructure. I would also like to address our need for green space and recreational space development. These spaces need to be developed so the people of Yorkton have a place to get out and enjoy what the city has to offer.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

Marginalized groups in the city are difficult to identify and assist without the help of community frontline organizations. These organizations specialize in identifying "overlooked sects" of our community. I believe a working relationship between these social organizations will help the city identify first and then plan for the future programming needed. We have many organizations in the city that require a voice and an ear to listen at a municipal level. I feel as a community we can work together to get individuals into the work force and involved in community volunteering. I think most marginalized individuals, once identified and offered a chance to be involved in something bigger than what they have at the time, will surprise us all.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

There is only one way to reduce poverty in the community and that is to grow as a city and create a positive business environment and encourage the city to utilize local businesses. This increased business translates into more work available to our citizens. This increased demand for labour translates into income for those that are able and willing to work. As a city, we also must have an open dialog with provincial and federal agencies set up to assist those people in need of social assistance programs. The basic necessities of life need to be met and creative answers need to be explored. I feel our city has worked hard to provide affordable housing for those that need it. I feel we are on the right track to filling the need for food and clothing through local organizations who work hard to provide this. Can these organizations use more support? Yes, they can and this is where the open line of communication will help to identify areas needing assistance. As with any aspect of budgeting for the future we need to make hard decisions on where to allocate funding. Once the city is on track with its spending we can start to not just address the needs of the city but also the wants. I feel city council with the help of the community can make positive changes in the area of poverty management.

17. Councillor Candidate Christopher Kosteroski

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

The number one social issue facing Yorkton today is social exclusion or marginalization of persons or groups. If elected, reducing marginalization will be a top priority for the next 4 years.

As with the majority of our province, Yorkton has been fortunate to see economic growth in recent years. Citizens and businesses have certainly benefited from this economic growth. However, growth also often brings several socio-economic challenges to a community. A community, its citizens, and its municipal leadership, must be socially responsible, and ensure that persons or groups aren't left behind or forgotten about.

City Council has a responsibility to discuss and engage with community organizations that are providing services across Yorkton. I will be a listener and continued supporter for Yorkton's human service organizations and their clients. All citizens of Yorkton deserve an opportunity to share in our growth and successes.

The number one social issue in Yorkton today is ensuring that our children, youth, parents, grandparents, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, newcomers to Canada/Yorkton, First Nations, persons with barriers to employment, and persons in crisis, are given the supports and resources required for the social vitality of our community.

Let's ensure that Yorkton increases social inclusion as a unified community and council.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

There are numerous infrastructure necessities that are required to be socially and economically viable. Social and economic viability cannot be viewed as entirely separate entities. Economic health and growth relies on simultaneous social health and growth. A strong, healthy, and vibrant community requires leadership that recognizes the link between economic growth, and ensuring its citizens have access to basic necessities and services.

City Council has a responsibility to directly provide infrastructure resources, or to allocate resources to organizations whom are better able to efficiently manage infrastructure needs.

If elected, I will support current or increased resources for the following basic infrastructure needs: bus services, access to food, community health outreach, new health facility, access to affordable housing, recreational facilities and activities, access to local education and training, and continued access to the human service providers in Yorkton.

Let's ensure that Yorkton provides basic infrastructure which is accessible, affordable, efficient, and contributes to our social and economic viability.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

It is essential for municipal leadership to continuously engage community organizations and community members to reduce marginalization. If elected, I will be pro-active in listening to our community members and organizations, both formally in existing frameworks, and informally when I am out in the community. My door will always be open for consultation, collaboration, and cooperation.

I view the human service organizations whom serve marginalized individuals and groups as the experts in their respected fields. I trust and value their perspectives and knowledge. I have also personally worked in the human service field. I understand that the quantitative statistics and qualitative stories are both equally as valuable. I don't view marginalized community members as only statistics. I understand human services, its outcomes, its social and economic impact, and its overall value to Yorkton. I understand and recognize that there is both economic and social return on investment, which all of our human service providers generate.

We often talk about investment and resources in economic terms. I like to think about investment as a valuable service offered to our most important resource – People.

Let's engage with our stakeholders, community members, and invest in people.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

Poverty is a global, national, provincial, and municipal issue that requires attention and resources from all levels of government. Poverty needs to be approached with a community-wide network of supports and services. Poverty is a multi-faceted social issue, which requires a multi-faceted community effort.

There are many factors that may contribute to poverty for every individual. Every individual that faces poverty has their own circumstances, varying contributing factors, and different ranges of access to services. An individual who is facing poverty in our community, will often require services from various human service organizations. It is imperative that the City is involved in dialogue with all human service providers in order to ensure that we are aware of emerging trends and current issues, providing assistance in developing community strategies, and ensuring a collaborative approach and implementation.

If elected, I will fully support and be involved in reducing poverty in Yorkton. I would love to see our community members become empowered, confident, and optimistic, for life-long success in Yorkton.

Let's work together as a country, as a province, as a city, and as a citizen of Yorkton, to reduce poverty in our community. Yorkton is where good things happen.

Dream BIG. Better is possible.

18. Councillor Candidate Brent Murdock

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

The number one social issue I see in Yorkton is Education. If we are to be successful in improving the quality of life for all, it begins with education.

We must find a way to keep the youth in school beyond the secondary school level.

The future holds fewer and fewer jobs for unskilled labour and this means that parents will be facing higher education costs for their children if they move on to post secondary schools.

What I see the City's part to help in this is to provide a motivation for business to come to Yorkton. More business means better economy, which provides more jobs.

Yorkton has Parkland College in town at two campuses providing trades training, university courses etc. It is a great opportunity, which helps reduce the cost of education with the reduced travel and residence costs as opposed to students having to go to Saskatoon, Regina, or even out of province.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

Any community needs basic infrastructure needs to enhance quality of life and be socially and economically viable.

In Yorkton these would include affordable housing and a public transportation system.

Currently we do not have sufficient affordable housing and the transportation system is not sufficient to transport the number of citizens who need or will need to get to work and school.

Yorkton would benefit from a bus system with regular routes at least on main thoroughfares to start. This would assist residents to get to their jobs within the city without having to buy a vehicle.

I think the only way people can make progress is to be able to cut costs of living and a city should be instrumental in making this happen.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

I am going to assume that "marginalized community members" refers to several groups, such as the handicapped, low income families, and new Canadians or temporary workers here from other countries.

I would and do engage them by attending events, supporting their cases and fundraisers, and just simple day-to-day personal contact.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

This is a question that faces all governments.

As a city councilor, I believe that the long-term solution is to have a strong overall economy, stemming from a strong and growing business community. This provides a stronger tax base from which the city can provide more services to aid low-income families, and can aid (subsidize) food programs for children at school and families at home, along with family financial

counseling services. Some of these things may be Provincial responsibility and as city Councillor I would lobby in favour of more funding from the province.

The other potential benefit from attracting more businesses to Yorkton is that many businesses generously sponsor or contribute to social assistance programs run by Churches and other charitable organizations.

19. Councillor Candidate Larry Pearen

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

I feel the number one social issue facing Yorkton residents today is the lack of awareness of the many social challenges that some of our vulnerable residents face on a daily basis. Many residents do not know and others may be complacent if it does not affect them personally. The tempo of life that we have created does not always allow the awareness of social issues. Loneliness and not having any interaction with others is experienced by many youth and seniors living alone. Families that are new to Yorkton and Canada who have a language barrier may also feel isolation. Youth may be attracted to gangs to feel they belong. This awareness also includes knowledge of the poverty situation in Yorkton. Many children go to school without breakfast or a lunch so rely on agencies such as the Soup Haven for their food. Children may be ill outfitted for our winter conditions and rely on various agencies to supply mitts and toques. Multiple families may share accommodation with few furnishings because of their financial situation. Our growing Aboriginal population face many of these challenges. These social issues can start out small but can quickly grow if no help is given. SIGN's Mission refers to "build strong children, strong families and strong community". Individual challenges and issues in a family must be addressed to build a stronger family which in turn builds a stronger community.

Yorkton has been and must continue to be a caring inclusive community, for all its residents

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

Before individuals are able to become active and productive members of a community, their basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter must be taken care of.

I feel Yorkton has several opportunities that assist with affordable housing. Yorkton Housing has 104 units for seniors and single adults. Independent Living has provided units for those with special needs. Entry level housing with the Head Start Program allows first time home buyers with entry level houses. Habitat for Humanity has provided six homes for six families in six years and will continue in the future. This is an amazing accomplishment with many volunteers and area sub trades participating. Recycling has been encouraged with the Restore saving and recycling building material.

The Salvation Army Thrift Store and Value Village provide discounted prices for clothing and home articles as well as providing recycling of these items that otherwise would find their way to the land fill.

School aged children are provided lunches by organizations such as the Soup Haven. The Food Bank helps fill the need for families or individuals requiring food.

SIGN agencies have provided a structure for many agencies and organizations to support individuals and each other. Yorkton City Council must continue to support and value these support groups and the individuals who work in them.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

There are many groups that are marginalized in our community which include new residents from other countries including refugees, single parents, youth, and seniors with mobility issues to name a few.

For those who have English as a second language, classes with volunteers have been initiated through community schools. Parkland College has a role to play with post secondary upgrading and training. Peer counseling and coaching could be used to help fight gang activities and drug addictions. The community has "Culture Days" to celebrate the differences and similarities of various cultures. School family activities where the school becomes the center of neighborhood activities could help create community.

I feel Yorkton is well positioned to deal with many of these barriers using its many agencies and partner organizations. SIGN, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Learning Center, Daycares, pre-kindergarten and after school programs all assist with our youth.

Sask. Abilities Mobility Bus, Meals on Wheels, Sunrise Health Home Care and other volunteers assist seniors with their challenges.

Partners for Employment, Partners in Settlement and Integration and church organizations to mention a few, assist with welcoming and providing support to newcomers to Canada. Sask. Departments of Social Services, Health and Education all have a role to play. The City of Yorkton web page should be used to connect these support agencies and organizations to assist those in need.

I would encourage participation on advisory support groups, city committees and commissions which may provide answers to combat their challenges.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

I would support groups and agencies that are tackling poverty and other social issues in Yorkton. I would continue to encourage and support the many agencies such as Big Brother Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Soup Haven, Seniors Mobility, Sask Abilities and the United Way who are all working to improve the lives of those in need. Poverty can be reduced by removing the barriers of basic needs mentioned earlier and including language, child care and employment opportunities.

I would support and encourage programs that educate residents of poverty situations with agency open houses, cultural days, and conversations with church groups. I would encourage increased communication between government agencies, social services, health workers, and education, as many agencies, due to work load, may work independently. I would support educational programs for young families helping with child care issues, making meals and providing for their family. I would support scholarships so young people are able to participate on sports teams or in music/arts programs. I advocate and continue to advocate for groups that help reduce poverty in the city.

Our responsibility is to help make people aware of the challenges that some in our society are faced with on a daily basis and to provide the needed support. I am proud that Yorkton has many volunteers who help in many ways. Yorkton is still small enough that when residents become aware of social issues such as poverty they do try to help their fellow neighbors

20. Councillor Candidate Jordan Rosluk

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

I believe the number one social issue facing Yorkton today is safe and affordable housing. 250 words cannot even scratch the surface of this issue. There's a wide spectrum of people that this issue affects, from people on social assistance, the unemployed, people working for minimum wage who pay high rents and will never be able to save enough for a down payment for a home of their own, young adults that are saddled with huge student loans, families trying to get out of rental properties into their own homes, retired people who are having to live on a fixed income not able to afford increases in rent or taxes, or the elderly who no longer can manage living on their own and require assistance. Some things have been done in the past to address the affordability issue, and that's great, but in my opinion, so much more needs to and can be done.

I personally know there are people living in rental conditions where they are being tormented by bed bugs, but they cannot afford to break leases to move, and so they live a tortured life and live in fear of being stigmatized. Landlords aren't very quick to address the infestation, and when they do, the extermination method is the cheapest and not the most effective, so re-infestation continues. There is a bed bug problem in Yorkton, and it needs to be addressed.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

The basic infrastructure a community needs to be economically and socially viable is as follows:

Good, functioning roads that are well maintained and plowed in the winter.

Affordable housing so new people can move into the community as well as retaining current residents.

Safe drinking water is essential for the survival of a community

A community needs a functioning refuse and sewer system to remove waste created, and place to store and treat the waste so we don't pollute our environment.

People need jobs, and this means large and small sized businesses are required to employ people at fair wages so employees' can meet their basic needs.

Grocery stores are needed so people can feed themselves.

There needs to be healthcare, police, and fire protection services to keep people healthy, safe, and to provide law & order.

Places of entertainment such as movie theaters, hockey rinks, bingo halls, and parks are needed to provide people with entertainment and ways to relax.

There has to be places of education so our children can learn and it provides structure in their lives. There needs to be high schools, colleges, and universities to provide higher education to help people to find employment in the skilled labour market.

There needs to be churches so those of faith can be free to congregate with each other and spread the gospel to those who don't know God.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

I would reach out to those who are in need by reducing the Mobile Home Park fees back to the way they were in 2015, and I would vote against any increases in the future. Some of the people living in the Mobile Home Park were struggling to survive before the raises.

I would also reach out by introducing a motion to slash Council wages, and if this motion was defeated I would donate \$4,000 a year to the Habitat for Humanity Yorkton Chapter so that way it can benefit someone less fortunate than me.

By having policies like this I think it shows those who are, or feel marginalized, that I'm on their side by sticking up for their rights. I would like those who are marginalized to feel like they can approach me if they feel the city is being detrimental to their wellbeing and I will review their concerns, and if I believe the city is being unfair I will be their advocate on city council

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

First, I would like to see more affordable low income housing being provided to residents of Yorkton.

I also believe when the business health of an economy is doing well usually the benefits are passed on to everyone in the community. That is why I would like to see business taxes reduced and business incentives introduced to create more employment opportunities for those living in Yorkton. By giving the business owners the opportunity of having lower taxes they will want to invest in Yorkton and their investment can and will provide many new job opportunities for people.

I also think that the city should have a page on its website outlining all of the different churches, and charitable and non-profit organizations that exist in our community. Having a registry like this will help people to know which church or organizations to donate to or to volunteer at. This would also allow people in need to see what services are offered in Yorkton so they can go to the one that may help them best.

21. Councillor Candidate Shelly Ross

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

There are many social issues which are a priority for our city. I would have to say the most prevalent is poverty. In addition to the challenges faced by individuals and families which can have devastating effect, we must remember the effect on the community as a collective. Having had a very lengthy background in the social service field, I am no stranger to poverty or the resulting outcomes. In my roles as the owner of a foster placement agency, a series of transitional homes for youth in crises, and a cold weather shelter coordinator I have been more than exposed to poverty and its human toll. Being proactive in providing productive resources and programs with no barriers to accessibility is essential to those living in poverty and critical part of a city's infrastructure.

Although it is relatively simple to think about the cost to the local economy of individuals who are unemployed or precariously employed (either working minimum wage or temporary jobs), this is only a small portion of the picture. Many people do not realize the load on the city's resources and infrastructure in such areas as healthcare, emergency services, police services, social services and community safety, and criminal justice system that stem directly from poverty. I personally welcome the opportunity to share my insight and opinion on these critical issues as a member of city council. If elected, I look forward to working with existing and new service providers to bring this issue to the foreground.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

A thriving community needs a healthy balance of maintaining and developing the physical infrastructure such as buildings facilities, roadways and essential services while encouraging economic growth as well as providing the social supports and services required by the population. By making commitments to social infrastructure, in things such affordable housing, early learning and child care, multiculturalism, mental health, aboriginal services, and other social service oriented facilities and programs we will help strengthen and sustain our current citizens and the generations to come. Smart investments in infrastructure, both social and economic will be repaid many times over in the increased economic vitality and social viability of the city.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

Our community needs to explore ways of making universal services more inclusive. Some ways to be considered would be ensuring services are well publicized and geographically accessible, providing outreach or support with transportation and child care if required. I feel promoting social connectedness through formal supports and education will make involvement of marginalized members of our community feel more comfortable and involved in the decisions and services that they feel need to be implemented. A front line approach making more effective use of specialized service providers who are often the first point of contact with these individuals and families would be a wonderful way to invite people to participate in planning. We need to place a priority on creating a culture of mutual trust by showing people the value of

their opinions, breaking down barriers related to socio economic class, cultural diversity, language and family dynamic. We are one community with many voices and we should make every effort to ensure they are all heard.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

When people live in poverty, they lack basic necessities required for an adequate standard of living. Insufficient employment, hunger, poor nutrition, homelessness, substandard housing and discrimination are among some of the issues faced by people living in hardship. Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, seniors, youth, children, racialized groups, newcomers, single mothers and working families who just can't make the dollars stretch from payday to payday are some of the people in our community whom are impacted.

I feel that a stronger effort is essential in identifying those in need and consulting with them to define the missing components in our current social programming. Once we process the information we need to work towards filling those gaps in services and planning. A very effective way to this would be organizing a committee to coordinate and implement a poverty reduction plan. One of the gaps I see currently existing is a job placement program, offering a skills assessment, support and an opportunity to find a good fit for the clients, who may have had difficulty obtaining employment and the business owner. Something else that I feel is missing in this community is a shelter. We have a wonderful shelter for women and children in Shelwin House, however I feel Yorkton needs a cold weather shelter which would extend itself to all people including youth, men and transient persons. I would be pleased to be involved in this planning process as an elected councillor or a citizen trying to make a difference.

22. Councillor Candidate Bernard N. Stephaniuk

All Candidates Luncheon Oct. 13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

Keeping youth and young adults active through activities including sports, recreation and short term training programs.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

While Yorkton has a very good post-secondary school in Parkland College, there is a void in access to short term training programs, sports and recreation particularly in the summer. Facilitators for this could be service groups, churches, church groups, business and industry.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

Through the development of point one and two. Public recognition for achievements, monetary or other rewards such as participation in field trips. Instilling confidence building through participation.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

Increasing even short term skill levels will lead to long term training.

23. Councillor Candidate James Wilson

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

This raises a great question as to what City Council needs to do for the community. The focus during the election has been on business, but what is more important is the people's needs. There are many social issues facing the people of Yorkton subject to the demographic makeup of the individual or family. No one social issue stands above any other social issue. For the single parent or dual working family, child care is a concern. For the elderly, safe secure housing is an issue. For the teenagers and those without a solid home life, they need a place to call home. Addictions is another issue that crosses all income or demographic lines in the community and is not restricted to those of lower income.

The list of issues continues based upon the personal need of an individual or family. We want to encourage business growth because a healthy economy creates jobs. With that growth, however, our community will experience problems. We need to think carefully about a problem or issue before acting on a solution. We need to identify reasons a problem exists, and then (and only then) identify possible solutions and a plan for improvement. Our ultimate goal is to understand each problem better and to deal with it effectively.

While Mayor, we as a community worked diligently to establish the Hub program. This program has proven to be a benefit to assist those in need. When professional resources and community collaborate together we can have positive results for the benefit of all.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

The basic infrastructure is a diverse range of professionals and community organizations in place that are supported by all orders of government. However, no one economy driver is more important than another. The true need is a healthy community that is diverse in providing for the people. A community that provides a workforce for jobs that support business, a business community that provides jobs for people and families to thrive. An education system that helps remove barriers to poverty, a health care system that supports everyone in the community and a collative group of organizations that together are stronger in reaching people in need.

A community that collaborates together has proven to have better results than a government acting solely based upon its beliefs. During my time as Mayor we created a housing committee to deal with the basic need of social housing. From the hard work of the committee we created opportunities working with the province that resulted in a 10% increase in the Yorkton Housing Corporation for seniors and social housing. In addition, we provided land to Habitat for Humanity to create homes for families and to Yale Harbour for housing projects. Additionally, we as Council supported tax abatements to SIGN so the organization could focus its resources on programs for the community.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

We need to call on the entire community in order to engage the marginalized. Community organizations, social groups, and faith groups all need to continue working together toward collective action. City Council needs to continue to support and meaningfully engage with the community. Most importantly, if our community is to be healthy, we need to hear the voice of the members who are marginalized at our planning tables.

Further support and collaboration needs to take place between City Council and the provincial and federal orders of government. As a community working together to lobby these orders of government we can have greater results than trying to act alone. A fine example of past accomplishments of community working together is the new Parkland College Trades and Technology Centre that the City Council aggressively lobbied for and provided over \$3 million in resources. It is proven that expanded education programs provide a path leading away from poverty. Programs like the workplace essential skills help people to attain the skills and confidence required to enter the workforce.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

Each and every decision that Council makes is for the direct benefit of the people in the community. Even though the city's prime responsibility is to provide tangible infrastructure of streets, water, waste water, drainage, recreational amenities and a safe community; we do participate in many other non-tangible community initiatives for the benefit of the people. Council will not have the means to erradic poverty but as a community we can assist in providing solutions of child care, housing, education and community activities for all people. We have to have inclusion where everyone is recognized and is provided the ability to be productive and contribute to their own well being. Although, due to restrictive factors that affects a person's ability, we as a community have to recognize this and be willing to be creative and supportive so that there is no isolation of an individual. Additionally, we as Council have to proactively plan and participate in solutions through consultation with community organizations that are directly involved and best understand the solutions required to have an inclusive environment. Habitat for Humanity and Yale Harbour are great examples of community programs led by the people that lessens the class structure gap that City Council has supported. Other great examples are SIGN, Sask Abilities and the provincial health care professional support system that assists in contributing to the welfare of the community. These are just a few of many examples, but through consultation with community organizations Council can be active in understanding and assisting in providing solutions.

24. Councillor Candidate Darcy Zaharia

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

I think community safety is the biggest issue facing Yorkton. The level of violence and crime has escalated so much over the last 15-20 years - a mix of crime, victimization, mental illness, addictions and truancy.

Even back in the years when I was an auxiliary RCMP officer, the level of crime and type of crimes in our community really opened my eyes. I would have never thought Yorkton would have issues with cocaine or other hard core drugs. But we have all the issues all the major centers have. We have gang presence and that brings with it all the major problems.

All those problems contribute to safety concerns in our city. And if we want to attract new people to our community and/or keep our current residents this is something that has to be dealt with.

Truancy then has other issues that go along with it such as violence in the home or potential drug or alcohol issues in the family.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

We in the least need the basics for a community of our size such as police services, fire protective services, hospitals, roads, parks, cultural offerings, career opportunities, economic dynamism, or some degree of reasonable safety within which to raise a family.

If you have a community that has all the amenities and opportunities for workers – both simple and skilled, then that keeps people in your community and that will also bring businesses to your community because you have the workers.

There needs to be protection of the environment, a somewhat diverse economy, delivery of services for the residents and businesses, housing choices, balanced city budget, sustainable transportation and have citizen involvement in planning and delivery.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

Make it easier to participate – clearly identify access or ways to get involved with the online community – using language to turn observers into contributors.

Strong leaders help develop community involvement by example and encouragement.

Engage those interested in a timely fashion and one on one if possible. Hear their concerns and questions. Also, engage newcomers to the group – one on one if possible as well.

Talk to other leaders in the community in different groups – get their insight it may prove useful.

Use social media (i.e. Twitter and Facebook) to post user generated comments as well as power user comments – and do so in a timely manner.

Make clear what you want people to do in the organization. Make the tasks manageable and check on the progress of work.

Encourage people to ask questions. Give the big picture to those involved and explain how each task fits in with the rest. Finally explain to them how their contribution will make things better for others.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

I think there are numerous ways of attacking this problem – I will go over a few that come to mind for me and I am sure that most of these exist in our community already but maybe we just need to revisit them.

Invest in our children through early childhood education and parental support to promote healthy and strong children. This can include helping to provide proper nutrition to the youth in our schools that are lacking that basic necessity. Our education system must incorporate individual self-esteem, confidence building and cultural identity into our children. We need to educate our youth and other citizens on how money really works in our society. Teach the importance of setting goals to our children, youth and adults. We must also try and create a positive and empowering environment that will encourage our community members to have a vision and strive to be the best they can be for their community, family and themselves. The creation of good jobs will also help with reducing poverty. Creating adequate quality and affordable daycare – this is something that being the parent of a young family and sitting on my children’s daycare board allows me to see regularly. Provide access to affordable and adequate housing, education, skills training and employment and health and food security.

25. Councillor Candidate Ross Fisher

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

The key social municipal issue is to ensure there is access to a full range of services for all of our citizens. Part is that is recognizing that not all people have the same means and provision must be made to ensure that everyone has access, in particular to education and recreation activities. This includes things like a public transportation service, libraries, free or reduced cost recreation fees for young people.

This is also trying to ensure that things like disability issues are addressed; providing universal access to services and facilities to benefit all citizens from those with physical disabilities to those with intellectual challenges.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

Cities need employment to have a reason to exist. You want to see training and education opportunities for everyone in the community; there is a correlation between education, employment and quality of life.

Generally, you want to try and make the community as inclusive as possible, you want to try and accommodate everyone. This means communication and dialogue; healthy communities have many relationships with collaboration and partnerships between different elements of the community. Problems or issues within the community are best approached not in isolation, but in partnerships. The HUB program is an example of an approach to issues that can be expanded to many other areas.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

It is best to talk to the marginalized directly. Usually communication is better if it doesn't happen through third parties. The marginalized are going to be the consumer of whatever programs are put in place; you need to talk to the consumer and attempt to experience what the consumer does in order to gain perspective. You need to try to relate.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

Reducing poverty happens in several ways; job opportunities being one of those. If jobs are available, if you can attract more employment opportunities to the community then people have a better opportunity to find work and improve their circumstance. Key to reducing poverty though is identifying those who have more challenges finding employment, and trying to put programs or opportunities to assist them in making themselves more employable. The other part of this question is, what is poverty? there are many different types of poverty and as a community you want to try and make sure there are basic services like decent housing and access to services that enrich people's lives.

26. Councillor Candidate Evan Johnson

All Candidates Luncheon Oct.13, 2016

1) What do you see as the number one social issue facing Yorkton today?

I believe one of our main social issues would be our out of date health care facility. It is imperative we keep pursuing the new Regional Health Centre. With a new facility we will attract and retain qualified doctors and nurses and not lose them to larger cities. With a new medical centre, the City of Yorkton will see growth in population and new business. Being able to provide more medical services will bring people to the city and retain money being spent in larger centres.

2) What basic infrastructure does a community need to be socially and economically viable?

Basic infrastructure is important to our city as we continue to grow and develop a larger trading area. The roads, drainage systems and sidewalks are vital to locals and visitors alike; we must continue our efforts in order to attract new business and population growth. Infrastructure needs are overwhelming. Much of the original investment was built decades ago and created a tax base, maintenance does not. City Council will need to find new ways to create a larger tax base without rapid increases to residential or commercial tax rates. This could be done through such avenues as increased business investment, a Business Property Tax Review or concessions for new businesses who use local contractors for example.

3) How would you engage community members that are currently marginalized in our community?

- If elected to City Council it would be my goal to set aside an afternoon or evening every 6 months to invite the community to come together and discuss issues they are facing or want to learn more about. The session would be much like the one you are at today. I would listen to your opinions and report back to the rest of City Council and administration on what I have learned. This will not be taken lightly and would be a major resource for my time on council. Being on Council is a 2 way street, I need to receive information from you and in turn, you need to receive the information back from me.

4) What would you do to reduce poverty in our community?

- Poverty is generally passed from one generation to the next. Through City Council we need to provide the necessary tools to help parents keep the youth intrigued through education and recreational activities and do so by continuing to help fund after school and sports programs. Education is free, we need to take advantage of that. We also need to engage the youth and reach out to them so they feel comfortable expressing their views and make better decisions that will shape their future and influence people around them.