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# I Am So Grateful.

November 8, 2020 | Cary Tarasoff

Running as a candidate to be the Mayor of Saskatoon has been an amazing experience.

I owe the biggest thanks to my wife Sherry, my campaign manager, for believing in me and my ideas for our city.



<https://youtu.be/L6ggFl32Cns>

## A Campaign With a Conscience.

We elected to do our campaign differently. Instead of producing large disposable media that would just end up in landfill (signs, flyers, etc.) we opted to go digital. We worked diligently for months, publishing large numbers of detailed platform pieces in the campaign website so voters in a pandemic could see alternatives from the safety of their homes if need be.

Sherry and I also did not want donations from others. It felt wrong to ask for money when so many are struggling financially. Also, we believe wholeheartedly in my message, so why should we ask someone else to fund that effort? Finally, we did not want to be owing anyone for large

donations. This means that right now, on the eve of the Saskatoon's 2020 civic election, I represent everyone equally as a result.

I am grateful for all those of you that wanted to donate to my campaign and when I politely declined, you took up the suggestion and still went ahead and donated to a local charity in need. I count that as a big win for us all!

### **The Campaign Momentum Has Been Growing So Rapidly in the last 4 weeks**

Thank you to [Sara at Trusted Marketing Services](#) for stepping in to assist in getting my platform and my message to all of you, and for her vote, her first vote in a civic election as a Canadian citizen.

Thank you to 10,000's of you that have taken your time to go to my website [carytarasoff.ca](http://carytarasoff.ca). Whether you choose to vote for me or not, I appreciate you as an engaged fellow citizen taking the time to consider me.

My social media posts have been seen 100,000's of times, and I appreciate all those that spread the word and shared my posts with their networks. I want to thank the 100's of you from all walks of life that directly reached out to me via social media, email, and on the phone to ask questions, to offer donations and to offer your time to volunteer.

I appreciate the 100's of people who have taken the time to notify me that they have already voted for me in the advance polls, including the on-air announcement during the Brent Loucks Show last week.

So many different groups have pledged support to me, new immigrants, indigenous, people in service for the city in fire, police and even those in city hall that are desperate for change. I have received so many emails from curlers looking for help, other veterans, horse owners, engineers, railway workers, and many seniors that are worried about their futures. I have also heard from construction workers in quarantine who are unable to vote tomorrow due to poor Covid planning by City Hall.

So many of you voted for change last election and feel that you were let down. Many first-time voters have let me know they have my vote. It's a real mix of first-time voters too: those who have come of age, others are new Canadians or Saskatonians and others simply had no desire to vote before. This is

especially humbling. I value all votes, of course, but a 'first ever vote' from someone is pretty special for everyone involved!

## Are You Still Undecided On Who to Vote For OR If To Bother Voting At All?

If you are one of the many undecided voters, please go to my website [carytarasoff.ca](http://carytarasoff.ca) and learn about who I am and what I stand for. In the last election, only 40% of eligible voters cast their ballot. We should want to do better Saskatoon! I implore you to please step up and vote for people who believe in you and want to work for you. I am in the top mix of the 6 candidates. There are NO clear and certain winners in this election, so now more than ever, I need as much extra help as I can get.

**If I have proven myself to you, I would sincerely appreciate your vote tomorrow.**

But stay safe to do so please.

Contact me if you have any more questions. I am standing by.

You can trust that I say what I mean and that I mean what I say.

There is work to be done!

Cary Tarasoff



# Charlie Clark's Election Promises

November 6, 2020 | Cary Tarasoff, Press Release



## Media Conference - November 6, 2020, Saskatoon

As a Mayoral Candidate, I have always put forward policies and ideas that I believe in and that can be enacted. Unfortunately I cannot say the same for Charlie Clark, who has consistently made election claims and promises that he has no intention of following through with.

Some examples from 2016 include:

1. **Clark's September 16, 2016 campaign commitment to save the city ½ a BILLION dollars.**

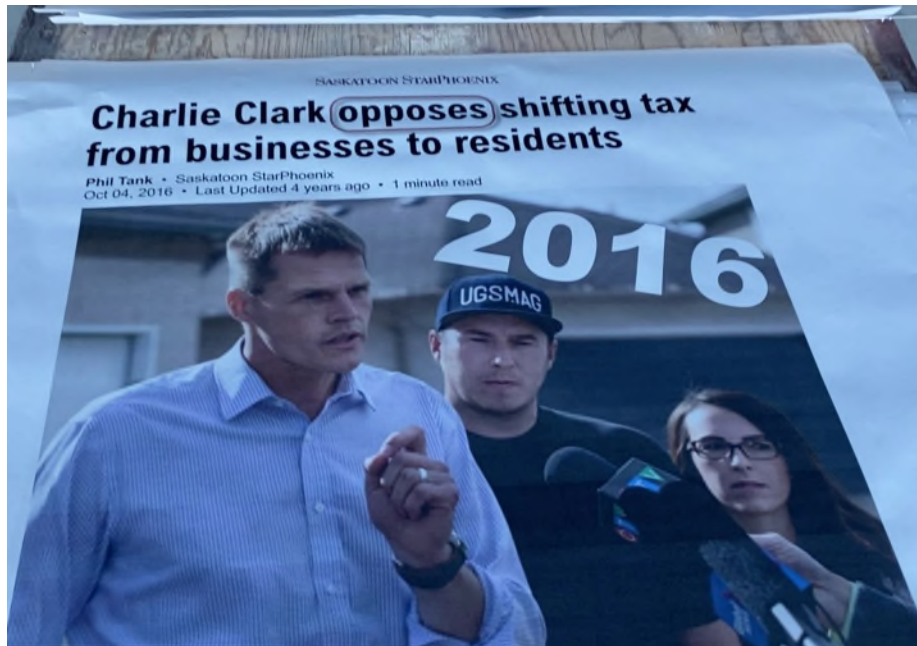




This was going to be done by better planning - growing up not sprawling out, by a real focus on infill development. He said he was going to SMASH infill targets. I was there cheering him on as I knew this was VITAL and would really make a huge impact in our city in so many areas - crime, safety, infrastructure costs and debt management!

Infill development and attainable housing targets are the most critical things that we need to be focusing on. Instead of lower the targets to make it look like they are being achieved, you should be working harder to meet the targets that you actually have.

## **2. Clark's October 24, 2016 campaign commitment to oppose shifting the tax burden from businesses onto residents.**



He used this as a major wedge issue in the 2016 campaign and even went as far as getting a local business owner on video to say it was a bad move and creating a 2 ½ minute animated explainer video that he invested in pushing out via social media.

On March 28, 2017 he voted FOR the shift from Business to Homeowners - and when questioned he denied that he was going against his campaign promise.

### 3. The Library & Job Claims 2020



**THE NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY WILL:**

- ✓ Cost the average household less than a cup of coffee per year for 6 years
- ✓ Create 1,000 construction jobs
- ✓ Drive economic development in the Downtown
- ✓ Become a community hub and digital learning centre for all residents

More recently, in his defence of the library, he has invested money in ads with the claim that the library will create **1,000 construction jobs** . He has mentioned this claim at every debate and in doing so he infers that these 1000 jobs are going to be local construction jobs - right here in Saskatoon.

In the 2020 Saskatoon main library cost and funding plan it says

“In the new central library [business case](#), the economic impact assessment estimates the construction of a new central library will contribute approximately \$132 million to Canada’s gross domestic product (GDP) and create **1,043 full-time equivalent jobs in Canada over three years. Nearly 70% of this economic benefit will occur in Saskatchewan.** ”

**Nowhere does it say 1,000 construction jobs** - and certainly nowhere does it say how many jobs will be in Saskatoon!! What it does say is that **less than 70%** of the economic benefit will be in Saskatchewan ....so I’d like to know what these numbers really are and what the direct economic benefits are to Saskatoon - wouldn’t you?

Source : <https://saskatooncentrallibrary.ca/questions-about-the-new-central-libraris-cost-and-funding-plan/>

### **Are These The Qualities You Want In A Mayor?**

**Can’t keep a promise**

**Flounders**

**Does the things he accuses others of doing?**

**"It is time for a change at the top so we can work together from the bottom up.**

**And by bottom I mean getting to the bottom of things at City Hall." Cary Tarasoff**

### **My 3 Commitments**

1. I will show leadership and stop taking on debt during the pandemic.
2. I will show leadership and will forge strong working relationships with our police force, our fire service and our community-based organizations to keep our streets and our people safe from harm.
3. I will show leadership and work with Council to overcome management issues at City Hall. There is too much wasted money in departments and not enough service for taxpayers. The City should serve the taxpayers, not the taxpayers serving the City.

I will respect your hard-earned money and you can trust me to spend it like it was my hard earned money.

Video OF Media Conference - November 6th 2020



[https://youtu.be/o\\_1letgiMmM](https://youtu.be/o_1letgiMmM)



## VIDEO 2

 Charlie Clark Election promises-A history of not follow...  Watch later  Share



Performance Measures

Performance Targets with Trends – URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Measures	Targets	2016	2017	2018	2019	Year-Over-Year Progress	Long-Term Progress
Residential Infill Development	Average of 25% Development Over the Last 5 Years	2012-2016 14.8%	2013-2017 13.7%	2014-2018 14.8%	2015-2019 13.9%	Neutral	

Watch on  YouTube

[https://youtu.be/k5m\\_-XylxCA](https://youtu.be/k5m_-XylxCA)

# Joint Media Conference - November 4th, 2020

November 4, 2020|Cary Tarasoff, Press Release

Mayoral Candidates:

**Zubair Sheikh**

**Mark Ziekle**

**Cary Tarasoff**

There are 6 mayoral candidates in the 2020 race. The 3 of us standing in front of you today do not benefit from the name recognition that the incumbent, past mayor and ex-minister enjoy. As such, we are uniquely positioned to recognize systematic flaws in the civic democratic process.

The question we have come together today to pose is:

**“How do you make space in civic elections so that everyday people (like us) are engaged and motivated to step up as candidates to serve and that citizens care enough to cast their vote?”**

COVID-19 has really highlighted issues. There are a few candidates that have bought so much share of the advertising voice out there that it is almost impossible for others with less (or any) 3rd party funding to be heard. That is where community radio, citizen and business groups (like CFCR, LivableYXE, the USSU and the NSBA for example) have really been able to contribute to democracy, and they have most definitely helped to level the playing field.

However, unfortunately, too many times in this race, we have seen mainstream media making default assumptions about which candidates in the race matter the most, without any polling information or individual policy analysis to back that up.

I think all of us here today would agree that democracy is built upon ideas and it requires engaged citizens to participate in it to be truly successful.

If those ideas are not reaching the eyes and ears of citizens because either candidates cannot afford to reach them effectively OR the media fails to

include those ideas in their roundups or forums equally - then it is all of us who lose in the end. The last civic election had a 40% turnout, which, although much higher than the previous civic elections, is still far from where we all agree it needs to be. As a City, we should be aiming for more, and we all have our part to play in that.

Policy changes are needed and leaders collaborate to bring solutions.

As such, we have 5 recommendations and hope whoever occupies the mayor's chair come November 10th will commit to making these changes.

**1. Lower campaign maximum mayoral marketing Budgets.**

At \$0.75 per capita, \$229,000 is a huge sum of money for most individuals. Access to money & privilege should not be a barrier to anyone wanting to step up and put themselves forward to serve this city. We recommend \$0.25 per capita, or a \$76,000 maximum. In addition, we also would like to see a lower individual donation threshold of \$100. This would further discourage the influence of corporations, unions and political parties in our city election.

**2. Positive discrimination.** Our multi-cultural diversity should allow equal participation in our democracy.

**3. Citizen Engagement** We suggest providing training workshops for citizens to learn about municipal governance and how they can be engaged

**4. A Voters List For The City.** Voters lists are required for Federal and Provincial – this should also extend to civic elections.

**5. Creation of a media gallery for elections.** We recommend the gathering together of all media outlets, with both mass media (newspaper, TV, radio) and community-based media (community radio, citizen advocacy groups). We ask them to collaborate and to come up with a set of standards for fairness of coverage, debate formats and transparency on any polls conducted.



<https://youtu.be/fn01C2SPyeg>

## REGINA MAYORAL CAMPAIGN BUDGET - SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER AT \$68,776

*Candidate Information Guide*

### **Campaign Contributions and Expenses**

**Mayor & Councillors**

Candidates for the office of mayor or councillor are required to publicly disclose details of all election campaign contributions and expenses, as stated in Bylaw 2007-34, *The Regina Municipal Election Expenses Bylaw*.

Total election expenses for a candidate shall not exceed:

- a) \$68,776, in the case of a candidate for Mayor
- b) \$11,393 in the case of a candidate for Councillor

Election expense limits in Section 4 of Bylaw 2007-34 and disclosure requirements in Section 5 of Bylaw 2007-34 shall apply to all election expenses incurred, whether or not paid, and contributions, whether received or pledged, **during the period from June 1 to December 31 of the year of the general election.**

*(Refer to Bylaw 2007-34.)*

001 Reg...



2020  
Municipal/School Board Election  
Regina, Saskatchewan



# **Candidate Information Guide**

*Prepared by: Elections Regina*

**Election Day  
November 9, 2020**



# BACK TO BASICS

November 2, 2020|Cary Tarasoff, Press Release



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, November 2 at 10:00am

I'm tired of hearing all these empty promises and carrots on sticks from Charlie, Rob and Don to win votes. It's getting crazy and its distracting from

the real issues that we are all facing in Saskatoon.

## THE BASICS OF RUNNING A CITY EFFECTIVELY ARE MISSING

There are serious issues with over taxing and over spending.

There are serious issues with rising crime and safety on our streets.

City Hall is broken. Communication is failing and City Hall is not responsive to citizens or businesses when we come with our complaints. I know, that's why I am standing here. The City and the Mayor ignored my calls, emails, and requests for answers to MY questions for years!! I literally ran out of avenues and took to holding a sign on a street corner to get attention. The decision making is not fair and it seems accountability has left the building, as the Star Phoenix reported last week:

"The annual civic survey served residents well and represented a high mark for transparency, removing from politicians and administrators the excuse that they were unaware of taxpayers' priorities. Of course, city hall got rid of it, at least in terms of an annual survey. For a council that stumbled pretty much every time it tried to consult residents or pretended to do so over the last four years, it should come as no surprise that the most impressive measure to gauge people's opinions has also been diminished." - StarPhoenix article - <https://thestarphoenix.com/opinion/columnists/tank-saskatoon-residents-ill-served-by-yanking-annual-civic-survey>

I have heard lots of rumours of private polls that are saying that this is the closest race ever between 6 candidates. Our research tells the same.

I can tell you that there's a Dark Horse coming up the middle in the homestretch. If you back this horse, you won't be taking a gamble.

We need to get back to basics.

So, I have 3 commitments to lay out to you.

1. I will show leadership and stop taking on debt during the pandemic.

2. I will show leadership and will forge strong working relationships with our police force, our fire service and our community-based organizations to keep our streets and our people safe from harm.

3. I will show leadership to overcome management issues at City Hall. There is too much wasted money in departments and not enough service for taxpayers. The City should serve the taxpayers, not the taxpayers serving the City.

### I WILL NOT GIVE EMPTY PROMISES

I will work hard everyday to earn your trust and to make Saskatoon a safe city for all residents.

I have the life experience from the military, as a planner, from construction, as an entrepreneur and as a hard working and actively concerned citizen of Saskatoon.

There's work to be done



<https://youtu.be/wSB1HBK-xd4>



# New Saskatoon library costs WAY more than a cup of coffee

October 29, 2020 | Cary Tarasoff, Library

Charlie Clark has social media posts and ads running that talk about the new Saskatoon main library. See an example of those ads below.

In the ads, he shares some interesting numbers and makes some big claims in defence of his support for this new library .

In our latest post, we share the REAL numbers and what the proposed new \$134 million library really means to Saskatoon taxpayers and hardworking families in our city.

**Re-Elect Charlie Clark**October 27 at 3:38 PM · 🌐

As I talk to people on the doorsteps and in the community, I'm finding there is still a lot of misinformation. I just want to make sure you all understand what is at stake.

## THE NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY WILL:

- ✓ Cost the average household less than a cup of coffee per year for 6 years
- ✓ Create 1,000 construction jobs
- ✓ Drive economic development in the Downtown
- ✓ Become a community hub and digital learning centre for all residents

This small amount was also mentioned in a StarPhoenix article in 2019.

In that article, Saskatoon Public Library board chair Lisa Erickson and director Carol Cooley were quoted as saying the then proposed \$154-million new downtown library was a relatively easy sell.

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## SASKATOON STARPHOENIX

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[News](#) [Sask Election](#) [Business](#) [Opinion](#) [Sports](#) [Arts](#) [Life](#) [Driving](#) [Healthing](#) [The GrowthOp](#) [Podcasts](#)

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### Local News

# New downtown library expected to cost average household \$5 a year

*Fewer than six sites on short list to replace 53-year-old central Saskatoon library*

Phil Tank • Saskatoon StarPhoenix  
Sep 20, 2019 • Last Updated 1 year ago • 3 minute read



I did some digging and it didn't take long to find the real numbers.

Just look at the numbers below (sources are listed at the bottom) and see for yourself.

The average homeowner (with an assessed home of \$371,000) will be paying **\$33.71** in 2021 for the new library. MUCH MORE than the cost of a cup of coffee!



Over the next 6 years, the projected total for each homeowner is actually an additional **\$162.56**.

If your house is assessed for more than \$371,000, you will be paying even more.

## **Mayor Clark, where are you buying a cup of coffee for \$33.71?**

### 1000's of Jobs?

In the [USSU Mayoral Forum](#) on October 20th, you said the library would create 1000s of new construction jobs. Now you're saying it will create 1000 jobs. What is the real number? Where are you getting these figures? I cannot see it being anywhere near that and, besides, it won't create jobs in construction for years to come. You should have learned all these things by now. There is no excuse to keep saying these things because you know that they're not relevant in our current time.

### The Library Driving Economic Activity?

You say this project will drive economic activity in the downtown, you should go back and look at the City Centre Plan from 2013 and note where the library location was planned to be.

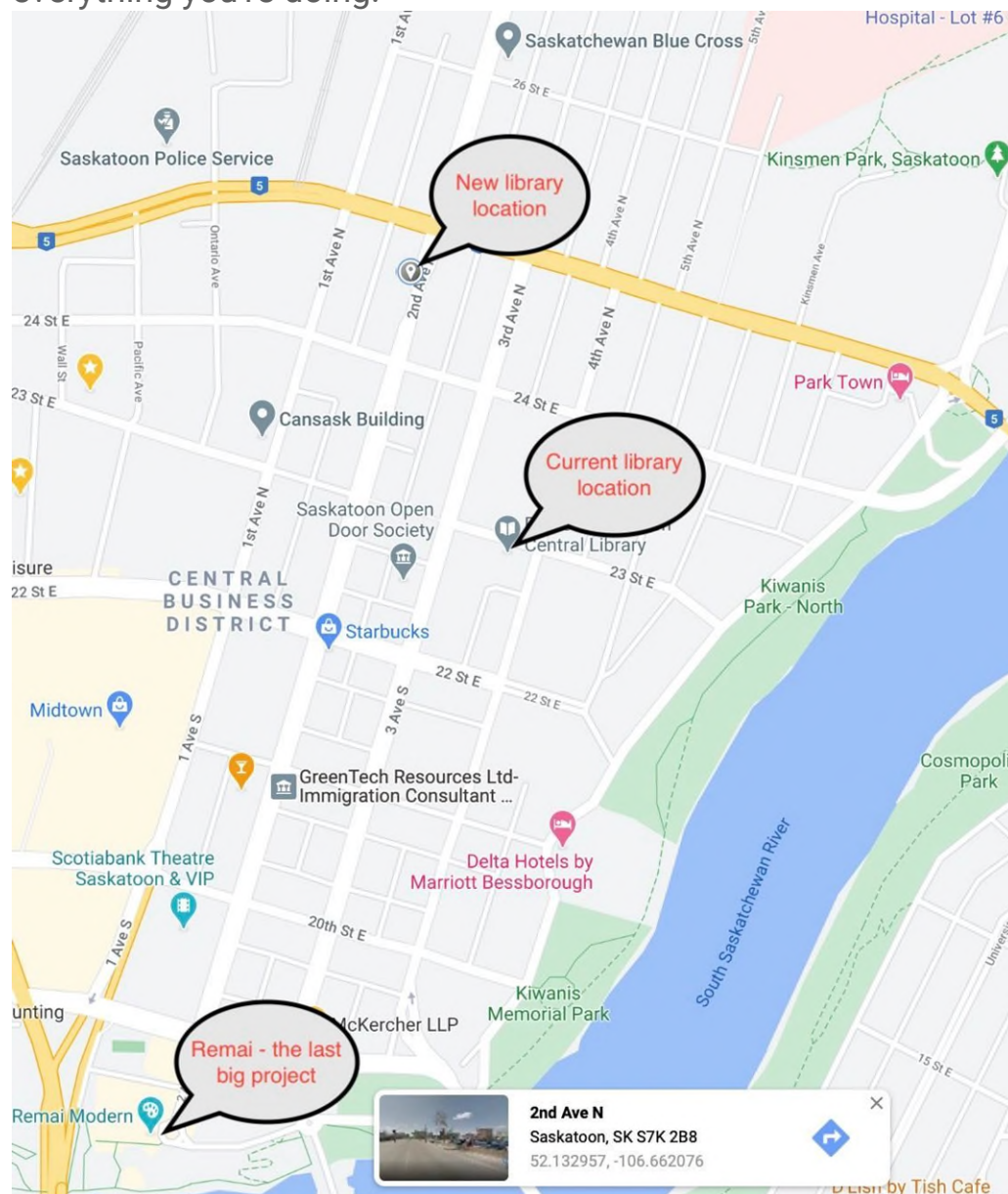
It was supposed to incorporate around existing businesses and the downtown infrastructure. But instead, those things have been thrown out the door. [The Saskatoon Public Library is planning to build its new downtown branch on a large piece of land on the west side of Second Avenue North, between 24th Street and 25th Street](#), away from most things that it needs to be close to! The only thing that it's going to drive is debt. And then you will claim that in some future date there will be lots of activity. But economic activity is not planned for where it is right now and it's short-sighted the way that it's being enacted.

### A Community Hub?

A community hub for all residents, **except for the folks that don't live in the proximity of the site**. That is the majority of people in the city. Many of us are going to be paying for this library and really never ever set foot in the door. If

it's a digital thing, you can do digital from anywhere. You don't need to have a building for digital, so quit promoting that as a benefit.

The other issue is that the location is NOT in the heart of downtown where it should be. You are expecting to build it and then for all of the citizens to automatically go to it? Why not look at the Holmwood area? A new joint-use library in the Holmwood - Brighton area that is linked to the proposed joint-use high schools and leisure centre would see support from me. You should be focusing on this plan but, of course now, you'll have spent all of the money on this grand project and won't have any money for a joint-use library in a community that actually needs one. And that is indicative of the problem with everything you're doing.

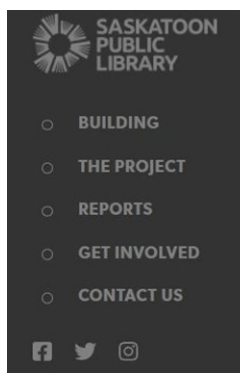


## DATA FOR COFFEE COMPARISON

### Saskatoon Public Library Background Information Regarding for 2020 and 2021 Operating and Capital Budget Submission

1. The 2020 operating budget includes a 3.75% increase in Property Tax Levy over 2019. The 2021 operating budget includes a 3.88% increase in Property Tax levy over 2020.
2. A \$3,990,000 contribution to the reserve for a new central library is included in the 2020 budget. This represents a \$640,000 increase over 2019. A \$4,630,000 contribution to the reserve for a new central library is included in the 2021 budget. This represents a \$640,000 increase over 2020.

### [SPL 2021 contribution to the NCL](#)



Based on the capital reserve contribution schedule (funded by the library levy), the average homeowner (with an assessed home of \$371,000) will see the following increases related to this project:

2021: \$4.66 or \$0.39/month  
2022: \$4.84 or \$0.40/month  
2023: \$4.91 or \$0.41/month  
2024: \$4.91 or \$0.41/month  
2025: \$1.58 or \$0.13/month  
2026: \$1.57 or \$0.13/month

### [SPL's calculation for the average homeowner](#)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Library Tax	2021	Average Homeowner*		Projected Library Tax	Increase	Reserve for NCL
2	Increase	\$640,000	\$4.66		2021	\$4.66	\$33.71
3	Reserve for NCL	\$4,630,000	\$33.71		2022	\$4.84	\$35.01
4					2023	\$4.91	\$35.52
5			*with an assessed home of \$371,000		2024	\$4.91	\$35.52
6					2025	\$1.58	\$11.43
7					2026	\$1.57	\$11.36
8						\$22.47	\$162.56

My calculations



<https://youtu.be/sRL-NegcN7A>



# Nikki Hein - Saskatoon's only female jockey

October 27, 2020|Cary Tarasoff



While I still have the attention of the Saskatoon people, I would like to bring attention to the city's only female jockey, **Nikki Hein**.

It seems she was missed in recent recognition of other local jockeys. We will fix that right now!

Nicole Hein is a professional Thoroughbred Racehorse Jockey from right here in Saskatoon. She got her first professional start at Marquis Downs on May 31, 2019 where she rode six-year-old mare "The Last Deputy" to a fourth-place finish. Since her first start, Nicole has competed in 93 sanctioned career starts between Marquis Downs and Assiniboia Downs. With a 41% win/place/show career record, Nicole means business every time she saddles up.



Not only is Nicole a fierce competitor on the racetrack, she is also a Brand Consultant, where she works as an independent consultant to help local businesses improve their brand recognition through web design, the creation of creative content, and social media marketing. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) from the University of Alberta in German Language and Literature and intends to pursue a Master of Arts degree in the future alongside her riding career.

When Nicole is not physically training in preparation to race, or providing her expertise to her clients, she spends her time advocating for the sport of horse racing in Saskatchewan which she has been a significant contributor and role model for young women interested in entering the industry. She is the administrator of the [Horse Racing Saskatchewan](#) website and public Facebook page of the same name, which aims to provide the public with insight into the far-reaching positive impact that horse racing has on the local community and the Saskatchewan economy.

Be proud of all of the great talent that Saskatchewan cultivates.

Thank you, Nikki!

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*[Leanne King Photography \(https://www.facebook.com/Leanne-King-Photography-245818319317519\)](https://www.facebook.com/Leanne-King-Photography-245818319317519)*

# The plight of curling clubs

October 21, 2020|Cary Tarasoff, Organizations, Press Release

# **PRESS RELEASE** **CURLING**

PRESS RELEASE - issued October 19, 2020

Tuesday, October 20 at 9:30am at the Granite Curling Club, Cary Tarasoff will present information on the serious pandemic plight of all not for profit curling clubs in Saskatoon. This is an urgent plea to help save our clubs from closing. I have secured space inside the Granite Curling Club facility to hold this press conference but no political support for me as a mayoral candidate should be inferred from this.

I will lay out the nature of the critical situation as well as many possible solutions that I know of. After which I ask the curling managers to present to you how they need urgent help to save jobs and their clubs as a whole. Curling is a winter past time for many thousands of Saskatoon citizens and a good social service for our city. I hope other candidates will also see this plight and that they then find their own ways to propose urgent help. Proper social distancing has been planned for at this venue and can be further adjusted as requested.

Press Conference Video.



<https://youtu.be/PyiJzNMcnew>

For more information, contact: [carytarasoff@sasktel.net](mailto:carytarasoff@sasktel.net)

# Poor decisions on the new Library will not stop me from acting

October 21, 2020|Cary Tarasoff, Library, Press Release

# **PRESS RELEASE** LIBRARY

PRESS RELEASE - issued October 9, 2020

I am asking for the Library Board to hit pause on the New Central Library, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to consider the current situation that Saskatoon is in.

I don't believe that a standalone library of this stature should be built. In this digital age, I think a more conservative structure should be envisioned and I think that structure should be shared so that it ties into other usage groups to help foster a higher level of activity throughout the day and evening. The most inefficient building for the city to build and maintain is a standalone structure. Some of the most successful branch libraries in Saskatoon share space alongside other amenities such as a swimming pool or a hockey rink, for example. A new joint-use library in the Holmwood - Brighton area that is linked to the proposed joint-use high schools and leisure centre would see support from me.

A lot of mayoral candidates and current councillors voice concerns over the proposed new library. Weeks back, I mentioned 'force majeure' and since then, this has been repeated by others. But still, not much more substance exists from anyone. So again, I will lead from the front.

Lots of people talk about how this new library is too far gone to stop. Well, not even close. Poor decisions by a previous City Council will not limit my ability to do the right thing for the citizens of Saskatoon. The “oh well, not my problem, it was before my time” answer won’t be what I live by as Mayor.

If this new downtown grand library is supposed to offer great spaces and these inviting meeting rooms to draw people in, why not best take advantage of that so that they coexist with other stakeholder groups which would use that facility more often. Is that not in our best interest?

Immediately, I would halt any borrowing for the library and I would work to stop the library from taking another 5 million dollars next year out of city coffers to put into their reserves. City Council approval is required for Saskatoon Public Library's budget.

Lots of talk is made each year about how the library will be allowed to ‘take’ a little more money in taxes. An incremental amount is mentioned, but it fails to indicate the entire amount already extracted that is not needed for operations. For the 2020 budget, the library proposed \$27,192,800 in revenue and the exact same in expenditures. The expenditures include \$4,967,500 of money simply taken from taxpayers transferred into a reserve fund that is not needed for operations. That is added to the \$4,327,500 taken in 2019 and the further \$5,607,500 already proposed for 2021.

What does this mean to the average taxpayer? For a residential building in 2020, 5.97% of the total property tax bill is library tax. For my home, the library tax is \$215. Broken down by the library's budgeted expenditures, it would equate to \$176 paid for the salaries and operating costs of the library and a further \$39 transferred to funds/reserves. For a \$1,000,000 commercial property, that would be \$876 paid in library taxes for 2020 which includes \$159 for the library reserve. In what world do you feel that, after years of slowly increasing tax revenues, the Library Board is likely to want to reduce this taxation once a new library is finally built? Most likely they will want to expand to spend every dollar taken instead of reducing their budgets.

The Functional Program Summary Report indicates a provision for a reconciliation and Indigenous Learning Circle Space. Surely that must also mean that this building should be located closer to where many Indigenous



community members reside? Or is that all just for show and talk but not really for action?

The city is operating in an emergency situation that this pandemic has created and it seems that some city administration and definitely the Library Board are oblivious to the actual reality on the ground. The Library Board already has enough money to continue with their planning for a structure and it takes years to complete drawings of this nature and to get building permits to start full construction. My asking for one year of reprieve so that we can look at the hardships that are hitting our society and our citizens should not be a big ask from the Library Board.

The library will never be a money-making proposition. The repeated claims that the library will create economic activity is a false statement. The library takes taxpayer funds that were economically generated in our city to provide a service. They are not in the hospitality industry, so this talk of creating another destination is a blind vision by a Board that wants their own monument to bookend the other taxpayer funded monument (the Remail Modern) at the other end of 2nd Avenue. Using the same people to sell taxpayers the same promises made for the Remail is becoming thin fast.

The Library Board and CEO seem ambivalent towards the concerns of average people in this city. The staff compensation level at the library averages at \$89,733 per full time equivalent. Of course, many do not make this amount of money. The CEO makes just over \$190,000 a year. At just over \$15,800 per month, the Library CEO isn't too worried about the same concerns as the average citizen. Nor are the library managers and directors really worried about paying more property tax to cover another excessive civic structure.

If they persist with this game that it is their turn and, do or die, they will get their money and library, they should hope that I am not elected to head this city. I will be a loud voice against this if I am elected Mayor and it is my hope that many councillors will agree with my view in this emergency situation. As far as failing maintenance issues with the current library building, if the Library Board properly managed their facility over the long term, these issues would always be properly funded and maintained.

Also, the irreplaceable special collections should be stored elsewhere immediately, as there is no current fire protection. If you buy a car and drive it

without oil changes or new tires, who's fault is a breakdown later on the road? There is no indication that this Library Board will physically manage a brand-new building any different than the older one they siphoned money away from. If they had put some of the millions that they already took from taxpayers into the existing structure they have, would we even be talking about a new library?

I am not afraid to do the right thing for Saskatoon. We can promote the library service and still feel that this particular library proposal is unfair to taxpayers, especially in a pandemic!

My name is Cary Tarasoff and I want to serve you as Mayor of Saskatoon.

There's work to be done!

For more information, contact: [carytarasoff@sasktel.net](mailto:carytarasoff@sasktel.net)

# Safety in Saskatoon through development

October 21, 2020 | Cary Tarasoff, Press Release, Safety

# **PRESS RELEASE** SAFETY

PRESS RELEASE - issued October 9, 2020

Mayor Clark states that he is the best voice for safety and infill development in Saskatoon. Mr. Norris feels that he should head up the Police Commission and that we need a bunch of “Blue Ribbon” committees. This is just political posturing.

When I look at Mayor Clark’s current plan, all I see is a shopping list of failures for the past 4 years that he was supposed to be leading on. This goes back further another 13 years prior to that with Don Atchison as Mayor and Charlie as a Councillor. Regurgitating the same speeches isn’t progress.

After 8 years on the Police Commission, Mayor Clark can only point to one thing he spearheaded and that is a motion from June of this year. Kind of late to figure out you should have been contributing more than this all along, I would say.

What are big issues for people in the city but especially those living or working in Riversdale, Pleasant Hill, and Caswell Hill? How about good New Attainable Housing and Residential Infill Development.

Did Mayor Clark realize that his own City Annual Report for 2019 shows conflicting reporting on this critical issue?

“Performance Targets with Trends – Community Support” calls for 500 or more “New Attainable Housing Units” each year. In 2016, that number was 525. In 2017, that dropped to 377. In 2018, that dropped further to 142. Last year, it was at 145. That was given a “neutral” long term progress grade by the City themselves. Really?!

Here is the head scratcher. “Performance Targets with Trends – Urban Planning and Development” calls for 200 or more “New Attainable Housing Units” each year. Somehow “Community Support” is supposed to reach 500+ units when “Planning” only sees 200+ as a target. Still though, their year to year numbers are identical to “Community Support” and the 145 in 2019 was the latest reported. Again, that is seen as a “neutral” long term progress grade.

“Residential Infill Development Targets - Urban Planning and Development” call for a target of 25% of development over the last 5 years. That rolling average was 14.8% in 2016, it was 13.7% in 2017, it was 14.8% in 2018 and finally 13.9% in 2019. Far short of the target.

Last year, Mayor Clark and City Council were very quick to act on a water filled home in an affluent area of Briarwood to move to demolish this for the good of the neighborhood. Yet only recently has the Saskatoon Fire Service been able to expedite the demolition of some boarded-up properties in the core areas of the city. And after some of these are demolished, the property still remains in the name of the original owner, which does not free it up for redevelopment. There may be a large bill from the City for this work, but if the homeowner does not or can not pay this, time will move on and the land is still legally tied up and not available for infill.

Therefore, the fire issue might be reduced but the social issues are not cleared up. The City of Winnipeg has a Taking Title to Vacant and Derelict Building Bylaw and the action from that puts forward a process where the City follows some steps and at the end, they can legally level a site and immediately own the land for quick redevelopment. Saskatoon needs this level of power.

Infill development adds population. More people watching over things lowers the ability of criminals to operate. If the City put more effort into this area, disenfranchised people would feel pride. But too often, many view these

neighborhoods as a dumping ground for anything and everything that the City wants to ignore.

Rob Norris talking about being the head of the Police Commission is a further insult since he has no on-the-ground experience and his grand standing like a provincial politician will only serve to hurt local interests later when his performance is woefully underwhelming.

Putting off every tough topic as a reason for another “Blue Ribbon” panel is just deflection. Start thinking “Blue Collar” if you want to make a difference in this area of the city. Either be prepared to get your hands dirty or step aside!

I want vacant land redeveloped. I want open commercial land in Riversdale, Caswell Hill, and Pleasant Hill to be free from unfair Offsite Levies. If you want to take back a community, give people better places to live and new potential employment.

I worked on 20th Street for years as a kid. I also lived on 20th Street while in University. My background is diverse with 30+ years of development experience. Beyond being a Registered Architectural Technologist in Saskatchewan, I am also a Registered Professional Planner in Saskatchewan and Canada.

Where most other candidates have to ‘phone a friend’ to find out what options might exist for this issue, I have substantial real world personal experience that will push me as Mayor to drive the City Administration and City Council in the right direction.

We need a better-informed leader to head City Hall and I am exactly that person.

My name is Cary Tarasoff and I want to serve as your Mayor.

For more information, contact: [carytarasoff@sasktel.net](mailto:carytarasoff@sasktel.net)



# Downtown Infrastructure Projects

October 13, 2020 | Cary Tarasoff, Media Questions




**Saskatoon has two major downtown infrastructure projects in the works. What is your position on plans to build a new downtown arena, and where do you think it should go? (question posed by Alex MacPherson of the StarPhoenix to all mayoral candidates)**

Actually, the city has four downtown infrastructure projects in the works. Moving the rail lines is a massive infrastructure issue which actually limits the ability of all others to proceed. The Bus Rapid Transit proposal consists of large permanent bus terminals which are a significant financial obligation and which would have to be arranged in the downtown core depending on the location of the arena and other facilities. As far as the new arena itself, I would like to say that the best place for the arena would be in the north downtown because we already own the land. But I have a problem with creating an entirely new entertainment district around this proposed arena. All that this district will establish is a place to draw away patrons from hotels, restaurants, and bars further from the downtown core. And the development of this area will be done with the tax money generated from these existing downtown businesses, which is another painful hurt for these landmarks. So, after thought and having toured the Edmonton arena, I believe

that the best location for the new arena is in the north Midtown Plaza parking lot. I do not believe that the River Landing area is a good use for this project. I think it is poorly served by transportation connections and that land is better served with other higher end developments that offer a range of opportunities. The Midtown Plaza location is specific because it allows synergies between TCU Place and many nearby hotels like the Bessborough, for example. It would also lend itself well then to the proposed convention space creation as another shared activity. Creating a new entertainment district too far away from this will create economic activity by simply removing a large component of existing economic activity from these existing businesses and taxpayers. In other words, you will take away economic activity from the downtown core to displace it into the new entertainment district created at more expense. If we end up putting the arena in the Midtown Plaza north parking lot, we can solidify the downtown core and the proximity to businesses on 20th Street and as such we can bring up the entire area.

# Infill Development

October 13, 2020|Cary Tarasoff, Media Questions

2019 ANNUAL REPORT   BUSINESS LINES							
Performance Measures							
Performance Targets with Trends – LAND DEVELOPMENT							
Measures	Targets	2016	2017	2018	2019	Year-Over-Year Progress	Long-Term Progress
Residential Infill Development (5 Yr. Avg)	Average of 25% Development Over the Last 5 Years	2012-2016 14.8%	2013-2017 13.7%	2014-2018 14.8%	2015-2019 13.9%	Neutral	

**City hall has set ambitious infill development goals, but fallen short of them. What is your view on the balance between infill and greenfield development, and what it means for the city over the coming years? (question posed by Alex MacPherson of the StarPhoenix to all mayoral candidates)**

The cost of running a city increases every year. Salaries go up, equipment needs to be replaced, more services are offered. There are a lot of changes each year which have an effect on the tax base that pay for it all. The biggest cost that seems to always be overlooked is the effect of expansion. We worry about response times for fire trucks and the cost of adding new police officers to patrol areas but we don't seriously look at the fact that expanding our city continually in such ways is the major driver of these costs. So many people are nothing but focused on expanding our city to half a million in the greater area yet they are not focused on good development to 300,000 citizens. Even though our province is now reporting a net loss of population. The fast, easy way for our existing politicians and city officials is to grow outwards because that's what they've always done in the past. In fact, the better thing for the city long term is to grow inwards as much is possible. As previously mentioned, fire halls around the city are required to cut response times yet their existing response times are now also a concern. The police station that services the entire city is centrally located yet every officer and every patrol car must start and finish from that location. Everything from garbage collection, snow removal, parks and recreation, all require vehicles

and personnel to navigate further and further out each day to get to the worksite. My personal preference is that we do more infill or brownfield development. I can tell you that projects like Arbutus Solaire are not even on my radar as required for the next council term.

# Residential Speed Limits

October 13, 2020|Cary Tarasoff, Media Questions



**What is your view on the proposal to lower residential speed limits?  
(question posed by Alex MacPherson of the StarPhoenix to all mayoral  
candidates)**

I have not read any technical documents which prove the case that lowering the speed limit is required at this time. I am aware of documents produced which called for the lowering of speed limits in school zones to reduce instances of fatalities within certain areas around schools. But as a general course of action, I don't believe that lowering the speed limits around the city will serve the general good at this time.



# Helping Businesses

October 13, 2020|Cary Tarasoff, Media Questions



**The mayor and council have limited control over the local economy but, as the city recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, what specific things would you do to help businesses? (question posed by Alex MacPherson of the StarPhoenix to all mayoral candidates)**

City administration is one of the biggest hindrances to successful small business in the city. The level and complexity of bureaucracy that has been created and continues to expand is mind-boggling at times. Too often city officials forget the fact that their sole purpose is to serve the city and the general public and instead they act like they are the city when, in fact, they are only temporarily employed by it. Some jurisdictions are very proactive in helping residents and businesses alike succeed. I do not mean that they ignore regulations or proper procedures, but what they do is they start out with the attitude that they need to do what they can to help this project, not to hinder it or control it. Too often our city administration creates numerous silos of a workflow so when you apply for a permit, it must pass through the hands of so many people one after the other to finally get approved. One person has one small element of that task. Nothing further takes place until that is dealt with and then it moves on. In other jurisdictions, one person might handle three or four elements of the task. So, if they do respond with a question over an application, they will be asking for three or four areas simultaneously. In this way, much like lean manufacturing, people have a wider skill set and they apply that skill set at one sitting on any given project that they are reviewing.

Therefore, if you've passed through one part of the process, you've actually passed through three or four steps in one shot. We need to change the culture at the city to start believing in serving the people so that they can succeed.

# Downtown Safety

October 13, 2020|Cary Tarasoff, Media Questions, Safety



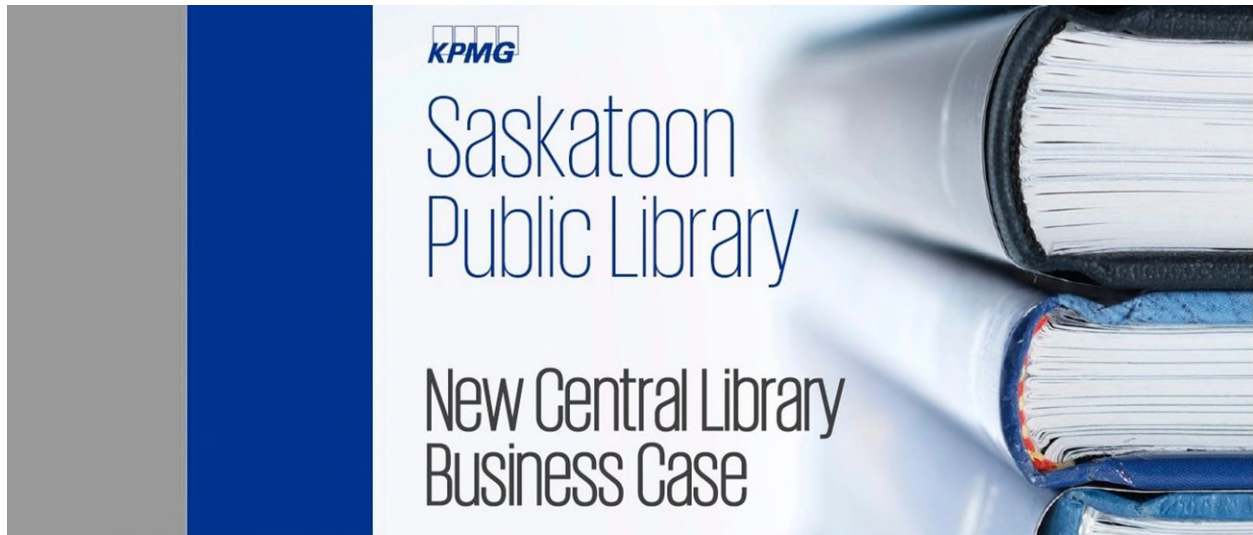
**Downtown business groups and others have complained about public safety issues in the central business district, and the perception the area is growing more dangerous. Do you agree? What would you do to ease those concerns? (question posed by Alex MacPherson of the StarPhoenix to all mayoral candidates)**

I absolutely agree that there has been more violence in certain areas of our downtown core than I can remember in recent history. There is an abundance of people walking the street which don't always appear to be living in reality either due to mental health or addictions. These people become unpredictable without provocation or a signal that things are changing. It is not uncommon to walk around the downtown core and find people yelling in a conversation with parking metres, for example. The level of agitation that some of these people exhibit is a valid concern for anyone walking near them who is not prepared to deal with sudden outbursts or change in behaviour. And as seems always the case lately, the police are called to come sort out what is happening. If the presence of an armed officer causes this person to further escalate, requiring police to take action, then society will also then judge the police for having taken that action, even though there might be no other choice. The location of the Lighthouse and the density of people that are living there with issues is a big negative focal point. My view is that we can't just simply pick up the Lighthouse to move it to a new location where all our problems will be solved. We can, however, work to divide and lower the

density of that structure so that we provide targeted treatment for people best suited to take advantage and benefit from it. And I believe that some of those locations should be dispersed away from the downtown core of the city. This is a provincial issue with the huge citywide implication. It will take coordination between many levels of government and many well-meaning groups to find solutions. It may be that we need a mental-health security team which operates for the time being in the downtown core which is bolstered by the city police when called upon. But better plans that are not the status quo need to be made and carried out.

# New Central Library

October 13, 2020|Cary Tarasoff, Library, Media Questions



**What is your stance on the new central library branch? (question posed by Alex MacPherson of the StarPhoenix to all mayoral candidates)**

I don't believe that a standalone library of this stature should be built. In this digital age, I think a more conservative structure should be envisioned and I think that that structure should be multi-use so that it ties into other usage groups to help foster cross use and a higher level of activity throughout the day and evening. The most inefficient building for the city to build and maintain is a standalone structure. Some of the most successful branch libraries in Saskatoon share space alongside other amenities such as a swimming pool or a hockey rink, for example. If the library is supposed to offer these great spaces and these inviting meeting rooms to draw people in, why not best take advantage of that so that they coexist with other stakeholder groups which would use that facility more often. Is that not in our best interest? Immediately, I would halt any borrowing for the library and I would work to stop the library from taking another \$5 million next year out of city coffers to put in reserves. The city is operating in an emergency situation that this pandemic has created and it seems that some city administration and definitely the library board are oblivious to the actual reality on the ground. The library board already has enough money to continue with their planning for a structure and it takes years to complete drawings of this nature and to get building permits to start full construction. My asking for one year of



reprieve so that we can look at the hardships that are hitting our society and our citizens should not be a big ask from the library board. The library will never be a money-making proposition. The repeated claims that the library will create economic activity is a false statement. The library takes taxpayer funds that were economically generated in our city to provide a service. They are not in the hospitality industry so this talk of creating another destination is a blind vision by a board that wants their own monument to bookend the other taxpayer funded monument (the Remai Modern) at the other end of 2nd Avenue. Using the same people to sell taxpayers the same promises made for the Remai is becoming thin fast. That the highly paid library executives do not live in the day to day financial reality of the average citizen does not excuse their ambivalence. If they persist with this game that it is their turn and do or die, they will get their money and library, they should hope that I am not elected to head this city. I will be a loud voice against this if I am elected Mayor and it is my hope that many councillors will agree with my view in this emergency situation. As far as failing maintenance issues with the current library building, if the library board properly managed their facility over the long term, these issues would always be properly funded and maintained. If you buy a car and drive it without oil changes or new tires, who's fault is a breakdown later down the road? There is no indication that this library board will physically manage a brand-new building any different than the older one they siphoned money away from. If they had put some of the millions that they already took from taxpayers into the existing structure they have, would we even be talking about a new library?

# Police Budget

October 13, 2020|Cary Tarasoff, Media Questions



**Police reform has been a major point of discussion, and contention, across North America this year. What is your position on the current Saskatoon police budget, and how do you respond to calls that those funds would be more effective if spent elsewhere? (question posed by Alex MacPherson of the StarPhoenix to all mayoral candidates)**

My current position on the police force is that I would not touch their budget whatsoever. We still are in a period of escalating crime and that needs to be properly balanced with our policing service. While the fire hall and ambulance services have remote locations to work from around the city to cut response time, the police service have one central location in the entire city. So, as our city keeps growing further and further out with low density, this constantly adds to the struggle police have to be responsive and to cover that entire area. As far as mental health, the police have already created integrated units with mental health professionals accompanying them (PACT). These efforts that are currently underway, need to run their course for awhile before we can determine how much benefit we have seen. I agree that there needs to be a de-escalation in certain circumstances but those circumstances are usually fully developed before the police ever arrive and, as such, the police have to just deal with the state in which things are at when they do arrive. Again, the

police are being used as a catchall and this has to stop. There are circumstances where, if caught earlier, some mental health situations could be dealt with outside of police intervention. This needs to be our focus and it would be my focus as Mayor of Saskatoon. It can also be said, though, that some hardened criminals have mental health issues but these mental issues do not excuse their behaviour nor should they warrant them being allowed to freely operate in our society.

# Active Transportation

October 13, 2020|Cary Tarasoff, Media Questions



**The current city council has emphasized improvements to transit and pushed for more active transportation infrastructure. What is your position on the planned Bus Rapid Transit-style system and efforts to make getting around easier for pedestrians and cyclists? (question posed by Alex MacPherson of the StarPhoenix to all mayoral candidates)**

My view is that this bus rapid transit system has its future hopes pinned on a few variables that are not yet distinguished. The principal key component to that is the location of the new arena. Creating a new arena and having BRT access many blocks away would be a large detriment to the success of such a project. And we can't establish a reasonable location for an arena without also looking at the negative effects of rail traffic in our city. The library is also tied to the BRT, and its success will also be directly linked to it. The one wildcard that has yet to be fully discussed is the downtown bus terminal. I think that a bus rapid transit system for our city is premature. To expect that replacing one type of bus transportation for another type at great expense is going to make a landmark difference is naïve. Currently, our bus transportation costs the city more than \$25 million a year beyond what it makes. It is a required social service not likely to ever be a money-making operation. What I would like to see is that we do our best to improve the service we currently have to start. A project that can be independent of a greater BRT system but also could be integrated later into a new bus system.

In that improvement is predictive modelling. I have talked years ago to the Dean of Computational Science at the University of Saskatchewan about running a grad student program to create a system which would help city transit predictive model bus transportation dynamically. There are few moving parts and we could create our own homegrown solution at a reasonably low cost and our own people would get that up and running which would help better predict ridership along our bus transit routes and would also help the system establish better trending across all the ridership. While it wouldn't know who individual patrons are, it would have a sense that a rider gets on a bus at a bus stop every day at a certain time and then follows through the system until they depart at another location across the city, even across multiple bus routes. We need to increase our efficiency of our current system and try to get our ridership some where close to the targets that are already set but not met. Once we have a more efficient system in higher ridership satisfaction then other variables such as the proposed arena location might be known. As far as bike lanes, my main stance on bike lanes is that I do not want them to coexist with heavy traffic. I believe there are too many circumstances in the city currently that are dangerous for both the bicyclists and the vehicle operators. Bicycles were not designed to coexist with heavy vehicles so we need to start taking steps to provide their own travel ways around the city which give them their own safety and access. People are fairly adamant that they do not want bicycles riding down their sidewalks where walking traffic are present and it is basically the same circumstance for vehicles and bicycles on heavy roads. And when I mean heavy roads, I mean roads like Idylwyld Drive, 8th Street, 33rd Street and such.



# City Action Going Forward

October 13, 2020|Cary Tarasoff, Media Questions

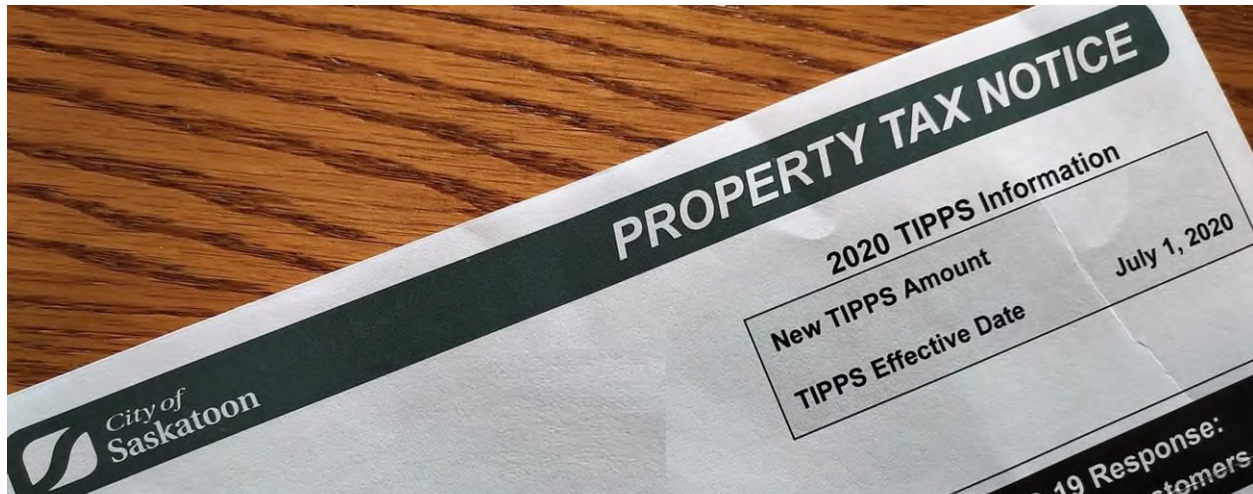


**In your mind, what is the most important consideration for the new mayor and council when it comes to guiding the city through the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic hardships? (question posed by Alex MacPherson of the StarPhoenix to all mayoral candidates)**

Most important consideration at this time is to stop unnecessary debt taking. Any and all other responses to this pandemic are surely to require change and manpower or an outlay of resources. Both of which require funding. The significance of the pandemic seems to be lost on our current mayor and a lot of the current council. Perhaps in their normal lives, this is only a slightly significant issue, but they have lost track of the overall effect on the general population of the city of Saskatoon. And that would be civilian population and business. If Charlie Clark wants "citizens to be proud of every tax dollar spent and to see the result in a city that has efficient services and great quality of life", he needs to get the basic things right like sidewalks, transit and affordable housing. Taking on large debt for associated construction projects, when the cost of those projects can explode due to the actual COVID-19 restrictions, is irresponsible.

# Property Tax Increase

October 12, 2020 | Cary Tarasoff, Media Questions



**Property tax increases have averaged 4.2 per cent over the last four years, and are slated to go up 3.87 per cent next year. Given that COVID-19 has been detrimental to many individuals' finances and also to the city's coffers, what is your position on these increases? (question posed by Alex MacPherson of the StarPhoenix to all mayoral candidates)**

Regarding tax increases, I believe at this point I cannot promise to cut anything in property taxes. Currently, we are running a deficit and if the powers have their way, we will be taking on a large amount of debt along with increased library taxes in the future. During a pandemic, which is really an emergency situation, the best we should hope for is to tighten up our spending to save available debt ceiling, and wait out the majority of the effects of this critical situation. It seems counterproductive for me to promise to completely cut tax increases while already knowing that the city is spending money it does not have. My view is that City Hall has not been taking this pandemic seriously and they are pressing on with major projects as if nothing otherwise is happening, continuing as if this is a great opportunity to take on more debt. It makes no sense to have a partially completed new library or arena or bus rapid transit system, all of which are redundant systems, to then find out that we no longer have room in our debt limit to make major infrastructure repairs for the general society in the worst-case scenario.

# Marquis Downs

October 12, 2020|Cary Tarasoff, Prairieland Park



I have received a lot of inquiries concerning the current state of Marquis Downs and how Prairieland Park is handling this facility.

When the Dakota Dunes Casino opened in 2007, Prairieland Park was required to close the Emerald Casino. As a result, SIGA agreed to pay an annual amount of \$2,600,004 to Prairieland Park, in monthly instalments, to compensate for the lost income from the casino closure. The term of this agreement is a period of thirty years. According to some sources, a significant part of this payment was to go to maintain the operations of Marquis Downs. However, I have been advised that Prairieland Park seems to have continually withheld most of these funds for use in expanding their convention space.

There has been a definite shift in the operations of Prairieland Park over the last decades. While they continue to show some agriculture based exhibitions over the years, it is also clear that they are a smaller player now in this AG marketplace, with much larger farm shows like AG in Motion taking the lion's share. The Prairieland Park property is zoned as an AG-Agricultural District and has a fifty year lease with the City to April 30, 2045 whereby their annual rent to the City is \$100. (I also note that the AG-Agricultural District zoning does not include "tavern" as a permitted use, which I believe that Sports on Tap would fall under.)

In the last number of years, Prairieland Park is really being rebranded and refocused to be the World Trade Center Saskatoon. This direction sees them pushing hard for things that compete directly with some of the hotel industry and other civic enterprises like SaskTel Centre and TCU Place. Meetings, conventions, banquets, weddings, tradeshow events, and large training scenarios are now the main focus of Prairieland Park.

I believe in the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA) and the good they bring to Saskatoon. Racing brings teams into Saskatoon from all over western Canada. It provides meaningful employment to many

local people who are otherwise marginalized. It also greatly supports the efforts of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM).

One issue that is repeatedly brought up with me is the after racing care for the life of the horses. This hasn't always been reasonable in the eyes of the public at large. However, I am aware that efforts are underway to address the lifespan of these athletic horses and I believe these new efforts will calm any opposition to the industry as a whole.

I want Prairieland Park to acknowledge that they need to stop withholding funds intended for Marquis Downs and to work to restore the business case for Marquis Downs. If Prairieland Park fails to do this, then I believe it is time that the City of Saskatoon, as lease holder of this site, makes an effort to remove Marquis Downs from Prairieland Park and to let another worthy group take this on with an eye on the future of racing in Saskatoon and a nod to the culture of horses in our greater society. There is only one race track in Saskatchewan and we should support Marquis Downs and encourage its growth.

## References

[Lease Agreement Between The City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition Corporation, effective the 1st day of March, 1995](#)

[Saskatoon Prairieland Park Corporation -- 2019 Annual Report](#)

[Zoning Bylaw No. 8770 of the City of Saskatoon \( AG-Agricultural District on page 12-1\)](#)