

Candidate Summaries

This October, eligible voters will be getting out to elect one mayor, eight councillors and four school trustees.

The nomination period for candidates is September 1 - 11, 2026. Candidate information will be posted here as it is received.

Declaration of Candidates (PDF)

Mayor

1. **Craig HODGE**



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Nomination Documents: [HODGE, Craig \(PDF\)](#)

Coquitlam has been my home for my entire life. I grew up here, graduated from Centennial Secondary, built my career as a photojournalist with our local community newspaper and the Vancouver Sun, and, together with my wife Darla, raised our three sons here. I've watched Coquitlam grow and change over the decades, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have spent the past 15 years serving the community I love on our City Council.

Now, I'm ready to serve Coquitlam in a new way: as your next mayor.

I believe our city has an exciting future ahead, but how we manage the growth and change happening around us matters. We need to make sure Coquitlam remains a place where families can afford to live, seniors can stay in the neighbourhoods they love, and young people can imagine building their futures here.

That means protecting our parks, trees and green spaces; keeping taxes as low as possible; and making sure roads, transit, recreation, schools, childcare and medical services keep pace with growth.

It also means keeping our community safe. I support more RCMP foot patrols, stronger traffic enforcement, community safety officers and dedicated resources to address gang activity. I will also continue advocating for improvements to 911 service so residents can get help when they need it most.

During my time on Council, I've worked to expand recreation opportunities, renew older parks and facilities, and find partnerships that allow us to deliver more while respecting taxpayers.

I know this city, I love this city, and I believe in its future. It has been an honour to serve Coquitlam for the past 15 years, and I would be honoured to earn your support to serve as your next mayor.

1. **Madhavee INAMDAR**



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Nomination Documents: [INAMDAR, Madhavee \(PDF\)](#)

For 22 years in Coquitlam with an active community role, I bridge high-level & future-ready policy with grounded, neighbourhood-first empathy.

I have worked across the public sector including with the Government of B.C., Surrey RCMP, Fraser Health, University of the Fraser Valley, and B.C. Lottery Corporation. I have designed policies, accountability structures, budget plans & ethical frameworks. I hold postgraduate degrees in International Relations, Political Science, and undergrad in Social Work, alongside leadership credentials from London School of Economics and Oxford Saïd Business School.

Why I am Running for Mayor? TIME FOR CHANGE:

SMART GROWTH:

Growing smarter means using the city's zoning powers to secure infrastructure benefits from developers, reducing traffic bottlenecks and preserving green spaces.

COMMITMENT: Document infrastructure assessments prior to council approval for major growth decisions.

CITY HALL PEOPLE TRUST:

Residents are tired of city decisions that prioritize administrative continuity over neighbourhood needs. We need budget transparency to ensure tax dollars directly support frontline community services, transit, seniors, and small businesses.

COMMITMENT: Bring forward Terms of Reference for Independent Review in first 100 days.

AFFORDABILITY & BELONGING:

My areas of focus: Property Tax Relief advocacy for Seniors, Rental Policy review, Age-in-Place Inclusive Infrastructure, Childcare Spaces as Requirement.

COMMITMENT: Bring forward targeted affordability package for qualifying low-income seniors.

CONNECTED, SAFE, RESILIENT NEIGHBOURHOODS:

My priorities: Transit Pilot for Connected Neighbourhoods, Accessibility Priority Map, Extreme Weather Safety plans, Integrated Crisis Response around Neighbourhoods and Communities Before Big Tech.

COMMITMENT: Publish a city-wide connected neighbourhoods action plan.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT: I will donate 25% of my annual salary to local initiatives and charities that support seniors, youth and vulnerable population.



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Nomination Documents: [MANDEWO, Trish \(PDF\)](#)

Hi, I'm Trish Mandewo, I have been a city councilor for the last eight years, and I am running to be your next Mayor because I know Coquitlam. I understand government. And I have the relationships, experience, and determination to lead our city into its next chapter.

I was elected President of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) by local government colleagues from communities across British Columbia—not once, but twice. As a two-term President, I represented communities across the province and built a proven record as a strong advocate for local governments. I worked directly with provincial and federal leaders on issues affecting our communities, pushing for solutions when needed and partnering when collaboration could deliver results. This experience gave me a front-row understanding of how to navigate government, build relationships across jurisdictions, and ensure local priorities are heard at the tables where critical decisions are made. I know when to challenge, when to collaborate, and always keep community interests at the centre. Through it all, I've helped put Coquitlam on the map provincially and federally, ensuring our city's priorities are heard where it matters.

I've served on more than 25 boards across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, bringing deep expertise in governance and strategy. My work has earned recognition including BC Business Woman of the Year, Top 50 Women Over 50, the King Charles III Coronation Medal, and a place among Canada's 100 Accomplished Black Women.

With an early career in microbiology and embryology, I bring a unique combination of perspectives as a scientist, business owner, governance expert, and community builder. At the heart of my

approach is a simple belief: strong governance, effective leadership, and service to community are inseparable.

City Councillor

1. **Behzad ABDI**



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Nomination Documents: [ABDI, Behzad \(PDF\)](#)

Dr. Behzad Abdi is a Coquitlam resident, engineer, researcher, educator and community leader with extensive experience in technology, nonprofit leadership and community service.

He holds a PhD from Simon Fraser University and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at SFU, working in applied artificial intelligence and advanced analytics. He also serves as part-time faculty at Northeastern University in Vancouver, bringing experience in engineering, data, technology and evidence-based decision-making to both research and education.

Behzad has been actively involved in the Tri-Cities community for more than a decade. He served in senior leadership roles with the Tri-City Iranian Cultural Society, helping organize major cultural and community events and working with residents from diverse backgrounds. He also serves as a board member of the Coquitlam Heritage Society.

Through his professional and community work, Behzad has developed experience in organizational leadership, project planning, budgeting, stakeholder engagement and collaboration with municipal, provincial and federal representatives.

As a candidate for Coquitlam City Council, his priorities include improving municipal efficiency and accountability, using technology and data to address traffic and transportation challenges,

supporting economic activity and responsible growth, expanding opportunities for youth and families, and strengthening community spaces that bring residents together.

Behzad believes City decisions should be practical, transparent, financially responsible and focused on measurable results while protecting Coquitlam's quality of life.

More information: www.behzadabdi.ca

1. **Phillip BUCHAN**



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Nomination Documents: [BUCHAN, Phillip \(PDF\)](#)

Hi! My name is Phillip Buchan and am grateful to have the opportunity to run for Coquitlam Council again. This is a natural next step in my journey in working for the city that I love.

I was born in Calgary, but I grew up all over Canada, and in Germany, as my father was in the army. I have a BA in Political Science from the University of Calgary. I also lived in Japan teaching English for 18 years and that is where I met my wife, Miho Kitamoto. We have called Coquitlam home for the last 13 years, and many more still to come.

I feel a responsibility for looking after Coquitlam and my neighbours. I started as a member of Burke Mountain Naturalists in 2014 (Board of Directors since 2022, and was President 2024 and 2025). I have been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #263 since 2015 and have volunteered collecting money for veterans in November since then.

An important part of my platform is advocating for food security and shelter for all. I have worked at the Tricities Winter Shelter the last two winters and I am a founding member of Tri-Cities Food Not Bombs which was established in 2024 and provides free lunches to the unhoused on Gordon Ave in Coquitlam every second Sunday.

My work life represents what I feel is important in caring for community.

I am presently working at Access Youth Outreach Services as a bus driver.

Working with youth, you understand the importance of looking after the environment, and securing a good future for generations to come.

1. **Tali CAMPBELL**



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Nomination Documents: [CAMPBELL, Tali \(PDF\)](#)

My name is Tali Campbell, and I am running for Coquitlam City Council because I believe our community deserves leadership that listens, engages and delivers.

Coquitlam has been my home for the past six years, and during that time I have had the privilege of building my career, volunteering and becoming deeply involved in our community.

As President and General Manager of the Coquitlam Express and a leader in local youth sports, I work every day with families, young people, local businesses and community organizations. I

oversee a multi-million-dollar organization, manage staff and budgets, build community partnerships and help create opportunities for young people.

My community involvement has also included supporting organizations and initiatives such as SHARE Family & Community Services, KidSport, the Canucks Autism Network, local schools and numerous community events and charitable causes.

I am running to help build a stronger Coquitlam by focusing on four key priorities: safe neighbourhoods, responsible growth, stronger service options and fiscal responsibility.

As our city continues to grow, we need to protect the quality of life that makes Coquitlam such a great place to live. That means thoughtful planning, safe and vibrant neighbourhoods, strong recreation and community services, support for local businesses, and responsible management of taxpayers' dollars.

I believe elected officials should be accessible, accountable and willing to listen to residents.

I would be honoured to bring my energy, community experience and practical leadership to Coquitlam City Council and work every day to help build a stronger Coquitlam for everyone.

1. **Ali CINA**



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Nomination Documents: [CINA, Ali \(PDF\)](#)

Ali Cina here, I'm a 22-year-old Coquitlam resident, SFU student, freelance web and software developer, security consultant, and Eagle Ridge Hospital volunteer running an independent, grassroots campaign for City Council.

I grew up in the Tri-Cities and have called Coquitlam home since my early teenage years. I'm studying Computer Science and Political Science at Simon Fraser University, and I also work part-time at a local Coquitlam shop, where I hear daily how rising costs are affecting families and small businesses.

Politics did not begin as a career path for me. It started as a desire to see real improvement in the community I live in, and it has grown into a clear commitment to public service.

I've built this campaign the same way I approach every project: hands-on and from the ground up. I designed and built the campaign website myself, managed the technical infrastructure, and worked directly on materials with volunteers. That same practical approach, attention to detail, responsible use of resources, and a focus on getting things done, is what I intend to bring to City Hall.

I'm running to lower the cost of living, make City Hall more transparent, and give residents a genuine voice in local decisions. My goal is a city government that treats residents like owners of Coquitlam, not customers of it.

A city that listens starts with someone who listens.

1. **Matt DJONLIC**



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Nomination Documents: [DJONLIC, Matt \(PDF\)](#)

Matt believes his job as your Coquitlam City Councillor is to help you get what you need from City Hall, and to make Coquitlam the best it can be. He has served as Council's liaison to the Library, Homelessness and Housing Task Force, and chaired the City's Sports, Accessibility, and Multiculturalism committees.

Prior to serving on Council, Matt working the in the Provincial Government in areas of housing, finance, mental health, and municipal affairs.

If re-elected Matt will be focused on:

- Completing more community centres, pools, and libraries.
- Tackling traffic with new road connections and advocating for more transit.
- Working with non-profits to build more co-op and affordable housing.
- Guaranteeing core services like snow ploughing, garbage pick up, and filling potholes remain reliable.

Matt and his partner Natalie live in the City Centre neighbourhood.

1. **Habib JAMSHIDIAN**

Nomination Documents: [JAMSHIDIAN, Habib \(PDF\)](#)

1. **Steve KIM**



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Nomination Documents: [KIM, Steve \(PDF\)](#)

For the past eight years, it has been one of the greatest honours of my life to serve the residents of Coquitlam on City Council. I'm running for re-election because I believe Coquitlam needs balanced,

thoughtful leadership that plans ahead, manages taxpayers' dollars responsibly, supports our local economy, and protects the quality of life that makes our city such a great place to call home.

I am a long-time Coquitlam resident, entrepreneur and community leader. I believe in listening first, working collaboratively, and making thoughtful decisions that reflect the long-term interests of our community.

My parents were early Korean immigrants who arrived in the Lower Mainland in the late 1960s. In 1981, when I was eight, our family moved to Coquitlam. Today, three generations of my family live, work and study in the Tri-Cities. My parents built their lives and small businesses from the ground up, teaching me that success is not just about what you achieve for yourself, but what you do for others and your community.

Before serving on Council, I built a career in marketing and communications, working with small businesses, technology companies, non-profits and professional organizations across B.C. For the past two years, I have also served as Executive Director of a Tri-Cities-based charity supporting vulnerable and at-risk youth and families. This experience has deepened my understanding of the challenges facing our community and reinforced the importance of prevention, compassion and strong partnerships.

As Coquitlam continues to grow, my Five Priorities are:

- Plan responsibly for our future
- Grow a strong local economy
- Protect what makes Coquitlam special
- Advocate for Coquitlam
- Lead thoughtfully

Together, let's continue to build a stronger Coquitlam for today, for tomorrow, and for generations to come.

Please visit [SteveKim4Council.ca](https://www.stevekim4council.ca) for more detailed information.

1. **Genevieve KYLE-LEFEBVRE**



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Nomination Documents: [KYLE-LEFEBVRE, Genevieve \(PDF\)](#)

I'm Geneviève Kyle-Lefebvre, a longtime Coquitlam resident, community leader, nonprofit executive, mother, longtime community volunteer, and food recovery advocate.

For many years, I have been actively involved across our community, working with families, seniors, youth, local organizations, neighbourhood groups, and community initiatives. As Executive Director of a local nonprofit and Artistic Director of one of Coquitlam's largest cultural festivals, I understand responsible budgeting, building partnerships, managing resources, and delivering programs that serve our community. My professional background also includes experience in finance and health care.

My community involvement includes neighbourhood advocacy, community media, food recovery, support for seniors and families, and initiatives that bring people together. I am a Past President of Tri-Cities Community TV and previously served on the Burke Mountain Residents Association.

I'm running for Coquitlam City Council because I want to continue serving the community I call home. My priorities are affordability and protecting taxpayers, housing and safe neighbourhoods, responsible growth, and accountable and responsive leadership.

I don't think residents need another politician. They need someone who will pick up the phone, answer their questions, listen when something isn't working, and follow through.

That's the kind of councillor I want to be. And in other words, it's simple:

Listen. Act. Unite.



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Nomination Documents: [MAZZAROLO, Robert \(PDF\)](#)

As a lifelong Coquitlam resident, being an active volunteer for our community has always been a priority for me. My guiding principle continues to be to do what is in their best interest of our residents of today and what is in the best interest of our residents of tomorrow.

My vision for our city is for residents to receive value for their tax dollars, invest in community infrastructure, enhance our local economy, push for a family-size housing policy, and advocate for increased transit and medical services. As a lawyer, my career continues to provide me with unique skills that I want to continue to bring to city council for the benefit of residents. I routinely advocate for my clients' interests and negotiate to achieve the best possible outcome. I want to continue to put these skills to work for you and provide more for our community.

My commitments to our community and past experiences include:

- Chair of Economic Development, Environmental Sustainability, Multiculturalism, and Culture Services advisory committees
- Volunteer Director for SHARE Family and Community Services Society
- Volunteer Director for 43 Housing Society
- Volunteer Director for The People's Pantry Food Recovery Society
- Volunteer and paid Coach for Coquitlam Metro-Ford Soccer Club
- Bachelor's Degree majoring in economics from Simon Fraser University
- Centennial Secondary School graduate

My wife, Roxana, and I look forward to raising our family in the City of Coquitlam that we both love. I want to ensure that your family and future generations have the same opportunities that I had

growing up in Coquitlam. With your trust, support, and vote, I am confident I can continue to serve you and your family well on Coquitlam city council.

1. **Cameron MCBRYER**

Nomination Documents: [MCBRYER, Cameron \(PDF\)](#)

1. **Benjamin PERRY**



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Nomination Documents: [PERRY, Benjamin \(PDF\)](#)

Benjamin Perry is a longtime Coquitlam resident and community advocate who believes City Hall should put the needs of residents first.

Benjamin does not accept campaign donations from executives or owners of property development companies and is independent of political parties. His first responsibility as a councillor will be to represent the residents and business owners of Coquitlam.

His platform has been shaped by thousands of conversations with residents at their doors, in neighbourhoods and throughout the community. Those conversations have helped set the priorities he is bringing to City Hall:

Growth That Works for Residents; Safer Streets and Managed Traffic; A Green, Liveable City; and Keeping Coquitlam Affordable.

That means making sure growth doesn't outpace infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, roads and other services residents need; improving pedestrian and road safety; protecting trees, parks and natural areas; supporting affordable and family-sized housing; strengthening protections for renters; protecting industrial and employment lands; and ensuring tax dollars are spent responsibly.

Benjamin wants Coquitlam to remain a welcoming and inclusive city that values its cultural assets, including the cultural heritage of Maillardville and the diverse cultural communities that have made Coquitlam their home. He is committed to reconciliation and to strengthening the City's relationship with the kwikwə́łəm (Kwikwetlem) First Nation.

Benjamin believes residents deserve meaningful opportunities to shape decisions affecting their neighbourhoods. He wants public consultation to be accessible and meaningful, with a City Hall that genuinely listens to the people it serves.

If elected, Benjamin Perry will take leave from his healthcare job to serve as a full-time representative for the people of Coquitlam.

1. **Shereen SAMIMI**



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Nomination Documents: [SAMIMI, Shereen \(PDF\)](#)

I was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and moved to Coquitlam in 2010. Since then, Coquitlam has become my home, and it is where my husband and I have chosen to raise our son.

Outside of community volunteering, I am a graduate of the University of Victoria, where I studied psychology and social justice. My education later took me to Harvard for grad school, where I continued studying psychology and social epidemiology. My time at Harvard deepened my understanding of social determinants of health, the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age, and how profoundly those conditions shape our health and well-being.

That experience shaped how I think about public policy. Health and well-being cannot be separated from the communities we build. Housing, transportation, the environment, social connection, and access to community spaces all influence whether people can thrive. I believe we need to bring a social-determinants-of-health lens into local policy and decision-making.

My platform is focused on circular economy principles, integrating social determinants of health into policy, building a stronger designated Blue Community, bringing urban planning and public health perspectives to the way we approach traffic and road safety, and creating more third spaces where people can connect, gather, and belong.

My work with the Together Against Poverty Society in Victoria also showed me firsthand how important affordable housing is, not simply as a housing issue, but as a foundation for health, stability, and opportunity. Everyone deserves the ability to find a safe and affordable place to call home.

I am running for Coquitlam City Council because I believe local government has an important role in shaping the conditions that allow people and communities to flourish. This is an independent, grassroots campaign. I will work hard for you, Coquitlam.

Think global. Act local.

1. **Matthew SEBASTIANI**



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Nomination Documents: [SEBASTIANI, Matthew \(PDF\)](#)

I'm a lifelong Coquitlam resident who grew up in Burquitlam, attended local public schools, and spent countless hours in our parks and recreation centres.

As a finance and policy professional and long-time community advocate, I bring a unique blend of financial experience and collaborative leadership. Professionally, I've served as a Senior Analyst at the Bank of Canada, Associate Director of Corporate Development in life sciences, and Policy Advisor for the Senate of Canada. I hold an MBA in Finance from UBC Sauder and a BA (Honours) in Economics from SFU. My background equips me to deliver fiscally responsible decision-making at City Hall.

My dedication to Coquitlam is demonstrated through extensive local non-profit leadership past and present, including: Chair of the Coquitlam Foundation, President of Place des Arts, Director for the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce, Director of the Coquitlam North Road Business Improvement Association, and Citizen Representative on the City of Coquitlam's Economic Development Committee and Universal Access-Ability Committee. In 2025, I was recognized as the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce Young Professional of the Year.

My Five Platform Pillars

- Practical solutions to affordability: Keep property taxes low and predictable. Support a balanced mix of housing, including affordable options.
- Responsible financial stewardship: Prioritize essential services and scrutinize new spending. Uphold fiscal accountability at Metro Vancouver.
- Safe, inclusive, and accessible communities: Provide resources to fire and police to keep our community safe. Reduce road congestion and improve transit.
- Enhancing community life: Invest in local parks, recreation facilities, and support sports, arts, and culture.
- A future-ready Coquitlam: Build infrastructure to match growth. Diversify the local economy.

I care deeply about our community, and I bring the experience and passion needed to serve. Join me in Building Coquitlam's Future Together.

1. **Harvey SU**



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Nomination Documents: [SU, Harvey \(PDF\)](#)

A Community Champion. A Leader Who Delivers. A Voice for Action.

In 2025, Harvey Su received the Tri-City Community Champion Award.

How did he earn that recognition?

Championing better transit. Founded the West Coast Express Expansion Association, working with TransLink, CP Rail and different levels of government to advocate for expanded WCE service and a West Coast Express Pilot Project.

Bringing communities together. Served as President of the Golden Maple Multicultural Society and Westwood Plateau Community Association, helping bring Lunar New Year celebrations, Lantern Festivals, block parties and other cultural events to communities across the Tri-Cities.

Turning ideas into action. Brought practical solutions to City Hall that were adopted by the City, including adding Google Translate to the City of Coquitlam website and accepting Canadian Tire Triangle Mastercard for property tax payments.

Protecting our natural heritage. Promoted environmental education and appreciation of Coquitlam's natural heritage through tree walks and community engagement.

Giving residents a voice. Moderated the 2025 Federal Environmental Town Hall, creating an opportunity for residents to engage directly with candidates on important environmental and community issues.

Supporting local journalism. Advocated for Freshet News and Tri-Cities Community TV, strengthening local voices and community engagement.

Supporting local health care. Donated \$50,000 to the Eagle Ridge Hospital Foundation to help support a patient room in the new emergency department.

Harvey has listened at tens of thousands of doors and turned ideas into action. Coquitlam deserves a councillor who has worked for the community, not just promised to.

Harvey Su holds an MSc from UBC and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and brings 20+ years of business leadership and community service experience.

SU FOR US!

Together, let's build a stronger Coquitlam today and for generations to come.

1. **Kash TAYAL**



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Nomination Documents: [TAYAL, Kash \(PDF\)](#)

From the Ground Up to Giving Back

My journey has been shaped by hard work, resilience, and the belief that opportunity is earned through determination. It began in Europe with a scholarship to study hospitality and little more than the bare minimum needed to survive. I took on a dishwasher's job to support myself and help fund my education. Through perseverance and a commitment to excellence, I worked my way up to managing international hospitality operations, gaining firsthand experience in hard work, accountability, service, and leadership.

My wife and I proudly made Canada our home in 2006, where I launched my first business from our basement. Through innovation, perseverance, and an entrepreneurial mindset, I built a successful hospitality supply enterprise specializing in eCommerce, IT, warehousing, and logistics.

Four pillar values define who I am and how I want to serve Coquitlam:

- **ENTREPRENEURSHIP** — I understand how to build, manage, solve problems, create opportunities, and turn ideas into results.
- **FISCAL PRUDENCE** — I believe in disciplined budgeting, responsible financial management, accountability, and ensuring taxpayer dollars deliver value.
- **FAMILY & COMMUNITY** — As a family man and community volunteer, I believe strongly in educational values, safe neighborhoods, engaged citizens, and vibrant parks, sports, recreation are the foundation of a great city.
- **IMMIGRANT SUCCESS**: As an immigrant who built a life and business in Canada, I have experienced firsthand the opportunity this country provides. I want Coquitlam to remain a place where families, entrepreneurs, newcomers, and future generations can pursue their dreams.

Coquitlam is our home, and I'm running for City Council to bring entrepreneurial thinking, strategic leadership, disciplined budgeting, and accountable decision-making to City Hall. My commitment is simple: practical, results-driven solutions that build a safer, smarter, more connected Coquitlam while protecting taxpayer value

1. **Jane THOMSING**



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Nomination Documents: [THOMSING, Jane \(PDF\)](#)

I've been proud to call Coquitlam home for nearly twenty years. I'm running because I believe in making sure our city remains the best place to raise a family, be near nature, and have access to excellent amenities.

Most of us in Coquitlam are juggling some combination of work, kids, family responsibilities, long commutes, and bills that keep going up. As a mom of three kids and an education assistant in School District 43, I understand the daily struggles families face.

I serve as a Nature Ambassador with the Lower Coquitlam River Nature Association and volunteer helping children connect with nature, supporting environmental initiatives, and assisting in the rescue of injured wildlife.

I believe everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. As Coquitlam grows, we need a range of housing options for people at every stage of life, thoughtfully planned near transit, and supported by parks, schools, and community spaces.

We must balance growth with safety, environmental responsibility, and affordability. This means ensuring community safety resources, city amenities, and services keep pace with population growth, improving compassionate responses to mental health challenges, tackling climate change, and reducing traffic congestion.

As your city councillor, I'll focus on the cost of living, making sure our communities are healthy, and ensuring this city is for residents of every age and background.

I'd love to hear from you, and I hope to earn your vote on October 17.

1. **Rosalinda THORLEIFSON**



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Nomination Documents: [THORLEIFSON, Rosalinda \(PDF\)](#)

Lifelong Coquitlam resident, three generations deep, with 15 years building marketing and growth departments at enterprise companies and Canadian tech startups.

President of her strata council, leading budgeting, infrastructure planning, and long-term savings strategy. Running as an independent for council on October 17th to bring that strategy and discipline to city hall.

Platform summary:

- Housing: Push for more 2 and 3 bedroom homes in every development, build non-market and co-op housing into how neighbourhoods grow, and hold firm on parks, schools, and infrastructure that keep pace with growth
- Growth: Cut red tape and push for a fast-track permit stream, champion small business and entrepreneurs, and communicate the city's budget in plain language
- Jobs: Strategically diversify Coquitlam's economy by investing in industrial land and every SkyTrain hub, bringing new revenue streams that ease the property tax burden on homeowners
- Tech Sovereignty: Champion a Coquitlam data residency policy and push city technology contracts to prioritize BC and Canadian companies first
- Green Spaces: Protect the urban tree canopy, fund real wildfire prevention, and steward Pinecone Burke Park for the next generation
- Safety: Better lighting near parks and transit, safer sidewalks and roadways, and outreach and mental health response paired with policing
- Community: Push for real mental health funding, a mix of shelter options, and expanded access to family doctors through BC's internationally-trained doctor program
- Accountability: Base every vote on what residents actually tell her, and keep her decisions and donors fully open to the public
- Neighbourhoods: Real consultation before traffic and parking changes, explaining the why behind every redesign, and better bus service where SkyTrain doesn't reach

Read the full platform in detail at rosalindaforcouncil.ca.

Vote for Rosalinda on October 17th for Coquitlam City Council.

1. **Teri TOWNER**



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Nomination Documents: [TOWNER, Teri \(PDF\)](#)

I love Coquitlam and genuinely love the work of serving our community. I'm seeking re-election because I'm still energized by the opportunity to make a difference, excited about Coquitlam's future and committed to working hard for the people who call our city home.

I believe good local government starts with listening, showing up and focusing on what matters in people's everyday lives: safe neighbourhoods, well-maintained roads and sidewalks, reliable police, fire and bylaw services, parks and trails, recreation and community facilities, transportation options, housing choices and the infrastructure needed to support a growing city.

My approach to decision-making is practical, balanced and solutions-oriented. I continually come back to four important lenses: livability, affordability, sustainability and accessibility. I believe we must manage taxpayers' dollars responsibly, scrutinize spending and keep property taxes as low as reasonably possible while continuing to deliver the quality services residents rely on.

Through my time on Council, I've gained significant knowledge and experience, built strong relationships with community organizations and other levels of government, and helped advance important investments in housing, public safety, parks, recreation and community amenities. I'm proud to be approachable, responsive and actively involved throughout our community.

The next Council will bring considerable change, with a new mayor and several new councillors. I welcome the new voices, perspectives and ideas that will come with that change. I also believe my experience, relationships and knowledge can contribute valuable continuity as we work collaboratively to address the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Most of all, I want Coquitlam to remain a safe, welcoming, vibrant and connected community where people can put down roots, raise a family, age in place and belong.

I would be honoured to earn your trust and your vote for another four years.



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Nomination Documents: [TRAN, Lili \(PDF\)](#)

I am running to help shape a city that grows sustainably while protecting affordability, neighbourhood character, public spaces, and quality of life. I believe Coquitlam is a city with enormous potential, and residents deserve a council who listens carefully, communicates transparently, and put the residents' everyday concerns at the centre of local decision-making.

My campaign pledges to bring transparent, community-focused leadership through active listening, open communication, and practical action on climate and sustainability.

Grassroots campaign prioritizes transparent community engagement; low-carbon transportation; housing affordability and smart growth; early childhood education and childcare access; environmental stewardship that protects Coquitlam's parks and ecosystems; local endeavours and community partnerships support.

My campaign is about creating a more affordable, connected, and sustainable Coquitlam—one where families, seniors, workers, and small businesses can thrive.

I bring 10+ years of combined private- and public-sector experience in building science and provincial housing strategies. My extensive experience in civil infrastructures, budgeting, strategic planning, and community advocacy provides me with the analytical tools needed to ensure transparent, accountable local decision-making.

I hold a bachelor's degree of applied science in civil engineering from UBC and a master's degree of engineering in building science from BCIT, grounding my campaign in technical expertise, evidence-based decision-making, and a commitment to building a sustainable Coquitlam.

Residing in Ranch Park neighborhood, our family is raising our 2-year-old daughter, a 6-year-old French bulldog, and caring for our elderly mother.

1. **Harry WARREN**



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Nomination Documents: [WARREN, Harry \(PDF\)](#)

I have lived in Coquitlam my entire life, I'm aware of the major issues in our city. We need to 'Keep It Super Simple' in regulation, policy, for homeowners and city business. Easier to understand and less volume of paperwork. We need more sports training facilities, like baseball and others, so that youth have great places to excel in the sport they love. We need to build on community & senior centres, libraries, parks and connecting communities. Improving our road network.

Police, Fire and Search & Rescue receiving increased funding to be effective in the extremely important jobs that they do everyday. We need to encourage PoCo to build their own police station - as the one in town centre is full now.

Handle the housing issues differently, from homelessness to the different levels of housing affordability that uses a Made in Canada solution to solve these issues. A city review of what works and what does not.

Good financial management. Maintain city services, be responsible with the taxes collected. Encourage more growth in the commercial and industrial tax base to limit tax increases on residential properties.

The city should be looking at involving the local user groups to help design and get their assistance on building these capital builds for less.

Dealing with the wildlife attractants issues with more education.

Buying local and Canadian made as a first priority for all purchases.

Gander Social: @harrydoubleu

School Board Trustee

1. **Michael BAUMANN**

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Website: www.michaelbaumann.ca

Nomination Documents: [BAUMANN, Michael \(PDF\)](#)

Michael Baumann started skipping school when he was seven years old. He barely made it through grammar school. He holds an M.Sc. from the University of Vienna and a Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia. He has spent his work-life at universities and colleges, as a researcher in animal behaviour and cognitive psychology, as a teacher of complex adaptive systems, and as an administrator. For a decade, he served as the director of a university career centre. For the past twenty-five years, he has been a vocal critic of the education system.

1. **Chuck DENISON**

Nomination Documents: [DENISON, Chuck \(PDF\)](#)

1. **Rachel DRAGER**



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Facebook: "Rachel Drager" (candidate did not provide link).

Nomination Documents: [DRAGER, Rachel \(PDF\)](#)

Rachel Drager is a passionate educator in interconnectedness she understands that strong schools are created through relationships! Her work in community stewardship doesn't take a break. Her commitment to students, families, staff, and community extends far beyond the classroom. Rachel is a dedicated listener who takes the time to meet people where they are. She has practical solution creating skills and appreciates what is already working well in our schools. She's here for the thoughtful ways to strengthen education for all. She goes way beyond her professional development by actively learning in All her Communities because she knows it isn't just 1 place that makes our Community and education healthy, its everything were connected to. Rachel leads by example through meaningful engagement. During a previous Every Child Matters initiative, she helped extend learning into February's Anti-Bullying Month through the theme of #acceptance. She

encouraged students and staff to explore the work of local artists and reflect on our shared responsibility to understand and respect one another. This education invited the entire school community to unite around a simple but powerful message, "Assume the best of one another and take the time to know them as individuals." The Student's and Staff took on the excitement by preparing video messages and a photo documentation to the press on what being accepted truly feels like. Rachel's thoroughness to plan, organize, and inspire participation reflects her thoughtful inclusive mindset to include everyone. What Rachel wants to do as one of our School Trustees is simple. Rachel's goal is to strengthen our understanding of everything we live with. She believes meaningful progress happens when trustees actively and intentionally engage with students, families, educators, and community members. Rachel's goals align with Coquitlam School District's commitment to relationships, inclusion, and being interconnected in our community.

1. **Dana EBTEKAR**



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Nomination Documents: [EBTEKAR, Dana \(PDF\)](#)

I am a proud resident of Coquitlam, with deep roots in the community, having spent most of my life in the Tri-Cities and completing my K-12 education in the Coquitlam School District. I also had the pleasure of serving on the City of Coquitlam's Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee and currently serve on the Culture Services Advisory Committee.

I serve as a high school science teacher, and I am also one of the SOGI sponsors and the Equity Lead at my current school. In addition, I have five years of experience as a special education teacher, where I worked closely with students with diverse learning needs and developed strategies to support their success in school.

Additionally, on April 25th, 2026, I had the great honor of being knighted into the Order of St. George, which aims to support members of the Canadian Armed Forces and their families.

I am running on a platform focused on:

1. Advocating for an increase in the per-student funding the province provides
2. Having responsible policies on the use of Artificial Intelligence in schools
3. Having an inclusive model of education where students receive the supports they need
4. Advocating for the faster building and upgrading of schools
5. Taking steps to address our changing climate by ensuring our classrooms remain at safe and comfortable temperatures

1. **Candace KNOLL**



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Nomination Documents: [KNOLL, Candace \(PDF\)](#)

Candace Knoll – Candidate for SD43 School Trustee

I am a proud 27-year Coquitlam resident, community leader, and recipient of the 2024 King Charles III Coronation Medal. I am dedicated to strengthening our school ecosystem and supporting students, teachers, educational assistants, and support staff.

My 28 years at TELUS provided deep corporate insight and extensive labour knowledge as a United Steelworkers Union member. As Founder and President of the Jr. Black Achievement Awards Society and Director for Hogan's Alley Society, I bring proven governance, fiscal accountability, and grassroots advocacy.

1. The Circle & Infrastructure: Children deserve bright, modern, and safe learning spaces.

I will advocate for proactive planning to reduce overcrowding, minimize portable reliance, and expand school capacity alongside municipal growth.

2. Complexity & Classroom Support: Every child's journey is unique.

I will push for funding reforms to secure consistent special education resources, mental health supports, and language programs, while supporting the recruitment and retention of our valued teachers and support staff.

3. Community Care & Accountability: Schools must be safe, inclusive spaces where everyone is welcome and can thrive.

I am committed to uniting community partners and local organizations around this vision, prioritizing well-being, transparent governance, and equity.

My endorsements include Port Coquitlam Mayor Brad West, the New Westminster & District Labour Council (NWDLC), Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Locals 386 & 561 and United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1944. With your support, I will be a strong voice for our students and families in SD43. Together, we can build safe learning spaces and build communities where everyone is welcome and can thrive.

I would be honoured to have your vote on October 17th.

- Name: Candace Knoll
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1. **Rosey MANHAS**



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Nomination Documents: [MANHAS, Rosey \(PDF\)](#)

My name is Rosey Manhas and I am honoured to serve as a School Trustee for Coquitlam and Vice Chair of the Board of Education SD43. Public education has always been close to my heart because strong schools are the foundation of strong communities. Throughout my time as a trustee, I have worked to ensure that every student feels supported, valued, and empowered to succeed.

As a long-time resident, parent, and community advocate, I have spent many years working alongside families, educators, and local organizations to strengthen our community. These experiences have reinforced my belief that leadership is about building connections, earning trust, and ensuring every voice is heard.

I believe students thrive when families, educators, and the community work together with a shared commitment to their success. My approach to leadership is guided by collaboration, accountability, transparency, and a commitment to listening to those we serve.

I have been dedicated to supporting student achievement, promoting student well-being, and ensuring responsible stewardship of public resources. I am passionate about creating safe, inclusive, and welcoming learning environments where every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together and remain committed to being a strong voice for students, families, and educators. It is a privilege to serve this community, and I look forward to continuing to support public education while helping build a future where every learner can thrive.

1. **Shreya QAZI**



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Nomination Documents: [QAZI, Shreya \(PDF\)](#)

I am a proud mother of two children in School District 43, and like many parents, I understand the hopes, challenges, and decisions that come with raising children in our public school system. Our family has proudly called tri cities home for more than 10 years.

I believe every student deserves the opportunity to thrive in a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment. I am committed to listening to families, working collaboratively, and making thoughtful decisions that put students first.

I have worked in leadership roles focused on community engagement, strategic planning, and building partnerships across education and healthcare.

At School District 43, I worked directly with schools, families, and community organizations to understand community needs, develop responsive programs, secure funding, and build partnerships that benefited students and families.

Today, as Leader of Community Engagement at Fraser Health, I lead engagement initiatives, facilitate consultations, work with diverse communities and provide strategic advice to senior leadership. My work requires balancing different perspectives, making evidence-informed recommendations, and ensuring transparency and accountability.

1. **Natalie WANG**



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YouTube: [@NatalieYWang](https://www.youtube.com/@NatalieYWang)

Nomination Documents: [WANG, Natalie \(PDF\)](#)

I'm Natalie Wang, a 17-year Coquitlam resident and former PAC Chair at SD.43. I have a Master of Education from UBC and Master of English Language Literature. I'm running for school trustee because our kids deserve better support and parents deserve a real voice at the table.

As a mother of two, I understand what quality education requires, because I've lived it. Both of my children attended schools in SD43, and over the years they've shared countless experiences with me. The successes and the struggles they went through, taken together, tell a larger story about our district and the changes it still needs to make.

Before immigrating to Canada, I taught at a university. After settling here, I went back to school myself, completed my Master of Education at UBC, and spent nearly a decade working as a case manager, helping newcomer families establish themselves in this country. I know what it means to start over. I know how much a strong school system matters to a family that is still learning a new language and a new culture.

For the past several years, I've served SD43 as a parent leader. I was PAC Chair at Pinetree Secondary from 2021 to 2024, and before that, I represented Maple Creek Middle School and Panorama Heights Elementary at DPAC. I've sat across the table from principals, superintendents, and district staff. I've read the budgets, and I've helped families ask for the support they need.

Outside of my advocacy work, I play tennis and pickleball, and I belong to the Coquitlam Tennis Club and the PoCoMo Pickleball Club.

1. **Craig WOODS**



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Nomination Documents: [WOODS, Craig \(PDF\)](#)

For more than two decades, education and community service have been an important part of my life, including the past eight years serving Coquitlam as a School Board Trustee.

I am seeking re-election because I believe experienced, thoughtful leadership matters, and because there is still important work ahead to support students, families and our school communities.

My priorities are clear: increasing support for students, keeping resources in the classroom, and strengthening School Board accountability.

During my time on the Board, I have supported a significant increase in Educational Assistant support, advocated for healthy teacher staffing levels and keeping more teachers connected to their existing schools, and helped advance new schools and expansions in growing communities, including Burke Mountain, Scott Creek and Dr. Charles Best.

I have also supported student well-being and mental-health initiatives, including the development of the Tri-Cities Foundry, as well as increased child-care spaces within SD43.

Before becoming a Trustee, I served for five years as President of the SD43 District Parent Advisory Council. My professional career includes more than 20 years in education, training, employment initiatives, student services and stakeholder relations. I also serve on the Coquitlam Foundation Board and chair its Grants & Scholarships Committee.

On the Board, I have served in leadership roles including Board Vice Chair and Chair of Finance & Audit.

I believe trustees must listen carefully, make thoughtful decisions, be transparent with the public, and ensure education funding is used responsibly.

On October 17, I am asking for your support so I can continue putting my experience to work for the students, families and communities of SD43.