

Fahad Mughal (City Councillor Candidate)

Thank you for reaching out. Following is my response to your request for food security in Edmonton.

Vision and Leadership

Food security is not a luxury, it's a basic measure of how well a city takes care of its people. The City of Edmonton must play a stronger role in ensuring that every resident has access to affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food. While some levers belong to other levels of government, the City can still lead by integrating food access into its urban planning, housing, and community development priorities.

Existing City Commitments

We already have strong frameworks like The City Plan and Fresh: Edmonton's Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy, but good plans mean little without clear accountability. I would push for measurable progress updates and public reporting—so residents can actually see how these goals translate into results on the ground.

Access to Land and Infrastructure

Urban food production should be seen as critical infrastructure. I would support policies that make it easier to access public land for community gardens, rooftop growing, and small-scale urban farms. This also means streamlining red tape and ensuring community kitchens and food hubs are supported through grants or shared-use models.

Community-Led Food Initiatives

Community groups are already doing amazing work feeding neighbors with dignity and care. The City should invest in their capacity rather than duplicating efforts. I would strengthen partnerships with mutual aid networks, cultural food programs, and local growers—so we build long-term food resilience instead of cycling through emergency responses.

Intersection with Broader Social Issues

Food insecurity is a symptom of deeper issues. Housing costs, low incomes, and rising inflation. My approach connects these challenges. Affordable housing, fair wages, and mental health supports are part of the same solution. When people have stability, they can afford food. It's that simple.

Advisory and Collaborative Approaches

I support creating a Social Good Advisory Panel that includes food justice voices. Collaboration across community, social service, and advocacy groups is essential if we want policy that truly reflects lived experience.

Regards,

Fahad Mughal
Edmonton City Council Candidate For Ward Ipiilpiihkoohkanipiahtsi