



Candidate Name:     **BOB HAWKESWORTH**    

Ward:                     **4**                    

Website, if any:                     **www.hawkesworth.com**                    

Contact name/number:                                     **988-0032**                                    

1. What are the top three issues facing your Ward?

**The top three issues facing Ward 4 are: managing the impacts of growth; affordable housing; and mobility.**

2. What are the top three issues facing the city as a whole, if different from above?

**Issues facing the city as a whole, by their very nature have to be more strategic:**

- **Creating a more environmentally sustainable city including reducing our ecological footprint through such means as reduced energy and water consumption and producing less garbage.**
- **Creating a more socially cohesive city that is safe and affordable for all Calgarians including for example, providing more affordable housing, addressing homelessness, crime prevention and diversity initiatives.**
- **Ensuring a long term economically diversified and sustainable community, including only assuming costs and revenues for City of Calgary services that are sustainable in the long term.**

**3. Urban Sprawl and Housing**

- a. Do you support the concept of extending Transit-Oriented Development throughout the city, including in established neighbourhoods generally and in your ward? What is your stance on the proposed development at Dalhousie Station (in Varsity)?

**I support the concept of extending Transit Oriented Development throughout the city - with the caveat that infill development has to be sensitively and well designed.**

**I supported the development at the Dalhousie Station with some modifications made as a result of input from neighbouring residents.**

- b. Are we facing a housing crisis in Calgary? If so, what should be done about it? If you are an incumbent, what have you specifically done about this?

**I believe we are facing a housing affordability crisis in Calgary. The City should continue to do all it can to facilitate the development of new supply, including building and acquiring new units of non-market housing targeted to those who have the fewest choices in the marketplace. The City needs to advocate to Federal and Provincial governments for the funding, the housing programs, the support programs and the planning tools to solve this problem. Don't expect the City to solve this problem with its own resources.**

**Specifically, I have supported the City setting a target of acquiring 200 new units/ year for rent geared to income tenants. This meant investing \$17M of City resources to leverage \$70M from other orders of government and the private sector.**

**I support the work of the Committee to End Homelessness in Calgary.**

**I have been advocating to the Federal and Provincial governments for the past decade that they set up housing programs and provide funding to avoid this crisis in our communities.**

- c. Do you support legalization of secondary suites in all existing neighbourhoods, subject only to reasonable safety concerns? Why or why not?

**I support a two tiered approach. I support a concerted effort to remove the barriers that are preventing the development and conversion of legal secondary suites in areas zoned R-2 and higher. I also support engaging Calgarians to determine if, where, and under what circumstances, they might be prepared to accept secondary suites in other areas of the city, notably R-1 districts.**

**We seem to have been paralyzed by a sterile debate over all or nothing – “should secondary suites be built everywhere in the**

city? Yes or no.” Instead, let’s get started on solving the problem by building more secondary suites where they are currently legally allowed. Let’s learn whatever lessons we need to and continually improve our performance. We need to get started on this solution and see how feasible it truly is. If it’s not feasible to build secondary suites where they are currently legal, then why spend a lot of time and energy arguing over whether or not they should be allowed in R-1 areas?

In the meantime, legalizing secondary suites where they are currently illegal is a big policy change that many find threatening. We need to take time to consult and hear from Calgarians about their concerns and about the potential benefits before plunging into this head over heels.

- d. Do you believe that urban sprawl is a problem for the city? If you believe it is a problem, what will you do to address it? (If you are an incumbent, what have you already specifically done?) If you don’t see it as a problem, please explain why.

**I believe that urban sprawl is a problem for Calgary. The infrastructure that it demands is very expensive to build, maintain, and replace. It also locks us into a high energy and resource consumption future.**

**I supported the amendment to Calgary’s Municipal Development Plan that removed the density cap on all new suburbs. Since that decision, developers have been bringing in community plans with densities approximately 30 – 40% higher than traditional new community plans.**

#### **4. Transportation**

- a. Has the City been doing a good job of addressing transportation needs? What, if anything, would you do differently?

**The City has been on a trajectory that is very hard to get off. The bulk of investments have been in our roads network, although transit has also received sizeable increases.**

**The rapid growth of Calgary has made it very hard to keep up and to catch up with our transportation improvements. I believe the City has done a reasonable job in incredibly demanding circumstances.**

**We need to look to public transit investments – Bus Rapid Transit specifically – if we are to meet the demands of Calgarians for mobility at a price they can afford.**

b. How often do you use public transit? Bus, C-train, or both?

**I use public transit approximately 100 times a year. In addition, I am a frequent user of the C-Train in downtown Calgary.**

c. Does our current transit system meet the needs of the city? If not, how specifically would you improve it?

**It meets the basic needs of Calgarians but needs modernization and improvement. We need greater capacity (more buses and Light Rail Vehicles) and frequency. We need longer transit operating hours, and we need a “Transit First” transportation policy for Calgary. We need to make investments in smart technology so the transit experience is enjoyable and easy to use. We could make good use of a Calgary Transit customer panel.**

d. Are you in favour of the current strategic plan for transit? Why or why not? If not, what changes would you make?

**My preference is to make the next LRT investments to reinforce the core of the city before extending lines further to the periphery. Bus Rapid Transit and dedicated road rights of way would be a cost effective way to bring the major benefits of LRT but without the major costs, to areas of the city that currently do not have LRT.**

e. The City’s current plan does not envision direct C-Train service to either the airport or Mount Royal College. Would you favour amending the plan to reach these two destinations (both within close distance of planned lines)? Why or why not?

**Please see my comments about Bus Rapid Transit. This would be a very cost effective solution that would bring “LRT-like” benefits, without the extremely high “LRT-like” costs.**

f. Are there other areas of the city that are underserved by transit? How would you address this?

**The east side industrial areas are under serviced, largely because of the low density nature of development. They have limited ridership and long distances over which to carry passengers.**

**New communities have traditionally also been under serviced. Especially now that new communities are being proposed at considerably higher densities, there is a potential win-win**

whereby the City could reward developers and new home purchasers in these communities by bringing transit service earlier knowing that there will likely be a stronger transit market there.

## 5. Vibrant and sustainable communities

- a. What will you do to address homelessness and urban poverty in the city? (If you are an incumbent, what have you already specifically done?) If you don't see this as a problem, please explain why.

**I was the Co-Chair of the Homelessness Initiatives Steering Committee in the late 1990's and was a founding director of the Calgary Homeless Foundation. I have been an advocate of help for the homeless long before homelessness acquired a high profile as an issue.**

**Homelessness has erupted on the scene because federal and provincial governments dismantled the social safety net in the early to mid 1990s. I will continue to be an advocate for those orders of government to put solutions back in place and that will enable poor people to make contributions to society.**

**This is also an issue of health, specifically mental health. People are homeless because they are ill. Again, the City of Calgary needs to be an advocate for, and enabler of federal and provincial based solutions.**

**The City of Calgary needs to seriously address a sobering center. Criminalizing the mentally ill and the addicted is expensive and does not solve their problems.**

- b. What is your stance on arts funding? Do you support the recent recommendations of the Calgary Arts Development Authority?

**I am Chair of the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services. We successfully recommended to City Council that they endorse the recommendations in the CADA report.**

- c. What is your stance on the city's curbside recycling plan? Would you extend the plan to include recycling of organics and plastics? Why or why not?

**I was one of the 8 members of City Council that voted to proceed with the curbside recycling program. I support eventually extending the plan to include organics and plastics. I am a strong supporter of the City's strategic goal of diverting 80% of the**

**waste going to our landfills by 2020. We will not meet this goal without a comprehensive recycling program.**

d. What other environmental initiatives, if any, would you favour?

**I was one of 9 members of City Council that voted to enter into a 20 year contract with Enmax to purchase electricity from renewable sources. It was a risk that paid off with cost savings as well as greenhouse gas emissions reductions. City Council decisions have established Calgary as a world environmental leader.**

**I brought a Notice of Motion to City Council in 2000 to investigate a District Energy system in downtown Calgary. This project is finally underway and will save customers energy costs as well as significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.**

**The City of Calgary needs to investigate waste to energy systems and to extract more energy from our waste water treatment plants.**

**I was one of the members of City Council to bring forward the date for Calgary to be universally metered for water consumption by 2010.**

**I would favour the City of Calgary doing more to encourage food production, such as green house operations within City limits.**

e. What will you do to address crime and safety issues in Calgary? (If you are an incumbent, what have you already specifically done?) If you don't see this as a problem, please explain why.

**I support crime prevention programs including the investment fund established by City Council to specifically fund projects such as the community initiatives in the Beltline. I support expanding this initiative to areas outside the inner core.**

**I voted for more police, fire and EMS resources even though it pushed the City budget increase above inflation.**

**I support a city wide strategic plan on safety such as the Safe Cities program under the World Health Organization that accredited Calgary a number of years ago.**

## **6. Taxes and Revenues**

- a. Does the current system of funding municipal government largely through property taxes work well? If not, what changes would you recommend?

**The property tax has a number of advantages, among them is that the property tax is relatively stable from year to year. It is a good source of revenue around which to make long term fiscal plans. However, the property tax does not always reflect an ability to pay. A person who is “house rich”, but “income poor” may find it very difficult to absorb property tax increases over time.**

**I favour the recommendations in the Minister’s Council Report on Municipal Sustainability that proposed some new taxing powers for municipalities on such things as vehicle registrations, and on tourists and entertainment tickets. These recommendations were proposed as measures to reduce the pressures on the property tax. They were also recommended in order to introduce a stronger “user pay” emphasis to the municipal tax system.**

- b. Is there enough money in the system currently to fund your priorities? If not, how will you fund them?

**There definitely is not enough money in the municipal revenue system to currently fund these priorities. To fully fund these priorities would require property tax increases substantially above the rate of inflation. This is why our City Council, and in particular our Mayor, have been such strong advocates for more Provincial funding transfers. The Province is reaping the revenues from the growth and prosperity in Alberta. Our city has very expensive bills to accommodate all the new people and demands that this growth brings. We are asking the Province to simply share the wealth and help ease the burden of growth costs on our municipal property taxpayers.**

## **7. Political reform.**

- a. Does the current system of campaign financing work well? If not, what changes would you favour?

**The current system has transparency in the reporting of campaign donations. I voted against a proposal to raise the dollar amount before donors had to be named. Fortunately this proposal failed.**

**The current bylaw may not fully capture “in kind” donations as well as it should.**

- b. In the absence of rules around disbursement of campaign surpluses, what will you do with any leftover funds?

**It is my intention to donate any left over funds, after I retire from public life, to charity.**

- c. Are there any other structural reforms you would favour?

**I would be willing to support some sort of reasonable cap on spending and placing limits on the amount that can be collected from any one donor.**

8. **FOR INCUMBENTS ONLY:** What are your three major accomplishments this term? Of what are you most proud?

**Calgary accomplished:**

- **The Municipal Development Plan amendment removing the density cap on new communities**
- **New financial resources are coming to the City of Calgary from the Provincial and Federal governments**
- **ImagineCalgary provided us with a vision and public support of the direction in which we need to go as a community.**

**I am immensely proud of:**

- **the City's 20 year renewable energy contract with Enmax and of the district energy project.**
- **Calgary is "smoke free" in public places.**
- **Calgary was the first city in Canada to adopt a "green building" policy.**