

Amarjeet Sohi

- 1. As a member of City Council, what would be your vision of the City of Edmonton's role to advance the goals of the [Live Active Strategy](#) to achieve "A healthy, vibrant Edmonton in which people embrace active lifestyles that improve their individual well-being as well as that of their families, neighbourhoods and communities"?**

I believe in quality public services and their ability to make a difference in people's lives. The City can implement policies and programs that support this strategy through its services, planning and neighbourhood development, and by partnering with and supporting community groups.

I am committed to preserving and enhancing our river valley. This will include properly maintaining and restoring trails in a timely manner to ensure access and usability. I am also committed to advancing the plan for 15-minute neighbourhoods, which will include an assessment of infrastructure for active transportation, and for addressing gaps that inhibit that. I believe in properly funding and supporting public services, and that includes infrastructure and amenities such as recreation centres and public sports fields.

- 2. What does an inclusive and accessible Edmonton look like to you? How will you make sure that inclusion and accessibility are part of all sport, physical activity, and active recreation opportunities (including events and programs) in Edmonton?**

I believe in building a city for all of us, where we can all achieve our goals. This is reflected in everything from our built environment, to our programs and services, and how they encourage inclusion or put up barriers. It, of course, also includes cost. We know that any or all of those present barriers to a given person.

The Leisure Access Program will meet the needs of some, and for those it does we need to ensure we're making the process simple and clear as possible. It will not meet the needs of everyone, as many who don't qualify have needs for affordable and accessible spaces and opportunities. We need to look into other ways of assisting with that and making our programs an affordable option.

- 3. Many Edmontonians qualify for the [City of Edmonton's Leisure Access Program](#), but many do not and can not afford the City of Edmonton's active recreation programs and services. What should the City of Edmonton do to ensure no one is left out of these opportunities?**

We need to do everything we can to keep costs to the public low. That's a balance, as we do need to also ensure proper investment in upkeep of facilities so they're safe, accessible, and high quality. I will ask administration to look into other ways of encouraging affordability, and if there are other targeted programs that could be implemented for higher needs groups. We also need to partner with organizations that are working with and supporting people in need to come up with partnerships that work and can increase accessibility.

- 4. As you think about the economic recovery of Edmonton and the health of Edmontonians, how do you see sport and active recreation contributing, and how do you believe the City of Edmonton should support this important work?**

I believe physical and mental health are connected, as is social well-being. Throughout the pandemic, much of this has been lost. People might be more sedentary as they work at home, and there have been times where fitness centres and recreation activities have been limited or prohibited. Compounding this is the mental strain of isolation from friends, neighbours, and colleagues. We ended to ensure our recreation opportunities are there for people to restore their health in every sense. A positive has been the uptake in outdoor recreation, everything from walking to cycling to skiing. The City needs to do what it can to support these shifts becoming permanent, which can be investing in proper trail and public amenity development and maintenance, to continuing to look at temporary road closures for greater recreation access throughout the warmer months, as we have the past two summers.

From an economic perspective, we know many who depend on this industry for their livelihood have struggled, and we need to support those businesses and workers in being able to sustain that work and restore their activities. Immediately, we should make sure the Edmonton Economic Recovery Grants are accessible and structured in a way this industry can draw on them. Medium to longer term, we need to consider recreation and sport as part of our economic development strategy, and a key part of our economy both for residents and in encouraging tourism (for both spectators and participants), and as a destination for sporting events such as tournaments at all levels. As Mayor, this is something I will work with Explore Edmonton, regional partners, and other stakeholders to ensure is part of our approach.

5. If Edmonton is a [FIFA 2026](#) host city, what should the [social legacies](#) be from this event?

Getting to host the 2026 World Cup would be a significant achievement. We saw the impact of hosting the 2015 Women's World Cup, and we would hope the men's tournament would have a similar impact, not just in legacy of infrastructure but in how it inspires the community and the next generation of athletes.

The legacy of this event should benefit those who need it most. This means realizing an investment in opportunities and infrastructure that benefit marginalized and vulnerable Edmontonians. This could take the form of permanent infrastructure that benefits people in need, or a fund that supports opportunities and accessibility. As Mayor, I would look forward to these conversations with the community should we be selected as a host city. A legacy and investment that advances equity, inclusion, and opportunity would be a starting point for that.

6. Please share with us anything else you would like us to know about your thoughts, experiences, or plans for sport, physical activity, and active recreation for the City of Edmonton.

I am a strong believer in sport, recreation, and opportunity. As a young newcomer to Edmonton, the informal engagement on soccer fields was a big part of how I felt connected to the community. I have seen firsthand how sport and activity can change lives, and we need to ensure all Edmontonians have that opportunity, no matter their age, ability, or background.