

Tim Cartmell

- 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 think the city of Edmonton has a number of roles which can and would advance the Live Active Strategy. One role is to continue to bring those events to Edmonton which inspire us to get up, get involved and get active. Those big events that bring the very best athletes to Edmonton to serve as inspiration, particularly to our youth. The annual Triathlon is one example of such an event, and FIFA 2026 could well be another. A second role would be to either attract those events that invite "amateur" participation, or wrap amateur participation around the main event. Triathlon is again an example, where local and "tourist-athletes" attend the event not only to watch the elite athletes but participate themselves. The world master athletic games would be a second. A third role for the City is to continue to pursue partnerships with elite teams and organizations. One example is the City's partnership with the Canadian Women's National Basketball Team. That partnership allows for Edmonton's youth to see and meet their heroes close up. It is imperative that we maintain that relationship.

- 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?**

Inclusive and accessible means that everyone gets a chance to participate in whatever physical activity appeals to them, regardless of any other factors or influences. In general terms, the City of Edmonton already has a number of programs and policies that ensure equitable access to physical activity opportunities. I will work to ensure those policies and programs continue to be supported and enhanced.

- 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?**

If not everyone in need qualifies for the Leisure Access Program, perhaps we need to re-evaluate the program and its criteria. This would start with identifying which cohorts are not yet being supported.

- 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?**

There is no doubt that the covid pandemic has had a negative effect on the mental health of our residents. And we know that physical activity leads to better physical and mental well-being. Sport and recreation opportunities will positively contribute to the recovery of our citizens, so it will be especially important to maximize access to such opportunities. One aspect I think we will need to examine are outdoor recreation activities, on the basis that gathering in groups is generally considered safer inside than out. We may need more outdoor space, more outdoor apparatuses

and equipment, and more play space than we have now. If so, this runs contrary to City Administration's intent to "naturalize" (decommission) some of those spaces.

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

Soccer is arguably the most played sport in the world, and certainly one of the least expensive to participate in. We should leverage FIFA 2026 to increase significantly the number of our youth playing soccer. Further, many in our community see soccer as a way to bridge gaps between different cultural groups, to de-escalate conflict that might exist between such groups. If the legacy of FIFA was a much healthier soccer community, and in turn a much healthier, more collaborative and connected set of communities, that would be a very good outcome.

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.

The opportunity to participate in physical activity is vital for life-long health, physical and mental. Because of our climate, we have emphasized indoor recreation, and we have seen many excellent facilities get built - Terwillegar, Clareview and the Meadows recreation centres among them. However, the cost of the mega-recreation centre has become too big to contemplate. It is time for Edmonton to contemplate smaller, less costly facilities and sprinkle those facilities among more communities (new and existing). Building on our City Plan that calls for "15 minute communities", we need to find a way to ensure recreation is one of those core amenities that you can walk to in 15 minutes.