

Andrew Knack

Ward 1 Candidate

QUESTION 1: The City of Edmonton should take more action to make municipal land available for low-income affordable housing development (eg. surplus school land).

Although the city does need to take more action to make municipal land available for low-income affordable housing development, we do need to also be careful with using up our surplus school land. It will be challenging to balance this but as long as we realize that if we are to increase density in Edmonton, those that move into affordable housing will also need nearby access to schools as well.

QUESTION 2: There is not enough subsidized housing in some neighbourhoods, and the City must ensure a better distribution in all neighbourhoods throughout Edmonton.

Within Ward 1 we already see that certain communities have an over-concentration of subsidized housing and this does need to be equally distributed across the city. Ensuring the necessary public services are in place to support those in subsidized housing is important for their long-term success.

QUESTION 3: The City should seek to use zoning flexibility (on issues such as required parking spaces) to support the development of more affordable housing initiatives.

The city has a responsibility to more equally distribute subsidized housing across all communities and therefore zoning flexibility will be required in some neighbourhoods where no subsidized housing exists.

QUESTION 4: The City should commit funding to extend the Cornerstones Affordable Housing program.

I believe this is a program that should be expanded city-wide as it has been a successful program for Edmonton.

QUESTION 5: The City should create a comprehensive plan to address the need for thousands of units of affordable housing in a comprehensive and coordinated way that includes attention to schools, public transportation, and community services.

This is the most important step for ensuring that affordable housing has the positive impact we desire and receives more proactive public support.

QUESTION 6: The City is doing a good job to end chronic homelessness through the current 10 Year Plan and the work of the Edmonton Homeless Commission.

Edmonton is leading the way in North America through its 10 Year Plan to end homelessness but obviously there is still a great deal of work that must be done. The questions above show the areas that the city stands to improve and once we start addressing those other areas we will be on our way to meeting our goal.

QUESTION 7: The City must be more active in advocating with the provincial and federal governments for more funding and better policies on affordable housing.

With limited funding available, the priority should be improving the policies for affordable housing. This would result in tangible benefits and ideally make affordable housing more readily available to those that need it.

QUESTION 8: The City must develop better ways to gather views of all residents about housing issues and not depend so significantly on input from community leagues and developers.

As we have seen with the proposed development in Terwillegar, better communication is very important in creating more proactive support across the city for affordable housing. Although community leagues and developers need to be at the table, the city should work on bringing out residents so that they will understand why these developments are needed and so they can share their thoughts on what will be needed to make each project successful.

QUESTION 9: Finally, you may provide any additional comments about any other aspects of housing and homelessness.

No answer.