

## **Section 1: Your Perspective and Priorities**

### **1. Why are you running as a Trustee in 2025, and what motivates you to serve this community?**

I'm running for re-election because I believe in the power of public education to shape a stronger, more equitable future for our region. As someone who has served as a trustee for over 20 years, I bring both experience and deep commitment to ensuring our schools are safe, inclusive, and fully funded. Fort McMurray is my home, and I want to continue being a voice for families, students, and staff — advocating for high-quality education and fair treatment for those who support it every day.

### **2. What do you see as the most urgent challenges facing education today?**

The most urgent challenges include chronic underfunding, staff burnout, and increasing classroom complexity. Educators are expected to do more with less, and supports for mental health, special education, and English language learners are stretched thin. We must also address systemic inequities so that every student — regardless of background — feels seen, safe, and supported.

### **3. What does an inclusive school system look like to you? What is an adequate number of students in a classroom? With an educational assistant?**

An inclusive school system ensures every student — regardless of ability, identity, or background — has access to meaningful learning opportunities and feels a sense of belonging. Smaller class sizes are crucial; ideally, K–3 should have no more than 20 students, and higher grades should remain under 25 when possible. For students with complex needs, a full-time educational assistant (EA) must be provided — and never shared across multiple classrooms.

## **Section 2: Handling of Education Funding and Working with Government**

### **4. Please give your thoughts on public funding of education in Alberta. What areas will you advocate for and why?**

Public education must be fully and equitably funded. I will advocate for funding that reflects real enrollment, cost of living, and student complexity. We need stable funding for mental health supports, inclusive education, infrastructure, and competitive salaries to recruit and retain qualified staff. I oppose the diversion of public funds to private or charter schools.

**5. Do you plan on standing up to the Minister of Education to advocate for students and staff in this division if need be? Give an example.**

Absolutely. Trustees are elected to represent our communities, not to rubber-stamp government policy. For example, I would speak out against curriculum decisions made without proper consultation with educators. I will also continue to push back against cuts that affect classroom supports, especially in inclusive education and mental health services.

### **Section 3: Working with Employees of the Division**

**6. How do you plan on addressing the concerns of CUPE, ATA, Administration, and Out of Scope employees?**

I believe in open, respectful, and ongoing dialogue. I will regularly attend joint meetings, visit school sites, and maintain direct lines of communication with union reps and frontline staff. Building relationships with all employee groups ensures we understand their needs and can work collaboratively on solutions.

**7. How do you feel about being involved in contract negotiations with union leaders? Do you have any experience in union negotiations?**

As a former local union leader and someone with decades of experience in labor relations, I understand the importance of fair, respectful negotiations. I am fully comfortable engaging with union leaders and will always work toward agreements that respect workers and ensure quality learning environments.

**8. Do you plan on keeping with current policies to support staff health and safety?**

Yes — and I will continue advocating for stronger measures where needed. Health and safety must be a top priority, from psychological wellness to physical safety. That includes ensuring proper resources for violence prevention, respectful workplaces, and timely maintenance of school facilities.

**9. What will you do to ensure jobs in the bargaining units are kept?**

I strongly oppose contracting out public sector jobs. Privatization erodes job security, accountability, and service quality. I will fight to protect bargaining unit jobs and keep services in-house, where workers are fairly paid, properly trained, and invested in our school communities.

## **Section 4: Working with Families and the Community**

### **10. How do you plan on hearing the needs of all stakeholders?**

Engagement must be intentional and ongoing. I attend school events, host listening sessions, and meet regularly with parents, teachers, and students. I also support surveys, town halls, and partnerships with community organizations to ensure every voice — especially those historically underrepresented — is heard and reflected in board decisions.