

Below is the best response I can offer at this point. It reflects my current thinking, which may appear vague or unsatisfactory. I appreciate the opportunity to explain my approach, even where I can't yet offer a complete answer.

---

Thunder Bay's Francophone community is part of the city's history, culture, workforce, and future. Residents should be able to participate in civic life and find important municipal information without language becoming an unnecessary barrier.

I would support a practical, phased review of French-language access. The first priorities should be emergency and safety information, elections and public participation, essential service pages, major consultations, and clear French guidance showing residents where to obtain help. The City should work with Francophone organizations to identify the information people actually need, use qualified translation, set service standards, and report on progress.

I would not promise that every municipal document can immediately be duplicated in French without understanding demand, cost, staffing, and current legal obligations. I would support a plan with clear priorities, timelines, and provincial or federal funding opportunities. Inclusion should be useful in daily life, not merely symbolic.

I will not always recognize every barrier on my own. My responsibility is to listen when people identify one, learn from the community affected, and use my place at the Council table to help remove it.