

# Living Waters Trustee Candidate - Albert Bahri

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My Name is Albert Bahri, I'm married and the proud father of two young adults. My wife and I live in the beautiful Town of Edson, which is surrounded by vibrant and breath taking Yellowhead County. I have worked in Emergency services and Municipal Government now for over 33 years



and my faith keeps me focused and steadfast in helping those in need. Our Catholic faith has over the years allowed our family to grow and flourish under some challenging conditions. Our family enjoys the vast outdoors, sports, and community.

Several years ago I made a promise to my family, and myself that if an opportunity were to present itself that would enable me to support, work to enhance, and promote, education, Catholic education, diversity issues in education, inclusion in education and the Catholic Church I would seize this opportunity. My wife and children are members of the

First Nation Community and all have successfully graduated from high school, but this said as a family we understand the struggles of the educational system for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students in Canada.

I would support Catholic education by continuing to support the Catholic faith. I would work to support Catholic schools to make sure they are truly catholic and Inclusive. I will be an advocate for the board, staff, and students. I would promote diversity. I would focus on the five marks of a Catholic School.

I would work to ensure that the learning gap of the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit communities is closed rapidly and that changes in curriculum are made to reflect the History of indigenous communities.

There are many challenges facing the educational system and at the top of the list is the funding models currently in place. This is tied directly into learning models that have developed over the years. Charter schools and private school models are increasing in numbers. Home schooling and distance learning is also on the rise. Making sure faith based learning is available to all that want it is also a challenge.

Class size also appears to becoming a major issue. If some areas the enrollment is down forcing the closure of schools and the children being moved to other locations causing many hardships. Conversely some areas are seeing a bulging enrollment forcing the local authority to scramble to accommodate students and look very hard at facility upgrades or replacement.

Capital investment is also a major concern based on the current funding models.

The local boards must also be open and willing to accept information from parents, students and staff on requirements and issues, or they themselves can become a major challenge.