



**CANADIAN FEDERATION
OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS.**

2400 College Avenue, Suite 101
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 1C8

The following document
contains responses from
Mayoral Candidates to
CFIB's survey *Candidates'
Views on Small Business
Issues.*

Candidates' Views on Small Business Issues

2012 Saskatchewan Municipal Elections

Dear Candidate: Local policies are of great importance to small business owners, and they would like to know your views on the following issues.

CFIB will post the survey results on our website at www.cfib.ca/sk in an effort to better inform our members of each candidate's views. Please complete the following brief survey and send it back to our Regina office by fax at 306-359-7623 or email to mssask@cfib.ca by Friday, October 5th, 2012. Note: You may forward additional page(s) with comments if you wish.

Thank you for your participation.

Marilyn Braun-Pollon
CFIB's Vice-President, Prairie & Agri-business

1. How important is the small business sector to your local economy? (select one)

- ☒ 1. Very important
- ☐ 2. Somewhat important
- ☐ 3. Not important

2. Which of the following options do you support for financing your municipality? (select all that apply)

- ☒ 1. Additional revenue sharing with provincial/federal governments
- ☐ 2. Expanded taxing authority (e.g. local hotel tax, local fuel tax, local sales tax, local income tax, local vehicle surcharge, penny tax, etc.) Please specify: _____

- ☒ 3. Increased savings through operational efficiencies (~~operational efficiencies~~) **WE ARE DOING THIS**
- ☐ 4. No further need for increased revenue sources

5. Other (Please specify) _____

- ☒ There are two different areas, one being capital and the other operating budgets. On the capital side of the budget we require an infrastructure program from both the feds and the province and it needs to be long-term predictable and sustainable funding. This is the only way large capital projects can move forward with confidence. The operating budget requires a new formula that still assures that no municipality receives less than it currently receives, but all new PST funding over and

above the current numbers needs a new formula based on population. The city will continue to report on service, savings and sustainability which amounted to almost 7m in improvements over the past five years. Saskatoon is the only city that does such reporting.

☐

3. How important is it that your municipality implements a long-term plan to reduce red tape impacting small business? (select one)

- ☒ 1. Very important **+ DOING THIS ALREADY**
- ☐ 2. Somewhat important
- ☐ 3. Not very important
- ☐ 4. Not at all important

4. Do you support or oppose the following actions? (check one for each row)

	Support	Oppose
Develop and implement a plan to reduce the commercial-to-residential property tax gap	Already doing this	
Limit municipal operational spending, year over year, to a maximum of population and inflation growth	We are striving for this and we congratulate CFIB for recognizing what cities are going through	
Introduce a plan to reduce the size and cost of the municipal civil service (primarily through attrition)	We are already doing this and reporting annually as we did this August 2012 to council called 2011 report on service, savings and sustainability for saving of almost \$7m	
New provincial taxes to finance municipal infrastructure (e.g. province wide property tax levy)		No
Narrow the wages/benefits disparity between municipal and private sector employees (current gap is 21%)		See pg.2

4e) Answer to Wage gap question.

The premise of the question is not true for Saskatoon where large mining companies set the bar on wages. This question is best left to negotiations as we are losing many of our staff to the private sector for higher wages.

5. What are your plans to make your municipality more business friendly?

Saskatoon has been recognized by KPMG as the best city in Canada pertaining to combined taxes. Of the 22 largest cities in Canada, we are known as the entrepreneurial capital of Canada and most business friendly. That being said, we will continue to strive to be even better.

Candidate Name: Don Atchison

City

Don Atchison
SASKATOON

Mayor

RE ELECT

Canadian Federation of Independent Business

101-2400 College Avenue, Regina, SK S4P 1C8

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☐ 2. Somewhat important
☐ 3. Not important

2. Which of the following options do you support for financing your municipality? (select all that apply)

- ☒ 1. Additional revenue sharing with provincial/federal governments
☐ 2. Expanded taxing authority (e.g. local hotel tax, local fuel tax, local sales tax, local income tax, local vehicle surcharge, penny tax, etc.)

Please specify:

if option #1 not successful, then local income tax is

- ☒ 3. Increased savings through operational efficiencies (e.g. contracting out services to the private sector)

- ☐ 4. No further need for increased revenue sources
☐ 5. Other (Please specify)

an option consumption taxes are not as fair.

3. How important is it that your municipality implements a long-term plan to reduce red tape impacting small business? (select one)

- ☒ 1. Very important
☐ 2. Somewhat important
☐ 3. Not very important
☐ 4. Not at all important

4. Do you support or oppose the following actions? (check one for each row)

	Support	Oppose
Develop and implement a plan to reduce the commercial-to-residential property tax gap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limit municipal operational spending, year over year, to a maximum of population and inflation growth	<i>depends on how it is funded.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Introduce a plan to reduce the size and cost of the municipal civil service (primarily through attrition)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I support this in principle but first need more info	<input type="checkbox"/>
New provincial taxes to finance municipal infrastructure (e.g. province wide property tax levy)	<input type="checkbox"/> I am not in favour of higher property taxes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Narrow the wages/benefits disparity between municipal and private sector employees (current gap is 21%)	<input type="checkbox"/> I need more info on our local situation.	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. What are your plans to make your municipality more business friendly?

Work with local business groups to support new small business ventures with an angel investor approach, as well as a small business incubator approach. Want to work with young entrepreneurs.

Candidate Name: TOM WOLF

City: SASKATOON

Ward: MAYOR

Canadian Federation of Independent Business

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The following document
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City Council Candidates to
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Views on Small Business
Issues.*

Small business is very important to the vitality of Saskatoon. Since being a City Councillor, I have been a member of the Broadway Business Improvement District, the Downtown Partnership, and the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority, and I have many friends and colleagues involved in small business operations.

I believe that developing a more diversified local business community is essential for the long term success of the City, and I am committed to helping make the rules and regulations for business clear and easy to work with in Saskatoon. I agree that we need to keep taxes contained and be responsible with our spending as a City.

It is the residents of Ward 6 and Saskatoon who I am running to represent. I am happy to discuss the issues related to small businesses with residents. With respect, I am not engaging in signing contracts with organizations as part of this election as it is not organizations that I am representing.

Regards,

Charlie Clark
Candidate for Ward 6 City Council



CANADIAN FEDERATION
OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS
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Candidates' Views on Small Business Issues

2012 Saskatchewan Municipal Elections

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- ☒ 1. Additional revenue sharing with provincial/federal governments
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Please specify:

- ☐ 3. Increased savings through operational efficiencies (e.g. contracting out services to the private sector)
☐ 4. No further need for increased revenue sources
☐ 5. Other (Please specify)

3. How Important is it that your municipality implements a long-term plan to reduce red tape impacting small business? (select one)

- ☐ 1. Very important
☐ 2. Somewhat important
☒ 3. Not very important
☐ 4. Not at all important

4. Do you support or oppose the following actions? (check one for each row)

	Support	Oppose
Develop and Implement a plan to reduce the commercial-to-residential property tax gap		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Limit municipal operational spending, year over year, to a maximum of population and inflation growth		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Introduce a plan to reduce the size and cost of the municipal civil service (primarily through attrition)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New provincial taxes to finance municipal infrastructure (e.g. province wide property tax levy)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Narrow the wages/benefits disparity between municipal and private sector employees (current gap is 21%)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5. What are your plans to make your municipality more business friendly?

Saskatoon has the most business-friendly environment in Canada, and the lowest minimum wage. No changes are needed.

Candidate Name: James Ford

City: Saskatoon

Ward: 5

Canadian Federation of Independent Business
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Please specify:

- ☒ 3. Increased savings through operational efficiencies (e.g. contracting out services to the private sector)

- ☐ 4. No further need for increased revenue sources

- ☒ 5. Other (Please specify)
Reducing the size of the Civil Government

3. How important is it that your municipality implements a long-term plan to reduce red tape impacting small business? (select one)

- ☒ 1. Very Important
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☐ 4. Not at all important

4. Do you support or oppose the following actions? (check one for each row)

	Support	Oppose
Develop and implement a plan to reduce the commercial-to-residential property tax gap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limit municipal operational spending, year over year, to a maximum of population and inflation growth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Introduce a plan to reduce the size and cost of the municipal civil service (primarily through attrition)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New provincial taxes to finance municipal infrastructure (e.g. province wide property tax levy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Narrow the wages/benefits disparity between municipal and private sector employees (current gap is 21%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. What are your plans to make your municipality more business friendly?

I would engage the private sector in P3 arrangements for capital projects.
I would also privatize non-core services, like the municipal golf courses

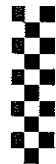
Candidate Name: Mark Horsman

City: Saskatoon

Ward: Ward 10

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ANN IWANCHUK

YOUR CANDIDATE FOR CITY COUNCIL IN WARD 3

380-6870
ANNIWANCHUK@SASKTEL.NET
426 MCKAGUE CRESCENT

October 5, 2012

Marilyn Braun-Pollon
Canadian Federation of Independent Business
101-2400 College Avenue
Regina, SK
S4P 1C8

Dear Ms. Braun-Pollon:

RE: Candidate's Views on Small Business Issues – 2012 Saskatchewan Municipal Election

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to respond to your survey with respect to my views on small business issues.

How important is the small business sector to your local economy?

Small and locally-owned businesses are critical to Saskatoon's economy and jobs market. I understand that more than 70 per cent of private sector jobs are within small and mid-sized enterprises and those businesses are also more likely to reinvest in our economy.

Which of the following options do you support for financing your municipality?

- I am supportive of revenue sharing with provincial/federal government.
- An expanded taxing authority is not on my list of priorities at this time.
- Operational Efficiencies – It is important to take a balanced approach to ensure levels of service are maintained. Contracting out services does not ensure a level of service is maintained. I believe that the City of Saskatoon does a very good job with the resources available in providing quality service to residents of Saskatoon.
- Increased Revenue Sources – If there is an opportunity for the City of Saskatoon to obtain revenue from other sources, it should be considered on its own merits.

How important is it that your municipality implements a long-term plan to reduce red tape impacting small business?

I am in favour of reducing red tape not just for small business, but for everyone. Common sense red-tape reduction should never put public health and safety or the public's best interests at risk.

Develop and implement a plan to reduce the commercial-to-residential property tax gap?

I am proud that Saskatoon has been recognized as being the most tax competitive city in Canada by KPMG's: *Competitive Alternatives, 2012: Focus on Tax Study*.

Limit Municipal Operational Spending, year over year, to a maximum of population and inflation growth?

As a general objective, I believe that elected officials need to be very cognizant of the effect that increasing taxes has on constituents. However, it is also important to ensure that safety and public services are provided to the standard that our residents expect and deserve.

Introduce a plan to reduce the size and cost of the municipal civil service (primarily through attrition)?

My objective is to ensure that city services are delivered as efficiently as possible – that means balancing costs and effective delivery. Our city is growing and we want to keep it that way, so I do not see the benefit of reducing civil service, which in turn, would reduce services provided to our residents.

New Provincial taxes to finance municipal infrastructure (e.g. province wide property tax levy)?

Saskatoon and Saskatchewan must be competitive in offering a great place to live, work and to do business. For taxpayers, taxes come from their pocket whether they're going to the city of the province – shuffling the cost to a different level of government is rarely a solution.

Narrow the wages/benefits disparity between municipal and private sector employees?

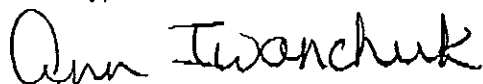
It is important to compare apples with apples. We need to be competitive not only with the private sector, but with the public sector in other cities in western Canada.

What are your plans to make your municipality more business friendly?

I am proud of Saskatoon's recognition as the most tax-competitive city in Canada. As a board member of the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority (SREDA), I sit on the Incentive Sub-Review Committee which responds to the needs of prospective business in Saskatoon. I look forward to continuing to support and work with SREDA to ensure we are proactive, competitive and forward-looking in our plan to attract new business to Saskatoon.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present my views to your members.

Sincerely,



Ann Iwanchuk,
Candidate for Ward 3 City Councillor, Saskatoon

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Please specify:

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☐ 3. Not very important
☐ 4. Not at all important

4. Do you support or oppose the following actions? (check one for each row)

	Support	Oppose
Develop and implement a plan to reduce the commercial-to-residential property tax gap	X	
Limit municipal operational spending, year over year, to a maximum of population and inflation growth	X	
Introduce a plan to reduce the size and cost of the municipal civil service (primarily through attrition)	X	
New provincial taxes to finance municipal infrastructure (e.g. province wide property tax levy)	X	
Narrow the wages/benefits disparity between municipal and private sector employees (current gap is 21%)	X	

5. What are your plans to make your municipality more business friendly?

I will work closely with Chamber of Commerce NSBA and others to ensure we remain competitive in all attracting and retaining business.

Candidate Name: Brandon Snowsell

City: Saskatoon

Ward: Ward 6

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