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NOT-FOR-PROFIT

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2020 BC ELECTION PRIMER



The Issues 🍁 The Candidates 🍁 The Positions

03

Photos submitted

Twelve individuals, representing four political parties and one running as an independent, are seeking your vote in the 2020 provincial election Oct. 24.

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PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2020

Richmond-Steveston

Finding solutions for small business growth

Steveston is a historic fishing village filled with independent businesses. 'Buy local' is a value often embraced by Richmondites, and the variety of stores in Steveston—restaurants, boutiques, food vendors, and more—help make it possible.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, small businesses are experiencing unique challenges with rent, revenue and safety protocols. A number of provincial and federal programs offer financial relief for struggling businesses, but taking advantage of these has proved challenging for some.

Kelly Greene, the NDP candidate for the Richmond-Steveston riding, says if elected she would help local businesses access more social and economic supports.

"In addition to the (NDP's) \$300 million recovery grant, investments in community infrastructure, child care and healthcare will support our small businesses with additional growth opportunities," says Greene. "As businesses relaunch, it will be key to stay aware for opportunities that may have been created from the change. The opportunities may come in the form of shifts in demand, adapting to new workforces, new methods of delivery, or increased scalability through digital tools; all of which will lead to revitalization of our small businesses as we move forward."

Recently CEO of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Matt Pitcairn replaces longtime incumbent John Yap (who chose to retire rather than seek re-election) as the BC Liberal candidate in the riding. Pitcairn says supporting small businesses and buying local is important, and the pandemic makes it more challenging for people to feel comfortable going out to support their lo-



Photo by Don Fennell

Steveston is home to many small businesses that have struggled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

cal businesses—but that we need to continue to follow the advice of health officials.

Pitcairn says the BC Liberals' proposed PST cut will encourage people to "purchase locally, prompt people to spend, and spur businesses to make investments in 2021."

"Next year is a make-or-break year for many of our small businesses as we try to recover from COVID-19," he says. "A PST cut will also level the playing field between our local small businesses and some online retailers, which aren't charging

PST."

Independent candidate Vince Li said education is key to ensuring people feel safe when trying to buy local.

All three candidates in the riding said innovation in business practices could help local vendors grow. Through the use of technology, temporary outdoor spaces and collaboration with local business organizations, the small businesses of Steveston may be able to find solutions to the unique challenges the pandemic has brought.

Insight into BC Election 2020

To say it's been a challenging year is an understatement. But as British Columbians prepare to cast their ballots in the Oct. 24 provincial election, their vote—your vote—is as important as it's ever been.

The results of this election will set the course not only for recovery from a global pandemic of historic proportions, but also the path we'll take in the immediate years ahead. These next few years will include critical decisions that will impact the lives of all British Columbians, ranging from affordable and accessible childcare to seniors' care and healthcare.

As part of its ongoing coverage of the 2020 BC election, the *Richmond Sentinel* is providing our readers with a unique opportunity to learn more about the 12 candidates seeking your vote. Through brief biographies, at times offering a light look at life, we introduce you to them.

We've also asked candidates to weigh in on issues we believe to be intrinsic to each of the four local ridings—the future of small business in Richmond-Steveston, the ALR in Richmond-Queensborough, the ongoing importance of replacing the hospital in Richmond North Centre, and affordable housing in densely-populated Richmond South Centre.

And, we've opened up the discussion to all the candidates, on another major topic of interest to many locals—the future of the much-debated George Massey crossing.

We also asked them what changes they'd like to see to BC's public school system, particularly regarding funding.

All the content in this special edition was compiled and/or written by Local Journalism Initiative Reporter Hannah Scott, along with editor Don Fennell.



PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2020

Richmond North Centre

Seeing new hospital tower through remains priority

The home of the Richmond Hospital, Sea Island and parts of the downtown core, Richmond North Centre is a riding that juggles a variety of issues. Created in the 2015 redistribution of Richmond ridings, the seat has been held by MLA Teresa Wat of the BC Liberals since its it was first contested in 2017.

Seeking her third consecutive term as a Richmond MLA, Wat says construction on the new acute care tower needs to get underway as soon as possible, with funds allocated to the important project.

"I will work to ensure the project gets built, and that it gets underway now," she says.

The NDP originally announced its commitment to replace the patient care tower in March 2018. At that time, an eager crowd packed into the hospital atrium was told a business plan was expected to be completed in 12 to 18 months.

Then on July 2 of this year, the day after Canadians celebrated our nation's 153rd year of confederation, BC's governing NDP announced its commitment to building a new state-of-the-art emergency department and intensive care unit for Richmond. The news was long-awaited, with detailed planning expected to be completed in September before proceeding to procurement and, finally, construction.

But along the way Premier John Horgan called a snap provincial election for Oct. 24.

Replacing the aging hospital follows years of angst. Opened in 1966, Richmond Hospital's operating rooms are only half the size of today's standard and at risk in a flood or tsunami. And a structural assessment of the original tower deemed it to be at a high risk of widespread damage or structural failure after an earthquake.

As the structure continues to age, so too does a growing list of associated challenges. Elevators in its acute care tower suddenly stopped working one day a few years ago, forcing administrators to



Photo by Hannah Scott

Richmond North Centre was created in 2015 from the redistribution of several previously-existing ridings. Richmond Hospital upgrades remain a major issue.

think quickly. Fortunately, they were able to call on a unique source for help: the movie industry supplied suitable cables until the elevators could be permanently repaired.

During the 54 years the hospital has been open, Richmond's population has also more than quadrupled to over 200,000 residents. The hospital also serves South Vancouver, Delta, Vancouver International Airport and BC Ferries.

The replacement of the so-called north tower also addresses other deficiencies including outdated patient care delivery areas. Richmond Hospital currently has 240 beds, with 108 in the original six-storey north tower which houses surgical suites, in-patient units, a mammography clinic, cancer care, medical imaging and administrative, academic and support services. The new emergency department and intensive care unit will bring more services and better care. Double

the existing floor space, the nine-floor tower will include a fully-equipped medical imaging department, intensive care unit, and pharmacy. The new concept also includes renovating the south tower to create new in-patient psychiatry and psychiatric units.

BC Green Party candidate Vernon Wang calls the hospital the biggest issue facing residents in the riding, because it's "already overloaded." It's a sentiment shared by BC NDP candidate Jaeden Dela Torre, who says upgrades to the hospital are crucial to the success of Richmond North Centre.

In 2017, the Richmond Hospital Foundation commissioned an independent public opinion poll to better understand what citizens of Richmond felt were the most important publicly-funded infrastructure needs. Eighty-five per cent placed a new hospital tower among the top two projects, and 52 per cent rated it as the No. 1 need.

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PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2020

Richmond-Queensborough

Farmland critical to feed future generations

Richmond's rich agricultural land is an asset the community holds dear. There are farms nestled in all corners of the city, but nowhere is more replete with agricultural land than the city's east side, within the Richmond-Queensborough riding.

Last election, the riding was a tight race between incumbent BC Liberal MLA Jas Johal and BC NDP candidate Aman Singh. Johal and Singh are going head-to-head in this election too, joined by BC Conservative candidate Kay Hale and Earl Einarson of the BC Green Party.

The *Richmond Sentinel* asked the candidates what they thought was the importance of the agricultural land reserve (ALR), and what changes they would like to see made. All three candidates who responded—Hale, Johal and Singh—agreed that the ALR is an important aspect of BC legislature.

"We want to make sure it is modernized to reflect the needs of local residents and provide a good living for farmers," says Johal. "We also need to turn our focus to increasing food security through the use of agri-tech."

Aiming to drive farming production in the coming years, Johal says Richmond should look to global leaders like the Netherlands and Singapore as examples of how to handle agricultural land.

"We have the best land and the best farmers," he says. "There is no reason Richmond cannot be a world leader."

Hale says the ALR regulations should be revisited in order to protect the valuable land from developers. Richmond's city councillors, too, have often debated the principle of large houses or developments on agricultural land, since nearly 40 per cent of the city exists within the ALR and therefore must abide by its rules. Prior to Richmond's emergence as an urban centre, even more of the land was dedicated to farming.



Photo by Hannah Scott

The Richmond-Queensborough riding encompasses much of the farmland on the east side of the city.

Singh highlights the importance of a strong supply chain, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I know many residents of Richmond who prefer to buy food that was produced locally rather than having it shipped from halfway around the world," he says. "The agricultural land reserves help ensure a resilient, sustainable food system that works for farmers and communities."

He says the BC NDP's reforms to the ALR system give farming families flexibility, as well as allowing them to work with local governments to protect farmland and food systems for future generations.

Richmond South Centre

Affordable housing continues to be a challenge

Downtown Richmond has experienced rapid growth in recent years, and now contains an abundance of high-density housing. But keeping housing affordable remains a major issue for residents of the riding.

Created in 2015 from redistributing parts of other ridings, Richmond South Centre is geographically the city's smallest. It was previously held by long-time BC Liberal MLA Linda Reid, who announced her retirement earlier this year. In a time of change, the continued construction and development in the riding poses new challenges for the two candidates in this election.

"There needs to be an increase in supply of affordable housing in the Richmond South Centre riding," says BC Liberal candidate Alexa Loo. "The only way to achieve that is to redevelop existing locations within this area."

A current city councillor herself, Loo points out that redevelopment must be approved by council, although the province can provide developers with incentives. A quicker solution is rent subsidies, she



Photo by Jaana Björk

Richmond South Centre is a riding first contested in the 2017 election, comprising parts of Richmond's city centre.

suggests.

"This allows people to find the home that suits them, and supports them to afford it," she says.

"When they earn above the threshold to receive a subsidy, they do not have to move as they are able to afford more."

In 2017, the outgoing Liberal government announced \$12 million in funding for 80 affordable housing units as part of a complex on No. 2 Road at Westminster Highway. Richmond's Pathways Clubhouse Society was selected to receive the funding. Also in 2017, the Liberals announced loans to assist first-time home buyers, a program that was cancelled in early 2018 after minimal use.

BC NDP candidate Henry Yao says while some progress is being made to address housing affordability in the riding, people are still struggling to buy and rent in Richmond.

"The BC NDP is putting the brakes on skyrocketing prices," he says. "We want young people to stay, not move away."

Yao says the speculation tax is "starting to work," and that thousands more condominiums were used for long-term rentals last year.

"But there's still much more to do."



PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2020

Meet the candidates in each Richmond riding

Richmond North Centre



JAEDEN DELA TORRE,
BC NDP

Ice cream or sushi? Sushi.

Canucks fan? Yes.

Favourite book? *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

Hobbies? Reading, writing, watching films, going on daily walks.

Who is your hero and why? Personally I would say my hero is Mr. Rogers.

The kindness and empathy he showed really resonates with me and it's something I try to do my best (at).

This world needs more kindness, hope and love. Always reminding people what they are worth is a goal we should always strive for.

Was politics discussed in your house growing up? Occasionally, but never full discussions until I started getting politically involved. Then, it became more frequent.

Political role model? (New Zealand Prime Minister) Jacinda Ardern.

Current job? Student.

Alternate dream career? Animator.

Reasons you went into politics? The people I met on the doorstep inspired me to go into politics.

Canvassing and learning the issues that people care about shaped my views and inspired me into pursuing a career in politics.

Reasons you chose this party?

The values and view of the BC NDP are values I hold very closely and are viewpoints I agree with.

Biggest issue this election? COVID recovery, farmland, Richmond Hospital, Massey Tunnel, public education.

Do public schools need more government support? Yes.

Where do you stand on private longterm care facilities? We need to invest and build more public longterm care facilities.

COVID-19 supports you'd like to see? Sick pay for workers and supports for students struggling to find jobs.

What legislation will you be proposing? Increasing supports for post-secondary students, more investments into co-op housing, creation of youth mental health services.

Do you support a first-past-the-post system? Voters had an opportunity to express their thoughts on this issue and I respect the outcome.



VERNON WANG,
BC Green Party

Ice cream or sushi? Sushi.

Canucks fan? No.

Favourite book? *No Such Thing as a Free Gift: The Gates Foundation and the Price of Philanthropy*.

Hobbies? Sports (volleyball and water polo).

Who is your hero and why? Chris Austin Hadfield, not just what he did, but his images and vision.

Was politics discussed in your house growing up? Yes.

Political role model? Pierre Trudeau.

Current job? Community advisor / marketer.

Alternate dream career? Politician.

Reason you went into politics? It makes sense, and fits me quite well.

Reason you chose this party? The colour and values make me comfortable.

Do public schools need more government support? Sure.

Where do you stand on private longterm care facilities? They should be allowed, but need strict guidelines to follow.

What legislation will you be proposing? BC fair vote.

Do you support a first-past-the-post system? No.



TERESA WAT,
BC Liberals

Ice cream or sushi? Ice cream (pistachio to be specific!).

Canucks fan? Of course!

Favourite book? *Animal Farm*

Hobbies? Swimming, gardening, reading, and a lot of walking!

Who is your hero and why? Mary Ellen Smith. Mary was the first woman to serve in the BC Legislature and was a trailblazer for all of us who follow.

Was politics discussed in your house growing up? No, but it was always a passion for me.

Political role model? Nelson Mandela.

Current job? MLA for Richmond North Centre.

Alternate dream career? Radio host.

Reason you went into politics? I wanted to give back to British Columbia, a place that had been so good to me and my family since immigrating from Hong Kong in 1989.

Reason you chose this party? I was here during the 1990s and I saw how difficult life was under the NDP. The BC Liberals' positive vision strikes the right balance between economic growth and supporting services for those in the greatest need.

Biggest issue this election? Pandemic recovery—

that includes jobs and the economy, as well as finally getting shovels in the ground for the new acute care tower at Richmond Hospital.

Do public schools need more government support? Yes, particularly as they respond to COVID-19.

Where do you stand on private longterm care facilities? Longterm care is very important to me personally. My mom is in a public facility and the pandemic has severely restricted our visits. COVID-19 has shed light on many challenges in longterm care, and I believe all facilities, public or private, must meet the highest standards of care.

COVID-19 supports you'd like to see? Where to begin. I'll name three. An economic plan to ensure people have economic opportunity and aren't as worried about their personal finances, investment (finally!) into a new acute care tower at Richmond Hospital and support for our school system to better manage the pandemic.

What legislation will you be proposing? Allowing for real competition in auto insurance to give drivers a choice outside of ICBC's monopoly.

Do you support a first-past-the-post system? Yes. I've taken pride in representing Richmond North Centre for the people who know I'm their local advocate.

Richmond-Queensborough



KAY HALE,
BC Conservatives

Ice cream or sushi? Sushi.

Canucks fan? Since forever.

Favourite book? My father's biography.

Hobbies? Gardening (fruit and vegetables).

Who is your hero and why? Gandhi—he bestowed wisdom.

Was politics discussed in your house growing up? In those days there was no need to discuss politics—government was for the people.

Political role model? Ronald Reagan.

Current job? Real estate consultant

Alternate dream career? I have my dream job

Reason you went into politics? To bring back "people before government"

Reason you chose this party? The BC Conservatives are a non-socialist party that stands for representation of the people and does not lobby for any special interest group or large organizations.



PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2020

Continued from page 6

Biggest issue this election? The economy, seniors, housing, homelessness, opioid crises.

Do public schools need more government support? Public or private school, support should be based on the students' needs.

Where do you stand on private longterm care facilities? To be held legally or financially responsible to ensure the homes are safe and secure for residents.

COVID-19 supports you'd like to see? Schools and workplaces are given the resources to sustain a safe work environment.

What legislation will you be proposing? Free hospital parking immediately, allocating up to one per cent of existing crown land to development that will promote more affordable housing for British Columbians, providing accommodation and housing assistance to seniors in need, protecting the ALR lands, a property transfer tax exemption for first time home buyers, increasing the threshold to qualify for to be based on fair market value in respective BC regions, addressing birth tourism and stopping the "passport mill."

Do you support a first-past-the-post system? Yes.



JAS JOHAL,
BC Liberals

Ice cream or sushi? Both, but never together.

Canucks fan? Obviously.

Favourite book? *The Great Gatsby*. It is a book about aspiration

that has stuck with me through the years.

Hobbies? Watching documentaries. Even better, making documentaries.

Who is your hero? Why? My parents and Mahatma Gandhi.

Was politics discussed in your house growing up? Yes, we discussed federal politics a lot as well as politics back in India. That's what started my love of international politics early in life.

Political role model? Obama. I appreciate the positivity he brought to politics.

Current job? Seeking re-election as MLA for Richmond-Queensborough.

Alternate dream career? I already had it: Reporter.

Reason you went into politics? Public service.

Reason you chose this party? It resonates with my values.

Biggest issue this election? Which party can lead British Columbia out of this health crisis and into a robust economic recovery. Locally, I'm focused on

fast-tracking a George Massey Tunnel replacement and providing funding for a new acute care tower at Richmond Hospital. Both these projects would have been well underway had they not been unnecessarily delayed.

Do public schools need more government support? Yes.

Where do you stand on private longterm care facilities? My priority is a safe, healthy environment for residents. Facilities must meet rigorous standards set and enforced by government, no exceptions. We owe our seniors; they deserve the best from us.

COVID-19 supports you'd like to see? An estimated 10,000 to 20,000 businesses will not survive this pandemic. Government needs to step up and provide support to individuals and small businesses over the next 18 to 24 months.

What legislation will you be proposing? Immediate PST cut to zero per cent for the next year and three per cent in the second year. This is to support small businesses and families. Second, providing consumer choice in auto insurance by ending the ICBC monopoly.

Do you support a first-past-the-post system? Yes.

See page 8

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PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2020

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AMAN SINGH,
BC NDP

Ice cream or sushi? Ice cream.
Canucks fan? Yes! I always cheer for the hometown team.
Favourite book? *100 Years of Solitude*—one of the most

beautifully written pieces of literature I've ever read.

Hobbies? Reading books and going on walks with my one-year-old daughter Leni is always the highlight of my day. I am also a dog lover and love to spend time with my two rescue dogs Charlie and Dave. And my wife and I are big music fans and are always listening to new artists, especially local acts.

Who is your hero and why? My parents. They were refugees who had to leave their home with nothing and managed to build a better life in a new country. I am so grateful for their sacrifices and I strive to make them proud in everything I do.

Was politics discussed in your house growing up? I was fascinated with local politics and world events as a kid growing up in Hong Kong. My parents supported this and helped spark my interest in politics and law by always taking the time to explain the news to me and encouraging me to join in to lively dinner table debates.

Political role model? Jagmeet Singh is a leader who speaks from the heart and brings compassion to everything he does. I am proud to call him a friend.

Current job? I am the owner and partner at my own law firm.

Alternate dream career? I loved studying science and seriously considered a career in medicine before deciding to study law.

Reason you went into politics? As a teenager in Hong Kong I developed a keen interest in advocacy and social justice. When I moved to BC to attend law school I found the tools to turn that advocacy into real, lasting systemic change. I want to continue to advocate for the underdogs and support people who otherwise feel shut out and not represented in politics.

Reason you chose this party? The BC NDP is the party truly powered by people. Our base of volunteers is what moves this party forward, not corporate donations. Every day I am inspired by the fantastic work that has already been accomplished by this diverse caucus.

Biggest issue this election? The BC NDP has worked to make progress for people, and there is still more to do. Now more than ever we need a government that works for everyone, not just the people at the top.

Do public schools need more government support? Every parent wants their children to have the best start possible. As the parent of a one year old, I want to ensure we have a well-funded education system that equips our students for success later in life. Our schools are still recovering from 16 years of Liberal cuts, we can't go back to asking our teachers to do more with less. In the last three years our government has invested in building safer schools through seismic upgrades while reducing class sizes and hiring more teachers. We need to continue these investments so that every student can get ahead.

Where do you stand on private longterm care facilities? The global pandemic has been especially hard on seniors who have been the most at-risk to COVID-19. Our seniors deserve quality care delivered in their home communities. A re-elected BC NDP government will put our resources into new public beds, upgrading public facilities, and bring in new requirements for private operators. Every senior deserves a private room and compassionate, high-quality care, which is why I'm so proud of our government's plan to spend \$1.4 billion to improve services.

COVID-19 supports you'd like to see? This has been a challenging year for all of us, but especially the most vulnerable people in our province. Low-income workers, women, and seniors have been hit the hardest by the pandemic, and we need to continue to ensure that our economic recovery puts them first. I look forward to working with our federal and local government partners to make sure no one is left behind, and I applaud the consultation efforts led by John Horgan and Carole James. Our government will continue to invest in health care, with a record \$1.6 billion investment in health care this fall and winter. This will increase our testing capacity, and hire more than 7,000 new healthcare workers to keep us all safe.

What legislation will you be proposing? I will work on advocating for the needs of working families, by supporting more investments in education, affordable child-care, and supporting the construction of the new Richmond Hospital tower.

Do you support a first-past-the-post system? The people of British Columbia had their say about our voting system in the 2018 proportional representation referendum. I respect the decision of voters on this issue.



EARL EINARSON,
BC Green Party

No biography was available by our press deadline.

Richmond South Centre



ALEXA LOO,
BC Liberals

Ice cream or sushi? Sushi.

Canucks fan? Yes.

Favourite book? Currently reading *The Woo Woo* by Lindsay Wong, our current Richmond

Writer in Residence.

Hobbies? Biking, snowboarding, skiing, baking.

Who is your hero and why? After my parents, it is Rick Hansen. He changed how people see other people—to see their ability. He also changed spinal cord treatment and has saved countless people from paralysis because of the funds he raised for research in his Man In Motion Tour.

Was politics discussed in your house growing up? Yes. Mostly Canadian federal.

Current job? City councillor.

Alternate dream career? Accountant

Reason you went into politics? To make my community even better. When you build a city thoughtfully, people are healthier, happier and more engaged. When you have good policies and stick to them, good results follow.

Reason you chose this party? I am pro-business and pro-people. By supporting families and businesses with good infrastructure and policies, everyone does better. I don't want to be with a party that encourages divisiveness—whether on race, gender or wealth.

Biggest issue this election? Getting people working and the economy going, and supporting mental wellness—COVID has left a trail of financial and emotional destruction in its wake.

Do public schools need more government support? Yes, and the BC Liberals will support schools with seismic upgrading, more building, etc.

Where do you stand on private longterm care facilities? I support having both private and public longterm care facilities. People should be allowed to have a choice and the government cannot be the only one building care facilities—many not-for-profit organizations have longterm care facilities which are "private". There is a third party licensing to ensure proper care. We need to continue to ensure that more private rooms are created and that people who need access to public longterm facilities are able to get it.

COVID-19 supports you'd like to see? I'd like to see the supports actually getting to the businesses that were promised it.

What legislation will you be proposing? I'd like to see a revamp of insurance and contract rules. Right now, people under the age of 19 cannot rent



PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2020

Continued from page 8

a car or a bike or a scooter. If we want a greener future, we need to create a system that supports young people to use alternative transportation and not get into cars in the first place.

Do you support a first-past-the-post system? Yes. At some point we select a system and use it. Every system has challenges and idiosyncrasies. The cost to change versus any possible benefits are not worth it.



HENRY YAO,
BC NDP

Ice cream or sushi? Sushi.

Canucks fan? Yes.

Favourite book? *A Walk to Remember*.

Hobbies? Workout, Wing Chun, dancing, and of course eating delicious food with friends and family.

Who is your hero and why? Zhuge Kong Ming, a Chinese strategist in the Three Kingdoms era. What truly impressed me about him isn't his unique genius or his peerless talents, but his dedication to serve a purpose and his Lord. He was a man who did his best to avoid his personal interest interfering with his service to his country. From military campaigns to governance, everything he did, he did with exceptional calculation and comprehensive consideration for all. He had the ability, competence and position to make himself and his family extremely wealthy and comfortable. However, he humbly served till his last breath and only received what was duly his. He was truly a man of honour for his time.

Was politics discussed in your house growing up? Very seldomly.

Political role model? I would pick Abraham Lincoln. He brought a divided nation together.

Current job? Community Navigator (BC 211).

Alternate dream career? Don't have one. I just want to live a meaningful and purposeful life.

Reason you went into politics? I initially got into politics because I wasn't impressed with how things were being done. Families experience challenges everyday and I think my advocacy can make a difference in their lives.

Reason you chose this party? The BC NDP has made some incredible accomplishments for Richmond in the last 3.5 years. From moving forward with a new Richmond Hospital tower to seismically upgrading Cook and Ferris, the BC NDP government has made improvements in the lives of British Columbians. I am proud of how John Horgan and the BC NDP have invested heavily in health care, education, housing and childcare, while combating runaway housing prices with a speculation tax.

Biggest issue this election? Healthcare. COVID-19

has challenged us in many ways. It's allowed British Columbians to consider their priorities. People are worried about their loved ones and a future that looks different than we had ever imagined. Our government has made record investments into healthcare, including moving forward with a new Richmond Hospital tower, with more beds and services than initially envisioned. And we're investing \$15 million to develop primary care networks in Richmond. But there's far more to do.

Do public schools need more government support? Our BC NDP government has invested over \$80 million into new schools and seismic upgrades in Richmond. That includes seismic upgrades of Cook and Ferris elementary schools in Richmond South Centre.

Where do you stand on private longterm care facilities? We're making a record \$1.6 billion investment to fight COVID-19 this fall and winter. We're hiring 7,000 healthcare workers with 2,000 of those in seniors long term care homes. In addition, last week, John Horgan announced a commitment of \$1.4 billion over 10 years to revamp elder care facilities and their administration after the COVID-19 pandemic showed vulnerabilities in the system. Seniors in their later years should have the dignity of one room with just them in it and that's what our goal is.

Richmond-Steveston



KELLY GREENE,
BC NDP

Ice cream or sushi? Definitely sushi.

Canucks fan? Go Canucks go!

Favourite book? *Lord of the Rings*.

Hobbies? Gardening and baking.

Who is your hero and why? Dr. Roberta Bondar. I have been inspired by her since I was a girl. As the first Canadian woman astronaut, she was a trailblazer in a men-dominated field. She literally proved that girls and women can shoot for, and land, among the stars.

Was politics discussed in your house growing up? Not particularly.

Political role model? New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

Current job? Richmond city councillor.

Alternate dream career? Novelist.

Reason you went into politics? The BC Liberal government was going to shut down our schools and also withheld seismic safety improvements for any school until some were closed. The more I looked into the facts and policies, the angrier I became at the gross neglect of our community. We deserved better than that. Leading a successful grassroots opposition through this terrible situation, I felt a

deep sense of responsibility to the people who entrusted me to make things better. As a result, I have continued to use my voice in service to the community and stepped into politics.

Reason you chose this party? I value strong education so we are investing in our future, a well-funded healthcare system so people can get help when they need it, and solving the climate crisis of today so our children have the opportunity for a healthy future. These are values I share with the BC NDP, a party that puts people first.

Biggest issue this election? The Richmond Hospital acute care tower replacement. We've been desperate for a replacement tower for well over a decade. The plans for the hospital tower are being drawn up by architects and engineers right now, and I am afraid that it will be shelved to pay for reckless PST tax cuts and other tax breaks for the one per cent if we don't re-elect a BC NDP government.

Do public schools need more government support? Progress is being made to fix the education system, and more support is on its way. School closures are no longer a threat to families and the BC NDP has invested \$81 million in repairing eight Richmond schools in the last 3.5 years. We won't stop until every school is seismically safe!

Where do you stand on private longterm care facilities? More regulation is needed, and I'm proud that the BC NDP has taken concrete steps to improve the safety of workers and care home residents during COVID-19. We ended multi-facility staffing that was spreading COVID-19, are hiring 2,000 new workers for longterm care, and repealed a law that allowed contract flipping with high staff turnover, which is detrimental to residents and workers.

COVID-19 supports you'd like to see? The BC NDP has worked hard to successfully in reducing costs for households across the province. We cancelled the MSP, reduced childcare fees for 63,000 kids, capped rent increases to the rate of inflation, and the speculation tax returned about 10,000 housing units to the market and funded the construction of affordable housing. We will continue the work to make life more affordable, plus targeted response to areas in need, for example, the Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant, the \$500 million InBC investment fund to scale up BC businesses, and the creation of thousands of jobs in healthcare and childcare.

What legislation will you be proposing? The Fraser River was formerly managed under FREMP, the Fraser River Estuary Management Program, where the cumulative effects of development were considered. The Fraser River and Estuary is a whole

See page 10



PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2020

Continued from page 9

system, and our well-being and economy depend on a healthy river. I would propose legislation that would have a similar function, so we can continue to have a salmon fishery and so that resident orcas don't become extinct.

Do you support a first-past-the-post system? My preference is for a proportional representation system, as that allows for closer alignment with voter's preferences. That being said, I support democracy, and first-past-the-post was chosen by referendum. So here we are!



VINCE LI,
Independent

Ice cream or sushi? Sushi.

Canucks fan? Yes.

Favourite book? *Harry Potter*.

Hobbies? Basketball and snowboarding.

Was politics discussed in your house growing up? No.

Current job? Educator.

Alternate dream career? NBA player.

Reason you went into politics? To try to set a

model that involves immigrants.

Reason you chose this party? I didn't want any party affiliation for now.

Biggest issue this election? COVID.

Do public schools need more government support? Yes!

Where do you stand on private longterm care facilities? Safety first, we need more caregivers so (people) might be able to stay home with their families.

COVID-19 supports you'd like to see? Getting ready for a longterm battle.

What legislation will you be proposing? Allowing permanent residents who pay tax to vote.

Do you support a first-past-the-post system? Yes.



MATT PITCAIRN,
BC Liberals

Ice cream or sushi? Timothy's Ice Cream.

Canucks fan? Of course.

Favourite book? *A Short History of Nearly Everything*.

Hobbies? Cooking and camping.

Who is your hero and why? My dad. I strive to be the man and father he was to me.

Was politics discussed in your house growing up? Yes.

Political role model? Obama.

Current job? I resigned as CEO of the Chamber of Commerce several weeks ago; my sole focus is now earning the support and trust of the residents of Richmond-Steveston.

Reason you went into politics? I want to make life better for everyday British Columbians.

Reason you chose this party? I believe in the party's free enterprise principles.

Biggest issue this election? Health and safety, and economic recovery.

Do public schools need more government support? Yes

Where do you stand on private longterm care facilities? We need safe private and public care facilities.

COVID-19 supports you'd like to see? Real rent relief for struggling businesses.

What legislation will you be proposing? I will be supporting our party's commitments to addressing immediate and pressing needs for BC families, workers and businesses.

Do you support a first-past-the-post system? Yes.



BC Liberals

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AUTHORIZED BY DAVID GOLDSMITH, FINANCIAL AGENT FOR THE BC LIBERAL PARTY | 1-800-567-2257

In their own words...

You have the power – vote, help curtail COVID-19, and more



**Carol
Day**
Councillor

As we live through a global pandemic, the Power of the People is more important than ever. By making simple choices to wear a mask, keep away from people not in your immediate bubble and stay home if you have any contact with sick people or feel ill yourself, you can make a significant difference in reducing the spread of the COVID19 virus.

Council's approach to gradually and safely re-open city facilities such as community centers, ice rinks and libraries directly reflects our strategic commitment to a safe and resilient community. Staff have spent considerable time to ensure our facilities and practices deliver a safe experience.

For example, visitors will see barriers to protect them and employees. These will complement other safety measures already in place including physical distancing floor markers, hand sanitizing stations, frequent cleaning of high-contact surfaces, masks, etc.

The number of COVID-19 cases in Richmond have been low, and for that I am extremely proud. Our citizens are using their power to make sound decisions in following public health rules and guidelines to help curtail COVID-19. But we need to continue being vigilant as the fall flu season approaches. The pandemic is far from over.

To that end, travel plans have changed significantly for people during the pandemic. Although our family, like many others, was forced to cancel our plans, there was a silver lining—travelling locally. It was always a plan of mine to travel the Sunshine coast. This year I finally went. It was a wonderful trip.

Richmond also hosted many visitors this summer, but this time they were from neighbouring communities instead of around the world.

In the midst of all this, we have a provincial election. On Saturday, October 24, the Power of the People will choose Richmond's next four Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs.). BC Elections has enhanced non-contact methods of voting—early voting and mail-in ballot—to make voting easier and safer during COVID-19. These are not new options but have been upgraded to allow for



social distancing. At the same time, our candidates are taking new approaches to connect with voters. This is not the time to go door-to-door to solicit support and share views. Seeking office takes considerable time and commitment. It also requires responsible outreach behaviours, respecting the health and safety of all.

Please take the time to learn about all the candidates in your riding. Visit www.electionsbcc.com or consider contacting them to ask what their priorities are.

Remember, your power to make good choices can positively and most definitely affect the curtailment of COVID-19. Vote wisely for your preferred MLA candidate but, most importantly, just vote.

City of Richmond Council Meetings Calendar

City of Richmond Council has postponed most standing Committee meetings until at least the end of November 2020 to further strengthen existing physical distancing measures aimed at curtailing the spread of COVID-19. The exception will be General Purposes committee, Finance Committee and Development Permit Panel. Council Meetings and Public Hearings will also proceed as scheduled.

Development Permit Panel

3:30 pm | Thursday, October 15
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

General Purposes Committee

4:00 pm | Monday, October 19
Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

Public Hearing

7:00 p.m. | Monday, October 19
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

Closed Council Meeting

4:00 pm | Monday, October 26
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

Council Meeting

7:00 pm | Monday, October 26
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

Development Permit Panel

3:30 pm | Wednesday, October 28
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

General Purposes Committee

4:00 pm | Monday, November 2
Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

Finance Committee

Following the General Purposes Committee Meeting | Monday, November 2
Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

Closed Council Meeting

4:00 p.m. | Monday, November 9
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

Council Meeting

7:00 pm | Monday, November 9
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

Meeting schedule subject to change

For meeting agendas and reports visit
www.richmond.ca.



Visit www.richmond.ca/watchonline to link to live streaming or watch archived video.





PUBS & LOUNGES

Richmond Sentinel is your community media platform. To help support local pubs & lounges during COVID-19, we invite you to check out the following dedicated food vendors near you. Please contact establishments as hours of operation may have changed.



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Take Out



Delivery



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juvys.com



LEGENDS PUB & RESTAURANT

9031 Blundell Rd.
Richmond, V6Y 1K4
604-276-2343
legendspub.com



MOXIE'S

MOXIE'S GRILL & BAR

3233 St. Edwards Dr.
Richmond, V6X 3K4
604-303-1111
moxies.com/restaurant-locations/bc/
richmond-vancouver-airport



O'HARE'S GASTROPUB

5031 Steveston Hwy.
Richmond, V7E 2K5
604-277-2305
ohares.pub



PIONEER'S PUB

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Richmond, V7A 1W6
604-271-6611
pioneerspub.com



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RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

Planning for your pets



**Pat
Johnson**

Ensuring that pets are properly cared for after we die is something to which many, perhaps most, people have not given enough thought. A leading animal rights lawyer has advice on how to protect our pets if they survive us. It can be more complicated than you'd think.

Rebeka Breder, a Vancouver lawyer who is a national leader in the field of animal law spoke at a webinar for lawyers and estate planners this month, presented by the RAPS and the wealth management firm Richardson GMP.

The law has traditionally viewed pets as chattel, treated more like furniture than like living creatures, said Breder. But things are changing.

She cited case law, some quite recent, in which "traditional" views of companion animals as property have been reinforced. One court decision concluded that a pet was "just another consumer product." In another case, in Saskatchewan, a couple was essentially scolded by the court for wasting the court's time on a custody battle over an animal.

But Breder finds encouragement in some other cases, such as one in which two women were granted joint custody of a dog because the court viewed it as in the dog's best interests that both were her mothers. Breder found this decision notable not because it was probably the first case of a court ordering joint custody of a pet under Small Claims legislation, but because the language of the decision—describing the women in the case as the dog's mothers—indicates an attitude that is far removed from the idea that animals are to be treated like inanimate objects in the law.

"Times are changing," Breder said. "An animal is



Photo courtesy RAPS
Lawyer Rebeka Breder with Boyng Boyng, one of her three rescue cats.

a living creature, not an ordinary piece of property."

In some of Breder's other cases in which she was counsel, the court specifically noted that the best interests of animals need to be considered. Breder says this is a reflection of times changing.

Providing for pets in a will, however, can be a challenge. In the United States—and in several famous instances elsewhere—celebrities and others have left fortunes to their pets through animal trusts. In Canada, only humans can be beneficiaries of a will. That means if one wants to leave funds to care for pets, the will must carefully conform to the law or risk being challenged, potentially by a disgruntled (human) relative.

One option is to leave money to a friend or family member with instructions to care for the animal or animals or directly gifting the pet to someone. But this can be difficult to enforce from the great beyond. Breder prefers a "purpose trust." It still has some risks and, like most provisions, could be challenged. But the trust allows an amount of money to be set aside specifically for the care of a pet with in-

structions for care and treatment.

People will often be shocked at the amount of money Breder recommends allocating in a will for a pet.

"Depending on the age of the cat, leaving a few thousand dollars for one cat is not enough," she said. "Just one surgery can easily cost a few thousand dollars."

Even if an animal does not require extraordinary medical interventions, routine care and pet food and supplies add up. Doggy daycare, training and assorted expenses can add more.

"There are always unexpected expenses when it comes to our companion animals," she said.

On the other hand, leaving millions of dollars to such a trust would almost certainly attract the attention of even distant relations with potential claims on an estate.

"If there is a disgruntled adult child that sees that their parents left \$200,000 for the cat and nothing to them, they have the right to contest that," Breder said.

She also recommends not citing pets by name, so that if the cat that survives you is not the same cat as the one you had when you wrote the will, it will receive the same benefit.

RAPS CEO Eyal Lichtmann also spoke on the webinar. He said RAPS has been accepting surviving animals for many years and either rehoming them, fostering them or placing them in the RAPS Cat Sanctuary. He encourages people to speak with RAPS or another animal agency in advance to ensure that your wishes for your pets' care is specific and guaranteed.

RAPS has protocols and forms in place to facilitate estate planning for pets, as well as lawyers and estate planners who volunteer to speak with people about plans for companion animals. Questions and more information is available online or by email at admin@rapsbc.com.

Pat Johnson is communications manager of the Regional Animal Protection Society.

MY NAME IS TAPIOCA

Tapioca is a dove who is getting used to us coming in and out of his coop to feed and clean his area and we do spend some time talking gently to him. When we are not around he loves to relax on top of his hutch and watch the day go by.

****Due to COVID-19, all meet and greets will be by appointment only. Please call us at 604-275-2036 to set up an appointment.****



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PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2020

Massey Tunnel replacement still hot-button topic

Connecting Richmond with Delta and points further south of the Fraser River, the George Massey Tunnel plays an important role in the movement of people and goods throughout the Lower Mainland.

But since being opened to traffic in 1959 as the Deas Island Tunnel, the region has grown nearly four-fold, from 614,000 to 2.5 million residents and calls for its replacement have been growing since the mid 2000s when the idea of expanding the tunnel's capacity from four to six lanes was first floated.

Since then, replacing the tunnel with a bridge has also been considered, particularly by the last BC Liberal government under then-Premier Christy Clark. Following the 2017 election, the BC NDP scrapped the existing bridge proposal and initiated a consultation process with local mayors and First Nations leaders.

That consultation process yielded overwhelming support for a tunnel option, including from Richmond mayor Malcolm Brodie, who told the *Richmond Sentinel* in March that "from an operational point of view the tunnel option would give us all the advantages we are looking for, and would move us well into the future."

The Liberals under leader Andrew Wilkinson remain committed to a bridge replacement. Wilkinson pledged last week that, if his party forms government following the Oct. 24 election, they will build "an eight- to 10-lane flexible bridge with a revised interchange at Steveston Highway."

The bridge will be part of the BC Liberals' \$8 billion Rebuild BC plan, and Wilkinson said it can be restarted without any further environmental assessment, since it fits into the previous consultation and assessment terms. He said the proposed bridge would have no toll.

To gauge where local candidates in the Oct. 24 provincial election stand on the issue, the *Richmond Sentinel* asked what aspects they consider necessary in the replacement, and how they will ensure that construction begins immediately.

"We have the plan, we have the consultation reports, we have the need," says Jas Johal, Richmond-Queensborough candidate for the BC Liberals.

Richmond South Centre candidate Alexa Loo, also of the BC Liberals, agrees.

"People are planning their life around this tunnel," she says. "We've been mired in action and congestion, and it's really time to get moving here."

Matt Pitcairn, the BC Liberal candidate for Richmond-Steveston, says the tunnel is currently the worst traffic bottleneck in the province. He says he'd like to see dedicated transit lanes on a bridge for a reliable public transportation



Photo by Chung Chow

The BC Liberals favour a bridge crossing to replace the Massey Tunnel, but the BC NDP prefer a newer, widened tunnel.

option.

Conversely, the BC NDP remain committed to a tunnel option, saying plans are still underway and the project's final approval will be done by the end of the year. NDP candidate for Richmond South Centre Henry Yao says changing back to a bridge plan at this point would risk further delays. Yao is also concerned that the Liberals neglected to consult the City of Richmond when making their new plan.

Richmond-Steveston NDP candidate Kelly Greene says the bridge plan doesn't account for the environmental needs of the Fraser River, and that her party's proposed tunnel is nearing the completion of its planning stage.

"The project business case is due back this fall and I'm excited to see the completion of the Massey crossing in a way that respects local priorities, includes transit plans, and isn't paid through tolls on Richmond commuters," says Greene.

BC Conservative candidate Kay Hale (Richmond-Queensborough) and BC Green Party candidate Vernon Wang (Richmond North Centre) are also in support of the existing tunnel being doubled in size. And independent candidate Vince Li (Richmond-Steveston), who used to work in Delta and commuted through the tunnel daily, says whichever option will be started more quickly is where his support would lie.



RICHMOND AT A GLANCE

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VOTE PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2020

Investing in education today pays dividends tomorrow

Education is at the core of our future—literally.

But during the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers and students are experiencing unusual conditions in classroom settings. Though \$45.6 million in provincial funding and \$242.4 million in federal funding has been dedicated to the safe restart of BC's schools, necessary additions to the public education system go beyond the challenges the pandemic has brought about.

The *Richmond Sentinel* asked Richmond's provincial candidates what changes they'd like to see in BC's public school system, and how these changes would be funded.

The BC NDP's Richmond South Centre candidate, Henry Yao, says today's kids deserve to have the best start possible—which means hiring new teachers, reducing class sizes and upgrading aging schools.

Fellow NDP candidate Kelly Greene says she became involved in politics because she wanted to support seismic upgrades to Richmond schools without closing other schools. In the last three years, she says her party has invested nearly \$100 million into seismic upgrades, with eight either funded or completed in Richmond alone.

"But we need to continue that work until every Richmond student is attending a safe school," she adds.

The BC Liberals' Richmond-Queensborough candidate, Jas Johal, says BC's schools are some of the best worldwide, and that funds should go to building new schools in growing cities like Richmond.

"Schooling sits at the intersection of parents, government, and most importantly educators," Johal says. "It takes input from all three for student success."

Richmond-Steveston BC Liberal candidate Matt Pitcairn says as a father of school-aged children, "I share the incredible anxiety parents are feeling about sending their kids back to school during a pandemic."

Pitcairn said a Liberal government will make schools structurally safer, vowing to personally work to ensure that lessons being learned by local teachers and administration about local health safety during the pandemic will continue to improved over the coming weeks and months.

Asphalt Paving Advisory

The City of Richmond has contracted All Road Construction to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond **from October 1st to October 31st, 2020:**

PROPOSED 2020 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS

Garden City and Alderbridge Way	Intersection
8000 Block Westminster Hwy	East Bound Lanes
Bridgeport Road and Viking Way	Intersection
6000 Block Cooney Road	Granville Avenue to Westminster Highway
6000 Block Buswell Street	Granville Avenue to Westminster Highway
11000 Block No.5 Road	Steveston Highway to Rice Mill Road
12000 Block No.5 Road	Rice Mill Road to Dike Road
Horseshoe Way	No.5 Road to Coppersmith Way
Elmbridge Way	West Bound Lanes
Vibration Complaints	Spot repairs at various locations

Work hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends. Night time work hours will be from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. (typically).

Traffic will be reduced to single-lane and there may be temporary lane closures. Delays may occur. The use of an alternate route is strongly encouraged.

This work is weather dependent and dates are subject to change without notice.

The scope of the advertised work may be adjusted or cancelled in line with available funding.

Questions may be directed to Wasim Memon, Supervisor, Engineering Inspections, at **604-276-4189**, or visit the City's paving program web page at www.richmond.ca/services/rdws/projects/pavingprogram.

www.richmond.ca



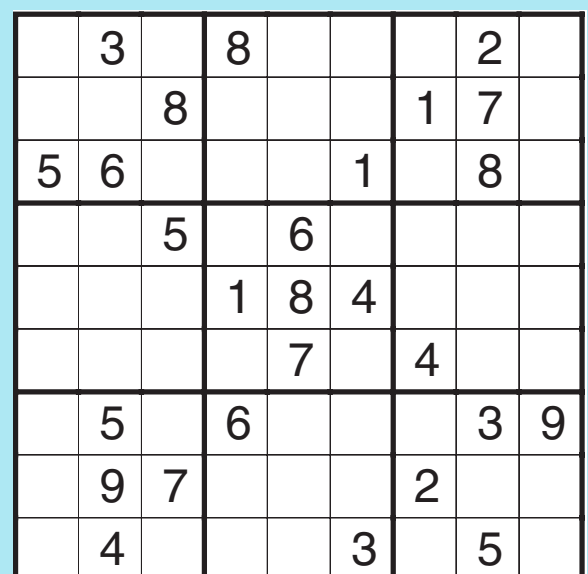
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