

**Marilyn Bergstra**  
Ward 76 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).**

The City of Edmonton should make provisions for affordable housing at the outset of developing neighborhoods rather than after a community has been developed. Changing the landscape after the fact without due consideration and extensive community engagement can negatively impact both green spaces, the health of that community and its operating ecosystem.

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

If we want a more equitable distribution then we need to make provisions as we move forward in designing new communities. I don't think it is feasible to address this issue in existing communities. It is also important that in moving forward with this plan for new developments that services be available to meet the needs of the new demographic particularly for impoverished families. This needs consideration when deciding where to place affordable housing. Having said this, trying to retrofit low income housing into existing communities can negatively impact green space and the health of that community. It is critical to ensure that the city provides ongoing continued support of healthy community designs such that community members, particularly children have ample space to play and participate in sporting activities and that they have access to a host of recreational and community facilities. Affordable housing is a great thing but its design must be considered in the planning phase so it can serve community in a positive way, such that green space and other services are not compromised.

**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.**

This may or may not be option depending on a number of factors. If the City feels it has merit for a particular community the process also demands extensive community consultation to be authentic and democratic in nature. The City must also be prepared to hear and alter its direction if that is the wishes of the community.

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

No answer.

**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.**

Absolutely! Healthy communities offer a number of services such as, schools, recreation facilities and libraries to their residents. Designs must have balance, be varied in their services and meet the needs of the local residents.

**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.**

Housing must continue to be made available. New communities are in the best position to incorporate affordable housing into their plan in the design phase. However, with respect to older communities, the City needs to improve on its consultation with communities. Citizens have the right to authentic consultation whenever there are proposals to change an existing landscape.

**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.**

Housing and supports pay huge dividends to society. These investments contribute to healthy, safe and more economically viable communities in the long run and should be supported through a process of thoughtful design.

**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.**

Absolutely! Home owners are the owners of their respective communities and their voice must be represented.

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

No answer.