

Mitch Tilk

My name is Mitch Tilk and I am the Local Immigration Partnership Program Coordinator with the Portage Community Revitalization Corporation. I have been involved with various social services for 9 years. I am 35 years old and have lived in the north end of the city for most of my life. My job is to make Portage as good as I can for newcomers and a lot of times that extends out to the rest of the residents of Portage as well. Because my



mandate is so broad, it allows me to be involved in anything I think will make the community a better place for people. So, I'm honoured to say that I've been involved in planning things such as Anti-Racism Week, Truth and Reconciliation Day events, Orange Handprints, and several proclamations and flag raisings. My biggest concerns for people in Portage are the difficulties associated with a lack of transportation, affordable housing, and community safety and well-being.

I think a lot of our systems are on the verge of collapse and we must admit that we clearly don't have the answers to fixing them. Throwing money at a problem is the easiest, laziest, and least effective solution and seems to be the only thing politicians above the municipal level know how to do. However, I think that leaves us with a tremendous opportunity to finally build systems that work for everybody from the community level. In that vein, I believe that reconciliation will be a handy framework for designing better systems and that we need to just get to it and stop waiting for anybody to tell us how.

So, long story short, if you're looking for a representative who cares about the issues affecting our most vulnerable residents, I'm your guy.