

Annie Chua-Firth (City Councillor Candidate)

Thank you for your thoughtful invitation and for the vital work you do to advance food justice in Edmonton. As a longtime community organizer, advocate, and proud Filipino-Canadian, I believe food is not only a basic human right—it is a powerful connector across cultures, generations, and neighborhoods. I am deeply committed to building a city where everyone has access to safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate food, and where grassroots efforts are respected and resourced.

Vision and Leadership

The City of Edmonton must take an active leadership role in addressing food insecurity—not only through municipal levers, but by advocating across jurisdictions. While some policy tools lie with provincial and federal governments, our City can lead by example: funding community-led initiatives, removing barriers to land and infrastructure, and embedding food justice into planning, housing, and climate strategies. I do not believe the City is currently doing enough. We must move beyond emergency responses and invest in long-term, community-rooted resilience.

Existing City Commitments

As Councillor, I will champion transparent implementation and accountability for ConnectEdmonton, Fresh, and The City Plan. This includes:

- Ensuring food security metrics are publicly tracked and reported.
- Embedding food access into zoning, transportation, and housing decisions.
- Supporting regular community consultations to assess progress and gaps.

Plans are only as strong as their follow-through. I will advocate for clear timelines, community oversight, and funding alignment.

Access to Land and Infrastructure

I support expanding access to land and infrastructure for urban agriculture, rooftop growing, community kitchens, and gardens. This includes:

- Streamlining permitting and land use processes for food-growing initiatives.

- Prioritizing food infrastructure in surplus land allocation and city-owned spaces.
- Supporting partnerships with schools, libraries, and community centers to host growing and cooking spaces.

Food sovereignty begins with access. I will work to remove red tape and uplift community-led solutions.

Community-Led Food Initiatives

Mutual aid networks, food hubs, and culturally grounded programs are the backbone of food justice. I will:

- Advocate for sustained municipal funding—not just pilot grants—for grassroots food initiatives.
- Support multilingual outreach and culturally appropriate programming.
- Champion partnerships that center lived experience and community leadership.

We must shift from charity models to empowerment. I will listen, learn, and legislate accordingly.

Intersection with Broader Social Issues

Food insecurity is inseparable from housing, income, mental health, and climate. I will champion:

- Affordable housing policies that include food access considerations (e.g., proximity to grocery stores, gardens).
- Living wage advocacy and support for income security programs.
- Mental health supports embedded in community food spaces.
- Climate-resilient food systems, including drought-resistant crops and local supply chains.

Food justice is social justice. I will work across silos to build a more equitable city.

Advisory and Collaborative Approaches

I strongly support the creation of a Social Good / Non-Profit / Social Services Advisory Panel. Food justice organizations must have a permanent seat at the table. Their expertise is essential to shaping inclusive policy. I will advocate for:

- Transparent selection processes that prioritize grassroots voices.

- Compensation for advisory panel members with lived experience.
- Integration of panel recommendations into Council decision-making.

Collaboration must be more than consultation—it must be co-governance.

Thank you again for this opportunity. I am inspired by your work and committed to building a city where no one goes hungry, and everyone feels nourished—in body, culture, and community.

With gratitude,

Annie Chua-Frith

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