



Social and Economic Development

Social and economic development are my highest priorities as they underpin progress towards climate justice, sustainability and urban vitality. I pushed for and achieved strategic infrastructure and green space amendments within the strategic plan “Our Winnipeg 2045 and Complete Communities.” However, there is more work to do in local and regional planning and much more work to do in drawing money and investments for Winnipeg. It is a big part of what motivates me to run successfully for another term as a City Councillor.

Planning

I am committed to collaborative planning with the Winnipeg Metro region, Capital Planning, and the governance work required to honour our treaty relationships. Beyond building the governance structures that make sense for a strong Capital region, my priorities include emergency services (environmental protection, climate resilience, public health), sewage infrastructure (sustainable growth/high-quality built environment), transportation corridors (building on the success of Centreport), and natural and green infrastructure planning.

New Fiscal Deal

I’m a proponent of a new fiscal deal; I’m also a proponent of a new deal for big cities within Canada’s governance framework. Silent downloading by the provincial government has further stressed that regulatory barriers already hamstring Winnipeg’s services. For example, the provincial government is silently downloading housing to municipalities; or being AWOL on community-based health and social services support for citizens in dire need. In the absence of provincial support, I have worked as a Councillor to secure federal support to build more affordable housing and addictions health. The current state of provincial legislative and regulatory frameworks overlooks and undermines the “big city role” of Winnipeg; being a successful municipal leader now means navigating what is traditionally conceived constitutional work. Successful Capital regions elsewhere have had more support: a new fiscal deal and Charter arrangement are overdue for Winnipeg.

Road Renewal

Fort Rouge East Fort Garry has been the beneficiary, as are other wards, of Municipal infrastructure funding and accelerated regional road renewal. Over the last two years, I've rolled out a plan to advocate for strategic infrastructure and the fiscal relationships that enable them with the province, the federal government, and First Nation government partners. This includes other strategic infrastructure priorities, including road renewal.

In every vote and budget speech, I emphasize the importance of strategic infrastructure and its role in underpinning "complete" communities focused on social and economic development. Showing up to these files is a priority for me, even if other politicians in this province may not be interested or concerned. When the province announced additional funding for roads and pothole repair in May, my interest and pushed for the \$9 million investment was to immediately partner with the industry on a concomitant asphalt patch truck announcement to increase capacity. During those days, I was in frequent contact with Chris Lorenc and Manitoba Heavy to ensure the industry could respond to the demand.

Steady Investment

I am a member of the Finance Committee and contributed to the backroom and front room architecture of the multi-year budget. It is no secret that I was not 100% happy with how austere the budgets have become and how unsustainable they are concerning revenue. As a Councillor, I am committed to predictable investments in infrastructure; Winnipeg needs significant infrastructure renewal, and the industry needs predictability to respond to that demand.

Winnipeg alone cannot provide this predictability. For example, the dedicated tax was a concept built around revenue streams that eroded on many levels for Winnipeg. Unpredictable (though appreciated) federal top-ups combined with a provincial government that refuses to match infrastructure spending in the manner other provinces do combine to make it difficult to commit or predict where we need to be in our budget forecasts. A provincial government not developing or committing to a responsible economic plan (or even being able to discuss economic development) has been a problem for our City. The unacceptable delays regarding the North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) are the most prominent case in point within a constellation of files where the province has been missing in action, waiting too long to commit to a necessary pillar upon which the Capital Region grows.

Manitoba Heavy has been a good partner and speaks forcefully on priorities I share. I want to thank Manitoba Heavy for enduring advocacy and commitment to democratic advocacy, including sustainable, long-term and incremental core infrastructure programs.