



# TRUSTEE QUESTIONNAIRE

## 1. Tell us about who you are and why you decided to run for School Board Trustee?

My name is Humaira Falak. I am a community development practitioner working primarily in wards 5 and 10 communities. I am also a parent of two beautiful girls, who go to a public school in ward 5. I am currently doing my Master's in Interdisciplinary Studies, with a focus on Community Development, from Athabasca University. I also have a diploma in Human Services from Columbia college Calgary and Masters in English Literature.

I have been involved with the communities in Ward 5 and 10 and across Calgary through my work. I have led domestic violence and mental health initiatives and currently leading research on topics impacting the well being of racialized communities in collaboration with other agencies and universities. I am the co- chair for the Calgary Domestic Violence Collective and sit on advisory committees of various organizations. I have volunteered with many agencies here in Calgary and have often been invited by Media, NGOs and different educational institutions including Bow Valley College and University of Calgary to speak on issues impacting ethno- cultural communities and ways we can work to dismantle some of the barriers facing racialized communities.

I am running for this position as I believe in a strong public education system. Over the past few years, I have come to realize that schools in wards 5 and 10 communities are underfunded and more resources and supports are needed for its diverse students base. This pandemic has only made this situation worse. I stand against education budget cuts and the erosion of public education system, against the proposed curriculum, against over-crowded classrooms, against increased school and transportation fees, and a learning environment that offers opportunities for all students.

I also feel that parents and families have not afforded opportunities to fully engaged and be informed on decisions and policies affecting their kids' education. As parent I want the best for my kids. And as trustee, I want to make sure that the unique needs of student base from ward 5 and 10 communities are met and the diverse voices of parents and families are heard and included in decision making impacting their children education. Also, ward 5 and 10 communities badly needs new schools closer to homes, ESL support, playgrounds and support for extracurricular activities.

## 2. If you could change three things about the CBE, what would they be?

A cutting-edge K-12 curriculum, equitable resource for CBE's diverse student base, and a fully-funded and inclusive public education system.

### **3. What are your thoughts on the province's proposed draft school curriculum?**

I am deeply concerned about the proposed curriculum, its content, and also its wide-spread rejection by teachers, administrators, school boards, parents, indigenous leaders, cultural communities and Albertans at large. I believe we must get back to the drawing board on this curriculum and engage with indigenous communities, students, teachers, administrators and subject matter experts to put together a curriculum that is reflective of our past, inclusive of today's realities, challenges and modern developments, and prepares Alberta students for the future. I am no expert in curriculum development but I believe that it must be informed by Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, must be developmentally appropriate and based in research, science and evidence, and it must prepare students for critical thinking and foster understanding of and respect for our diversity in all its forms.

### **4. What are your thoughts on privatization in regard to the CBE?**

I am all for a publicly-funded and publicly-delivered education system. All decisions relating to student's education and allocation of CBE resources must be informed by the best interest of students, and not profit-motives. In my view, privatization of services will inevitably lead to injection of profit-motives in education system and only serve to commodify education, erode its quality and derail its purpose. We owe it to students today, and the future generations of students, a fully-funded, self-sufficient and functional education system that is singularly focused on meeting students learning needs. Also, economic arguments and evidence suggests that privatization of public services in the long run often results in increased costs, decreased wages for employees, and low-quality services. In short, public funds for education should not be used to serve private profit-motives.