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BUILDING A BETTER NEW WEST

AFFORDABILITY | SAFETY | OPPORTUNITY | RESULTS



On Oct 17th Choose Progress...For a Change

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A Message from Mayoral Candidate Daniel Fontaine

Over the last several years, I've had the privilege of serving you on City Council. I've listened to residents and business owners at their doors, in coffee shops, at community events and in Council chambers. And one message comes through clearly: people love New Westminster, but they believe we can do better.

So do I.

That's why I'm running to be your next Mayor, alongside an incredible team of 12 NWP council and school trustee candidates who have stepped forward to serve our community.



Throughout my career, I have worked in the private sector, the non-profit sector and government. I have led organizations, managed substantial budgets, worked with frontline employees and their unions, built partnerships and helped turn ideas into action. That experience has taught me that good leadership means being humble enough to know we don't have all the answers. To lead you must first listen, build a team, and together set clear priorities. Only then are you in the right place to make difficult but necessary decisions. That is the non-partisan, team-based approach I will bring to the Mayor's Office.

Our 2026 NWP campaign platform is ambitious because **New Westminster should be ambitious.**

It is a comprehensive plan to make our streets safer and more vibrant, get traffic moving, revitalize business districts, build the infrastructure and amenities our growing city needs, protect what makes our neighbourhoods special, and restore fiscal discipline and accountability to City Hall.

We won't accomplish everything overnight. Some commitments will require difficult choices. Others will take years of sustained effort. To deliver, we will need clear priorities, strong partnerships with senior governments and community organizations, and a renewed focus on the people who provide the services residents depend on every day.

City staff do essential work residents rely on — maintaining streets and parks, keeping infrastructure working, supporting public safety and delivering the core services people count on. Council's job is to give them responsible direction, clear priorities, and the resources they need to do that work well.

That same approach must apply to residents. **City Hall needs to start listening** again. Under an NWP council and school board, residents will not be treated as an afterthought. Your voice will matter. Your tax dollars will be respected. And Council will focus relentlessly on delivering the core services and results you expect from your local government.

New Westmister has enormous potential. It is time we started realizing it.

This election is our opportunity to turn the page. To bring people together. To make the tough decisions we've been putting off. And to get New Westminster moving forward again.

Your NWP is ready to govern. It's ready to get to work. And together, we're ready to make progress. I hope you'll join us.

MEET THE CHANGE NEW WESTMINSTER DESERVES

We are a diverse team united by a passion for responsible local government.



Ken Armstrong

Ken Armstrong brings the discipline of a lawyer, the perspective of a Queensborough resident, and the credibility of someone who has already stepped forward to lead city-wide. If elected, he will champion responsible growth, stronger neighbourhood representation, better infrastructure planning, and a more accountable city hall.

Karima Budhwani

Karima Budhwani brings a fresh civic voice, a practical community lens, and a commitment to respectful, resident-centred leadership. If elected, she will champion better listening, clearer communication, practical solutions, and a city hall that earns public trust.



Rick Folka

Rick Folka brings financial rigour, public-sector experience, and a steady, practical focus on the services residents expect from local government. If elected, he will champion accountable spending, stronger oversight, better service delivery, and decisions rooted in common sense.

Council Candidates

When elected, we will form a city government that listens and acts on what we hear, is accountable, and focused on the core local services we all use every day.



Paul Minhas

Paul Minhas brings incumbent council experience, decades in New Westminster, and the real-world perspective of a local business owner who helped make the Heritage Grill a diverse, music-filled gathering place downtown. If re-elected, he will champion accountable spending, stronger services, safer communities, and a council that understands the pressures facing residents, taxpayers and small businesses.

Maryann Morrison

Maryann Morrison brings executive leadership, entrepreneurial experience, and a strong commitment to community service to the NWP team. Born in New Westminster and with deep family ties to the city, she is committed to practical solutions that strengthen the local economy, support residents and businesses, and help build a vibrant future for New Westminster.



Ray Porcellato

Ray Porcellato brings lifelong New Westminster roots, proven leadership as president and general manager of the New Westminster Salmonbellies – and the creative perspective of an amateur artist. If elected, he will champion local heritage, stronger community amenities, families, small businesses, and a sustainable future that honours the city's pride and traditions.

MEET THE CHANGE NEW WESTMINSTER DESERVES

Together, the NWP school trustee candidates offer a diverse mix of experience, perspectives and community leadership.



Kathleen Carlsen

For more than 30 years, Kathleen Carlsen has worked alongside and supported children, youth and families, helping young people feel safe, supported and valued. Bringing trustee experience and deep roots in community service and parent advocacy, she is committed to strengthening student well-being through meaningful engagement and collaboration, while advocating for the funding New Westminster schools need.

Danielle Connelly

As an experienced incumbent and current vice-chair of the school board, Danielle Connelly brings proven leadership on school capacity, mental health supports, educational assessments and in-class resources. As school trustee, she will continue bringing urgency, collaboration and results-focused advocacy to strengthen public education in New Westminster.



Don Doyle

As chair of the Queensborough Parent Advisory Council until June 30, longtime New Westminster resident Don Doyle brings proven parent advocacy and a strong voice for Queensborough families to his campaign for school trustee. As school trustee, he will champion safe schools, sustainable transportation, responsible spending and practical solutions to school capacity challenges.



School Trustee Candidates

From parent advocacy and financial stewardship to youth mentorship, governance, policy and student supports, this team brings the breadth of skills needed to help lead New Westminster schools through the challenges ahead.



Anita Dunn

Born, raised and educated in New Westminster, Anita Dunn brings a parent's perspective, financial expertise and small business experience to her campaign for school trustee. As school trustee, she will champion fair funding, responsible use of public dollars and practical solutions for families facing overcrowding, underfunding and transportation challenges.

Liz Fajber

New Westminster Secondary School graduate Liz Fajber brings more than 25 years of leadership in policy, strategic planning, budgeting, and public accountability to her campaign for school trustee. As school trustee, she will champion responsible financial stewardship, tackling the school capacity crisis, improved student learning and opportunities, and stronger, more transparent partnerships with families, educators, community organizations and government.



Lucas Steele

Lifelong New Westminster resident Lucas Steele brings a young voice, hands-on youth mentorship experience and a strong background in athletics and recreation to his campaign for school trustee. As school trustee, he will champion inclusive, well-resourced schools, expanded extracurricular opportunities and stronger supports that help every student build confidence, belonging and success.



RESPECTING TAXPAYERS

Lower Costs. Increase Efficiencies. More Accountability.



Enough overspending. Let's restore respect for your tax dollars.

KEY COMMITMENTS

**Respect taxpayer
dollars**

**Reduce consultant
reliance**

**Eliminate Electricity
Tax**

**Support local
businesses**

OUR PLAN

New Westminster residents have experienced a record level 30+ per cent property tax increase over the past four years. Families, seniors and local businesses are being asked to pay more, yet many feel City Hall has lost sight of its most important responsibility: delivering excellent core municipal services while respecting taxpayers ability to pay.

The NWP believe responsible financial management isn't about spending less for the sake of spending less - it's about spending smarter. Every dollar saved through better management is a dollar that doesn't have to come from taxpayers.

AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Property taxes	Commit to bringing annual average property tax increases to at or below the posted rate of inflation over the term of the next council.
Core services review	Launch an independent Core Services Review to identify duplication, things we can stop doing, and things we should better resource.
Financial oversight	Establish a new Finance Accountability & Budget Committee.
Consultant spending	Reduce consultant spending by at least 20% within two years.
Affordability	Eliminate the 3.5% electricity surcharge within our first 30 days.
Support local businesses	Reduce costs for local businesses with a lower-cost three-year licence option and eliminating patio licence fees, which will support growth and street vibrancy.

Our Plan

Bring property taxes back under control. Residents deserve a City Hall that lives within its means. We will:

- Commit to bringing annual average property tax increases to at or below the posted rate of inflation over the term of the next council.
- Require any proposed tax increase above inflation to be publicly justified before Council approval.
- Freeze all elected officials' and senior management salaries until annual operating budget increases remain at or below inflation for two consecutive budget years.
- Continue reviewing City fees and charges to eliminate unnecessary costs to residents and local businesses.

Lead by example. Fiscal responsibility begins at the top. We will:

- Support the NWP Mayor's decision to decline any possible stipends paid to the Chair of the New Westminster Police Board.
- Request that any remuneration paid to the Mayor by regional bodies, including Metro Vancouver, be returned directly to the City of New Westminster to help reduce the local tax burden—or, where possible, decline those payments altogether to reduce costs for both local and regional taxpayers.
- Ensure that all City taxpayer funded delegations to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Union of BC Municipalities, Lower Mainland Local Government Association are coordinated and approved on an annual basis by the Mayor. The goal is to reduce costs by limiting the number of attendees at each event per year – while maintaining a presence from New Westminster.

Conduct a core services review. City Hall should focus on doing the basics exceptionally well. We will:

- Launch a comprehensive independent Core Services Review within six months of taking office.
- Identify programs and services that should be maintained, improved, streamlined or discontinued.
- Conduct the review with a commitment that savings will be achieved primarily through attrition, retirements, process improvements, technology and the redeployment of existing staff - not through widespread layoffs.
- Limit the creation of new positions over the next 4 years to areas supporting core municipal services such as public safety, engineering, infrastructure, parks and recreation, and development approvals.
- Redeploy existing staff, where appropriate, into higher-priority core service areas while reducing reliance on outside consultants.
- Publicly report on an annual basis recommendations, savings achieved and service improvements.

Strengthen financial oversight. Residents deserve greater transparency and accountability. We will:

- Establish a new Finance Accountability & Budget Committee
- Review major expenditures, capital projects, procurement practices and long-term financial risks.

Reduce consultant spending. Taxpayer dollars should build internal expertise whenever possible. We will:

- Reduce consultant spending by at least 20% within two years.
- Require stronger justification before external consultants are retained.
- Invest in developing in-house expertise where it can be demonstrated it is more cost-effective.
- Publish annual consultant spending by department.

Build a more efficient city hall. Better service doesn't always require higher taxes. We will:

- Expand digital services, online applications and real-time service tracking.
- Pilot Artificial Intelligence and automation technologies where they improve customer service and reduce administrative costs.
- Require every department to identify annual efficiency improvements through innovation, technology and better business practices.
- Publish a Ten-Year Financial Sustainability Report outlining future infrastructure needs, reserve levels, debt obligations and long-term financial risks.

Manage capital projects responsibly. Residents deserve confidence that major projects are affordable and well managed. We will:

- Improve public reporting on capital project budgets, timelines and costs.
- Require detailed business cases before major capital projects proceed.
- Prioritize infrastructure investments that support core municipal services and neighbourhoods with rapid population growth.
- As part of the capital planning process for 2030-2034, place significant projects before voters in 2030 for approval where appropriate.

Stand up for taxpayers at Metro Vancouver. Regional decisions have a direct impact on household budgets. We will:

- Commit to keeping Metro Vancouver utility increases as reasonable as possible.
- Advocate for stronger financial oversight and transparency at Metro Vancouver.
- Continue supporting reforms that improve accountability and governance across regional government.
- Ensure New Westminster taxpayers receive fair value for every regional dollar spent.

Protect affordability. Every financial decision should consider its impact on residents. We will:

- Eliminate the 3.5% electricity surcharge within our first 30 days.
- Continue reviewing City fees and charges to remove unnecessary financial barriers.
- Introduce a lower-cost three-year business licence option.
- Eliminate patio licence fees to support local businesses, encourage economic growth and street vibrancy.
- Redirect new parking revenue from public facilities (non-residents) toward affordability measures aimed at keeping parks and recreation services more accessible to low-income residents, youth and seniors.

“Every dollar saved through better management is a dollar that doesn’t have to come from taxpayers.”

PUTTING RESIDENTS FIRST

Opening Up City Hall

Enough partisan politics. Let's put residents first.

KEY COMMITMENTS

FREEZE COUNCIL PAY

OPEN CITY HALL

ANNUAL Mayor's State
of the City

CUT RED TAPE

OUR PLAN

Residents deserve a City Hall that listens, responds and puts people ahead of politics.

Over the past four years, too many residents have felt disconnected from decision-making at City Hall. Community organizations have lost support, public engagement by the city has declined, and important decisions have too often been made without meaningful consultation.

An NWP Council will restore accountability, strengthen public participation and ensure residents once again have a meaningful voice in the future of New Westminster.

AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Lead by example	Freeze Council salaries, eliminate the automatic transportation allowance and restore Council oversight of City grants.
Restore public trust	Keep delegations, agendas, Council debate and public reporting open, accessible and transparent wherever possible.
Give residents a stronger voice	Restore residents' association supports, hold regular mayor meetings and improve plain-language communication on major City projects.
Modernize local democracy	Update Council procedures, use digital tools to improve participation, restore advisory committees, create a Youth Council and increase voter turnout.
Build stronger partnerships	Bring the City, schools, senior governments, Indigenous communities and local partners together to solve shared challenges
Strengthen civic leadership	Improve crisis response, strengthen regional advocacy, support councillor neighbourhood forums and end partisan appointments.

Our Plan

Respect Taxpayers. Residents expect responsible stewardship of public money. We will:

- Freeze Council salaries in 2027 until annual operating budget increases remain at or below inflation for two consecutive years.
- Eliminate the automatic monthly transportation allowance for elected officials and replace it with a reimbursement system, while accommodating members who require accessibility supports.
- Restore Council's final approval authority for City grants.

Restore Public Trust. Good government begins with accountability and transparency. We will:

- Guarantee that citizen delegations remain a permanent part of every regular Council meeting and provide public responses to questions raised.
- Guarantee Council meeting agendas are published at least seven calendar days before each meeting whenever possible, excluding statutory holidays.
- Hold Council debate and discussion in public whenever possible, moving items in camera only when required under the Community Charter.
- Release in-camera reports and decisions to the public as soon as confidentiality requirements no longer apply.
- Develop policy to ensure the Mayor's annual State of the City Address takes place in Council Chambers or another publicly accessible location that is free and open to all residents.
- Reduce unnecessary reporting by replacing the current semi-annual and annual Strategic Plan updates with a single comprehensive annual report beginning in 2028.

Give Residents a Stronger Voice. City Hall should work with residents - not consult them only after decisions have already been made. We will:

- Restore dedicated City staff liaisons for each of New Westminster's twelve residents' associations.
- Hold residents' association meetings with the mayor at least twice a year.
- Allow residents' associations to submit resolutions for debate or discussion at a special annual meeting of Council.
- Maintain semi-annual regular Council meetings in Queensborough and introduce one additional informal town hall meeting each year.
- Improve communication on major City projects through plain-language signage, direct mail and neighbourhood outreach.
- Conduct an independent review of the City's Be Heard public engagement system within the first 100 days.

Modernize Local Democracy. City Hall should reflect today's expectations for openness and participation. We will:

- Review and modernize the City's Procedures Bylaw to better reflect current best practices and digital technologies.
- Remove unnecessary restrictions limiting the number of motions councillors may introduce during Council meetings.
- Re-establish subject-matter advisory committees that support Council's work on core municipal services and discontinue the Community Advisory Assembly model.
- Work with New Westminster Secondary School, School District 40 and youth organizations to establish a new Youth Council.
- Ensure appointments to City committees and commissions reflect experience, subject-matter expertise and the diversity of the community.
- Set a target and implement measures to increase voter turnout by five per cent in the 2030 civic election, with emphasis on underrepresented voter groups.

Build Stronger Partnerships. New Westminster city management cannot thrive in isolation. We will:

- Establish a four-year schedule of twice-yearly New Westminster Caucus meetings with the MP, MLAs, mayor, Council, school board chair and vice-chair.
- Reconstitute the City-Schools Joint Committee within 100 days and establish a stronger collaboration framework with School District 40.
- Develop a stronger and more collaborative framework for engaging with First Nations and Indigenous communities on shared priorities.
- Prepare a public report outlining the financial impacts of senior government downloading onto New Westminster taxpayers.

Strengthen Civic Leadership. Residents deserve clear leadership and strong representation. We will:

- Within the first 100 days, launch a plan to build stronger crisis response capability at City Hall, with clear leadership, faster public communication and better coordination during emergencies.
- Recommend the mayor serve as the City's representative on the Metro Vancouver Board, with the NWP mayor declining additional pay for the role.
- Continue advocating for greater accountability, transparency and responsible governance across all regional bodies.
- Eliminate the restriction that City councillors cannot be liaisons for the neighbourhood in which they live.
- Encourage and support all City councillors to regularly host neighbourhood forums within their liaison communities.
- End partisan appointments at Council and make future appointments in a non-partisan fashion, with a goal of equally balancing appointments among all six elected councillors regardless of civic political affiliation.

NEW WEST WORKS

**Vibrant local businesses. More affordable services.
A revitalized and liveable downtown.**



“New Westminster should be a city where small businesses can grow, residents can afford to live, and neighbourhoods feel safe, welcoming, and full of life.”

Too many residents and business owners are telling us the same thing: costs are rising, City Hall is not listening, downtown is struggling, and New Westminster is becoming less competitive.

New West Works is our plan to restore confidence, support local investment, strengthen downtown, and bring practical fiscal discipline back to City Hall.

KEY COMMITMENTS

\$2.1M

Electricity Surtax Eliminated

20%

Consultant Spending Reduction

25%

Increase Patio Seating

OUR ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Practical commitments to lower costs, support business and strengthen accountability.

LOWER COSTS

- Eliminate the \$2.1 million electricity surtax (3.5%) charged to New Westminster residents and businesses.
- Eliminate business licence application fees and address change fees.
- Permanently eliminate patio permit fees.
- Undertake independent review of City spending.
- Lower parking costs in commercial areas.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

- Set a goal of increasing patio seating capacity citywide by 25% over the next term.
- Introduce a lower-cost three-year business licence option.
- Pilot an information-sharing agreement with the New Westminster Chamber of Commerce.

STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- Create a new Financial Accountability and Budget Oversight Committee to strengthen transparency and public confidence in City finances.
- Reduce external consultant spending by at least 20% within the first two years compared with the 2026 baseline budget.
- Cancel the “Sue Big Oil” initiative and redirect those funds toward practical local environmental priorities.
- Cancel the City’s costly rebranding exercise.

THE GOAL –
Focus on Better Delivery of Core Services
Restore confidence.
Support local investment.
Strengthen downtown.
Bring practical fiscal discipline back to City Hall.

A DOWNTOWN THAT WORKS AGAIN

A stronger local economy starts with practical action.

AFFORDABILITY

Remove unnecessary charges that increase costs for residents and businesses.

VIBRANCY

Make it easier for patios and local businesses to contribute to lively commercial streets.

PARTNERSHIP

Improve information sharing between the City and the local business community

ACCOUNTABILITY

Strengthen oversight and reduce reliance on external consultants.

NEW WEST WORKS

Stronger local businesses. More affordable services. A downtown that works again.

MOVING FORWARD NEW WEST

Common Sense Transportation for Everyone

Enough gridlock. Let's get New Westminster moving again.

KEY COMMITMENTS

Bottlenecks

Identify, Address, And Report On
The City's 20 Worst Bottlenecks

RAIL

Re-Establish The Railway
Community Advisory Panel

Parking
FREE 30-MINUTE
PARKING PILOT IN
COLUMBIA DISTRICT

2+

Additional Walking School Bus
Routes

OUR PLAN

Getting around New Westminster shouldn't be harder than it needs to be.

Residents have told us they are frustrated by traffic congestion, lengthy train delays, unnecessary train whistles, a lack of bus shelters and Skytrain stations that need attention, construction disruptions, parking challenges and transportation decisions that often divide communities rather than bring them together.

A NWP Council will focus on practical transportation improvements that make it easier and safer for everyone to get around - whether you're walking, cycling, taking transit or driving.

AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Traffic flow	Identify and publish a list of the City's 20 worst traffic bottlenecks within our first year, and start addressing them.
Rail issues	Immediately re-establish the Railway Community Advisory Panel (RCAP) to collaboratively address rail issues.
Major investment	Seek provincial plan for the future of the Queensborough Bridge.
Transit	Advocate for SkyTrain station work, improved bus frequency and reliability.
Walking	Prioritize missing sidewalk connections and improve pedestrian crossings.
Parking	Pilot a "30 Mins on Us" free parking program in the Columbia District.

Our Plan

Fix New Westminster's worst traffic bottlenecks. Residents don't want more studies - they want practical solutions. We will:

- Identify and publish the City's 20 worst traffic bottlenecks within our first year.
- Prioritize practical intersection improvements including signal timing, turning lanes and traffic flow enhancements.
- Publish an annual Traffic Improvement Report Card so residents can track our progress.

Bring Political Leadership Back to Rail Issues. Railways are one of New Westminster's biggest transportation challenges and require consistent political leadership and advocacy. We will:

- Immediately re-establish the *Railway Community Advisory Panel (RCAP)* with elected officials, railway companies, City staff, emergency responders and community representatives. This was abandoned in 2022 by the current majority on Council.
- Commit to hold regular public meetings of RCAP with agendas, reports and action updates available to residents.
- Use RCAP to address rail delays, emergency access, neighbourhood impacts and better coordinate long-term rail planning.

“There are just too many reports and studies that don’t lead to any real actions.”

Advocate to reduce train whistles. Residents have waited long enough for action. We will:

- Work with our local Member of Parliament, Transport Canada and railway companies to accelerate the implementation of additional rail quiet zones.
- Seek partner funding and advocate for infrastructure improvements that reduce unnecessary train whistles while maintaining public safety.
- Continue to provide regular public updates on progress toward quieter – whistle-free neighbourhoods.

Champion major transportation investments. New Westminster deserves transportation infrastructure that keeps pace with our growing population. We will:

- Secure a commitment from the Province of British Columbia to begin planning for the future of the Queensborough Bridge, including replacement, twinning or expansion options, as a provincial priority over the next decade.
- Work with senior governments to secure funding for major transportation projects and upgrades that improve mobility throughout our city – and reduce congestion.

Improve transit service and infrastructure. As New Westminster grows, transit service and infrastructure need to keep up. We will:

- Work with TransLink and senior governments to improve New Westminster’s SkyTrain stations, including cleaning up New Westminster Station, redeveloping Columbia Station, upgrading 22nd Street Station, and supporting redevelopment around 22nd Street.
- Improve bus infrastructure and affordability by building new bus shelters in high-demand areas, including near NWSS, and working with the Province to deliver free transit for youth under 18.
- Advocate for better transit service across New Westminster, including improved bus frequency and reliability, stronger evening and late-night service for shift workers, better service to Queensborough, and more SkyTrain trips starting in New Westminster.

Deliver Common Sense Transportation Planning. Transportation decisions should unite neighbourhoods - not divide them. We will:

- Ensure all major transportation projects are supported by meaningful – not performative public consultation.
- Require neighbourhood traffic impact assessments before significant road changes (including traffic calming) are approved.
- Make all transportation decisions based on safety, evidence and community feedback - not political ideology.
- Commit to undertaking a thorough internal review of the city’s speed bump installation strategy & policies.
- Ensure transportation planning does not unduly congest connector routes, unnecessarily directing vehicles onto residential streets.
- Pilot a “30 Mins on Us” free parking program in the Columbia District to encourage more commerce and vibrancy downtown.

Take a balanced approach to cycling. Cycling is an important part of our transportation network - but so are the needs of pedestrians, transit users, motorists and local businesses. We will:

- Review the performance and efficacy of all existing bike lane projects to identify opportunities for improvement and cost savings.
- Ensure future cycling investments are based on safety, evidence, public consultation, neighbourhood impacts.
- Continue investing in recreational cycling initiatives, including initiatives that will connect Sapperton, Downtown and Queensborough waterfronts.
- Work with the New Westminster Caucus and Southern Railway of British Columbia (SRY) to ensure the replacement of the Queensborough rail swing bridge incorporates new pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

Modernize Our transportation network. Technology should help keep New Westminster moving. We will:

- Expand smart traffic signal technology where appropriate.
- Improve signal timing along major transportation corridors.
- Use technology to reduce unnecessary delays and improve traffic flow throughout the city.

Improve construction coordination. Construction is necessary - but unnecessary disruption is not. We will:

- Improve coordination of major construction projects – including those undertaken in our city by the Metro Vancouver Regional District.
- Minimize unnecessary lane closures and traffic disruptions which can have major impacts on local businesses.
- Improve communication with residents and business owners through better – more advanced construction notices and detour information.

Make Walking Safer and More Accessible. Every trip begins and ends on foot. We will:

- Prioritize missing sidewalk connections throughout the city – with a priority in Queensborough and Connaught Heights.
- Improve pedestrian crossings near schools, parks, seniors' facilities and transit hubs. This includes a commitment to upgrade and improve safety the intersection at 2nd St and 6th Ave (within 12 months) due to its proximity to Ecole Herbert Spencer Elementary School.
- Continue improving accessibility for residents of all ages and abilities.
- Construct a 'scramble sidewalk' at the corner of 8th St and Carnarvon which currently experiences a high volume of pedestrian activity.
- Improve safety by significantly expanding and accelerating the implementation of 'pedestrian advance signals' in key areas throughout the city.
- Provide long-term funding to the Society of Children and Youth BC to add at least two additional routes as part of their successful Walking School Bus program.

Protect Neighbourhood Parking. Parking policies should work for residents, businesses and visitors alike. We will:

- Review residential parking policies to improve fairness and availability and provide more flexibility in the issuance of permits.
- Improve wayfinding to public parking facilities.
- Balance the parking needs of neighbourhoods, businesses and visitors when making future capital investment decisions.
- Eliminate the city policy which is currently working to reduce the overall number of public parking spaces within the city.

Enforcement must be prioritized. Individuals who break traffic laws should face the ramifications of their actions. We will:

- Ensure Council works through the Police Board to emphasize the City's interest in supporting additional traffic enforcement and education programs throughout the city.
- Utilize our existing by-laws and education programs - to the full extent possible - to discourage the illegal usage of e-scooters, electric motor bikes etc...on City sidewalks and other public places not enforced by the NWPD.

“Transportation decisions should unite neighbourhoods, not divide them.”

GROWING RESPONSIBLY

Building Complete Communities

Enough talk. Let's build complete neighbourhoods.

KEY COMMITMENTS

40% Reduce the time it takes to get Permit Approvals	3 DAYS Planning Inquiries	5 DAYS Permit Review	25 DAYS Commercial Permits
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OUR PLAN

It's time to build more responsibly in New Westminster.

New Westminster has welcomed thousands of new residents over the past decade and is now Canada's second most densely populated city. Our community has played a central role in helping address Metro Vancouver's housing needs. However, that housing growth has come without supporting infrastructure. The result? Traffic is backed up. Park space per resident has declined. Schools are over-crowded. We don't have enough recreation facilities. Permits take too long to get through City Hall.

It's time to ensure growth improves our quality of life rather than diminishes it.

Residents deserve neighbourhoods with parks, schools, green space, jobs and transportation that keep pace with development. They deserve a City Hall that processes permits efficiently, respects neighbourhood character, protects our heritage and delivers excellent customer service.

AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Infrastructure	Unlock Density Dollars for parks, schools and facilities
Responsible Growth	Build Complete Communities, with the amenities and infrastructure needed to support a growing population. Focus future growth near SkyTrain hubs
Permits	Reduce permit approval times by 40%
Service	Service at City Hall - Develop a Customer Service Response Guarantee
Downtown	Accelerate the development of former Army & Navy site
Housing	Advocate the Province expand affordable and supportive housing
Renters	Protecting renters and increasing housing affordability

Our Plan

Build complete neighbourhoods — not just more housing. Growth must come with the public amenities residents need. We will:

- Advocate for “Density Dollars” from senior governments so growth pays for new parks, schools, childcare, transportation improvements and community facilities.
- Focus growth in carefully selected neighbourhoods, especially around SkyTrain hubs, where transit, services and amenities can support new housing.
- Slow the pace of growth, where necessary, to allow infrastructure and public amenities to catch up.
- Prioritize new parks and green space in neighbourhoods experiencing the greatest growth.
- Ensure Community Amenity Contributions are invested primarily where growth is occurring.
- Introduce a Complete Communities Test before approving major neighbourhood plans.

"New Westminster can welcome new neighbours while protecting the character, livability and sense of community that make our city special."

Protect neighbourhood character while embracing thoughtful growth. Growth should strengthen our community — not erase what makes it special. We will:

- Support gentle density while respecting existing neighbourhood character.
- Continue supporting the Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area.
- Work with neighbourhoods to establish additional Heritage Conservation Areas where there is demonstrated community support.
- Prioritize planning opportunities in communities like Connaught Heights, where residents have long advocated for additional housing choices.
- Protect industrial lands that generate family-supporting jobs.

"It's time to ensure "Residents deserve a City Hall that is responsive, accountable and focused on results. Faster approvals and better service benefit everyone." improves our quality of life rather than diminishes it."

Modernize City Hall. Residents and businesses deserve faster approvals and better customer service. We will:

- Reduce permit approval times by at least 40 per cent during the next Council term.
- Publish quarterly online performance dashboards.
- Create a dedicated Permit Concierge to help applicants navigate the approval process.
- Expand online permitting, electronic inspections and real-time application tracking.
- Pilot artificial intelligence tools to improve permit reviews and reduce unnecessary delays.
- Launch a Red Tape Reduction Task Force made up of builders, architects, engineers, business owners, residents and City staff.

"New Westminster can welcome new neighbours while protecting the character, livability and sense of community that make our city special."

Deliver a Customer Service Response Guarantee. City Hall should work at the speed of today's economy. For complete applications, we will work toward clear service standards and report publicly on our progress, including:

- Planning and development inquiries within 3 business days.
- Building permit completeness reviews within 5 business days.
- Simple permits within 10 business days.
- Standard residential permits within 15 business days.

- Commercial permits within 25 business days.
- Inspection requests within 2 business days.
- Emails and phone calls within 2 business days.

Revitalize Downtown. A stronger downtown benefits the entire city. We will:

- Work with the owner of the former Army & Navy property to accelerate a bold mixed-use redevelopment with housing, retail, office, restaurants and public gathering spaces.
- Encourage redevelopment of long vacant and underutilized downtown properties.
- Support and encourage temporary active community uses while vacant sites await redevelopment.
- Continue revitalizing Columbia Street through innovative ideas such as micro-retail, public art and pedestrian-friendly improvements.

Support housing with compassion and common sense. Housing affordability remains one of our community's greatest challenges. We will:

- Work collaboratively with BC Housing and senior governments to expand affordable and supportive housing options.
- Advocate to senior levels of government for a fair regional distribution of supportive housing throughout Metro Vancouver.
- Reduce unnecessary barriers that delay new housing.
- Prioritize the development of a wider range of housing choices for seniors, families and first-time buyers.

Build more housing while protecting the people who already call our city home. A NWP Council will build on that record.

- Protect renters from extreme heat. Continue supporting the City's protections allowing renters to use air conditioners and cooling devices in their homes.
- Help make home cooling affordable. Advance practical financial assistance for lower-income renters to purchase air conditioners and help manage summer electricity costs - building on the initiative.
- Protect renters from displacement. Continue supporting strong tenant relocation and renovation protections so residents affected by redevelopment receive meaningful assistance and are treated fairly.
- Demand more affordable housing from development. Continue supporting the 10% Inclusionary Housing requirement for qualifying strata developments, including high-rises.
- Support purpose-built and non-market rental housing. Continue supporting appropriately located rental and non-profit housing that expands housing choices while ensuring growth is accompanied by the infrastructure and amenities residents need.



"It's time to ensure growth improves our quality of life rather than diminishes it."

SAFER, CLEANER & MORE WELCOMING NEIGHBOURHOODS

Safer Streets. Cleaner Public Spaces. Stronger Neighbourhoods.

“New Westminster residents and businesses deserve streets, parks and public spaces that feel safe, clean and welcoming.”

KEY COMMITMENTS

12 NEW Community Safety and Enforcement Officers	Triple City Investment in I's On The Street	100 NEW WASTE & RECYCLING BINS In Busy Pedestrian Areas	Within 4 HOURS Get Rid of Hate Based Graffiti
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OUR PLAN

New Westminster residents and businesses deserve streets, parks and public spaces that feel safe, clean and welcoming. The NWP will invest in practical, compassionate, non-policing initiatives that increase the vibrancy of public spaces, prevent crime, support the most vulnerable in our city, and make neighbourhoods safer and cleaner for everyone.

AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Community safety	Place at least 12 new Community Safety and Enforcement Officers on foot & bike patrols.
Clean streets	Triple the City's investment in the I's On the Street program.
Public spaces	Launch the VIP initiative to boost activity and make public spaces more vibrant.
Waste reduction	Add 100 new waste and recycling bins.
Graffiti response	Remove hate-based graffiti within 4 hours and all other graffiti within 72 hours.
Transit gateways	Keep New Westminster and Columbia SkyTrain stations clean and secure.

Our Plan

Improve Community Safety. Visible neighbourhood presence and coordinated action will help deliver results. We will:

- Place at least 12 new Community Enforcement and Safety Officers (CESO) on foot and bicycle patrols in the Downtown, Uptown, Sapperton and Queensborough. They will be a presence in these neighbourhoods including evenings and weekends to enhance public safety, increase by-law infraction enforcement and support local businesses. A revitalized Community Policing Office in Queensborough will be assigned a permanent full-time CESO.
- Establish a new Crime Reduction and Public Safety Task Force to coordinate action and deliver results.
- The Mayor will seek appointment as Chair of the New Westminster Police Board.

“New Westminster residents and businesses deserve streets, parks and public spaces that feel safe, clean and welcoming.”

Support Vulnerable Residents. Compassionate programs can strengthen community connections and improve public spaces. We will:

- Triple the City’s investment in the successful I’s On the Street program, an initiative by the New Westminster Homeless Coalition Society that provides paid street-cleaning employment for people who are unhoused or at risk of homelessness. Focused on the Downtown and Uptown neighbourhoods, this investment will further help vulnerable individuals gain job skills and community connections – while helping to ensure our streets are clean.
- Work with the New Westminster Police Department and Fraser Health Authority to explore the opportunity to introduce a Car 87-type program to better meet the needs of individuals who are living with a mental illness. Vancouver’s Car 87 program is a collaboration between the Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Coastal Health that pairs police officers and nurses to respond to individuals experiencing mental health crisis.

Create More Vibrant Public Spaces. More activity can support local businesses and help neighbourhoods feel welcoming. We will:

- Launch the VIP (Vibrancy Invites People) initiative to bring more street entertainers, public art, performances and other cultural activities to key commercial streets and public spaces, creating more activity on the street and helping make our neighbourhoods safer and more vibrant.
- As part of the VIP initiative, pilot new lower cost micro-retail opportunities using decoratively wrapped shipping containers along key locations on Columbia Street. This will add more ‘eyes on the street’ and offer local retailers a cost-effective portal in ‘The Columbia District.’

“More activity on the street helps make our neighbourhoods safer and more vibrant.”

Keep Streets and Transit Gateways Clean. Residents deserve well-maintained public spaces and welcoming entrances to the city. We will:

- Enhance regular street cleaning and add 100 new waste and recycling bins in busy pedestrian areas.
- Insist that TransLink and key stakeholders keep the New Westminster & Columbia SkyTrain stations clean and secure, making them a welcoming gateway to those entering our city via rapid transit while advocating for Translink to redevelop Columbia Station to make it safer, more accessible, and more inviting.
- Insist that TransLink and key stakeholders keep the New Westminster & Columbia SkyTrain stations clean and secure, making them a welcoming gateway to those entering our city via rapid transit.
- Establish a new TAG Team to dramatically reduce graffiti by requiring the removal of hate-based and offensive graffiti on public property within 4 hours and all other graffiti within 72 hours.
- Increase lighting to improve safety and visibility in key public spaces within high density neighbourhoods.

Safer Streets • Cleaner Public Spaces • Stronger Neighbourhoods

ACTIVE NEW WEST

More places to play. More opportunities to participate.

Enough talk. Let's get building.

KEY COMMITMENTS

Third Arena

A New Turf Field

Protect Parkland

Rebuild The Pier

OUR PLAN

It's time for action on our city's recreation, parks, and sports facilities.

New Westminster is growing rapidly, and is now Canada's second densest city. If we are to remain a livable, vibrant city all residents need somewhere to play, vibrant public spaces, affordable recreation opportunities, and stronger connections.

For years, City Hall has developed expensive studies and strategies for sports and recreation in the city, but neglected the actual work of maintaining and expanding our sports fields and parks, arenas, and multipurpose rec facilities.

NWP's Active New West plan will expand recreation opportunities, improve parks and fields, and create more vibrant public spaces as the city grows.

AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Recreation infrastructure	Make a third arena a priority and create a pipeline of shovel-ready recreation projects.
Waterfront	Rebuild the pier, add adult fitness and recreation opportunities, and strengthen waterfront connections.
Sports fields	Improve drainage, accelerate turf conversions and fast-track future field plans.
Parks	Protect existing parkland and expand usable public space in underserved neighbourhoods.
Affordability	Expand access for youth and seniors and direct new non-resident parking revenue to affordability.
Community voice	Create Active Streets festivals and a new Amateur Sport and Recreation Council.

"Every resident deserves access to affordable recreation, quality parks and places to connect, play and thrive."

Our Plan

Get New West to the front of the line for provincial and federal funding for new recreation infrastructure. We will:

- Make a third arena a priority, with a clear, costed proposal.
- Create a pipeline of shovel-ready recreation projects for a broad range of activities and sports, with clear timelines for priority projects.
- Assertively pursue and secure provincial and federal funding.

We'll make New Westminster a leader in recreation by building a third arena, expanding sports fields and investing in active public spaces.

Reinvent the waterfront as one of the most active, vibrant public spaces in Metro Vancouver. We will:

- Finally rebuild the pier that burned down in 2020.
- Incorporate fitness and recreation opportunities for adults into waterfront improvements.
- Enhance walking and cycling connections between the Queensborough, Downtown and Sapperton waterfronts.
- Create new opportunities for community events and fun at the waterfront.

Ensure existing sports fields can be used year-round, while pursuing new fields. We will:

- Improve drainage on existing fields, so they can be used when it's raining.
- Accelerate existing turf field conversions at Ryall Park and complete one additional turf field by 2030.
- Work with sports groups to identify future needs and fast-track plans for new fields and covered outdoor playing surface areas.

Protect and expand park space as New Westminster grows. We will:

- Require new developments and community plans to protect existing parkland and deliver more usable, accessible public space.
- Ensure existing parks are better maintained.
- Prioritize new park opportunities in underserved neighbourhoods with identified gaps.
- Use every practical tool available, including land acquisition, partnerships, pocket parks, plazas and street-to-public-space conversions.
- Secure funding to construct a unique Adventure Park in the city, with the preferred location being the təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre.

Keep recreation accessible and affordable. We will:

- Expand access and programs for youth and seniors.
- Explore parking fees for non-residents at recreation facilities, and earmark 100 per cent of any new revenue to keeping recreation affordable for New Westminster residents.
- Make the capital investments in təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre needed to make it more family-friendly.

Create Active Streets neighbourhood festivals. We will support the launch of a summer 2027 pilot project along cycling and walking corridors that connect Sapperton, Downtown and Queensborough. We will:

- Support more food trucks and local vendors, live street entertainment, family activities and community programming.
- Partner with Tourism New Westminster, local businesses and business improvement areas that want to be involved.
- Promote the events across Metro Vancouver, drawing people to our city.

Create a new Amateur Sport and Recreation Council, drawn from the city's sports organizations, seniors' recreation groups and accessibility advocates.

- People using our facilities should help shape their future.

More places to play • More opportunities to participate

CELEBRATE NEW WEST

Bringing More Life to Our Streets. More Pride to Our Community.



Let's celebrate what makes New Westminster special.

KEY COMMITMENTS

Create Columbia District

A destination for dining, shopping, arts, culture, heritage, and entertainment

Expand micro-retail, murals, public art

Make New West an events capital

Launch VIP (Vibrancy Initiative Program)

OUR PLAN

A vibrant city is about more than buildings and infrastructure. It's about creating places where people want to gather, celebrate, shop, dine and experience everything our community has to offer.

The NWP believe arts, culture and community events should be experienced throughout our city - not just inside theatres and galleries. By supporting local artists, celebrating our history, activating our streets and investing in memorable community events, we can create a stronger local economy, attract more visitors and foster greater civic pride.

We'll work with community organizations, local businesses, Arts New West, Tourism New Westminster and residents to make New Westminster one of Metro Vancouver's most vibrant and welcoming destinations.

AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Rebrand Downtown as the Columbia District	Establish and promote the Columbia District as a year-round destination for dining, shopping, arts, culture, heritage and entertainment.
Launch VIP (Vibrancy Initiative Program)	Bring more year-round activity to streets, plazas and public spaces through music, performance, markets, food trucks and family-friendly programming.
Expand micro-retail, murals and public art	Create new low-cost opportunities for local retailers, artists and cultural groups through micro-retail spaces, murals, temporary public art and heritage installations.
Become the events capital of the Fraser River	Expand waterfront concerts, festivals, celebrations and signature riverfront events that draw residents and visitors to New Westminster year-round.
Make cultural facilities more accessible	Reduce barriers to community use of Massey Theatre, Anvil Centre and other publicly funded cultural spaces.

Our Six-Point Action Plan

Rebrand 'Downtown New Westminster' to the new Columbia District. We'll aim to establish Columbia Street (including Front St, Carnarvon St and waterfront) as one of Metro Vancouver's premier destinations for arts, culture, dining and entertainment. We will:

- Partner with Tourism New Westminster, Arts New West, Heritage New West and local businesses to brand and promote the new Columbia District brand.
- Install attractive banners, gateway signage, public art and wayfinding that celebrates the district's unique heritage and character – including the fact the Columbia District includes some incredible heritage building and BC's original downtown.
- Encourage more restaurants, cafés, live music venues, patios and evening attractions.
- Market the Columbia District throughout Metro Vancouver as a year-round destination for dining, shopping, arts and entertainment.

Activate our streets through the VIP program. A vibrant downtown attracts people, supports businesses and improves public safety. We will:

- Launch the VIP (Vibrancy Initiative Program) to bring year-round activity to our public spaces.
- Expand the number of licensed street entertainers, musicians and performers throughout the Columbia District.
- Simplify permits for street entertainers, outdoor performances and community festivals.
- Encourage more evening programming including live music, food trucks, artisan markets and family activities.
- Increase the activation of Hyack Square to ensure it becomes a year-round 'entertainment hub'. This includes working with the New West Electrical Utility to upgrade the on-site infrastructure to support live performances.

Create more reasons to visit New Westminster. We'll bring back the community events residents have been asking for while introducing exciting new attractions. We will:

- Work with community partners to bring back the popular Show & Shine classic car show.
- Support the return of Car Free Day on Columbia Street.
- Explore the possibility of reinstating the popular Santa Claus Parade.
- Expand free outdoor concerts, movie nights, waterfront festivals and neighbourhood celebrations.
- Reinstatement of Canada Day fireworks in the Fraser River for viewing along the boardwalks in Queensborough, Downtown & Quayside.

Celebrate our artists, heritage and culture. Our artists and history help define who we are. We will:

- Work with Arts New West to dedicate a portion of the City's new micro-retail shipping containers as affordable studios, galleries and retail spaces for local artists, artisans and cultural organizations.
- Wrap shipping containers with vibrant local artwork, Indigenous art and historic New Westminster photographs, transforming them into attractions in their own right.
- Expand opportunities for murals, temporary public art and interactive heritage installations.
- Support cultural festivals that celebrate the diversity of our community while honouring our Royal City's rich history.

Become the events capital of the Fraser River. We have one of the most beautiful waterfronts in British Columbia. Let's make it one of the most exciting. We will:

- Expand year-round programming along our waterfront including concerts, festivals and family-friendly events.
- Explore opportunities with the Fraser River Discovery Centre, Tourism New Westminster, Hyack Festival Association and local organizations to create new signature riverfront events – and expand existing ones.
- Develop and better market a coordinated annual calendar of events that attracts visitors from across Metro Vancouver.
- Position New Westminster as The Events Capital of the Fraser River.
- Work with the Port Authority and senior orders of government to explore the feasibility of installing a permanent boat docking facilities in the Columbia District.
- Celebrate the Fraser River as the heart of New Westminster by supporting cultural, educational, and heritage programming that highlights its environmental, Indigenous, historical, and economic significance to our city.

Make our cultural facilities more accessible. Our publicly funded arts facilities should be welcoming, affordable and filled with community activity. We will:

- Work with the Massey Theatre Society to create a Community Access Program offering more affordable rental opportunities for New Westminster arts and cultural organizations.
- Review theatre rental fees, technical costs and booking policies with the aim of reducing barriers for community groups and emerging artists.
- Explore opportunities to refresh the exterior of Massey Theatre with more vibrant architectural features, public art, lighting and paint colour to create a welcoming landmark that reflects the creativity taking place inside.
- Improve exterior signage and install prominent digital displays at Anvil Centre promoting performances, exhibitions and events to the hundreds of thousands of SkyTrain riders and drivers travelling through Downtown New Westminster each year.
- Better connect Massey Theatre and Anvil Centre programming with Tourism New Westminster, and the Columbia Arts & Entertainment District.
- Explore a new downtown library presence, with an arts, culture & heritage component that makes it uniquely New Westminster.

"By supporting local artists, celebrating our history and activating our streets, we can create a stronger economy, attract visitors and build greater civic pride."

A GREENER NEW WEST

Local Environmental Leadership That Works

Enough talk. Let's prepare New West for tomorrow.

KEY COMMITMENTS

FLOOD PROTECTION Protect Queensborough from flooding	EMERGENCY READINESS Be ready for future emergencies.	MORE TREES Grow the urban canopy	RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE Climate-ready roads and drainage
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OUR PLAN

New Westminster has always been a city that values its parks, natural spaces and the Fraser River. Protecting our local environment, strengthening climate resilience and creating healthier neighbourhoods are among the most important responsibilities of local government.

Residents have already experienced heat domes, atmospheric rivers, wildfire smoke, flooding and other extreme weather events. These challenges require practical action - not simply more plans or studies – or performative declarations of taking ‘bold steps’.

An NWP Council will focus on protecting our neighbourhoods, strengthening climate resilience, expanding green spaces building healthier neighbourhoods, and ensuring every environmental investment delivers measurable benefits for residents.

AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Flood resilience	Develop a long-term flood resilience strategy for Queensborough, including securing the necessary funding for continued investment in dikes and flood protection infrastructure.
Climate Reserve Fund	Maintain a dedicated Climate Impact Reserve Fund to help respond to extreme weather events without placing unexpected costs on local taxpayers.
Address Climate Change	Invest in climate-resilient roads, drainage systems, parks and civic infrastructure, incorporating green and blue infrastructure and tree-friendly design wherever practical.
Strengthen emergency preparedness plans	Strengthen emergency preparedness plans for heat domes, wildfire smoke, flooding and severe storms.
Expand urban tree canopy	Accelerate tree planting to expand the City's urban tree canopy, with measurable targets.
Person to Park Ratio	Establish clear park and green space objectives based on population growth and publish regular progress reports.

Our 5-Point Green Action Plan

Protect our community from climate change. Climate change is already affecting New Westminster. Our priority is to take practical actions that will make our community safer and more resilient. We will:

- Develop a long-term flood resilience strategy for Queensborough, including securing the necessary funding for continued investment in dikes and flood protection infrastructure.
- Maintain a dedicated Climate Impact Reserve Fund to help respond to extreme weather events without placing unexpected costs on local taxpayers.
- Invest in climate-resilient roads, drainage systems, parks and civic infrastructure, incorporating green and blue infrastructure and tree-friendly design wherever practical.
- Strengthen emergency preparedness plans for heat domes, wildfire smoke, flooding and severe storms.

Grow a greener New Westminster. Trees, parks and green spaces are among the most effective local environmental investments we can make. We will:

- Expand the City's urban tree canopy with measurable canopy cover and planting targets.
- Establish clear park and green space objectives based on population growth and publish regular progress reports.
- Dramatically accelerate tree planting in neighbourhoods — with a particular emphasis where there is limited shade and higher summer temperatures.
- Protect healthy mature trees wherever practical. When tree removal is necessary, prioritize replacement planting to maintain and expand New Westminster's long-term tree canopy.
- Publish an annual Urban Forest Report outlining trees planted, trees removed, canopy gains and losses, and progress toward the City's canopy goals.
- Expand partnerships and incentives that encourage tree planting and tree retention on private, institutional and commercial properties.

Lead by example. The City should demonstrate environmental leadership through the way it does its own work. We will:

- Continue transitioning City vehicles to electric or low-emission alternatives where operationally practical.
- Expand public EV charging infrastructure through partnerships with BC Hydro, the provincial and federal governments and private businesses.
- Make City buildings more energy efficient during renovations and new construction.
- Continue reducing waste from City operations.

Invest wisely and protect taxpayers. Environmental responsibility and fiscal responsibility should go hand in hand. We will:

- Aggressively pursue provincial and federal climate funding before asking local taxpayers to pay more.
- Require major environmental initiatives to demonstrate measurable environmental benefits and long-term value.
- Continue seeking partnerships with educational institutions, community organizations and the private sector to make environmental dollars go further.
- Report annually on the City's progress preparing for extreme weather and funding received from other levels of government.
- Cancel the City's participation in the 'Sue Big Oil' campaign and redirect those funds toward local environmental programs.
- Ensure any future biodiversity initiatives are focused primarily in public parks and green spaces and do not eliminate or impact public access.

Build healthier neighbourhoods. Looking after our environment begins in our own neighbourhoods. We will:

- Install more dual-stream (both recycling and garbage) receptacles throughout parks, commercial districts and public spaces.
- Expand public bottle and can collection stations to encourage recycling while supporting those who collect returnable bottles and cans.
- Work with the New Westminster School District to improve access to cooling spaces during extreme heat events, and determine our legal ability to implement a Cool Schools By-law requiring schools and portables to maintain a maximum indoor temperature.
- Continue supporting community gardens, neighbourhood tree planting and volunteer environmental stewardship initiatives.
- Increase shade and cooling infrastructure in parks, playgrounds, around schools, public gathering spaces and areas most affected by heat.
- Explore opportunities to establish an urban farm that supports local food production, environmental education, volunteerism and community partnerships.
- Work with BC Hydro to identify more opportunities in Connaught Heights for new publicly accessible green space the public can use in their existing rights of way.

STRONGER TOGETHER

Building a More Caring, Connected and Resilient Community



Together, we'll build a stronger New Westminster.

KEY COMMITMENTS

SUPPORT COMMUNITY GROUPS

Fund organizations that strengthen our community

ROYAL CITY AWARDS

Celebrate outstanding community leaders

COMMUNITY CREDITS

Recognize volunteerism and neighbourly support

CONNECT NEIGHBOURHOODS

Reduce isolation and strengthen community connections

OUR PLAN

A strong community is built by neighbours helping neighbours. It's built by volunteers, community organizations, first responders and local leaders who work together to support one another through both everyday challenges and extraordinary circumstances.

The New Westminster Progressives believe City Hall has an important role to play - not by taking over responsibilities that belong to senior governments, but by supporting local organizations, recognizing community leadership, strengthening emergency preparedness and bringing people together around a common purpose.

We'll work with community partners to build a city that is compassionate, resilient and connected while ensuring local organizations have the support they need to continue making New Westminster one of the best places to live in British Columbia.

AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Support community organizations	Modernize community grants, reduce red tape and provide multi-year funding where appropriate.
Celebrate community leadership	Create the Royal City Community Awards to recognize volunteers, youth leaders and organizations that strengthen New Westminster.
Build neighbour-to-neighbour support	Launch a Royal City Community Credit Program to recognize volunteerism, mutual aid and community participation.
Strengthen emergency preparedness	Create a Community Resilience Strategy and launch Royal City Responds to coordinate volunteers, donations and neighbourhood support during emergencies.
Bring partners together	Establish a Mayor's Community Partnership Table to improve coordination among health, housing, schools, public safety, Indigenous, business and community organizations.
Reduce isolation and build belonging	Support programs, gardens, neighbourhood celebrations and initiatives that help seniors, youth, newcomers and vulnerable residents stay connected.

Our Plan

Support community organizations that deliver results. Strong community organizations help build strong neighbourhoods. We will:

- Modernize the City's community grant program by simplifying applications and reducing unnecessary administrative requirements.
- Support multi-year funding agreements, where appropriate, to provide greater certainty for community organizations.
- Continue supporting organizations delivering measurable benefits for youth, seniors, sports, arts, culture, food security, accessibility and neighbourhood development.
- Reinstate City Council's authority to approve all community grants, ensuring transparency, accountability and public oversight.

Celebrate the people who make New Westminster great. Our City's greatest strength is the people who quietly make a difference every day. We will:

- Establish the annual Royal City Community Awards, presented by the Mayor, celebrating the outstanding individuals and organizations who strengthen our community.
- Invite residents to nominate deserving recipients through an open and transparent public process.
- Celebrate National Volunteer Week with an annual civic appreciation event recognizing volunteers across New Westminster.
- Work with local schools to recognize youth leadership and volunteerism.

Build a stronger culture of volunteerism and neighbour-to-neighbour support. Strong communities are built when neighbours help neighbours. We will:

- Establish a Royal City Community Credit Program, inspired by successful time-banking models, to recognize volunteerism, neighbour-to-neighbour support and community participation.
- Enable residents to earn Royal City Community Credits by volunteering, mentoring youth, assisting seniors, participating in neighbourhood projects, community gardens, environmental stewardship initiatives and other community-building activities.
- Work with Century House, Residents' Associations, community organizations and local businesses to develop a city-wide network that strengthens community connections while reducing social isolation.
- Explore opportunities for residents to redeem community credits for volunteer assistance and community support, creating a practical network of mutual aid that benefits people of all ages.
- Integrate the Royal City Community Credit Program into the City's emergency preparedness efforts by activating trained volunteers to check on vulnerable residents, coordinate community assistance and support neighbourhood response during major emergencies and extreme weather events.

Strengthen emergency preparedness and community response. Preparing today means protecting tomorrow. We will:

- Develop a comprehensive Community Resilience Strategy to strengthen preparedness for earthquakes, floods, wildfire smoke, extreme heat and other emergencies.
- Expand neighbourhood emergency preparedness education and training opportunities.
- Continue investing in emergency equipment, backup power and designated community emergency gathering locations.
- Launch Royal City Responds - a community emergency response network and online portal that can be activated immediately following major emergencies to more effectively coordinate community donations, volunteers, temporary accommodation, gift cards, food, clothing and other assistance.
- Establish standing partnerships with local businesses, charitable organizations, faith communities and service clubs so support can be mobilized quickly when residents are displaced by fires or other emergencies.
- Continue advocating for provincial and federal funding to strengthen emergency preparedness and disaster recovery.

Strengthen community partnerships. The City's role is to bring people together and advocate for results. We will:

- Establish a Mayor's Community Partnership Table, bringing together Fraser Health, School District 40, BC Housing, New Westminster Police, Fire & Rescue Services, Indigenous organizations, social service agencies, seniors' organizations, youth organizations, the Chamber of Commerce and Residents' Associations.
- Meet at least twice annually to improve coordination, identify service gaps and advocate collectively to senior governments.
- Publish an annual Community Wellbeing Report highlighting progress, emerging issues and community priorities.
- Continue advocating for senior orders of government to fulfill their primary responsibilities for housing, mental health and addiction services.

Build healthier and more inclusive neighbourhoods. Healthy communities ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate. We will:

- Continue supporting age-friendly initiatives and improve accessibility throughout our city.
- Improve access to cooling centres, emergency information and community support during extreme weather events.
- Support community gardens, neighbourhood celebrations and initiatives that strengthen connections between neighbours.
- Continue supporting programs that reduce social isolation and encourage active participation by seniors, youth and newcomers.



"We'll support the people, organizations and partnerships that make New Westminster one of the best places to live in British Columbia."

COMMITMENT TO DOWNTOWN

Bringing New Life to the Heart of New Westminster.



Enough talk. Let's bring new life to Downtown.

KEY COMMITMENTS

CREATE THE
COLUMBIA DISTRICT

BRING MORE LIFE TO
DOWNTOWN

MAKE DOWNTOWN
SAFER AND CLEANER

ACTIVATE VACANT
SPACES

OUR PLAN

Downtown should be one of New Westminster's greatest success stories.

It has everything a thriving urban centre needs: two SkyTrain stations, the Fraser River waterfront, historic Columbia Street, major cultural facilities, thousands of residents and businesses, and some of the best transit access anywhere in Metro Vancouver.

But Downtown isn't living up to its potential.

Residents and businesses are frustrated by public disorder, graffiti, vacant storefronts and empty lots, struggling businesses, cleanliness issues and a lack of investment. Families who should be spending their evenings Downtown are too often choosing to go elsewhere.

At the same time, Downtown continues to absorb significant population growth. City planning projections anticipate substantial additional growth in the Downtown area, making it even more important that public spaces, parks, transportation, recreation and community amenities keep pace.

The New West Progressives believe it's time for a different approach.

Our Commitment to Downtown brings together our major campaign commitments into one coordinated plan to make Downtown safer, cleaner, more vibrant and more prosperous.

AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Establish the Columbia District	Turn Columbia Street, Front Street, Carnarvon Street and the waterfront into a clearly branded destination that attracts visitors, supports local businesses and gives Downtown a stronger identity.
Actively encourage more restaurants, cafés,	Make it easier for restaurants, cafés, patios, live music venues and evening attractions to bring more people Downtown throughout the day and into the evening.
Deploy new Community Enforcement and Safety Officers	Put more visible staff on Downtown streets, clean public spaces more often and respond quickly to graffiti, disorder and cleanliness concerns.
Clean, vibrant streets	Use micro-retail, pop-ups, murals, public art and temporary community uses to bring empty lots and vacant storefront areas back to life while redevelopment is underway.
Make arts and culture part of Downtown's identity	Celebrate local artists, heritage and culture through murals, temporary public art, interactive heritage installations and cultural programming that make Downtown more welcoming and memorable.
Support the people who live Downtown	Ensure Downtown growth comes with safer streets, cleaner public spaces, better connections, more amenities and a more livable neighbourhood for the thousands of residents who call it home.
Reconnect Downtown to the waterfront	Improve the links between SkyTrain, Columbia Street, public gathering spaces and the Fraser River so Downtown feels easier to navigate and more connected to its greatest natural asset.

Our Plan

Create the Columbia District - We will give our historic commercial core a renewed identity and aggressively promote it as one of Metro Vancouver's premier destinations for dining, entertainment, arts, culture and shopping. We will:

- Establish the Columbia District, encompassing Columbia Street, Front Street, Carnarvon Street and the waterfront.
- Work with Tourism New Westminster, Arts New West, Heritage New West, and local businesses to promote the district.
- Install attractive banners, gateway signage, public art and wayfinding celebrating its unique heritage and character.
- Actively encourage more restaurants, cafés, patios, live music venues and evening attractions.
- Market the Columbia District throughout Metro Vancouver as a year-round destination.

Make Downtown Safer, Cleaner and More Welcoming - A successful Downtown starts with people feeling comfortable using its streets, businesses, transit stations and public spaces. We will:

- Deploy new Community Enforcement and Safety Officers on foot and bicycle patrols Downtown, including evenings and weekends, as part of our commitment to hire at least 12 additional officers citywide.
- Triple City investment in the successful I's On the Street program, with an increased focus on Downtown and Uptown.
- Establish the TAG Team with a target of removing hate-based and offensive graffiti from public property within four hours and other graffiti within 72 hours.
- Enhance regular street cleaning.
- Add new garbage and recycling receptacles in high-traffic pedestrian areas.
- Increase lighting in key public spaces.
- Establish a Crime Reduction and Public Safety Task Force to coordinate action and deliver results.
- Work with TransLink and other stakeholders to keep New Westminster and Columbia SkyTrain stations clean, safe and welcoming.
- Also work with the New Westminster Police Department and Fraser Health to explore a Car 87-type mental-health response program.

*We will make Downtown a destination again,
for residents, businesses and visitors from across Metro Vancouver.*

Bring People Back to Columbia Street - Empty sidewalks don't create successful business districts. Our goal will be to bring significantly more activity to Downtown throughout the day, evening and weekend. We will:

- Launch the Vibrancy Initiative Program (VIP) to bring more street entertainers, musicians, performers, public art and cultural activity to Downtown.
- Create at least 10 new micro-retail opportunities, including creatively designed shipping-container spaces for entrepreneurs, retailers, artists and artisans.
- Simplify permits for street performers, outdoor performances and community festivals.
- Encourage food trucks, artisan markets and family-oriented programming.
- Transform Hyack Square into a more active year-round entertainment hub, including infrastructure improvements to support live performances.
- Permanently eliminate patio permit fees and work toward increasing patio seating capacity.
- Introduce a lower-cost three-year business licence option.

The released platform specifically links street activation and micro-retail with adding more “eyes on the street,” supporting businesses and improving public safety.

Attract Investment and Redevelop Vacant Properties - Downtown cannot reach its potential while prominent properties remain vacant or underused. We will:

- Work with the owner of the former Army & Navy property to accelerate a major mixed-use redevelopment incorporating housing, retail, restaurants, offices, public gathering spaces and community amenities.
- Encourage redevelopment of long-vacant and underutilized Downtown properties.
- Support temporary active community uses on vacant properties awaiting redevelopment.
- Reduce unnecessary barriers delaying housing and commercial projects.
- Create a dedicated Permit Concierge and work toward reducing permit approval times by at least 40% over the Council term.
- Use the City's economic-development efforts to actively pursue new restaurants, employers and private investment.

These commitments are already central to Growing Responsibly, which explicitly identifies attracting new Downtown investment as a measure of successful growth.

Make Downtown a Destination Again - We want people from across Metro Vancouver to put New Westminister on their calendars. We will work with community partners to:

- Bring back the popular Show & Shine classic car event.
- Support the return of Car Free Day on Columbia Street.
- Explore reinstating the Santa Claus Parade.
- Reinstate Canada Day fireworks on the Fraser River.
- Expand outdoor concerts, movie nights, festivals and family events.
- Develop and better market a coordinated annual events calendar.
- Position New Westminister as the Events Capital of the Fraser River.

This isn't simply about entertainment. Events bring customers to restaurants and shops, animate public spaces and give residents reasons to rediscover their Downtown.

*We will make Downtown a destination again, for residents,
businesses and visitors from across Metro Vancouver.*

Reconnect Downtown With the Fraser River - Our waterfront should be one of Downtown's defining attractions. We will:

- Finalize plans to rebuild the pier destroyed by fire in 2020.
- Incorporate adult fitness and recreation opportunities into waterfront improvements.
- Improve walking and cycling connections linking the Downtown, Sapperton and Queensborough waterfronts.
- Create additional opportunities for events, recreation and community activity along the river.
- Work with the Port Authority and senior governments to explore permanent boat docking facilities Downtown.
- Support cultural, educational and heritage programming celebrating the Fraser River's environmental, Indigenous, historical and economic importance.

Make Downtown Easier and Safer to Get Around - A successful Downtown must work for pedestrians, transit users, cyclists, motorists, residents and businesses. We will:

- Pilot “30 Mins on Us” free parking in the Columbia District to encourage shopping, dining and business activity.
- Improve wayfinding to public parking.
- Protect the availability of public parking rather than pursuing an arbitrary reduction in spaces.
- Improve construction coordination to minimize unnecessary lane closures and disruptions affecting Downtown businesses.
- Pilot a pedestrian scramble at 8th Street and Carnarvon Street, one of Downtown's busiest pedestrian intersections.
- Accelerate pedestrian advance signals in high-volume areas.
- Improve traffic signal timing and use smart-signal technology where appropriate.
- Continue improving waterfront walking and recreational cycling connections.

Invest in Arts, Heritage and Public Spaces - Downtown's history and cultural assets give it something newer urban centres cannot replicate. We will:

- Expand murals, temporary public art and interactive heritage installations.
- Dedicate some micro-retail spaces to affordable studios, galleries and retail opportunities for local artists and artisans.
- Incorporate local artwork, Indigenous art and historic New Westminster imagery into micro-retail installations.
- Improve exterior signage and add prominent digital displays at Anvil Centre promoting performances, exhibitions and events.
- Better connect Anvil Centre programming with Tourism New Westminster, local businesses and Columbia District activity.
- Explore a new Downtown library presence with an arts, culture and heritage component.
- Protect and celebrate the historic buildings and streetscapes that make Columbia Street distinctive.

Ensure Growth Delivers More for Downtown Residents - Downtown is not simply a commercial district. Thousands of people call it home. As Downtown continues growing, we will:

- Push senior governments for “Density Dollars” so population growth helps fund parks, transportation, childcare, schools and community facilities.
- Prioritize new park and public-space opportunities in areas where population growth has outpaced amenities.
- Ensure Community Amenity Contributions are invested primarily where growth occurs.
- Require major neighbourhood planning/consultation to consider whether infrastructure and amenities can support additional growth.
- Use land acquisition, partnerships, pocket parks, plazas and other creative approaches to expand usable public space.

The recreation platform specifically identifies Downtown and Quayside among the areas experiencing park gaps, while the City's underlying planning work anticipates substantial Downtown population growth.

***Downtown should be one of New Westminster's greatest success stories.
It's time to unlock its full potential.***

COMMITMENT TO QUEENSBOROUGH

A unique & growing community deserves focused attention and practical solutions.

Practical action for a unique community

KEY COMMITMENTS

Improve Transportation Connections	Deliver Recreation Facilities	Strengthen Schools & Student Access	Give Queensborough a Stronger Voice
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AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Transportation	Advocate for a new Queensborough Bridge or third crossing
Pedestrian Access	Pursue a fixed pedestrian crossing to Quayside
Recreation	Deliver turf field and all-weather track at Ryall Park
Education	Identify land for a future Queensborough high school
Student Transportation	Pursue free bus service to NWSS
Infrastructure	Improve drainage, lighting, crossings and roads
Public Safety	Expand Community Policing Office, and dedicate a Community Enforcement and Safety Officer
Local Representation	Hold regular town halls

OUR PLAN

- **Traffic Flow:** Advocate for a new Queensborough Bridge or third crossing, with clear timelines and accountability for improving Queensborough mobility.
- **Pedestrian Link:** Pursue a fixed pedestrian crossing between Queensborough and Quayside as part of rail swing bridge redevelopment, while keeping the Q to Q ferry.
- **Recreation Facilities:** Deliver the artificial turf field and all-weather track at Ryall Park.
- **High School Site:** Identify land with the province for a future Queensborough high school.
- **Student Bus Service:** Pursue safe, reliable, free bus service for Queensborough students travelling to NWSS.
- **Street Infrastructure:** Improve drainage, lighting, pedestrian crossings and road maintenance, and introduce a 50/50 grant matching program to help eliminate open ditches faster.
- **Community Policing:** Expand the Queensborough Community Policing Office and station a Community Enforcement and Safety Officer there.
- **Local Voice:** Hold regular Queensborough town halls and bring council meetings into the community.

AGE WELL NEW WEST

Helping Residents Age with Independence, Dignity and Connection

New Westminster should be one of Canada's best cities in which to grow older. Whether you're aging in place in Queen's Park, enjoying the walkability of Uptown, or have built a lifetime of memories in Queensborough, you deserve a community that supports your independence, values your contributions and helps you remain connected.

KEY COMMITMENTS

Develop an
Age-Friendly
New Westminster
Action Plan

Support More
Accessible Housing

Expand Partnerships With
Seniors' Organizations

Develop Neighbourhood
Wellness Check
Programs

OUR PLAN

The New Westminster Progressives believe older adults are one of our community's greatest strengths. They are volunteers, mentors, caregivers, coaches, business owners and community leaders who continue to make invaluable contributions to our city every day.

Our commitment is simple: help more residents age well, remain independent and continue enjoying the neighbourhoods they call home.

AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Build an age-friendly city	Develop an Age-Friendly New Westminster Action Plan with measurable goals, timelines and annual public reporting.
Help seniors age in place	Support accessible & affordable housing.
Age-Friendly Lens	Apply an Age-Friendly Lens when designing new parks, streets, civic facilities and transportation improvements.
Strengthen community connections	Support Century House, extend community and government partnerships.
Enhance emergency readiness	Integrate seniors into emergency response network, develop wellness check programs, strengthen emergency planning.

Our Plan

Build a More Age-Friendly New Westminster. Creating a city that works for seniors makes New Westminster better for residents of every age. We will:

- Develop an Age-Friendly New Westminster Action Plan with measurable goals, timelines and annual public reporting.
- Conduct neighbourhood accessibility and walkability reviews to identify improvements to sidewalks, crossings, lighting, benches and public spaces.
- Apply an Age-Friendly Lens when designing new parks, streets, civic facilities and transportation improvements.
- Continue working toward making New Westminster one of British Columbia's most age-friendly municipalities.

*Creating a city that works for seniors
makes New Westminster better for residents of every age.*

Help Seniors Age in Place. Most older adults want to remain in the neighbourhoods they know and love. We will:

- Support more accessible housing and universal design principles in new residential developments.
- Encourage more seniors' housing and rental options close to healthcare services, shopping, parks and public transit.
- Advocate for increased provincial investment in affordable seniors' housing, assisted living and supportive housing options.
- Support housing choices that allow older residents to remain close to family, friends and community supports.

Improve Mobility, Accessibility and Safety. Remaining active begins with safe, accessible neighbourhoods. We will:

- Install additional benches, shaded rest areas and accessible public washrooms in key neighbourhoods.
- Review pedestrian crossing times at intersections with higher concentrations of seniors.
- Improve sidewalks, curb ramps, lighting and pedestrian safety throughout the city.
- Review snow and ice removal priorities around seniors' housing, community centres and healthcare facilities.

Strengthen Community Connections. Healthy aging means remaining active, engaged and connected. We will:

- Protect and strengthen Century House as New Westminster's premier seniors' community hub.
- Partner with Century House to host an annual Mayor's Healthy Aging Forum, bringing together seniors, caregivers, community organizations and healthcare partners to identify priorities, share ideas and help shape future City initiatives.
- Expand partnerships with seniors' organizations, Fraser Health, Residents' Associations and community groups to reduce social isolation and increase community participation.
- Support more intergenerational programs connecting seniors with youth, schools, sports organizations and community groups.

Improve Emergency Preparedness and Community Support. Older adults can be among the most vulnerable during emergencies. We will:

- Integrate seniors into the Royal City Responds emergency response network announced as part of our Stronger Together platform.
- Develop neighbourhood wellness check programs during extreme heat, wildfire smoke events, prolonged power outages and other emergencies.
- Expand access to cooling centres, clean air spaces and emergency preparedness information for older adults.
- Work with community organizations, volunteers and first responders to strengthen emergency planning and neighbourhood resilience.

Our goal is simple: help more residents age well, remain independent and continue enjoying the neighbourhoods they call home..

HERITAGE PLAN: DISTINCTLY NEW WEST

Protecting our heritage as our city grows.

Our history belongs to all of us. Let's make sure it remains part of our future.

KEY COMMITMENTS

Deliver A
Heritage Plan

Practical
Heritage
Preservation

Residents
Back At The Table

Growth
Without Losing
Who We Are

OUR PLAN

New Westminster has something many growing cities are trying to create: a strong sense of place.

Our historic buildings and homes, distinctive streetscapes, cultural institutions, civic traditions and community stories are part of what makes our city special. They are part of a much longer history of this place, beginning with the Indigenous peoples whose connection to this land long predates New Westminster and continuing through generations of people from around the world who came here, built communities and helped shape the city we know today.

Heritage belongs to everyone. It is our shared history: the people, places, buildings, neighbourhoods, traditions and stories that have shaped New Westminster.

New Westminster is growing, and welcoming new housing and neighbours is part of who we are. An NWP Council will grow our city in ways that carry forward what makes New Westminster distinctive.

AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Heritage Plan	Complete a comprehensive Heritage Plan within 18 months.
Practical Preservation	Modernize heritage tools, incentives and City processes.
Community Voice	Strengthen public input and the Community Heritage Commission.
Inclusive Heritage	Recognize Indigenous, cultural and civic traditions.
Heritage Tourism	Promote heritage sites, walking tours and local attractions.
Queens' Park Heritage Conservation Area	Continue supporting the Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area and work with residents to ensure heritage protection remains practical, predictable and rooted in community support.

Heritage belongs to everyone. It is our shared history, and it deserves a clear plan for the future.

Our Plan

Deliver a Heritage Plan in 18 Months

New Westminster is not starting from scratch. The City has already done years of heritage work, including the Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area and work to refresh the City's 2011 Heritage Revitalization Agreement (HRA) Policy. That refresh began in 2021 but has been paused since May 2022 due to City staffing constraints, with no revised completion date set.

This work doesn't need to be redone. It needs to move. We will finish the unfinished work, address outstanding issues, and deliver a comprehensive Heritage Plan within our first 18 months, with clear actions and timelines and annual public reporting on progress.

We will continue supporting the Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area and work with neighbourhoods to establish additional Heritage Conservation Areas where there is demonstrated community support.

Make Heritage Preservation Practical

New Westminster already has tools to encourage heritage preservation, but some are complicated, unfinished or have been affected by changes in provincial housing legislation.

Through the 18-month Heritage Plan, we will modernize the City's approach to heritage preservation, integrate Heritage considerations into City planning where appropriate, complete the unfinished work on Heritage Revitalization Agreements, and identify practical incentives and simpler City processes that make heritage preservation easier.

Put Residents Back at the Table

As development processes change, residents should not lose their voice in decisions affecting our heritage.

Under the province's Bill 44 (Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act, 2023), the City can no longer hold public hearings on residential rezonings that are consistent with the Official Community Plan. Where this has removed a public hearing residents would once have had, we will provide meaningful opportunities for residents to have input on heritage features and streetscapes within the City's authority.

The Community Heritage Commission is a separate advisory body from the subject-matter committees being re-established under our governance reforms. We will strengthen its role in providing timely advice to Council and ensure heritage considerations and community input happen early, before important City decisions are too far along.

Heritage Belongs to Everyone

New Westminster's heritage is broad and diverse. It includes Indigenous history and heritage, our buildings and streetscapes, and the people, communities, institutions, traditions and stories that have shaped New Westminster over generations. Through the Heritage Plan, we will ensure our shared history is recognized and carried forward. This includes long-standing civic traditions such as May Day, Hyack and the Anvil Battery salute, cultural institutions such as Royal City Musical Theatre and the New Westminster Symphony Orchestra, community organizations, and the histories and experiences of the many communities, including Indigenous communities, that have made New Westminster home.

Build on Our Heritage as an Economic Asset

New Westminster already has heritage attractions, walking tours, museums, historic neighbourhoods and traditions worth discovering. We will do more to connect and promote them – including working with local heritage, tourism and community partners to develop a made-in-New West self-guided tour of unique heritage sites. This will include integrating and expanding QR codes on public infrastructure to provide easy access to heritage information on key sites throughout the city.

We will develop a coordinated approach to heritage tourism, working with Tourism New Westminster, heritage organizations and local businesses to connect our historic places, streetscapes, cultural institutions, festivals and traditions in ways that attract visitors and support local businesses.

Growing Without Losing Who We Are

New Westminster will continue to grow and change. We can welcome new housing and new neighbours while protecting the heritage that makes our city distinctive.

***Growth and preservation are not opposites.
We can build for the future while protecting what makes New Westminster special.***

STUDENTS FIRST. STRONG SCHOOLS. TRUSTED LEADERSHIP.

Safe classrooms. Strong supports. Future-ready schools.



“Every student is ready to learn, belong, and succeed.”

KEY COMMITMENTS

PUT STUDENTS FIRST

SAFE & HEALTHY
SCHOOLS

TACKLE
OVERCROWDING

LEAD WITH
TRANSPARENCY

OUR PLAN

We will put students first and work to build stronger public schools for every New Westminster family. This means safe and inclusive classrooms, strong learning supports, schools that keep up with growth, and leadership people can trust.

We commit to practical action that centres students: listening, planning ahead, advocating for fair funding, and making decisions that help every student learn, belong and succeed.

OUR PLAN

AT A GLANCE

PRIORITY	COMMITMENT
Student success & well-being	Strengthen literacy, numeracy, future-ready learning and inclusive supports for every learner.
Safe, inclusive & healthy schools	Expand counselling and wellness supports while promoting safe, clean and welcoming schools.
Building and learning for the future	Address overcrowding, improve portables, expand childcare and support safe transportation.
Collaborative & transparent leadership	Put students first, communicate openly, spend responsibly and advocate for fair funding.

Student Success and Well-Being

Strong learning, well-being, and support so every student can succeed.

Why This Matters: Student success starts with strong foundations in literacy, numeracy, critical thinking, communication, and well-being. Students also need access to a well-rounded education, including arts, athletics, STEM, skilled trades, digital literacy, leadership, and career-connected learning, so they can build confidence and prepare for the future. Educators and school staff need resources, stability, and classroom supports to support students. Fully funded classrooms and early interventions help every student reach their potential. We will:

- Champion literacy, numeracy, critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving to help students learn, strengthen achievement and build confidence.
- Strengthen opportunities in digital literacy, STEM, arts, athletics, skilled trades, leadership, and career-connected learning to prepare students for the future. We will advocate to the province for clear policies for AI in schools.
- Improve access to and advocate for more inclusive learning services, Indigenous education, English Language Learner supports, early intervention and learning opportunities for all learners to help all students succeed.
- Expand access to arts, athletics, clubs, leadership, and extracurricular activities that build confidence and connection.
- Support teachers, Education Assistants and school teams by advocating for funding, well-resourced classrooms, professional development, stability and manageable workloads.

GOAL: Every student is ready to learn, belong, and succeed.

Safe, Inclusive & Healthy Schools

Schools where students feel safe, respected, supported, and ready to learn.

Why this matters: Mental health and safety are at the top of minds for students, staff, families and caregivers. Students learn best when they feel safe, healthy, included, and supported. Families and caregivers need confidence that schools support student mental health, work to prevent bullying, respond to concerns, and are prepared for emergencies. Safe, inclusive and healthy schools help students build confidence and feel supported, safe and ready to learn. We will:

- Advocate for more counsellors, mental health supports, nurse practitioners and wellness services so students, families, and caregivers can get help when they need it. We support BCTF's and BCSCA's recommendation for 1:250 counsellor to student ratio.
- Ensure schools are safe, clean, and welcoming so every student feels protected, respected, and belongs.
- Support strengthened safety protocols and emergency preparedness with clear communication and student protection plans for every school as guided by the Hour Zero Schools Assessment.*
- Support anti-bullying initiatives and improve online safety through promoting clear codes of conduct, reporting, privacy awareness, consent education, and digital citizenship.
- Champion equity, inclusion and indigenous representation so students of all abilities, backgrounds, identities, and families are treated with dignity and supported to succeed.
- Support healthy, active school communities through promoting outdoor learning, access to green space, recreation, nutritious food, safe routes to school and climate education.

GOAL: Students feel safe, connected, and know they belong.

Building And Learning For The Future

More space, better planning, and schools built for a growing city.

Why this matters: New Westminster schools are overcrowded with one in four students learning in portables. New Westminster continues to grow rapidly, but provincial funding and investments have not kept pace. Planning for a new Tweedsmuir campus has moved forward, while families continue to raise concerns about relocation impacts and student transitions. At the same time, families face long waits for before- and after-school childcare and uncertainty about Queensborough students travelling to the high school. Students need more learning spaces, safe climate-resilient facilities, accessible before- and after-school care, climate education and schools built for growth. We will:

- Tackle overcrowding advocating for more classroom space through provincial funding for new schools, additions, site acquisitions and long-term capacity solutions. We will work with the City to identify future school sites early.
- Support affected communities with clear consultation and transition planning, including in the Tweedsmuir catchment.
- Press for improved portable conditions with reliable heating, cooling, ventilation, services, and safe access while pushing for permanent space.
- Advocate for secure safe, reliable student transportation including the Walking School Bus routes and funding, sustainable transport for Queensborough students travelling to NWSS, and free transit for students 18 and under.
- Expand childcare access by working with the City on a joint childcare space and funding audit and advocate for provincial funding for seamless day models.
- Build climate-resilient schools with better heating, cooling, ventilation, shade, green space, and outdoor learning areas.
- Support practical sustainability through waste reduction, responsible resource use, greener fleets, climate education, and support for the Climate Action Working Group.

GOAL: More space, better funding, and schools and students ready for the future.

Collaborative And Transparent Leadership

Clear decisions, responsible spending, and leadership families can trust.

Why this matters: Families, caregivers, students, and staff deserve leadership they can trust, especially as New Westminster schools face major changes, including new schools and grade reconfiguration. The public education system is systemically underfunded and needs fair, predictable funding, while existing resources must be used responsibly. Open, timely, and transparent communication and strong partnerships are essential so families, caregivers, educators, support staff, Indigenous communities, the City, and community partners have a meaningful role in shaping decisions that affect students and strengthen schools. We will:

- Put students first in every decision.
- Communicate openly, transparently and timely - particularly during times of intensive change - so families and caregivers can help shape priorities, raise issues and receive responses, and see how their inputs influences decisions.
 - We will conduct, and act on, an audit of district communications to improve ways to best communicate with families, students, and caregivers.
 - We commit to at least two listening sessions a year with Trustees rotated around schools in New Westminster.
- Spend responsibly using evidence to inform decisions, make clear-trade offs, plan long-term and focus on student outcomes.
- Advocate for fair funding that reflects growth, inflation, and the real needs of students.
- Build strong partnerships with families, caregivers, educators, support staff, Indigenous communities, community organizations, public partners, and neighbouring districts to increase student voice and improve outcomes for students and families.
- Strengthen City-School District collaboration including reconstituting the City-Schools Joint Committee to meet regularly and work together on school sites, responsible growth, before- and after-care, access to parks, and safe transportation.

GOAL: Trusted leadership built through transparency, accountability, and collaboration.

Voting information

Make a Plan to Vote in New Westminster's 2026 Civic Election

In the 2022 civic election, only one in four eligible voters in New Westminster cast a ballot. This October, we have an opportunity to do better — and to help more people take part in choosing the city's next mayor, councillors and school trustees.

Advance voting is a simple, convenient way to make sure your voice is heard before General Voting Day on October 17. Any eligible voter can vote in advance — no special reason is needed.

Advance Voting Dates and Locations

- October 7 — təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre
- October 8 — təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre
- October 9 — Century House
- October 10 — Queen Elizabeth Community School, Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School, Anvil Centre, Herbert Spencer Elementary School and Skwo:wech Elementary School
- October 14 — Century House

General Voting Day

General Voting Day is Saturday, October 17. Multiple voting locations will be open across New Westminster, and all ballots must be cast by 8 p.m. Voters can check the City's voting location map for details.

Voting by Mail

If you will be away during the election period, you can apply to vote by mail starting August 31, 2026. Mail ballots can also be dropped off at City Hall, where the mail drop box is available 24 hours a day through the end of voting.

Help Increase Voter Turnout

Local elections shape the services, priorities and decisions closest to home. Make your voting plan early — and encourage a friend, neighbour, colleague or family member to vote too, especially if they did not cast a ballot in 2022. For the latest dates, locations, hours, eligibility details, ID requirements and voting options, visit the City's voter information page (https://www.newwestcity.ca/city_hall/election_information.php).

Who Can Vote

To vote in New Westminster's 2026 General Local and School Election, you must meet all voter eligibility requirements. You must be 18 years of age or older on October 17, 2026; be a Canadian citizen; have lived in British Columbia for at least six months immediately before registering; live in New Westminster, or own property registered in your name in New Westminster for at least 30 days immediately before registering; and not be disqualified by law from voting.

What Identification to Bring

If you register when you vote, you will need two pieces of identification. Together, they must show your name on both pieces of ID, your address on at least one piece, and your signature on at least one piece. Examples include a BC Care Card, BC Driver's Licence or Canadian passport. Voters should check the City's voter information page for the full list of accepted identification.

Your NWP Mayoral Candidate and Council Candidates



Your NWP Mayoral Candidate and School Trustee Candidates



Notes



Support the New Westminster Progressives



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volunteer**



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our newsletter**

