

AMARJEET
SOHI
FOR MAYOR



SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Dear sisters and brothers of ATU Local 569,

It is my absolute pleasure to write to you today in both my capacity as candidate for mayor of Edmonton and as a former ETS driver and active member of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 569.

I am incredibly proud of my time in the union, where I fought hard to organize DATS drivers into the Local so we could enjoy better pay, benefits, pensions, improved workplace health and safety and the many other advantages that come with an organized workplace.

I'm not shy to say my time in the union, and the well-paying job it ensured I had, was a big reason I was able to blossom and succeed in this great city. I know many of you have experienced that as well because of Local 569, and I am dedicated to ensuring this quality of life is upheld and protected, should I be elected mayor on October 18.

I want to take this opportunity to share my values and priorities on issues I know you are facing.

First, you should know I am strongly committed to the principle of fair collective bargaining, which is a fundamental Charter right and is the basis for a thriving relationship between employers and employees.

And, while I do recognize the city must operate within its means, that will not come at the cost of economy-supporting, public services jobs under my watch. We cannot contract out or privatize our way to economic recovery, or balance the budget on the backs of the most marginalized members of our workforce. As a government, our fiscal decisions must support employment where workers can provide for themselves and their families, live with dignity, and contribute back to our local economy.

With that, I will work to reverse the recent contracting out of bus cleaning services and will strongly encourage council to reconsider other elements of its reimagine initiative that do not reflect our commitments to equity, prosperity, and quality public services, such as the contracting out of recreational services.

We are a growing city and transit service needs to keep pace with the needs of Edmontonians, from LRT expansion to improved bus routes. We also need a leader that understands the important role transit plays in social mobility, to the city's environmental goals and more. I feel strongly that I am that leader. I want to ensure that as ETS service hours grow, we prioritize addressing the equity and access issues that have resulted from the elimination of neighbourhood routes and from the city's use of on-demand service.

As we grow, it is important for us to work with partners in the capital region, and some form of regional coordination on transit is a positive development for the region. However, it is critical that control and accountability for transit operations in Edmonton remain with City Council, and that regionalization not be used as a backdoor to contracting out Edmonton transit service.

I have spent many months talking to Edmontonians about their values and vision for the future, and I've heard clearly that they want to rebuild through investment in services that will support employment and preserve quality of life in the city. I am committed to that vision, as I know you are as well. Let's build an Edmonton for All of Us.

Sincerely,



Amarjeet Sohi
Municipal Election Candidate 2021
Mayoral Candidate
Email: info@sohi.ca
Phone: (780) 340-7644
Address: 10237 109 Street NW Edmonton, AB T5J 1N2