

## **1. What place should the Francophone community have in Thunder Bay?**

I believe the Francophone community should have an active and visible place in Thunder Bay.

One of the things I have talked about throughout my campaign is belonging. Thunder Bay is made up of many different communities, cultures, and languages, and I don't think people should feel disconnected from their city simply because English isn't their first or preferred language.

Language is important to me personally as well. English is the only language I am fluent in, but I have been trying to learn more of my own Indigenous language, and I want my children to grow up knowing their language and where they come from. I would also like to learn other languages over time. I think there is something really valuable about being able to communicate with people in their own language, and language is an important part of keeping culture, identity, and community strong.

The Francophone community is part of Thunder Bay's history and its future. Francophone families, professionals, organizations, businesses and newcomers all contribute to our city. I think the City should recognize that contribution and make sure the community has opportunities to be heard when decisions affect them.

As an At-Large Councillor, I would want to build a relationship with organizations such as AFNOO and actually listen to Francophone residents about where the gaps are rather than assume I already know what they need.

## **2. What policies would you put forward to make municipal information available or improve access to it in French?**

I think we should start by looking at what municipal information is most important for residents to be able to understand and access.

I would support reviewing the city's current French-language information and identifying the biggest gaps with the Francophone community. From there, I would like to see us improve access to important public information in French, particularly information about elections and civic participation, emergency preparedness, major city services and programs, public consultations, and other information residents need to participate in their community.

I would also want us to look at practical ways of making it easier for Francophone residents to communicate with the city and know where French-language assistance is available. That could include better identifying bilingual services and staff where they already exist, improving French information online where there is a demonstrated need, and working with Francophone organizations to make sure important city information is reaching the community.

I don't want to promise that every city document can suddenly be translated into French. There would be costs and staffing considerations, and I think we have to be responsible about that. But I do believe we can do better at identifying the information that matters most and reducing unnecessary language barriers.

If elected, one of my first steps would simply be to sit down with AFNOO and members of the Francophone community and ask, "Where **are people having difficulty accessing the city now, and what changes would make the biggest difference?**"

I believe that's how we make meaningful improvements—by listening first and then working together on practical solutions.

Thank you again for reaching out, Éric. I appreciate the opportunity to answer these questions and learn more about the priorities of Thunder Bay's Francophone community.

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**Tyler Goode**

Candidate for Thunder Bay City Council – At-Large