

The City has lots of roles to play in addressing poverty. In my view, the clearest opportunities are through:

- Housing Affordability
 - Affordable Services such as recreation, transportation, and more.
 - Community safety & wellbeing
 - Collaborative problem solving and maximizing social outcomes in City decisions
- More on each below!

Housing Affordability:

- The city plays a role in zoning and planning for affordable housing, making lands available for it, and supporting its development and renovation through capital grants to developers and not-for-profit housing organizations like Quint, Camponi, CUMFI, and more! Lots of options exist to expand on this through programs and policy.
- I believe we can expand on this impact by establishing a comprehensive rental housing strategy and by working with all orders of government to push for greater investment in maintaining and developing the affordable housing needed in Saskatoon, and making best use of the housing that exists in our community.
- The City can help make housing more affordable through programs that reduce living costs such as utility bills. A new program to support energy retrofits (in partnership with SaskPower) among lower income households is a great example.

Affordable Services:

- Transportation services are so important: I am in favour of reviewing bus fares to try to make the bus more affordable for those who need it most. Transportation access is key to affordable living and the City plays a big role in that. A fare review could complement the existing transit passes for those in low income.
- Communications access: There is a pilot project in development right now to establish free basic wifi across an area of the city where it is needed most. I was pleased to be able to champion this project for funding from City Council. Access to basic communications helps with access to family, services, employers, and other supports that can support people living with insufficient means looking for a hand as they take their next step.
- Library services: quality modern library services that provide access to information, communications tools (free computers, etc.), and social interaction is so important - both for those living in poverty, and for the community as a whole.
- Recreation: Affordable recreation is the role of the City through maintaining great parks, providing programs (e.g. paddling pool programs, etc.) and by supporting groups that also provide programs with grants. The affordable leisure access card is also important. I'm in favour of reviewing program availability and supports to promote equitable outcomes, meaning areas of the City where more people rely on affordable/free programs get more of those programs.

Collaboration & the social impacts of ALL decisions:

- The City is often able to bring partners together to solve problems, and is an important partner at collaborative tables. For example, transit affordability is being explored collaboratively with the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership; Solutions to homelessness and housing problems are worked on at the Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership, and the Safe Community Action Alliance. Working alongside community organizations and people with lived experience of poverty is critical so that the City can improve how it addresses poverty and support the work that other organizations are doing as well.

- Taking the 'social' impact of decisions into account is a key way that the City can address inequality. In my time on Council I have consistently pushed for more consideration of the impact of decisions on those who face the most barriers in our community. The social/equity impacts of decisions are becoming more formalized through policy and strategies as well (e.g. triple bottom line policy, procurement policy).

Safety

- Everyone in our community wants to feel and be safe, and this can be especially difficult for those living with lower income. I believe that the City has a role to play in developing a community-wide safety strategy that is driven by the voices and needs of the community. Council supported my motion to initiate this and I am committed to seeing it through.