

**Candidate Dan Johnstone Ward Ipiihkoohkanipiahtsi**

***As a candidate, what is your opinion concerning psychological safety in the workplace? When elected, would you commit to meeting and working with The Greater Edmonton Alliance to discuss Workplace Mental Health before the City Administration Report is presented and reviewed?***

I think psychological safety in the workplace is paramount to working collaboratively as part of a team, especially as we learn more about mental health and the toll a toxic workplace can have on any individual. Absolutely, I would gladly meet with the GEA to discuss Workplace Mental Health in time for the review of the City Administration Report.

***Would you support the City of Edmonton adopting the Canadian National Standard for Psychological Safety in the Workplace as official policy? State reason for your answer.***

As someone who has been both a frontline/essential and trades worker, and has also been in several management positions, I know how critical it is for workers to feel accepted and valued; it is simple human decency. I also know what it feels like to be ostracized in a workplace because of simple mistakes or even who I am (my heritage, personal history, etc.). I believe the GEA would be an excellent representative group of those who would benefit the most from adopting the Canadian National Standard for Psychological Safety in the Workplace policy and would, therefore, be a key group to consult with. I would like to reaffirm that mental health policies are incredibly important in allowing a workplace and -- more importantly -- its people to succeed and thrive.

***When elected, will you commit to meeting and working with GEA's Living Wage/Quality Jobs Research/Action team as we reach out to our communities with our educational program?***

As someone who has actively worked to relieve poverty for over a decade now (as Can Man Dan), I will always stand behind those who need it most. I plan to fully support GEA's Living Wage/Quality Jobs Research/Action team in bringing education and awareness to communities. As a city councillor, I will absolutely advocate for fair treatment and living wages for vulnerable populations and minorities who face barriers to diversity in the workplace.

***What actions would you take to increase equity in our community and participation of the business community to make Edmonton a truly living wage city?***

As an award-winning activist who has raised millions for those who struggle with equity in our communities, I have had the pleasure of working with several members of the business community to ensure prosperity for all. As someone who has a great relationship with many small business owners here in the city, a huge part of my platform is devoted to an economic renaissance and living wages is a big part of that. When we support our small business owners, they can in turn support their workers. Not only do I want Edmonton to be a great place to start a business, but a great place to work (even with entry-level positions) and support a family with a great living. I've always been a proponent of living wages and a universal basic income as I truly believe that putting more money into the hands of those likely to use it is good for our economy.

***Once GEA has completed our internal reflections on Truth and Reconciliation and are working with our Local Indigenous Leadership, when elected, will you commit to meeting with our Truth and Reconciliation Research/Action team to discuss the calls to action and how we may partner to bring these actions to our communities?***

As a First Nations man myself, I would definitely love to be a part of those meetings and help usher in Truth and Reconciliation alongside Local Indigenous Leadership.

***As a candidate, what role do you see the City of Edmonton taking to lessen the impact of this transition period for workers and their families?***

As I mentioned earlier, I truly believe that Edmonton needs an economic renaissance and that includes making our city a hub for green innovation and cleaner energy. We need to incentivize and subsidize business ownership for those companies that are genuinely committed to combating climate change **and** ensuring they are able to use the manpower available here in Edmonton to help them realize their visions. We need to have jobs available for those who are transitioning from other industries that properly use their skills and talents; we need to ensure even "green" employers are offering high-quality jobs when they set up shop here.

***Once elected will you commit to meeting and working with the Greater Edmonton Alliance to explore the possibilities to keep quality jobs in the hands of Edmonton workers.***

Another big part of my platform is keeping contracts local, meaning that work is done in Edmonton by Edmontonians. We cannot compromise on this as it is crucial to our city's recovery post-pandemic, and I don't want to see any jobs being outsourced when we have all the talent we need. Yes, I will commit to meeting with GEA to discuss this further.

***As a candidate, what role do you see the City of Edmonton taking to support building community mental health initiatives?***

I can see Edmonton being a leader in mental health and psychological safety not just in the workplace, but in all aspects of life. Everyday, we learn more and more about the importance of mental health and I believe that the City of Edmonton has a role to play in creating safe spaces and supporting other organizations that specialize in mental health and social service programs. As a city councillor, I will push for grants for city-led and other independent non-profit/charitable organizations that focus on these issues. I would also advocate the provincial government for appropriate funding and put pressure on them to deliver services at a provincial level, as well.

***When elected, would you commit to meeting with GEA's Mental Health Research/Action team and support the ongoing efforts of GEA to partner with certain departments within the City of Edmonton and Edmonton Public Libraries to create community mental health initiatives?***

Absolutely, yes. It would be a privilege and honour to meet with a team that has the experience and membership to properly inform objectives and outcomes with first-hand experience.

Sincerely,

***Ward Ipiihkoohkanipiaohsi***

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