

In October 2017, SWESA asked these questions...

1 - SWESA is the newest district seniors centre in Edmonton and has 400 members out of a population of over 25,000 who are 55+. How would you see us developing over the next 3-5 years?

2 - SWESA was formed in 2012 and since then has been building capacity and experience in running programs and providing services out of leased space. We are now working with a full Board of 12, two part time staff, and approximately 90 enthusiastic volunteers. How will you and your fellow Councillors support the ongoing development of this seniors centre for Southwest Edmonton?

3 - One of SWESA's newest programs is the Seniors Home Supports Program (supported through a city-wide committee and a FCSS grant.) The program is one way that SWESA reaches out to seniors who may be isolated and in need of support to continue living well - at home, by finding housecleaning, yard work, snow shovelling and home maintenance services. We want to maintain a follow up component to our referral system and to vet the services we recommend to seniors in SW Edmonton. SWESA is hopeful that it will be a priority for ongoing funding. Will you continue to support us in the work we are doing?

In alphabetical order, here are the replies that have been received to date from Ward 10 Council Candidates

Micheal Walters

Thank you very much for sending me this survey and for the work you do with SWESA. I am an ardent proponent of aging-in-place and creating a city that both an 8 year old and an 80 year old can live and flourish in.

1. Over the next 3-5 years I see SWESA continuing its upward trajectory. As it becomes more and more established in the southwest it will see gains in membership and activity which can only serve the southwest seniors community better. This growth will be a tremendous benefit to our city and we must ensure that it is supported by our City Government.

Growing SWESA's mandate should be encouraged and the resources necessary to do so should be made available.

2. If I am honoured with re-election I will work alongside my fellow Councillors to provide SWESA the resources it needs to grow and continue to serve its community. SWESA and its sister NESAs provide Edmonton seniors with connection, community, and a raft of resources that allow them to age in place and with dignity. As a Councillor, I will continue to champion SWESA and support it in any way I can. Council has shown a strong appetite in the past to support seniors and I have faith that this coming Council will as well. Seniors housing has been a focus of mine over my last four years on Council. Many of the seniors that I have spoken with have chosen to stay in their current homes not because they do not want to part with their property, but rather they do not want to leave their neighbourhood. There is land for seniors housing in South Edmonton. We need to keep working with the provincial and federal governments as well as the private sector to build this housing to meet this growing demand.
3. I will continue to support SWESA's Seniors Home Supports Program (SHSP) and advocate for it strongly. As a strong proponent of aging in place and giving folks the option to stay in their communities as long as possible, I firmly support the SHSP. I will continue to advocate for city grants and technical support for this program and seeking ways to grow and improve it moving forward. Beyond supporting and growing SHSP, I also believe that we as a City should continue to plan for seniors needs in mind, be they around transportation options or the wonderful service offered by the SHSP.

Glenda Williams

1. I am committed to the health of seniors. I think I am the only candidate that has Seniors issues as part of my platform.
2. I am committed to low income and affordable housing, especially for seniors. I'm also in favour of seniors access to community busing and not having to walk a mile to the nearest in service bus stop.
3. Congratulations on being the newest seniors group. You perform a vital service. How do you see yourselves operating? I'm in favour of seniors

centres and building community. Keep up the great work you are doing and the initiatives you intend. Seniors are our former champions. You make the difference. You have my respect and cooperation. I'm listening. Communication, Consultation, & Collaboration. Lets keep working and building together.