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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).

It is important to have a mixed range of housing possible in all neighbourhoods but the cost of developing affordable housing may make this difficult in some areas. Use of municipal land, as part of good overall planning, can contribute to the potential of spreading affordable housing in all areas of the city.

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

Edmonton is a diverse city and steadily becoming more so. Economic diversity in every neighbourhood is one way we build cohesion and have safe healthy neighbourhoods for all. Better funding of the provincial rent subsidy program would help make sure unexpected circumstances did not force people well-settled in their homes in communities from having to move to poorer housing.

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.

I have supported zoning change allowing the creation of secondary suites as another way to increase the supply of affordable housing.

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

I have been a strong supporter of the Cornerstones program since it began and support it continuing to do what it can, demonstrating that the City sees affordable housing as part of its infrastructure commitment. While it is valuable for the City to do what it is able, actual funding of the development of affordable housing, with the shortfall of thousands of units that currently exists, is far beyond the capacity of the City and can only happen by significant investment from the provincial and federal governments.

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.

The current community plan is a helpful document as it identifies the needs for various types of shelter and housing, and the projected change over the next few years. Having a comprehensive plan is an improvement on this good beginning, but as noted in Question 4, without a financial commitment from other orders of government a plan will do little more than provide a clear description of the difficulties many face in having appropriate, secure and affordable homes. Such a plan would be a good partner

with other existing planning such as the Transportation Master Plan and the Neighbourhood Renewal Plan.

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 has been a leader in Canada in taking action related to homelessness, however the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness is only meaningful if the commitment of the provincial and federal governments is in place to make it possible to enact the plan. But the 10 Year Plan cannot be confused with a comprehensive plan on housing as it only addresses one part of this issue and unless it is integrated with a fuller plan there will always be new people finding themselves homeless. The 10 Year Plan has been especially valuable in engaging a broader public in talking about this issue and being concerned, and the volunteer leadership of caring citizens with the Homeless Commission sets an example that is inspirational for the rest of Edmonton.

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.

Edmonton has been a strong voice at the federal and provincial levels, working within AUMA and FCM over the years. Because funding is still not adequate, this needs to be a continuing priority for the new City Council.

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.

There is always more that can be done to improve how we seek and listen to the voices of every element in the community. On many issues related to housing and development the City uses a wide variety of ways to solicit the views of people and when possible makes special efforts to invite the views of those who might find it difficult to provide input in the ways typically used. I will always be vigilant to ensure we get better at this.

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

Every person deserves a good place to call home. This provides security and a solid base to maintain everyday life. It is hard to raise a family or hold a job when you do not know where you might be living the next month. The stress of knowing you cannot afford to have decent housing can affect health and well-being in many ways. As we ensure every person and every family has safe healthy affordable housing we also ensure our communities are better places for everyone to live. Edmonton has a long history of understanding the role of affordable housing in our overall urban development and I am committed to this being a key part of how we create the future in our rapidly growing city.