

What place should the francophone community have in Thunder Bay?

Thunder Bay is a diverse city, rich in history and culture. I believe everyone regardless of ethnic origin, language or identity should feel they have a place in Thunder Bay. I, myself came here from another province and was accepted into a culture, while different than my own, was seen as an ally, friend and advocate. One that I identify with.

To live, work, play in a community means to be accepting of all, regardless of the language they speak. As a Municipal Candidate I will (potentially) be representing my ward I'm running to represent, which means the whole community and everyone who resides within it.

The Francophone community represents a part of Thunder Bay, which is Superior by Nature. A pride slogan, where inclusivity means feeling that you are heard and well represented. We are all citizens in our community and by speaking your mother tongue and the freedom to speak it freely whether it be at home, work or going about or day to day business.

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

I would like to see (more) bilingual information be made available. Having multi lingual information available to residents will allow them to feel more comfortable in becoming more involved in their community, having it feel more like home, and wanting to take part and feeling they are welcomed. Speaking a different language does not mean having barriers to available information.

I recently attended a meeting this past week in North York, where there was diversity in the room. It was a well rounded, well educated groups of people where translators were brought in for those speaking a different language would feel part of the group. This diverse group of people were given an opportunity to feel part of a wider group, by being included in the discussions and adaptations were made to accommodate them and others who had disabilities feel more included.

While I don't speak another language, I can sing in another language and often do and travel the country bringing my diverse voice to different tables.

Learning to be accepting of all, regardless of another language, culture or religion doesn't mean being excluded, it means being and feeling included in your community to make everyone feel welcomed, part of the greater good for all.

We often fear what we don't know, it takes education, the willingness to learn something new to be accepting and appreciate what diversity can bring to our lives and community.

As we grow our community, we need diverse voices at the table, which means all voices, those from outside our circles, as we can learn from them, their skill sets, language or insight into their values and what they bring to the community which adds richness, and gives us an opportunity to grow as an individual.

Thanks

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