

RAAHIM IQBAL



My name is Raahim Iqbal. I was born in Karachi, Pakistan in 1991. It has been my personal ambition from a young age to travel abroad and become an established businessman. Upon finishing my enrolment with local cadets in Pakistan, I began to research where I had hoped to settle in my adult life. After thorough research and personal investment, I came to learn about the excellent education opportunities and potential growth in Canada. I initially arrived and briefly settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 2012.

The integration into Canadian culture and society came to me very easily. As a traditional Muslim, I believe in upholding the courtesy, integrity and humanitarian values that were taught to me from a young age. I found that overall, my fellow Canadians were very friendly and I enjoyed the hospitable environment that I experienced. I began working with Circle K the following year in 2013 as an assistant manager in one of the Winnipeg locations and later relocated to Portage la Prairie upon obtaining my own Circle K franchise in 2016. I have since decided to settle here permanently.

It has been a thoroughly rewarding experience to serve as an entrepreneur in the city of Portage la Prairie. By further refining my leadership and management skills, I have found that I was able to help others and guide them into prosperity. In 2019, my convenience store achieved "Retailer of the Month" from the Circle K corporation and in collaboration with the Portage Learning and Literacy Centre, I was able to make a difference in the community by offering summer student tutoring in Math and Chemistry; English

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familiarization, practice and cultural naturalization with other families that were new to the area. In addition to volunteering with the Whoop and Holler Folk Festival, these social engagements were something that I found to be immensely rewarding in a community that I came to recognize as one that was hospitable, receptive and supportive. While I am no longer a part of the Circle K franchise chain, I remain a dedicated member of this community and continue to serve from my new position at the local Walmart Wireless cellphone kiosk.

It is my intention to run for council this year to assist in revitalizing a community that has become very dear to my heart. I would like to see more incentive for economic growth and development. As the population grows, it is my furthermore my objective to enlist additional patrols and security measures for the safety and well-being of the community members as a whole. I would like to ensure that adequate infrastructure is being constructed and that necessary repairs are being attended to. I believe in the improved communication between concerned citizens and their elected council; the establishment of shelters to address the issue of poverty and homelessness in our local population, addictions outreach programs and treatment opportunities. I would like to see further cultural education and opportunities develop as well, as the population becomes more diversified.

Portage la Prairie is a unique city of opportunity that has been generous and welcoming towards me. I believe in the citizens of this city and would like to be a part of the positive change expected of your local council as we “portage” forward into a brighter future for us all. Please consider my renown and character to speak for itself when you cast your ballots for the final vote. I look forward to serving the place that I love to live.