



# Ron Fode

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## 5.Who are you and why should I vote for you?

My name is Ron Fode and I am a lifetime Hatter. I am hard worker who has worked for the man, managed large companies as well as owning my own business. I have governance experience and am always a team player. I live my life with integrity and truly care about the future of Medicine Hat! You should vote for me because I promise honesty and commitment when dealing with the topics that matter most to Hatters!

## 6.What Governance, Board, Council, Community or Committee experience do you have in your past that would make you a good Councillor?

I have served on many boards including Pheasants Forever and the Canadian Search Dog Association. Adding to this governance and board education. When I commit, I commit. I am committed to being a team player and serving with honesty and integrity-the same way I live my life.

## 7.What is your professional/work background & how do you think that will help with being a councilor?

From Blue Collar worker to management to owning my own business I am versed at every level. I take pride in everything I take on. I respect all opinions no matter where u are in the structure. My past experience gives me the necessary skills to understand where people are coming from and why they feel the way they do.

## 8.What is your leadership style?

I lead with respect and positivity, always having an open mind while listening to others. We will be a team and we have to come to our decisions by looking at all the angles.

## 9.If you could only do one thing for this city in your term, what do you want that thing to be?

Simple answer - Balance the budget! We have to get spending under control. I am committed to analyzing the budget to see where we are overspending ensuring we aren't cutting back on essential services.

10. In the event you're elected to council, and we were to review your performance 12 months down the road, what metric should we judge you on?

In 12 months I hope to hear people say I was true to my campaign, that I am serving with honesty, integrity and commitment. I hope to have earned the respect of all council and the citizens of Medicine Hat.

11. In terms of preparing for complex budgets, bylaw restructuring, as well as general communicative skills among the public and amongst council, how would you rate your readiness level for governance, and why?

I am ready! Dealing with budgets and policy is something I am very skilled in due to past and present experience. I enjoy talking to people about what really matters and working as a team.

12. Given the diverse field of candidates and polarity of opinions around the horseshoe it will be critical that council comes together as one. With the backdrop of the last 4 years and the inaction it has brought to the city collaboration and swift change will be a high expectation of the citizens.

What does collaboration mean to you? Can you describe how you plan to collaborate with your new colleagues?

Collaboration to me starts with respect. We don't all share the same views and we need to listen to others and take everything in to consideration when coming to a decision! We have to remember we represent the people so our collaboration includes YOU!

13. How many city council meetings have you attended/viewed in the last year & what have you done to learn how municipal government works?



14. Some councilors have sat on council for multiple terms - some might feel this hinders the City moving forward (same old, same old...)

What is your view, thoughts, or opinion on instituting 'term limits' for the number of times an individual can sit on council? What maximum number of terms do you consider acceptable?

I think two, maybe three terms should be the limit. We cannot move forward with the same people term after term.

15. What is your vision for Medicine Hat in the next 5-10 years?

I want to see Medicine Hat thrive on all fronts. New Businesses coming here, affordable housing, Medicine Hat regaining the beauty it was once known for and seeing our utilities making us money so we can put money back in the pockets of Hatters. I love this city and I am excited to serve this community.

16. What would you do to restore trust within the community?

I think in order to restore trust we need prove that we are all on council to represent the citizens of Medicine Hat. Personally I live by honestly and integrity and hope this is something that citizens will see. Trust is earned and we have to continually work to maintain that trust once earned.

17. What do you believe is the role of City Council versus the role of the City Manager?

The city manager is an advisor to council. They bring the facts and council then needs to make a decision based on those facts. It is imperative that both party's stay in their lane and follow protocol.

18. What are your thoughts on a Ward or Council responsible for an area of the city?

As part of my campaign I have expressed that I would like to explore a ward system or any other system that keeps council member accountable. Right now it's hard for citizens to know who to ask for what and often times their request is not responded too. This not acceptable and we need to think about new ways to change this.

19. Are you able to give 100% of your time to Council or do you have another business that will split your time commitment?

I currently work until 3pm daily and the rest of my time will be spent working for the citizens of Medicine Hat.

20.If you could change one thing/decision this last council did, what would that be, and why?

I have a few answers to this but I would have to say the decision to change Division Avenue. Traffic needs to flow not slow. Let's use common sense when making these decisions and ask the citizens before the problem is created.

21.What was the biggest challenge with Council in the last term and what can be done to resolve that moving forward?

Team work, lack of respect for each other's roles and leadership. We can change this by electing good, trustworthy and honest people to council. Electing council members who lead with respect and play well with others.

22.Can you share an example from your time on council, on a committee or in your personal life where you had to weigh conflicting information or opinions? How did you decide which input was most reliable?

23.Do you believe there is a different standard or different set of rules for you/Council vs. average citizens?

We need to lead by example. The rules are different, we need to be held to the highest standards and maintain that throughout our terms.

24.Everyone makes mistakes. I'd like to know, if you make a mistake do you accept accountability and own up to it ? Or do you say nothing and perhaps blame it on someone else?

I always own up to my mistakes. Mistakes aren't always negative, we learn from them and grow.

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What does collaboration mean to you? Can you describe how you plan to collaborate with your new colleagues?

26.How will you hold yourself accountable for building, nurturing, and maintaining professional relationships in your role?

I think the best way is to have an Open Door policy. Always ready to listen and act on requests and keeping those relationships solid.

27.What do you feel the role of for mayor and municipal councils to advocate when the provincial government makes decisions which damage the community?

We all need to create strong relationships with these levels of government to ensure Medicine Hat is heard. As mayor and council its our job to advocate for our citizens.

28.What are your plans for regional collaboration and building relationships with Cypress County, Redcliff and Brooks?

29.Is promising a property tax freeze or a promise to not increase taxes realistic? How would you propose to implement any taxation plans.

30.Most candidates tend to say "I won't raise taxes". How do you plan to support essential programs as services with less money?

We need to look at the budget and see where we are overspending. While ensuring essential services are maintained we have to stop spending on non essentials.

31.Are you for or against lower business expenses, fees and taxes at the cost of residential taxes going up?

I do not want to see an increase in taxes for at least two years. We have to get the budget under control before we start spending on large projects that aren't needs.

32.What is your plan to grow the tax base?

Growing the tax base will take 2-3 years, maybe more. We have to get Medicine Hat back on the map and create opportunities for economic growth. This means having infrastructure in place to allow us to be "Open for Business".

33.What services are you proposing to cut to be able to promise no tax increases (or even lower taxes). What roads won't be maintained? What recreation facilities will be closed? what parks won't be maintained? What infrastructure repairs will be deferred?

Simply put-we have to prioritize our wants and needs. Not cutting back on needs and holding off on the wants until the budget is under control

34.How would you handle all the asks put forward to the city while juggling amendments to the budget?



35.If Council freezes taxes, will they also pass a freeze on rental increases?

36.What steps will you take to protect local decision-making, strengthen our economy, and ensure that common-sense governance prevails over ideology?

This comes down to being accountable. We need to held accountable within our respective roles. We need open communication between the citizens of Medicine Hat and council as well as all levels of government

37.What do you believe is the role of consultants hired by the City and the value you believe they bring if they are from outside of our city?

I believe there are some situations where hiring a consultant is a need but having said this we are currently way overspending in this area. We need to hire the right person for the job. No more "it's who you know" it has to be "what you know".

38.What are your thoughts on the narrowing of Division Ave? What do you see as the concerns or hazards related to that roadway now?

I do not like what they have done to Division Avenue. It's an example of spending without looking at the ramifications. The black marks on the curbs tell it all. Trucks and large vehicles struggle to make turns. Bike lanes are fine but not at the expense of impacting the flow of traffic.

39.Would you consider re-building Division Ave to correct the mistakes that were made?

Unfortunately, what's done is done and we are not in a financial position to rip it up. If a proposal was put forward that made financial sense I would be all ears.

40.Where do you stand on creating the MCC and why?

I say no to the MCC. We need to hire the right people to run our energy business, plain and simple. If the MCC commits to turning a profit why can't we do that ourselves.

41.What are your views on the solar project?

42. Will you be able to help keep our utility bills as the lowest in the Province since we currently own our own utilities? How do you plan to achieve this?

43. What are your thoughts on selling Medicine Hat Utilities?

44. What is your plan to address the issues related to crime, mental health and addictions in Medicine Hat?

45. Is there more we can do (or should do) to reduce criminal activity in our city?

46. Where do you believe the emergency shelter should be located?

47. What is your position or perspective on flags on public buildings or government buildings?

48. What is your view on the proposed bylaw amendment (Land Use) to enable backyard chickens?

49. What do you believe is the Medicine Hat Advantage? How will you promote this advantage and increase our quality of life in Medicine Hat?

50. Would you strive to reduce the number of employees at City Hall?

51. Is there a way we can break down jobs on the local bids and tenders site so more for small businesses can obtain opportunities?  
Example: Mow a park, but the bid also includes cement pouring as well.

52. Is there anything Council can do to prevent large corporations from monopolizing housing in Medicine Hat?

53. What would you do to advertise and promote Medicine Hat to the rest of the country?

54. Every candidate has brought up "creating jobs and growing local economy". What is your position on remote work/jobs at City Hall?

55. How will you ensure Medicine Hat remains a welcoming place to all and uphold policies that protect marginalized communities?

56. What is your plan to grow Medicine Hat's population?

57. What is your approach to the complex infrastructure problems our city faces?

58. What would you do to move forward Medicine Hat as a labour friendly community?

59. What is your opinion of un-unionized workplaces and do you support them?

60. Surveys have indicated that a significant reason for people to choose to move to Medicine Hat are the parks and recreation facilities along with natural areas. How would you as Mayor of Medicine Hat prioritize supporting parks and natural areas within Medicine Hat as a component of quality of life for Medicine Hat citizens?

61. Climate change will increase extreme weather events and low stream flow in the South Saskatchewan River. The City of Medicine Hat will be challenged to provide water and other support services due to climate change in the future. How can the City Council and leadership best develop resiliency in face of these challenges?

62. What is your plan to keep young people in this city?

63. Tourism is an important economic driver for Medicine Hat. When elected my hope is that the Council and Mayor will plan to safeguard the natural areas and beauty of the city so visitors will continue to make it a holiday destination, or even their new home. After all, all Canadian cities have swimming pools, rinks and arenas but no other Canadian city has the beauty and health-giving benefits of Medicine Hat's river, coulees and parks. The citizens of Medicine Hat need clean water, air and soil as well as wild spaces and wildlife. These things are of real cultural and economic value to us all. When considering the approval of expanding or new business and manufacturing developments how high a priority should the Council and Mayor give to environmental stewardship?

64. There is a large impact that constantly changing policies have on the business sector and citizens of Medicine Hat involved in the hospitality and care industries. What are your views/stance on Temporary Foreign Workers, Student visas and RNIP for the city if the federal government reintroduces the policy?

65. As an avid cyclist, I commuted the last 7 years of working on streets, and found it was fine. Medicine Hat has a great system of recreational pathways but they need to be maintained better and expanded. Therefore there is no need restriction city vehicle traffic for bike lanes.

Do you favour using city funds to maintain and expand recreational bike paths or do you favour spending city funds on commuter bike lanes on streets?

66. Will you support the construction of a new recreation center in South Ridge during your term? Why or why not?

67. When it comes to mental health and addiction, much of the conversation focuses on treatment. But recovery is not a short term problem, it's a long term journey and the data shows that post-care should not be treated as 'extra' but as a core part of recovery. Post-care, peer support, and recovery coaching organizations often struggle with short-term, unstable funding. What would you do to ensure these programs are properly funded and sustained long-term, rather than relying on temporary project grants?

68. Do you support Medicine Hat paying Redcliff to handle our composting program?

69. Activities for generations are very separated in Medicine Hat. How would you promote intergenerational living and learning?

70. We have heard for a long time that there will be a second entrance to Saamis Heights. It has not happened, the traffic is getting worse and it is becoming very difficult to enter and leave the area, what will you do to see that this actually happens and when?