

MEDIA ADVISORY ... TO ALL SASKATOON MEDIA OUTLETS, AUGUST 28 2016

City Hall Secrecy Must End

Last Thursday, August 25, it was announced in the Star Phoenix that the administration would not release the City's preliminary budget until sometime after the October 26 election. This decision is contrary not only to the City's own planned schedule, but it's a roadblock to informed voting in October and shows disrespect for Saskatoon residents. The decision is unacceptable.

The government represents our interests and as such, their job is at minimum, to keep us informed as promised and to keep us involved in the ongoing decision making process. It is not the job of our Mayor and Council to keep silent on the budget, especially before the election. How are citizens to make informed decisions?

Our province and this city are entering what will likely be a significant economic slowdown. Jobs are being lost. People are uncertain about the future. We need to understand what's possible, and what isn't so we can make decisions at a personal level and let our Mayor and Council know what we need to prioritize for our City. Our business community needs to know; our education sector needs to know; our non-profit sector needs to know; our service sector needs to know; we all need to know.

In the past 10 years, we've had record tax increases. We have amassed record debt. And yet, we have crumbling infrastructure. We have one of the highest crime rates in Canada. And we struggle to deliver basic services. Now, we're facing job losses and a housing construction slowdown. Openness and transparency is ever more critical for the Mayor and Council. The time has come to end the secrecy at City Hall.

We cannot have decisions made behind closed doors that affect our community. Executive Committee minutes need to provide details for the public record; citizens need to have open access to decisions made by the Mayor and Council as well as the data that informed the decisions; budgets need to be available for review with regular updates for citizens so they can ask questions and provide feedback. The decision to not release the budget prior to the election is backward vs forward thinking.

Saskatoon needs new leadership, leadership without a vested interest in the status quo.

As your mayor, I will openly share our budget information. I will seek public input into difficult decisions we will inevitably face through greater e-democracy, taking budgets directly to communities and having regular capital and operational budget talks as part of the planning process.

It's time to expect more from City Hall. I'm Kelley Moore, and I want to be your mayor.

On Monday at 2:00 pm Kelley Moore will be available at the Clock Tower at City Hall to meet with members of the Media to provide further details and answer questions.

For more information contact:

Campaign Manager Sara Wheelwright | 306-291-5303 or 291-4449.

Moore4Mayor.ca | @moore4mayorYXE

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