

Bonjour Éric,

Merci à vous et à l'Association des francophones du Nord-Ouest de l'Ontario (AFNOO) de donner aux candidats l'occasion de répondre à ces questions importantes. La communauté francophone fait partie intégrante de l'histoire, de la culture et de l'avenir de Thunder Bay et du Nord-Ouest de l'Ontario.

Bien que je sois fier de commencer ma réponse en français, l'anglais est ma langue parlée principale. Afin de m'exprimer le plus clairement et précisément possible, je répondrai donc aux questions en anglais.

1. What place should the francophone community have in Thunder Bay?

Answer: Thunder Bay's Francophone community should have a visible, respected and meaningful place in our city, with opportunities to participate fully in our civic, cultural and economic life.

Francophones are an important part of Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario, and our city is stronger when we recognize and support the different communities that contribute to it. As a councillor, I would support continued engagement with organizations such as AFNOO and listen directly to Francophone residents about the issues that affect them. I also believe Thunder Bay should promote its Francophone culture and services as part of what makes our city an inclusive and welcoming place to live, work, raise a family and invest.

2. What sort of policies would you put forward to make available or improve access to municipal information in French?

Answer: I would support practical improvements that make important municipal information more accessible in French, particularly information residents need to access essential City services and participate in municipal government.

I would begin by reviewing what information and services the City currently provides in French and identifying the most significant gaps. Priority should be given to important public-facing information, emergency and public-safety communications, key online information, election information and instructions for accessing City services.

Technology and modern translation tools may also allow the City to expand French-language access in a cost-effective way, while appropriate quality controls ensure important information is accurate.

I would also support regular consultation with AFNOO and Thunder Bay's Francophone community rather than having City Hall determine these priorities on its own. The objective should be measurable, practical improvement in French-language access while being responsible with municipal resources.

Michael Giardetti
Candidate for City Councillor – Red River Ward
Thunder Bay