

Ward Metis – Candidate Steven Townsend

- 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 is important in all aspects of life and would welcome a discussion on the topic.

- 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.

I believe it's definitely something we should be looking into, and I need to research this issue further. I would be very interested in hearing more about the work that you have been doing with respect to Psychological Safety in the Workplace.

- 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?

I would be open to meeting with GEA's Living Wage/Quality Jobs Research/Action team.

- 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?

I think that some of this is Provincial jurisdiction, but I am open to advocating on behalf of the City. I have experience as a small business owner, but also grew up in poverty with a mother on AISH. I understand firsthand the struggles and the constant upstream battle to stay afloat. I also understand how a stable wage can change lives. I absolutely believe that everyone deserves a minimum standard of living, and dignity.

- 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?

Yes, absolutely.

The TRC calls to action are very important to me. I introduced a land acknowledgement at my Community League, helped organize a Treaty 6 flag raising, and am currently involved in creating a MMIWG art installation.

- 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?

Yes, a major part of energy transition is transiting the workers, and the transition will be more sustainable if it's economically viable for the workers.

- 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.

I would be happy to meet with the Greater Edmonton Alliance to discuss this.

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

I feel that the City should provide resources for such initiatives and that abundant community movements and other community networks can play a major role in supporting community mental health.

While serving as president at my Community League, we hosted mental health initiatives including a caregiver information session and a series of talking circles, and currently a MMIWG art installation co-organized by Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society.

- 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?

I would commit to a meeting.