



LEAP Thunder Bay Candidate Survey

Jim Stadey

1. What contribution to making Thunder Bay a better place to live are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my work with Eat Local Pizza, providing food over and over to people who need it, and creating that food locally. I am also proud of my urban gardening program with Evergreen, my volunteer work with the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, Roots to Harvest, the Food Strategy and the Thunder Bay Country Market. My door is always open to people and groups who need advocacy and over the years many have sat with me and gone over issues. Regardless of being elected or not, I will always be that person.

2. What are three priorities that would guide your work on City Council?

If I get elected, my three main priorities are:

1. To really bolster the resources being provided to community safety initiatives and the grassroots organizations working to keep youth safe, educated and fed.

2. To open up the city budget so that families can easily see, line item by line item, where their money goes. I want people to see how much money goes into each project so that we can enforce transparency in each area. Once people can feel comfortable with talking about the budget, that discourse will promote more of a 2-way communication between them and their municipal government.

3. I want to help find the people working on community-led projects for community safety and get them what they need. I believe that is a big step towards the safe streets we need.

3. What three community organizations in Thunder Bay are you most interested in supporting?

Roots to Harvest
Evergreen a United Neighbourhood
The Bear Clan

4. How would you build relationships between the City of Thunder Bay, Indigenous residents and neighbours?

To build relationships between indigenous residents and neighbours we need to look deeper into how to support each level of the community. There are already people doing this work, providing these links and working in the best interest of the community. Instead of me trying to say I have some glorious 3rd person solution, I am going to honestly say I will continue talking, learning about the people, families and groups already doing the work in each neighbourhood and then help them overcome barriers. It is only by respecting people and helping them to live their lives as they want to, safe in their own homes and streets, and promoting the kind of activities that agencies like Evergreen do that we can help. Respect, kindness and an open mind is how our city needs to view everyone. We cannot rely on antiquated policy or legislation, we need to provide as much opportunity for real conversation as possible.

5. What should the City of Thunder Bay do to pursue reconciliation with Indigenous peoples?

We need to begin the process of bringing Indigenous elders and leaders to the table with the mandate of next steps. We have to be ultra-vigilant that we do not let ourselves stop at solutions centered around optics. As a northern community situated where we are, we have the opportunity to set precedent in helping further along the cause of reconciliation and make a real difference. I am willing to push hard here.

6. The city of Victoria, BC recently removed a statue of Sir John A. MacDonald from in front of their City Hall due to his role in starting Indian Residential Schools. What is your opinion on this?

This is a good question. We need to be proud of ourselves as a nation. We need to be proud of our accomplishments and those who worked towards them....

... But that has to be real. Either we churn through history for real champions to build statues of, that did not promote genocide or profit from exploitation OR we tear those down and replace them with those of people leading the charge. I understand the reluctance some have to shaking up an established written history of our nation, but in reality, that history has been proven over and over to have been written in extreme bias and is due for revision.

7. Is the City of Thunder Bay doing enough to mitigate and adapt to climate change?

No - not at all. We need to move beyond token solutions and look at how the variance in precipitation and temperature affects the homeless, farmers, homeowners and our infrastructure. We are already late to act on this.

8. The City of Portland, Oregon voted to ban all new fossil fuel infrastructure. Would you vote to do the same in Thunder Bay?

I would first study implementation. We live in a northern city that already suffers from extreme transportation issues for both individuals and businesses. If we can find a solution that suits the needs of our community, then absolutely.

- 9. The Nuclear Waste Management Organization is currently looking at Ignace as a possible site to bury nuclear waste from southern Ontario. Would you vote to prevent the transportation of nuclear waste through our city?**

Of course, I would. If I lose the vote, I will join a protest.

- 10. Would you be willing to get arrested at a protest to protect our natural environment?**

If there is something I believe in, I will do whatever it takes to stand up for it.

- 11. Tell us one example of how you would reduce homelessness and increase housing in Thunder Bay.**

The first one is obviously to support and promote Basic Income but that is simple. Aside from that we need to develop housing solutions for everyone. There are many examples of communities doing this and I have no doubt we can work it into our budget.

- 12. Would you appeal to the Province to re-instate the Ontario Basic Income Pilot? If so, how?**

1000% I have been working with groups affected to help them band together and provide guidance and resources to have their stories told. I joined the board of the LSPC for the chance to champion this cause and with the Conservative government looking to cancel the program, I will be working every angle I can find to push for re-instatement.

- 13. Tell us one thing you would do to support local businesses.**

I want to establish a position at the CEDC with the sole purpose of connecting small, expanding and new businesses with the people in engineering, by-law and admin that make the yes/no decisions on their projects. We need to become a city centered on solutions to save everyone time and money while projecting an environment of open opportunity to those looking to invest.

- 14. Tell us one thing you would do to support local food production.**

I will continue to push for a local food hub as I have been for years, to help with storage, processing and distribution to help lower overall costs of Thunder Bay farms and producers.

- 15. Tell you one thing you would do to improve the public transportation system.**

I have been learning more about this. We need to work on re-evaluating our city streets and their upkeep. We need to look at where our community hubs are and how to both improve access for everyone while prioritizing community. Cycle paths, walk-ways and dependable transit need to be implemented.

- 16. Do you support lowering bus fares?**

Absolutely. We need to promote accessibility not create more barriers, especially for the vulnerable and at-risk populations.

17. Would you work to have the Memorial Link, a proposed bike lane linking Port Arthur and Fort William, built within three years?

I sure would.

18. Tell us one thing you would do to help Thunder Bay neighbourhoods become safer and more vibrant.

I will support the community initiatives that bring people together. I have seen first hand the impact of Roots to Harvest and Evergreen: a United Neighbourhood and I am convinced in the value of both models.

19. Tell us one thing you have done to support racialized people, to increase accessibility, or to support LGBTQ+ people in Thunder Bay.

My business has always been, and will always be, a safe place for everyone. I have donated to and supported initiatives for each of those groups and look forward to helping create a city where everyone feels safe and respected.

20. Tell us one thing you would do to support urban infill.

I will vote against expansion.

21. How would you put pressure on the province to proceed with the planned safe injection centres in Thunder Bay?

I think it is important to highlight the plight of those suffering from addiction in the city. We need it to be known that, while in the long term we of course want to lower addiction levels and remove access to dangerous drugs, right now we have life and death situations that need to be dealt with.

22. Is there anything else you would like us to know about the vision you have for Thunder Bay?

My door is always open to talk. I want to open up Thunder Bay governance and help rebuild community confidence, even if it is one person at a time.