

Thank you for your email and for the opportunity to answer your questions.

What place should the Francophone community have in Thunder Bay?

Thunder Bay's Francophone community has an important place in the cultural, social and economic future of the city.

With Francophones representing approximately 8% of Thunder Bay's population, I believe there is an opportunity not only to protect Francophone culture, but to grow it.

That means supporting opportunities for people to live, work, raise their families and build careers in French in Thunder Bay. It also means recognizing the important role Francophone businesses, employers, schools, cultural organizations and community groups play in making Thunder Bay a strong, vibrant and connected community.

There is also an economic opportunity. Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario need workers in healthcare, construction, skilled trades, mining, forestry, education and many other sectors. Francophone immigration and the recruitment and retention of bilingual workers can be part of meeting those needs while also strengthening the Francophone community.

As Mayor, I would encourage businesses, employers, industry, community organizations and regional partners such as NOMA to work with municipal, provincial and federal governments to identify opportunities to attract Francophone families and professionals to Thunder Bay and help them build their lives here.

I would also be a strong supporter of celebrating Francophone culture and ensuring it remains a visible and valued part of Thunder Bay's identity.

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

I believe the City should take a practical approach to improving access to municipal information in French.

As Mayor, I would work with Council and Administration to identify where French-language information is most needed and where improvements can reasonably be made. This could include important public information, key areas of the City website, emergency communications, tourism information, major community initiatives and other services where French-language access would benefit residents and visitors.

I would also want the City to work directly with AFNOO and the Francophone community. Rather than assuming what is needed, we should listen and identify the areas where improved French-language access would have the greatest impact.

Technology also provides new and increasingly affordable ways to make information available in multiple languages, and the City should be willing to explore those opportunities.

This does not all have to happen at once. I support a responsible, phased approach that establishes priorities and makes measurable improvements over time.

Most importantly, I want Francophones to see Thunder Bay as a place of opportunity and a city where French language and culture can continue to grow.

As Mayor, I would be a champion for that growth and for the partnerships needed to make it happen.

Best regards,

Moe Comuzzi
Candidate for Mayor, City of Thunder Bay