My name is Riley McMurray

I was selected as a delegate to speak to the consultations on the 2020 budget. I'm not going today because it is a public health risk. I find it very reckless and irresponsible and furthermore done in very bad faith that the consultations are continuing to happen amid the pandemic.

Brian Bowman likes to present himself as someone who is very conscientious and someone who does the right thing, so I have a hard time believing that going ahead with the budget consultations at this time is due to a small oversight or "hard work ethic". I think it's a pretty calculated decision to undermine the democratic process and doubles as a public health risk as well. As someone who has a 92 year old grandfather in the hospital right now I feel insulted that they would roll the dice with his health.

Beyond that I would say that the responsibility of the government is to redistribute wealth in our society, I don't think that's a controversial thing to say, so I would suggest that money from the wealthy be redistributed to those who need it. I read in CBC news that two Canadian men own as much wealth as the bottom 1/3 of our entire population, and we know that that is true on a global scale as well with 7 individuals owning as much wealth as one half of the world population, so it's not hard to assume that similar disparities exist in Winnipeg as well.

We need to tax the rich and redistribute that so that people can access very basic public services and we need to increase public services as well. As a youth worker I worked with youth who would have to walk five kilometers in the cold because they didn't have bus fare, so these cuts are not abstract – they have real lived implications for people.

We need to stop with the cuts and invest in human beings.

https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/oxfam-davos-report-canadians-wealth-1.3937073