

Question 1: What place should the Francophone community have in Red Lake?

The Francophone community should have an important and respected place in Red Lake.

Almost 8% of our population has knowledge of both official languages. That is a significant part of our community, and I believe our municipality should recognize and respect the contribution Francophone residents make to the social, cultural and economic life of Red Lake.

Being inclusive doesn't mean that every municipal service has to immediately be duplicated in two languages. It means making a genuine effort to ensure that Francophone residents feel seen, heard and included in their municipal government.

I would like to see French recognized as an important part of our community's identity, while making practical decisions that are appropriate for the size and resources of our municipality.

Question 2: What policies would you put forward to improve access to municipal information in French?

I would start with access to information and communication.

My first priority would be to identify the municipal information that residents rely on most and make key information available in both English and French. This could include important public notices, emergency information, major community announcements, recreation information, municipal services, council information and frequently requested forms.

I would also support creating a **French-language section on the municipality's website**, rather than requiring residents to search through English information to find what they need.

For major municipal consultations or initiatives that directly affect residents, I would encourage the municipality to provide French-language information whenever practical and to make it clear that residents can request assistance in French.

I would also look at partnerships with local Francophone organizations, schools and community groups to determine **what information is most needed in French and where translation resources could be shared.**

Most importantly, I would want us to develop a **practical French-language services policy**, with clear priorities and realistic costs, rather than making promises that the municipality cannot reasonably deliver.

To me, inclusion means making a sincere effort to remove barriers—not simply checking a box. If approximately 8% of our community can communicate in both official languages, I believe it is reasonable for our municipal government to find practical ways to communicate with those residents in the language they are most comfortable using.

Thank you for these very insightful questions.

Michele Imrie