

SHERRI ROLLINS

For City Councillor
Fort Rouge – East Fort Garry



WINNIPEG FREE PRESS CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Age: 43

Profession: Senior Policy Analyst

For twenty years I have held various policy roles inside federal, provincial government and in the private sector with my own businesses. Prior to running in the 2018 election, I was an Advisor to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. I also serve as a trustee and Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Winnipeg School Division.

Education: I hold a BA in Conflict Resolution Studies from the University of Winnipeg.

ABOUT YOU

Q: Have you ever previously run for or held office?

A: I was first elected in 2014 as a School Trustee in Winnipeg School Division Ward 1, serving first as Chair of Finance and Personnel, then Vice-Chair, and currently as the Chair of the Board. In addition to providing governance oversight and direction for the Division and its \$400 million budget, there are many achievements over the past years of which I am proud, including:

- Signing the Indigenous Accord as Chair of the Board; establishing the Indigenous Council; and adding Cree and Ojibway bilingual program responding to decades of work by the Indigenous education community.
- Supporting the forming of a partnership between the division and SAFE Workers of Tomorrow, which now ensures all grade 9 students are given an education session regarding workplace safety and health.
- Helping to pass the first transgender and gender diverse support policy in Manitoba's history to provide clear protections for all students in the Division.
- Collaboration on a motion with the Newcomers Education Coalition to review use of the 12e credit.
- Collaboration with the Winnipeg Teachers Association to encourage teachers to increase incident reporting, setting out new guidelines for teachers to promote awareness of what needs to be reports and more training on workplace health and safety.

I have been a vocal advocate for making strong investments in education and standing up to the needless cuts from the provincial government. I want to continue to be a strong advocate for investing in the services that Winnipeg families count on at City Hall.

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Q: Have you ever been a member of a political party?

A: Part of the reason I wanted to run for city council was to have a big tent campaign with volunteers and supporters of all political stripes and those with no affiliation at all; my team reflects that diversity and common desire to make things better. I am personally a member of the Manitoba NDP and I am a federal Liberal party member.

Q: Why did you decide to run for office?

A: Shortly following Jenny Gerbasi's announcement that she was not seeking re-election, parents for whom I serve at the school division asked me to run for office to continue protecting their interests at city hall.

During my time as Chair of the Board, I saw numerous opportunities for partnership with city councillors and the Mayor; some were realized but there was much more potential. I also had seen first-hand the detrimental impacts of special interests at city hall and their harmful effects on families.

These examples – along with encouragement from the community – have propelled me to take my experience to help build our community, support smart social and economic development across the city, and ensure that there continues to be a strong voice on council for Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry.

Q: What are the biggest issues facing your community?

A: I've been knocking on doors in Fort Rouge - East Fort Garry for months. Keeping our streets safe, investing in quality city services and infrastructure, and building a more inclusive city are the biggest issues.

Community safety comes up every day as a top concern at the doorstep. Families have stressed the need for better crime prevention in Fort Rouge - East Fort Garry and more resources for at-risk members of our community to assist those harmed by addiction and crime. They want to see advancements in reconciliation and reconciliatory actions, food security and poverty alleviation, green space and permaculture. Arts funding, a culture at city hall that is helpful to business, trade routes and work with the provincial government on a new deal that diversifies revenue stream are also priorities.

Making smart investments that create good jobs and build a stronger economy is top of mind for families in the ward. We need to do a better job of making investments in city services like garbage collection, street plowing, transit, road repair, and an active transportation strategy. Ensuring developers and the city are doing what they say they are going to do and are responsive to community consultation concerning city planning and area development are priorities. So is protecting the integrity of the neighbourhoods with good and reasonable design.

Standing up to needless cuts to social services while building more affordable and low income housing is important as families in our community struggle to make ends meet.

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Q: Tell us something about yourself that voters might find surprising.

A: I love the Beastie Boys all of their albums and the voices of MCA, Ad-Rock, and Mike D. I've been hit by lightning.

I watch Jets Coach Paul Maurice talk about hockey and pretend he's talking about election 2018. Rise Together!

ABOUT YOUR PLATFORM AND POLICIES

Q: What is your position on reopening Portage and Main to pedestrians?

A: I will stand behind the decision of Winnipeggers, and respect their vote.

Personally I will be voting to open because I believe in a barrier-free and accessible Winnipeg and want to see safety improved downtown.

Q: What should Winnipeg's plan be for the future of public and active transit?

A: I am committed to improving the quality of city services like public transit and infrastructure for cyclists.

That means planning for more busses – built right here in Winnipeg – as part of our active fleet. Investing in the next leg of rapid transit development is a priority so that transit users get where they need to go reliably and quickly. Keeping fares affordable for seniors and those on a fixed income is a priority. Provincial cuts and fare increases put more burden onto our already underfunded system every day; I will continue to advocate for the restoration of 50/50 transit funding between the City and the Province.

It also means expanding and connecting our network of active transit paths so that individuals and families have the opportunity to walk, run, and bike in safety and more fully enjoy the beautiful neighbourhoods and natural settings with which we are blessed.

Q: What actions should the city take to progress toward reconciliation with Indigenous Canadians?

A: I have had the opportunity to reflect on reconciliation in many facets, not only as an indigenous woman, but in my past work with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. In my current role a Chair of the Board with the Winnipeg School Division, I have taken a leading role in moving the Division to grapple with reconciliation throughout the organization.

I welcome the opportunity to bring this experience to City Hall.

As a start, realizing the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) at the municipal level while working to deepen relationships with Treaty One governments would help us build a better Winnipeg for everyone. That means making a commitment to providing resources and safe-spaces to reduce racialized violence and advocating for Indigenous community-led appointments to the Winnipeg Police board – among others – to make our community more aware, more inclusive, and safer for all Winnipeggers.

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Q: How can the city tackle growing problems with drug addiction?

A: I am committed to making our city safer by supporting community partners that are already working on early intervention measures, creating recovery centres for those trying get back on their feet, and other measures to reduce harm like safe injection sites. We also need to provide alternatives to police cruisers for interventions.

Q: Tell us about something you've seen in another city that Winnipeggers should consider implementing here.

A: 1. I am committed to developing a zero-fatality traffic safety strategy, similar to the Swedish "Vision Zero" model that has seen success in other Canadian cities. I've heard first hand at the doorstep that families want to walk, bike and drive in our city without fear. A zero-fatality strategy would mean better, long-term investments in road repair and safer streets for Winnipeggers. It's time we get serious and make our roads work for all of our citizens, whether they walk, cycle, or drive.

2. While canvassing during the election I was asked to start a breakfast program at a school. I like Vancouver and Toronto's work in support of a more safe and sustainable food system for their cities. This includes policy and guideline work including encouraging biodiversity, use of under-utilized spaces and work to enhance the green economy.

3. Fort Rouge- East Fort Garry is home to Corydon, Sherbrook, South Osborne, and Osborne Village where there is happening night spots with a busy nighttime scene and creative night-time economic development. I am a fan of night-time economic development focus of cities like Paris, London, Amsterdam, Zurich, Berlin, that actively support the nighttime economy, party promoters, and encouraging of live music but also enforce standards, reducing street noise.

4. Winnipeggers are circumspect that deals like True North Square and the stadium were made in their best interest by the city and the province. While they are supportive of revitalization, they are concerned with the extent to which governments should subsidize private development downtown. These deals have also brought to focus the public policy priority of creating low income housing. A review of the Province's Community Revitalization Tax Increment Financing Act and Tax Increment Financing program is required. Not only do I support an economic development office that shines a light on policy that works, and support a provincial panel to work on a new deal between the city and the province including an examination of revitalization instruments like TIF. I view increasing revitalization tools and defining parameters as a priority. Detroit's Pink Zoning holds promise. This refers to a lessening of red tape that can quickly thwart revitalization with rigid policy interpretations and strangle potential.