



## Diane Colley-Urquhart, Council Candidate for Ward 13

### What are your priorities for public services in our communities?

Over the past 5 years of the recession coupled with an 18 month pandemic, we have had to cut nearly \$1B out of our City of Calgary operating budget. We had to deal with falling tax revenue and many other causes. We not only have cut to the bone - we have cut into the marrow. The other aspect we did thinking it would save money was to outsource certain operational functions such as transit cleaning, mowing, landscaping and snow

removal for example. I have visited many locations in Ward 13 where this work done by private contractors was terrible and unacceptable to citizens. In two examples in the last 8 weeks, I have worked with City Directors and they have terminated these contracts and had our City staff do the work. While the initial contract may have been calculated to be cheaper, once they got the contract they cut corners and did a terrible job. No one does the work better than our City public servants who love this City. As a nurse, I am part of UNA. I value public services. I have devoted 51 years to public service and volunteering. We MUST reinvest and rebuild the public service in pretty well all areas. This is what I am working on now with City admin to prepare for this reinvestment in the November four year budget cycle.

### What is your position on private-public partnerships?

Well the best example of this was what I supported for years and that is the Event Centre. When the private sector put \$275M on on the table and we matched it with the ability to fully recover our investment over set years, it was the only way we could proceed. Many other revenues will come in with other entities opening at that site as well. Also working with developers to front-end infrastructure to build roads and underground infrastructure is critical to getting things done. Earmarking \$200M to rejuvenate the downtown and save the downtown is critical in partnership and leveraging that money with the private sector. So embarking on PPPs or PPPPs needs to be done very carefully and elected officials need to get feedback from our unions on what they would see the impacts and downsides to be. We also need the private - NGO sectors to partner with us to build 2000 more affordable housing units.



## Public Interest Alberta

### What are your priorities for transportation?

Shared roadways - my idea at the beginning of COVID. Investment into cycle tracks in the suburbs as well. Improving pathway connectivity for all modes of transportation. Invest in pedestrian overpasses. Heavily invest in public transit - Greenline operations.

### Do you support the change in campaign financing laws?

Yes I do but it is really a challenge running a campaign on such short notice, during a pandemic, during a time of economic recession, individuals from companies don't have the money to donate. Overall though I think it is for the better.

### What is your plan to address housing and homelessness in our communities?

We just opened a beautiful attainable home development in Ward 13 in partnership with Calgary Housing Company. I will continue to lean on developers and builders through RESOLVE and individually to commit to annual numbers of attainable units in Calgary.

### What are your priorities to address the fiscal relationship between the provincial government and municipalities?

We are very very efficient and effective in the service our city employees deliver to citizens - all on a .60c dollar. 40% of property taxes on your bill goes to the province for their Education Requisition. Last year, they pulled nearly \$800M out of Calgary....and during a recession and a pandemic. I have been fighting this cause for 21 years. Read my article in the Herald on Equalization - my open letter to the Premier. Market Value Assessment has failed us in many ways but particularly during a 5 year recession with falling residential and downtown property values.