

Heather MacKenzie

Ward 6 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).

No answer.

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

I strongly agree with this statement but also believe that we need to provide excellent services to people living in subsidized housing, such as good transit so that they are not isolated.

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.

No answer.

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

Having worked in community development for the past 10 years, I am aware that short term grants and projects are not adequate for serving the needs of our most vulnerable populations and predictable, sustainable funding is needed.

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.

I strongly agree with this statement and believe that the comprehensive plan should be research based and flexible enough to allow for innovative and creative solutions to emerge from within the communities in need of affordable housing.

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.

I strongly agree with this statement but feel that both the province and the city must do more to address mental health issues that many people who are homeless are facing.

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.

In particular, I believe that we should engage in more joint advocacy with school boards, and other municipalities on these topics.

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.

I don't currently know enough about the ways in which the city gathers views on this topic to have an opinion either way, but will certainly look into their public engagement processes regarding housing as well as find out how much their decisions are based on indicators of success for those who are in need of homes.

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

I am running on a platform of building a more vibrant, resilient and inclusive city. I see addressing the needs of residents for adequate housing as key to all 3 pillars of my campaign. In particular, I would like to see the development of more affordable seniors housing in neighbourhoods so that people can age-in-place and I would like to see more affordable housing that is inclusive of children in the core of our city. I believe that we still have a lot of work ahead of us in order to end homelessness in Edmonton and I am wholeheartedly committed to that work and will be listening to the voices of our most vulnerable citizens in order to make progress on this front.