



## Intersectional Edmonton

What is your NAME and which WARD are you running in?

Keren Tang, Ward Karhio

From an intersectional lens (accounting for race, gender, sexuality orientation, disability, etc.) what is your position on improving safety in Edmonton? This may include your position on policing, speed limits, community involvement, or other measures.

Ward Karhio is an incredibly culturally and economically diverse community with people from all over the world with all different intersections of orientations and abilities. As our city and the ward grow, that diversity will only increase. This is our strength and positively contributes to our communities and economy. However, many people still don't feel safe doing everyday activities in their neighbourhoods simply for being who they are, the colour of their skin, their ethnicity, their ability, their orientation, and their religion. Many Edmontonians experience racism and inequitable treatment on a daily basis. This is unacceptable. City Council must build a safe, equitable, and anti-racist city for all.

I will:

- Strengthen the Public Places Bylaw to ban hate symbols at public gatherings and in public spaces.
- Champion road safety through better design of our streets and resident-led traffic calming initiatives
- Advocate for community policing that builds trust and respectful relations between the police, the public, and community organizations.
- Push Council to carefully review the annual policing budget and tie it to a comprehensive evaluation framework focused on outcomes.
- Lead discussions with the goal of uniting Edmontonians to promote community wellbeing and safety— everyone has an important role to play. Explore possibilities for restorative justice for hate incidents and crimes.

- Facilitate neighbour-to-neighbour networks of support to build collective wellbeing and safer communities.
- Intentionally include historically marginalized Edmontonians in the decision-making process.

From an intersectional lens (accounting for race, gender, sexuality orientation, disability, etc.) what is your position on transportation options and transit in Edmonton?

My platform has three key planks: community, economy, and climate. Transportation crosscuts all three of them. Lack of access to affordable transportation options can be isolating, it can hinder job opportunities, lead to increased use of cars and taxis, and overall it simply limits people's lives. In conversations with communities and at the doors in Ward Karhiio, I am hearing countless stories about how many – particularly seniors, students, newcomers, people with disabilities, and low-income families – have been negatively impacted by the new bus network redesign. Transit is a public service, and I want to see it accessible for everyone.

We need a transportation system that gives everyone choices in the ways they move around the city. But we can't expect people to take the bus or ride a bike if it is not convenient, affordable, or if they feel unsafe.

Equitable transit and mobility are priorities for me. When elected, I would want to revisit the bus network redesign, especially in Ward Karhiio which has seen the most routes and stops removed and the least on-demand options added. As part of this update to the redesign, I would like to see a focus on user experience and improving ridership, ensuring that the bus routes work for people and easily provide access to movement across the city.

I would also like to see the expansion of Edmonton's active transportation network, including appropriate infrastructure such as multi-use pathways that are accessible for bikes, wheelchairs, scooters, etc.

From an intersectional lens (accounting for race, gender, sexuality orientation, disability, etc.) what is your position on economic recovery in Edmonton?

As our economy recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be critical that the City does everything in its power to help new and existing businesses succeed. These are difficult times—many Edmontonians are finding themselves stuck in unemployment situations that they have never been in before. We must commit

to creating accessible and equitable access to jobs, enabling new businesses to get off the ground with as few barriers as possible, and equitable access to business supports, social services, and access to the means to meet more than just one's basic needs.

One thing I'd like to establish when elected is a Community Economy Coordinator / Business Ambassador Program for the ward, which has a high number of newcomer and immigrant entrepreneurs, to help new and existing businesses (including home-based) more easily start and grow.

I will also support the formation of grassroots and people-led economic development projects and create more pathways to a successful economy that benefits everyone.

From an intersectional lens (accounting for race, gender, sexuality orientation, disability, etc.), what is your position on addressing and mitigating climate change in Edmonton?

Edmonton is in a declared state of climate emergency alongside the COVID-19 pandemic, which we cannot ignore. I think we need to put all possible tools on the table for consideration if we expect meaningful progress to occur.

It is incredibly important to me that as we do this work, we do not forget about the JUST part of a just transition. As our city continues to grow and becomes more diverse everyday, we need to ensure all perspectives and voices – Indigenous peoples, newcomers, racialized communities, people with disabilities, and working class folks – are heard when we talk about climate adaptation and mitigation. Indigenous people in particular are the original stewards of this land, and we have much to learn from them as we work to slow the effects of climate change.

To ensure some of these voices are meaningfully represented, I would love to see bodies form, like an Indigenous Leadership and Elders Council which I have proposed in my platform. I would also commit to playing an active advisory role in collaborating on and implementing the City's climate adaptation and mitigation strategies using an approach informed by the people of Ward Karhiio.

As Edmonton grows I would support the development of 15-minute districts that offer community-focused businesses, services, amenities, and places of worship close to home. This sets newer neighbourhoods up for success, by using less energy in the first place, providing more access to services and amenities closer to

home, enabling more opportunity for social connections and stronger neighbourhoods, and lowering transportation impacts. It's a win-win.

How do you plan to ensure that \*ALL\* Edmontonians are included, consulted with, listened to, and communicated with during your term in office?

I have made my career listening to people first, and it would be central to my approach as City Councillor to uplift the voices of Ward Karhiio. If I am elected I have several steps I would like to take to increase the diversity of voices at the council table:

- I would champion mentorship initiatives that support under-represented voices in politics initiatives. Specifically WOC.
- While I don't personally have all of the lived experiences of Edmontonians, I have developed a wide range of networks, mentors, and relationships who I can lean on for advice and guidance.
- I would like to form and tap into a diverse Advisory Councils representing different intersections and backgrounds reflecting the people of Edmonton, as well as Ward Karhiio specific demographics.
- I would tailor engagement strategies to meet where people are at and in ways that are suitable to them. I commit to continuing on-the-ground outreach through regular door knocking, community or coffee shop conversations, and engagement through social media (i.e., Facebook lives).

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, I will be open to, and seek out feedback. I will be accessible to Ward Karhiio and Edmonton, and listen to make sure that I am doing the best I can to bring forward the thoughts, perspectives, and stories that are shared with me. I am not afraid to try new approaches, and adapt to what I'm hearing. I will stand up for an equitable Edmonton at the council table.

For more information on my thoughts surrounding equity and inclusivity in Edmonton, please check out my platform at [kerentang.ca/platform](http://kerentang.ca/platform), and my blogs at [kerentang.ca/blog](http://kerentang.ca/blog).