

Poverty is the biggest social challenge we are currently facing in Saskatoon. That is because in my view, poverty is the root of so many more social failures regarding mental health, homelessness, and addictions.

If people have a safe place to live, and they are shown that they are a full partner in society and that they equally can benefit from life in Saskatoon, we will get much further on so many issues together.

For more than a decade, my wife worked in Insolvency and she used to regularly tell me statistics that caught me off guard. Big ones like what the minimum living standard is as set down by the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy and how that amount is so much higher than a huge number of our citizens live on each month. Also, how so many of the working poor in our city are one paycheque away from complete bankruptcy.

While some issues will be a Federal responsibility, and others will be a Provincial area of concern, all issues relating to our citizens should be watched over and advocated for from the Mayors Office.

My personal view is that we need to get down to basics. Simple land redevelopment for quality attainable infill housing in the entire inner city. I would remove all but the most direct costs for redevelopment which would mean possibly completely removing Offsite levies on properties in this zone as well.

Food Security and the ability for people to have access to even grow their own food is very important to me. I have written about this on my website carytarasoff.ca but I have also recorded urban agriculture video segments on this exact subject.

Finally, poverty tends to create situations of high crime and personal risk.

We need to bolster any and all efforts to improve safety for all citizens but especially those that are marginalized and feel that in fact they have been discarded by our society.

We can do better. There's work to be done!