

From: John McCullagh

Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 12:20 AM

To: Fontana, Joe; Henderson, Dale; Swan, Joseph; Orser, Stephen; Van Meerbergen, Paul; White, Sandy; Polhill, Bud; Brown, Denise

Cc: Baechler, Joni; Bryant, Judy; Brown, Matt; Hubert, Paul; Armstrong, Bill; Branscombe, Nancy; Usher, Harold; Saunders, Cathy

Subject: budget

I want to add my voice to those concerned with the proposed city budget that places more emphasis on a zero percent tax increase than it does on providing a quality of life to the citizens of London.

I do not understand how one can believe that saving \$25 a year on taxes is more important than ensuring people have proper housing. Or that Londoners with disabilities are able to be part of a barrier free community. And to close children's wading pools seems petty and results in minimal savings. To top it off, raiding the city reserves is short sighted, at best, and demonstrates a lack of basic planning that will result in ongoing financial and social consequences.

To say these cuts are necessary because Londoners can not afford a tax increase is illogical. How is it financially better to live in housing that eats up too much of the household budget while waiting year after year for affordable housing? How is it any better for me to pay every time my family uses the pool at the Canada Games Aquatic Centre or Y instead of using a wading pool?

I join with my neighbours and community to strongly urge you to reject these cuts and instead work to make a city that is compassionate, inclusive, responsive and forward thinking.

Being elected leaders means more than watching the dollars. One of my favourite quotes comes from Hubert H. Humphrey who said "The moral test of a government is how it treats those who are at the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those who are in the shadow of life, the sick and the needy, and the handicapped."

Please keep these words in mind as you vote for decisions that affect the lives of everyone in this community.

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