

Labour endorsed
candidate list inside!

Advocate

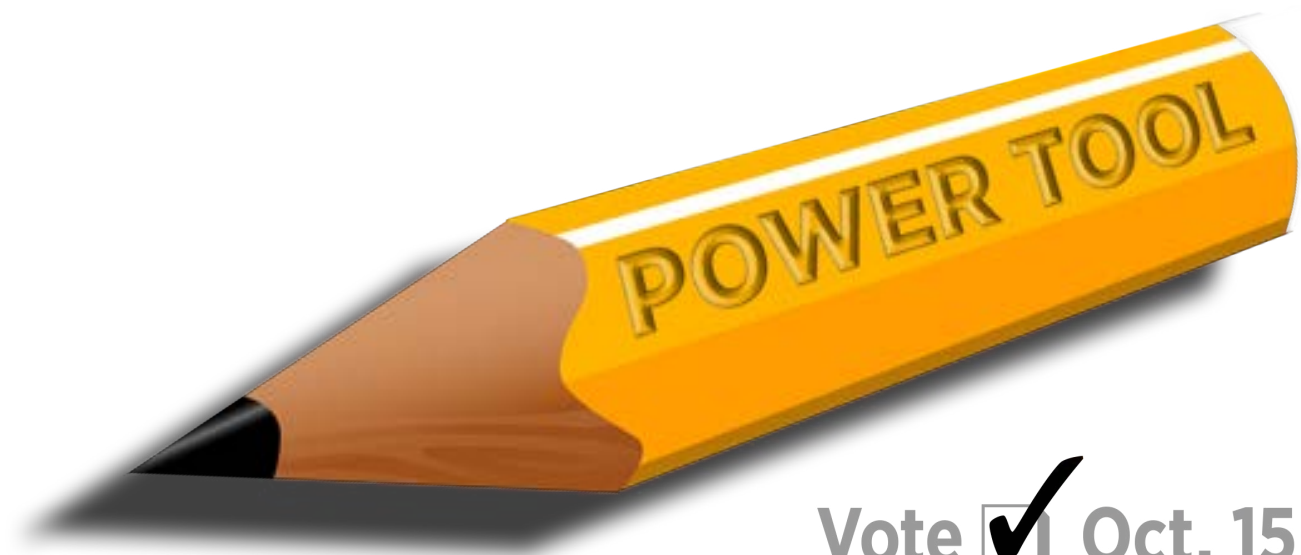
Official news magazine of the B.C. Federation of Retired Union Members (BC FORUM)

Vol. 25 No. 3, Fall 2022

Make it count on October 15

WHAT MATTERS TO VOTERS IN YOUR REGION

Votes for working people: Candidates who can make a difference



Vote Oct. 15

With thanks to Dennis McGann

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Vancouver & District

Agnes Jackman

Victoria

Nora Butz

West Kootenay & District

Mary Gay

In this edition

October 15 is election day in British Columbia. People will be making their voices heard via the ballot box in municipalities all over the province. We are proud to feature original articles by incumbent representatives from different regions sharing what's important to seniors in their areas. Also, the president of CUPE BC shares some insights into the importance of municipal elections. Finally, we've put together a handy removable insert our readers can take to the ballot box to ensure they are voting for progressive and labour friendly candidates. We hope you enjoy this special election edition of the Advocate!

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Celebrating older women this month, and our most valuable tool – our vote

By Sam Wiese
President, BC FORUM

On Saturday, October 1, 2022, we recognize and celebrate the United Nations International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP) 2022 theme: **The Resilience and Contributions of Older Women**, which serves as a hallmark and reminder of the significant role older women play in traversing global challenges and contributing to their solutions with resilience and fortitude. British Columbians have the honour of recognizing and celebrating one truly of our own in this regard, the interminable Rosemary Brown. While she was still young she became the first black woman elected to a provincial legislature in Canada. After serving for 14 years as an MLA she turned her attention to international advocacy. In 1988, at age 58, an age many countries consider senior, she served three years as CEO of the advocacy group MATCH International Women's Fund, a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to funding women's rights movements and grassroots organizations working for women's rights worldwide.

Brown then helped found the Canadian Women's Foundation, which launched in 1991. As a national non-profit organization, it advocates for gender equality across the country. In 1993, Brown was named chief

commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, a position she held until 1996, all the while continuing her work with MATCH. When this exceptional woman passed away in 2003 she left behind a true legacy showing not only what the resilience and contributions of older women do to support positive change in the world; she bequeathed a passion for politics to her daughter Cleta Brown, who is running for a seat on city council in Vancouver. This is my segue into this special fall edition of The Advocate in which we are devoting much space to municipal elections.

You will see at initial glance that we've taken a bit of a turn in this edition – we've included a centerfold. Now folks, I don't want you to be aghast. It's a useful centerfold that is definitely rated for family viewing. You will find listed the names of candidates who have been endorsed by district labour councils. This isn't an all inclusive list of progressive candidates, and we are not directing who you vote for, we are simply using The Advocate as a vehicle by which to produce a list of candidates who have been vetted and then endorsed by Labour. This process of vetting assures that the candidates endorsed by the labour councils are strong, progressive

candidates who will work together to support working people and families and tackle the difficult challenges faced by everyone in their respective region, including housing, affordability, homelessness, access to medical care, and the opioid crisis.

(cont. on page 10)

Calling all activists!

BC FORUM is entitled to two representatives at each labour council around the province.

As a BC FORUM regional representative you would attend district labour council meetings to keep them up to date on our activities, and then report back to BC FORUM on issues and activities being addressed at the labour council in your area. BC FORUM President Sam Wiese, is always willing to assist you with your written reports to district labour council and back to BC FORUM, so never let a fear of writing be a roadblock to taking on this very satisfying role.

There are currently a number of positions available throughout the province. Our list of regional representatives can be found on page 2. If this is something that interests you please contact our office.

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Acknowledgement of territory

We respectfully acknowledge that the BC FORUM office is located on unceded lands of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.

Focusing on and supporting seniors in our communities is good for everyone

By Terri McConnachie,
Prince George City Councillor

As more and more baby boomers retire, the number of Canadian seniors is higher than it has ever been, and that's no different in Prince George. At the local government level, mayors and city councils must do their part to accommodate the elder residents of our communities.

In Prince George, there has been excellent work done in the last decade to increase the amount of housing, amenities and recreational opportunities devoted to seniors, but more work needs to be done.

Sidewalks and our civic buildings need to allow for safe movement for seniors, with indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities accessible all twelve months of the year. We need a variety of housing options for seniors at all income levels. The cost for market and rental housing



Terri McConnachie © McConnachie

has substantially increased in the past five years and creative solutions, including secondary housing options within and detached from existing

dwellings and an emphasis on housing design that is conducive to aging in place, are all initiatives to continue to build on. Safe, clean, and comfortable seniors housing should be available to everyone, regardless of their personal wealth.

We also need to work with other levels of government and community partners to provide the necessary supports for physical health and social well-being so that more seniors can stay in their current homes as they age.

A community focus on seniors benefits whole communities, including Prince George, and resonantly benefits citizens of all ages, including the seniors of tomorrow. Residents in their senior years, with access to the care, housing, recreation, and other services necessary for an enviable quality of life, will stay here, and continue to contribute to this dynamic city – a city renowned for its volunteerism, hospitality and people who pull together when called to action!

In other words, focusing on seniors isn't just good for seniors, it's good for everyone.

Terri has been a proud resident of Prince George for over 40 years and is currently serving as a city councillor and trustee for the Prince George Public Library. She continues to seek to be in service to the citizens of Prince George as a candidate for mayor and is the North Central Labour Council's endorsed candidate.

"Whenever you do something that benefits the community you will be rewarded with so much satisfaction"

Noreen Rustad, founding board member of the Prince George Community Foundation and Weavers Guild member. Courtesy of the City of Prince George.



Noreen Rustad © City of Prince George (flickr.com/photos/cityofpg)

Growing up and older together

By Christine Boyle,
Vancouver City Councillor

Families should be able to grow up together.

My own family lives close to one another – a privilege that not everyone enjoys. It has meant that we have been able to support each other through troubled times: When my mother-in-law had her knee replaced, I was able to visit her regularly at the hospital and the rehab centre with my toddler. And when my father was going through radiation treatment, we could bring the kids to visit in the park nearby.

But unfortunately, given the realities of our housing market, the situation I am fortunate enough to enjoy is rare. Parents, seeking housing they can afford, move far from the place where they grew up – literally driving grandparents, parents and grandchildren apart.

The housing crisis in Vancouver is impacting nearly everyone, but there are distinct impacts on seniors.

These are seniors who are long-term renters, worried about being renovicted and seeing their rent skyrocket. Seniors whose home no longer meets their changing accessibility needs. Seniors who need to live closer to health services, but aren't able to find an affordable place. Seniors pushed out of their neighbourhood or community when downsizing or changing life circumstances. Seniors whose homes have been too hot or too cold during increasing climate events. Seniors who worry about being pushed into homelessness.

Above all, these are seniors who are increasingly lonely and isolated – due, in part, to the fact that the housing crisis causes families and friends to live far apart.

These are the result of decisions that governments have made. It doesn't need to be this way.



A city with more affordable rentals is a city where seniors can more easily downsize, and aren't afraid of being renovicted. Walkable neighbourhoods and more frequent public transportation can increase the mobility of those who don't wish to drive - or are unable to, and newer homes can be held to high accessibility standards.

These aren't pie in the sky ideas. They benefit everyone – seniors included. They are all possible, and they are why I am running for a second term on Council with OneCity Vancouver.

The decisions we make in government – including at a local government level – shape Vancouver and beyond. That's why I have spent my first term on Council fighting for existing co-ops, and working to make it easier to build more co-op, non-profit and rental housing, strengthening tenant rights, pushing for more street trees and more public washrooms, and acting urgently to address the climate emergency.

These are key priorities for the whole OneCity Vancouver team, and I know that with more OneCity voices at the table we can make decisions that benefit more Vancouverites.

Vancouver is changing, and I want it to change in ways that make life better, and healthier, for all of us.

I love watching my dad and my 8-year-old on rides together at the PNE, or biking around Stanley Park with my parents and my kids. Secure housing has allowed us to grow up together. These

types of joys and connections should be available to everyone.

With a courageous and compassionate Vancouver City Council, including more OneCity Vancouver voices, that Vancouver is possible.



Christine Boyle © Boyle

Christine Boyle is a Vancouver City Councillor with OneCity Vancouver. She is running for a second term alongside a strong, progressive team of OneCity candidates for Council, School Board and Park Board. www.onecityvancouver.ca.

Accessing services for seniors

By Shirley Ackland

Although being a recently retired senior is a new reality for me, hearing about some of the issues seniors face, is not. I spent 10 years on town council in Port McNeill, on Northern Vancouver Island, serving one term as mayor. Today, I live in Langford, which is the South Island, and I am seeking to be elected on this city's council.

So what issues are facing seniors as we head towards an upcoming civic election?

Doctor shortage

I've been in Langford for two and a half years, and I have not been able to find a family doctor. In the news of late are the repeated closures of hospital emergency services in the North Island and throughout the province in our small communities. Our medical services have been stretched thin through COVID and the medical services have not rebounded at all.

What to do about it?

Not everyone can afford to take out an advertisement and pay thousands to a doctor to take on a new patient – least of all a senior – but you can make yourself heard. Write to your local mayor and council, the health authority, and ask them to advocate for better medical support. Phone your health authority for a list of doctors that may be taking new patients. Check out your local pharmacy – some are offering access to a doctor via computer/tele-health to help to get prescriptions filled, make referrals, and do consults. It's not ideal, but it's better than no medical service. Check in with your local seniors' centre as they often know of doctors' clinics that may be accepting new patients.



Affordability.

There is *a lot* that is included in what is affordable as we know the cost of most things – rent, gas, groceries, utilities – have all risen in the past few years. Housing is the most concerning as the costs of rents and mortgages seem to ever increase. But what is concerning many

seniors as well, is the cost of food. In many stores in the city, there are seniors' discounts, special days with which to shop, and access to more amenities to help seniors find reasonably priced items. In smaller communities that are dealing with larger transportation costs of all goods, seniors don't get as many options to find reasonably priced items. But in

smaller communities, the seniors' centres, churches, legions, and service clubs find ways to ensure seniors have access to items that are hard to purchase. The Port Hardy Seniors Centre hosts a weekly lunch where seniors can avail themselves of a bowl of homemade soup and a sandwich, and in Port McNeill, the A-Frame church hosts a Friday lunch and has food boxes available for seniors who need it. Port McNeill Legion hosts lovely Friday night dinners, as does the Langford Legion at affordable prices – check out the Legion and the service clubs in your community.



Shirley Ackland © Ackland

(cont. on page 7)

Endorsed candidates by district council

Remove and take this handy insert with you to the polls and support the labour endorsed candidates in your communities who will work for working people - people like you!

This list is up to date as of printing. Check with your local labour council or the CLC for the most up to date list:
canadianlabour.ca/bc-labour-council-endorsed-candidates/

North Okanagan Labour Council

Kelowna

Council

- Davis Kyle
- Gordon Lovegrove

Vernon

Council

- Kelly Fehr

School Trustee (SD 22, Vernon)

- Mark Olsen

South Okanagan - Boundary Labour Council

Penticton

Mayor

- Julius Bloomfield

Council

- Isaac Gilbert

Kitimat-Terrace & District Labour Council

Town of Smithers

Council

- Sam Raven

Sunshine Coast Labour Council

Sunshine Coast

School Trustee (SD 46, Sunshine Coast)

- Amanda Amaral
- Maria Hampvent

East Kootenay District Labour Council

Town of Elkford

Mayor

- Steve Fairbairn

Cranbrook

School Trustee (SD #5, Cranbrook)

- Trina Ayling
- Bev Bellina
- Irene Bischler
- Chris Johns
- Doug McPhee
- Wendy Turner

Creston

School Trustee (SD #8, Creston)

- Cody Beebe

West Kootenay Labour Council

Castlegar

Council

- Sandy Bojeckho

Nelson

Mayor

- Janice Morrison

Council

- Leslie Payne

North Central Labour Council

Prince George

Mayor

- Terri McConnachie

Council

- Wesley Mitchell
- Cori Ramsey
- Susan Scott

Nanaimo, Duncan and District Labour Council

City of Nanaimo

Mayor

- Leonard Krog

Council

- Ken Bennett
- Don Bonner
- Tyler Brown
- Ben Geselbracht
- Erin Hemmens
- Zeni Maartman
- Ian Thorpe

Nanaimo Ladysmith

School Trustee (SD 68, Nanaimo Ladysmith)

- Naomi Bailey
- Tania Brzovic
- Greg Keller
- Mark Robinson
- Tom Rokeby

North Cowichan

Mayor

- Rob Douglas

Council

- Christopher Justice
- Kate Marsh
- Debra Toporowski

City of Duncan

Mayor

- Michelle Staples

Council

- Tom Duncan

Regional District of Nanaimo (Area A)

Director

- Jessica Stanley

New Westminster and District Labour Council

Burnaby

Mayor

- Mike Hurley

Council

- Rohini Arora, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*
- Pietro Calendino, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*
- Antara Deb, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*
- Sav Dhaliwal, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*
- Alison Gu, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*
- Joe Keithley, *Burnaby Green Party*
- Daniel Tetrault, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*
- James Wang, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*

School Trustee (SD 41 - Burnaby)

- Bill Brassington, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*
- Peter Cech, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*
- Larry Hayes, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*
- Jen Mezei, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*
- Mikelle Sasakamoose, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*
- Kristin Schnider, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*
- Gary Wong, *Burnaby Citizens Association (BCA)*

Coquitlam

Mayor

- Adel Gamar

Council

- Matt Djonlic
- Craig Hodge
- Trish Mandewo
- Robert Mazzarolo
- Leslie Roosa
- Chris Wilson

School Trustee (SD 42 - Coquitlam)

- Jennifer Martin Blatherwick
- Craig Woods

Victoria Labour Council

Victoria

Mayor

- Marianne Alto

Council

- Jeremy Caradonna
- Matt Dell
- Ben Isitt
- Susan Kim
- Krista Loughton
- Dave Thompson

School District #62

School Trustee (SD62, Sooke)

- Ravi Parmar

School District #61

School Trustee (SD61, Greater Victoria)

- Angela Carmichael
- Karin Kwan

Central Saanich

Council

- Zeb King

Esquimalt

Council

- Darlene Rotchford

Langford

Council

- Mary Wagner, Langford Now
- Keith Yacucha, Langford Now

Oak Bay

Council

- Carrie Smart

Saanich

Mayor

- Dean Murdock

Council

- Zac De Vries
- Basil Langevin
- Mark Leiren-Young
- Greg Matte
- Teale Phelps Bondaroff
- Colin Plant

our Council

Delta

School Trustee (SD 37 - Delta)

- B. Bruce Reid,
Independents Working for You
- Val Windsor, *Achieving for Delta*

Langley City

Mayor

- Nathan Pachal

Council

- Paul Albrecht
- Shelley Coburn
- Jeff Jacobs
- Mike Solyom

School Trustee (SD 35 - Langley)

- Candy Ashdown

Langley Township

Mayor

- Eric Woodward,
Contract with Langley

Council

- Tim Baillie, *Contract with Langley*
- Barb Martens,
Contract with Langley
- Michael Pratt

School Trustee (SD 35 - Langley)

- Holly Dickinson,
Contract with Langley
- Joel Neufeld, *Contract with Langley*
- Suzanne Perrault
- Sarb Rai, *Contract with Langley*
- Marnie Wilson

Maple Ridge

Council

- Korleen Carreras,
A Better Maple Ridge
- Sunny Schiller,
A Better Maple Ridge
- Jenny Tan,
A Better Maple Ridge

School Trustee (SD 42 - Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows)

- Gabe Liosis
- Elaine Yamamoto

New Westminster

Mayor

- Patrick Johnstone,
Community First New West

Council

- Ruby Campbell,
Community First New West
- Chinu Das,
Community First New West
- Tasha Henderson,
Community First New West
- Bereket Kebede,
Community First New West
- Jaimie McEvoy,
Community First New West
- Nadine Nakagawa,
Community First New West

School Trustee (SD 40 - New Westminster)

- Marc Andres,
Community First New West
- Dee Beattie,
Community First New West
- Gurveen Dhaliwal,
Community First New West
- Maya Russell,
Community First New West
- Elliott Slinn,
Community First New West
- Cheryl Sluis,
Community First New West

Pitt Meadows

Council

- Alison Evans

School Trustee (SD 42 - Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows)

- Hudson Campbell

Port Coquitlam

Mayor

- Brad West

Council

- Sarah Harbord
- Nancy McCurrach
- Darrell Grant Penner
- Glenn Pollock
- Dean Washington

School Trustee (SD 43 - Coquitlam)

- Christine Pollock
- Michael Thomas

Port Moody

Mayor

- Meghan Lahti

Council

- Dustin Chelen
- Amy Lubik
- Haven Lurbiecki

School Trustee (SD 43 - Coquitlam)

- Nancy Johnston
- Lisa Park

Surrey

Mayor

- Jinny Sims, *Surrey Forward*

Council

- Philip Aquirre, *Surrey Forward*
- Ramon Bandong, *Surrey Forward*
- June Liu, *Surrey Forward*
- Paramjit Singh Malhi,
Surrey Forward
- Theresa Pidcock, *Surrey Forward*
- Jody Toor, *Surrey Forward*

School Trustee (SD 36 - Surrey)

- Terry Allen,
Surrey First Education
- Dr. Balbir Gurm,
Team Surrey Schools
- Laurie Larsen,
Surrey First Education
- Maryann Pyne,
Team Surrey Schools
- Tony Rebelo,
Team Surrey Schools
- Bobbi Taylor,
Team Surrey Schools

White Rock

Mayor

- Darryl Walker

Council

- Stephen Crozier

Courtenay, Campbell River, Comox and District Labour Council

Campbell River

Mayor

- Larry Samson

Council

- Gwendolyn Donaldson
- Tanille Johnston
- Sandra Milligan
- Steve Wood

Comox Valley

School Trustee

(SD 71, Comox Valley)

- Shannon Aldinger
- Michelle Waite

Courtenay

Mayor

- Bob Wells

Council

- Will Cole-Hamilton
- Doug Hillian
- Evan Jollicoeur
- Melanie McCollum
- Wendy Morin

Fraser Valley Labour Council

Harrison Village Council

- Michie Vidal

Chilliwack

School Trustee

(SD 33, Chilliwack)

- Carin Bondar
- Willow Reichelt
- David Swankey
- Teri Westerby

Abbotsford

School Trustee

(SD 34, Abbotsford)

- Preet Rai

<https://canadianlabour.ca/bc-labour-council-endorsed-candidates>

Vancouver and District Labour Council

North Vancouver City

Mayor

- Linda Buchanan

Council

- Holly Back
- Don Bell
- Angela Girard
- Jessica McIlroy

North Vancouver District

Council

- Jordan Back
- Megan Curren
- Harrison Johnston
- Ellison Mallin

West Vancouver

Mayor

- Mary-Ann Booth

Council

- Alexis Chicoine
- Nora Gambioli

Vancouver

Mayor

- Kennedy Stewart, Forward Together

Council

- Dulcy Anderson, Forward Together
- Iona Bonamis, OneCity
- Christine Boyle, OneCity
- Adriane Carr, Green Party
- Ian Cromwell, OneCity
- Pete Fry, Green Party
- Matthew Norris, OneCity
- Alvin Singh, Forward Together
- Jean Swanson, COPE
- Michael Wiebe, Green Party

School Trustee

(SD 39 - Vancouver)

- Rory Brown, OneCity
- Steve Cardwell, Vision Vancouver
- Kyla Epstein, OneCity
- Suzie Mah, COPE
- Jennifer Reddy, OneCity
- Krista Sigurdson, OneCity
- Gavin Somers, OneCity
- Rocco Trigueros, COPE
- Allan Wong, Vision Vancouver

Park Board

- Gwen Giesbrecht, COPE
- Maira Hassan, COPE
- John Irwin, Vision Vancouver
- Serena Jackson, OneCity
- Chris Livingstone, COPE
- Kristen Rivers, OneCity
- Caitlin Stockwell, OneCity

Richmond

Mayor

- Malcolm Brodie

Council

- Chak Au
- Carol Day (RITE)
- Andy Hobbs
- Alexa Loo
- Bill McNulty
- Keefer Pelech (RCA)
- Jack Trovato (RCA)
- Michael Wolfe (RITE)

(cont. from page 6)

Homecare for seniors

Finding homecare was one of the ongoing challenges when I served as mayor in Port McNeill. There has been an increase in care provided over the past few years with this NDP government, but finding good, supportive care is still a need. In the larger cities, again there are more amenities, programs, and community centres that cater to seniors' needs. There are many care aide programs at local colleges being funded by our provincial government, and in small communities, service clubs (Rotary, Chamber, Lions, etc.) may choose to sponsor a local student's tuition in order to grow the local community's resource of care aides. In smaller communities,

services such as the United Way's Better at Home program also help to fill the gap. The Better at Home program in the North Island provided seniors with a person who would drive them to a doctor's appointment, pick up some groceries, or complete a small errand. Operated by mostly volunteers, Better at Home's volunteers connected with the seniors and eased the isolation many seniors face.

What services are available?

Many seniors just aren't aware of what services are available to them or who or where to ask for information. Although there are hundreds of online sites that a computer savvy person can browse, you can also phone your local

municipal office. Perhaps living in Vancouver or Victoria – that would not be your first avenue – but in smaller communities, your local municipal office will likely have the names and phone numbers of all the service groups, seniors centres and supports you might need.

Get to know your city or town councillors – opportunities for grants and funding both provincial and federal come through the municipal office. If your seniors' group needs help building a community centre or want money for a day program – your municipal councillors can help you out!

Shirley Ackland is a long-time union activist and former Mayor of Port-McNeill. She is running for Langford City Council.

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Serving and supporting elders in need

By Sav Dhaliwal,
Burnaby City Councillor

There was a time when local governments, aka municipalities, in British Columbia were mostly focused on delivering services that were mandated to them by the province as per the Community Charter.

Local governments allocated little, if any, resources toward supporting its vulnerable populations with their basic needs asserting that the other two orders of government (provincial and federal) have the constitutional responsibility for social services.

Despite local governments' direct appeals to the provincial and federal governments to allocate more resources to support individual and families with low or fixed incomes, the social safety net has been weakening.

Our elder residents are one segment of the population that has been experiencing a steady erosion of the social services available to them.

Several events during the last couple of years have heightened our awareness about the ongoing challenges faced by our elder residents. For example, proportionally, they were more susceptible to illness, or even death, from COVID and from extreme heat waves such as we experienced last summer.

The lack of adequate investment by the other two orders of government into elders' primary health care, hospitalization, supportive housing, at-home care services – to name a few – have placed our elders' wellbeing at risk.

In response, over the last few years local governments have stepped up to fill the gradually increasing gaps in social services for all our residents, including senior citizens.



©Province of British Columbia

The Burnaby Citizens Association's (BCA) councillors have championed and supported a number of measures and policies that have provided much needed relief to low and fixed-income families.

The City of Burnaby has partnered with the Burnaby School Board and provincial government to provide capital funding, and land in some cases, to create new daycare centres for tots and children.

Burnaby has instituted a tenant-focused policy to protect and develop affordable rental housing as well as ensure that the existing rental units when redeveloped are replaced one-for-one at similar rents.

Just recently, the City of Burnaby invested \$30 million to save and secure 425 co-op housing units where the long-term residents – mostly older adults – were at risk of losing their homes to private developers.



Sal Dhaliwal ©Dhaliwal

The city recently approved 292 purpose built rental units to be owned and operated by the BCGEU, of which half are at least 40% below market rental rates.

Burnaby has been a proponent of keeping its elder residents physically, socially and mentally active, to stay healthy. Our purpose-built four 55+ seniors centres have now operated for several decades supporting these goals.

Burnaby has invested tens of millions of dollars in building community resource centres in all four quadrants of the city where community based not-for-profit organizations are housed to provide essential services to elder citizens and other vulnerable residents.

During the pandemic when most of our elder residents were shut-in, the city collaborated with the Fire Fighters Charitable Society and other not-for-profit entities to deliver meals and other necessary items to their homes.

To reduce health risks from extreme heat waves, the city has been operating cooling centres this summer to keep our seniors safe.

Progressive local governments are continually pushing the provincial and federal governments to deliver social services as it is their constitutional responsibility. However, when the other two orders of government fall short of the mark, cities are stepping in to support their citizens. Still, more needs to be done.

Sav Dhaliwal has been in service to the citizens of Burnaby since 2002, and is running for re-election as a city councillor on Oct 15.

In support of a seniors check in

By Marion Pollack,
BC FORUM Director, CUPW

There are things when combined that don't seem to make sense. For example the thought of combining peanut butter and hamburgers have many people recoiling in horror. But, increasingly foodies are finding this to be a very tasty combination.

So when the idea of Canada Post providing a service to assist seniors to age in place in their own homes was first raised, many people thought this was a combination that was even odder than peanut butter and hamburgers.

It turns out that postal administrations across the globe are providing check in services to help ensure that seniors are safe and secure in their own homes. These postal check in services have proven to be a success and have helped both seniors and their families to feel more secure.

For example in Singapore there was a project where some letter carriers received training for the check in program and were given checklists for each of the enrolled seniors on their



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routes. At least once a week, they stopped by to make notes of their health, ask if they've been eating, check that they are doing well and have everything they need, and spent a little time with them to stave off loneliness. If anything went wrong or seemed "off," the postal workers could contact a social service agency to get help right away. Sadly, this program was cut short by the pandemic.



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The Call & Check Visits is a program developed by Jersey Post in Jersey, British Channel Islands, in which postal service workers check on isolated, frail elderly residents in the community. During a five-minute visit, postal workers deliver prescription refills, remind clients of upcoming medical visits, and ask about their health and social needs. Clients' concerns are then conveyed to health care providers or community support organizations by Jersey Post customer service representatives after the visits.

In France there is a service where family members pay for letter carriers to check on their elderly relatives as part of their route.

In Ireland, a joint effort between the union and the post office put an informal check in service during the height of the pandemic. The union (The Communications Workers Union) is seeking to formalize this as an established service.

Currently, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) is asking Canada Post to develop a new service where door-to-door postal

workers check in on seniors and people with mobility issues, helping them live in their own homes for longer. The union has seen the success of similar programs in other countries and believes that this check in program could work. To date Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers is undertaking joint research on this issue. CUPW is hoping that a pilot senior check in project can be implemented in the near future.

Canada Post is well equipped to offer a seniors check in service. It is the largest public infrastructure in the country, and is already set up to serve every corner of the country. Polls show that Canada Post has the trust of Canadians (especially older Canadians) making a check in service easier to implement and operate.

The next time someone offers you a hamburger with peanut butter, feel free to accept or decline it. The next time someone mentions Canada Post please talk about the need for a Canada Post run seniors check in service.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

(cont. from page 3)

We also had the pleasure of having a few candidates submit articles to us. We had lofty goals of obtaining input from all areas of the province, however due to time constraints and other limitations, we were only able to obtain input from a few. While the articles we have published herein are only from a few areas, we know from discussions at BC FORUM Board meetings and input from our members that the issues discussed are common to seniors in all areas of our province.

Rest assured, your BC FORUM Executive and Board of Directors has been addressing other things than the upcoming municipal election.

I am most excited to let everyone know that we have regained access to our Facebook page. It took several phone calls, missed starts, and much hair twisting and teeth gnashing, but our ever tenacious Executive Officer Theresa Couture, managed to get it done. Now we need your help! As you will see when you check out the page, the pictures are somewhat dated. If you are attending a Labour sponsored event or meeting with your MLA or MP on an issue and have a picture to share, please send it along to us with a brief note about the occasion so we can assess it for posting to our Facebook page.

On the other media side, you will note that our website is currently in a state of flux. While it is important to note that membership applications can still be completed on the site at www.bcforum.ca, we are in the process of a revamp and reconstruction so please look to our Facebook page for news and updates.

Speaking of news and updates, there have been and are still many to come this year. In that regard, we hope you will come back and read our winter edition of The Advocate where we will pay tribute to those that have left and those who have arrived. Until then, my friends, take care and please exercise your right to vote on October 15, 2022.



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Want to see more progressive voices in local government? Help us with election 2022!

Karen Ranalletta, President, CUPE BC

Election Day on Saturday, October 15, 2022, will be British Columbians' last day to vote for municipal councillors, regional district directors, and school board trustees. And make no mistake: this vote matters.

The choices made in the next four years about housing, childcare, schools, public services, climate change, and the design of our neighbourhoods will reach far beyond this next term. Those we elect this fall will make pivotal decisions regarding the future of our communities, and the outcome will be felt across multiple generations.

For many CUPE members, these local governments are also their employers. Their decisions will directly impact more than 65,000 CUPE workers, and thousands of others who work collectively to deliver the vital public services provided by local government.

With these important roles of local government in mind, CUPE's locals across B.C. are endorsing progressive candidates committed to protecting and expanding public services that communities rely on. Acting in cooperation with other affected unions including firefighters and teachers, CUPE hopes that all union members and allies will support labour recommended candidates.

B.C.'s new election financing laws allow for contributions from individuals only. Gone are the days where organizations like unions can support candidates through donations. This means labour endorsements are no longer about funding but instead focus on expanded mobilization. Member mobilization works, and that the potential to positively influence these local government elections is huge.

In most B.C. communities, there are more union members eligible to vote than voters who typically turn out at



President Karen Ranalletta ©CUPE BC

the polls. To be successful, however, we must redouble our efforts: spending time in lunchrooms and works yards talking to workers about their concerns, getting on the phone or on doorsteps to hear about what matters to progressives across our communities.

British Columbians have serious concerns right now. This next election will be critical in determining whether our local governments pursue a progressive path and tackle the daunting challenges on the road ahead. Climate change and extreme weather events, lack of affordable housing, rising costs for everything, and the ongoing illicit drug poisoning and overdose public health emergency are just some of the crucial issues facing B.C. communities.

The stakes are high in this election. If right-wing, BC Liberal-leaning candidates are elected, we'll see privatization, contracting out, and service and program cuts that will slash our community services to the bone. Local employers will cut wages, undermining local economies, worsening housing challenges and turning back the clock on nearly six years of progressive direction from our BC NDP government.

This is why we are asking for your help. This October's election is a pivotal point. CUPE members in all corners of B.C. will be coming out to support progressive, labour endorsed candidates. We are asking you to join us.

There are several weeks before the last chance to vote on October 15. Use that time to get involved, meet our local candidates, volunteer your support, and talk to all your union siblings about the progressive changes to come if we take on this endeavor together.

Thank you for your life-long support of progressive values, and your support on October 15. Together we can bring more progressive voices to our local government and make positive changes for working people across our province.

New address? New e-mail address?

Please send your new address and e-mail address to BC FORUM. You can mail in the form on page 15, or you can reach us by telephone at 1.800.896.5678 (toll free) or 604.688.4565; or by email at bcforum@bcfed.ca.



Please check the expiry date on your label. Is your membership due for renewal?
