

Everyone has a role in addressing poverty. As a City there are a number of ways that we can make life easier and more affordable for people living in poverty.

I am concerned as a Mayor and a citizen about the growing income gap in society today. It has been a priority for me to work with City Council, community partners and other levels of government to first recognize and acknowledge the way systems are failing people and then to come up with solutions and strategies to address it. These strategies include:

- the Safe Community Action Alliance and Community Safety and Well-Being Partners table
- the Saweyihtotan Pilot Project
- The Smart Cities Challenge with a focus on supporting Indigenous youth to break the cycle of Indigenous Youth Incarceration
- Working with Councillor Gough and the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership and the poverty reduction strategy, to support areas of municipal overlap.
- Overhauling the City procurement process to incorporate Indigenous Procurement components and Community benefits. This supports opportunities for City contract spending to also provide employment opportunities and community benefits to the underemployed.
- Supporting and developing the Bus Rapid Transit program to provide more efficient, convenient and effective Transit service to the thousands of people who rely on Transit as their core means of transportation.
- Supporting the establishment of publicly accessible wi-fi in the core neighbourhoods to provide better access to data as accessing technology is increasingly necessary in today's society and too many people have barriers to accessing technology.
- Supporting the development of the new Central Library as a key free public access point for technological and information services.
- In addition to continuing to pursue the above strategies I want to make more progress in the next four years in growing social enterprise opportunities to support people who are coming out of jail, or facing significant barriers to opportunity to get employed. Build UP Saskatoon is a great initiative that is making strides, I hope to see ways to continue to grow programs like this, and build more opportunities for employment through community procurement opportunities and partnerships.

More information about each of these programs can be found on-line and on my website.