



Municipal Candidates Respond to the Call for a Living Wage Policy

The Living Wage for Families Campaign, along with 54 organizations representing over 300,000 people, sent an 'Open Letter' to all Metro Vancouver candidates and parties running for municipal council and school board on November 19th 2011 asking them to commit that, if elected, they will adopt a Living Wage Policy that ensures that all staff and contracted workers are paid a Living Wage. We didn't contact candidates in New Westminster as they already have implemented a Living Wage Policy. We asked them to indicate which of the following response best fit their position:

1. Fully supportive of passing a Living Wage Policy in your city
2. Supportive of undertaking a city study to investigate the feasibility of passing a Living Wage Policy
3. Interested in Living Wage Policies as a solution to child poverty, but need to find out more about what is involved before deciding how to proceed
4. Not supportive

Here are their responses:

Council Candidates

Name (party)	Incumbent	City	Response
1. Rick McGowan (Burnaby Greens)		Burnaby	1
2. Carrie McLaren (Burnaby Greens)		Burnaby	1
3. Matthew Stuart (Burnaby Greens)		Burnaby	1
4. Adrienne Merlo (Burnaby Greens)		Burnaby	1
5. Lee Rankin (TEAM Burnaby)		Burnaby	2
6. Jeffrey CHIU (TEAM Burnaby)		Burnaby	2
7. Lotus CHUNG (TEAM Burnaby)		Burnaby	2
8. Garth EVANS (TEAM Burnaby)		Burnaby	2
9. Jim FAVARO (TEAM Burnaby)		Burnaby	2
10. June JEFFRIES (TEAM Burnaby)		Burnaby	2
11. Graham MURCHIE (TEAM Burnaby)		Burnaby	2
12. Ray POWER (TEAM Burnaby)		Burnaby	2
13. Michael Wolfe (RITE)		Richmond	1
14. Harold Steeves (RCA)	Y	Richmond	1
15. Jun Wuyan (Independent)		Richmond	1
16. De Whalen (RCA)		Richmond	1
17. Cliff Wei (Independent)		Richmond	1
18. Peter Mitchell (Independent)		Richmond	2
19. Bob Fearnley	Y	City of N. Van	2
20. Glen Miller		City of N. Van	2
21. Pam Bookham	Y	City of N. Van	2
22. Craig Keating	Y	City of N. Van	1 and 2
23. Cheryl Leia	Y	City of N. Van	2

24. Juliana Buitenhuis		City of N. Van	1
25. Wendy Cooke		Maple Ridge	2
26. Cheryl Ashlie	Y	Maple Ridge	3
27. Bob Masse		Maple Ridge	2
28. Claus Andrup		Maple Ridge	1
29. Graham Mowatt		Maple Ridge	1
30. Cherie Delainey		Maple Ridge	1
31. John Mc Kenzie		Maple Ridge	1
32. Craig Speirs	Y	Maple Ridge	1
33. Christian Cowley		Maple Ridge	1
34. Dana Lang		Maple Ridge	2
35. Mary Flavelle		Maple Ridge	1
36. Graeme Ross		Maple Ridge	2
37. Randy Wagner		Maple Ridge	1
38. Bob Goos		Maple Ridge	1
39. Candace Gordon		Maple Ridge	1
40. Corisa Bell		Maple Ridge	2
41. Gwen O'Connell	Y	Pitt Meadows	1/2
42. David Murrey		Pitt Meadows	1
43. Bruce Bell	Y	Pitt Meadows	1
44. Derek Kootte		Port Coquitlam	2
45. Eric Hirvonen		Port Coquitlam	
46. Gayle Martin	Y	City of Langley	3
47. Terri James	Y	City of Langley	3
48. Catfish Portesta		City of Langley	3
49. Rudy Storteboom	Y	City of Langley	2
49. Paul Albrecht		City of Langley	2
50. Murray Jones		Township of Langley	1
51. Petrina Arnason		Township of Langley	3
52. Steve Ferguson	Y	Township of Langley	1/2
53. David Davis		Township of Langley	2
54. Sylvis Bishop		Delta	1
55. Jeannie Kanakos		Delta	3
56. Roger Bassam		District of North Van	2
57. Alan J. Nixon	Y	District of North Van	2
58. Doug MacKay-Dunn	Y	District of North Van	2
59. Mike Little	Y	District of North Van	3
60. Rod Clark	Y	District of North Van	1
61. Austin Park		District of North Van	3
62. Lisa Muri	Y	District of North Van	3
63. Mary-Ann Booth		West Van	1/2
64. Greg Henderson		West Van	
66. Amy Fox		Vancouver	1
67. Ted Copeland		Vancouver	1

68. Ian Gregson (Degrowth)		Vancouver	1
69. Chris Masson (Degrowth)		Vancouver	1
70. Chris Shaw (Degrowth)		Vancouver	1
71. Heather Deal (Vision)	Y	Vancouver	3
72. Raymond Louie (Vision)	Y	Vancouver	3
73. Geoff Meggs (Vision)	Y	Vancouver	3
74. Andrea Reimer (Vision)	Y	Vancouver	3
75. Tim Stevenson (Vision)	Y	Vancouver	3
76. Kerry Jang (Vision)	Y	Vancouver	3
77. Tony Tang (Vision)		Vancouver	3
78. R J Aquino (COPE)		Vancouver	2
79. Ellen Woodsworth (COPE)	Y	Vancouver	2
80. Tim Louis (COPE)		Vancouver	2
81. Sandra Garossino		Vancouver	3
Terry Martin (Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver)		Vancouver	1
Elizabeth Murphy (Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver)		Vancouver	1
Nicole Benson (Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver)		Vancouver	1
82. Steve Wood (Surrey Civic Coalition)		Surrey	1
83. Gary T. Robinson (Surrey Civic Coalition)		Surrey	1
84. Stephanie Ryan (Surrey Civic Coalition)		Surrey	1
85. Kuldip K. Ardawa (Surrey Civic Coalition)		Surrey	1
86. Grant Rice (Surrey Civic Coalition)		Surrey	1
87. Bernadette Keenan (Surrey Independent Greens)		Surrey	1
88. Dave Chesney		White Rock	2
89. Bill McWilliams		White Rock	4
90. Graham Wood		White Rock	2
91. Elaine Willis		Anmore	1
92. Rebecca Helps		Port Moody	1
93. Rick Glumac		Port Moody	2
94. Kevin Hagglund		Port Moody	2
95. Fred Soofi		City of Coquitlam	1/2
96. Randy Delmonico		City of Coquitlam	2
97. Araz Rismani		City of Coquitlam	2
98. Laura Wallace		Sunshine Coast District East	1

School Trustee Candidates

Name (party)	Incumbent	City	Response
1. Chris Dorais		City of N. Van	1
2. Cyndi Gerlach		District of N. Van	2
3. Helen H.S. Chang (Burnaby Greens)		Burnaby	1
4. Scott Janzen (Burnaby Greens)		Burnaby	1
5. Ram Sidhu (SCC)		Surrey	1
6. Charlene Dobi (SCC)		Surrey	1
7. Laura Dixon	Y	Delta	1
8. Douglas Smuland		Langley	1
9. William Kang Chen		Richmond	2
10. Bang Nguyen		Vancouver	4
11. Jane Bouey (COPE)	Y	Vancouver	2
12. Al Blakey (COPE)	Y	Vancouver	2
13. Gwen Giesbrecht (COPE)		Vancouver	2
14. Allen Wong (COPE)	Y	Vancouver	2
15. Lily Harvey		Vancouver	3
16. Cecelia Reekie	Y	Langley Township	3

Mayoral Candidates

Name (party)	Incumbent	City	Response
1. Richard Lee (independent)		Richmond	1
2. Caissy Menard		Vancouver	3/4
3. Victor Paquette		Vancouver	4
4. Dubgee		Vancouver	1
5. Sam Pelletier		Vancouver	2
6. Gregor Robertson (Vision)	Y	Vancouver	3
7. Suzanne Anton (NPA)	(Councillor)	Vancouver	3
Randy Helten (Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver)		Vancouver	2
8. Shan Rana (Independent)		Surrey	1
9. Touraj Ghanbar-zadeh		Surrey	2
10. Peter Fassbender		City of Langley	2
11. Lynne Sinclair	(Councillor)	White Rock	2
12. Barrie Lynch		Coquitlam	2
13. George Pringle		City of North Vancouver	4
14. D Mussato	Y	City of North Vancouver	2
15. Tom Tao (TEAM Burnaby)		Burnaby	2
16. Robert Simmons		Port Moody	3
17. Councillor Mel Kositsky		Township of Langley	3
18. Lois Jackson		Delta	3

Park Board

Name (party)	Incumbent	City	Response
David A Pasin (NPA)		Vancouver	3

Quotes from Candidates

“Canada is not a third world country but sadly there are many poor individuals and families that being ignored by our governments and society. I definitely see a role for government to come up with initiatives to eliminate poverty in our communities. Sporadic initiatives by governments are not enough. There must be a long term plan and a long term commitment by government to deal with poverty. I have been a nurse for 24 years by profession so you and BC Child & Youth Advocacy Coalition could count on me to explore options and idea to deal with poverty issue. “

Touraj Ghanbar- Zadeh: Surrey (answered option 2)

“From my experience, a higher hourly rate of pay will improve personal health and enable people to rise above poverty, and for Richmond we must curb the growing trend of child poverty. Having a living wage, we will allow people to work less hours at their occupation and more time will result for family care and community participation, this will bring community back to the neighbourhoods that having been losing the sense of community from unchecked urban development.”

Michael Wolfe: Richmond (answered option 1)

“It is simple, my choice is #1. As a first-time candidate at age 62 I have observed with concern how the lower paid or hourly paid families have struggled to make ends meet. It is not a new phenomena of course, it is chronic. It goes without saying that to get anything to happen in government at any level someone is going to say 'let's hire a consultant and do a study' as suggested in choice #2 below. Studies, while almost as nauseating as poverty itself, have become part of the bureaucratic process. Find me a decision maker without a study firmly tucked under his arm. Generally governments have determined how they will interpret and act on a study well ahead of the study taking place. At a local level bureaucrats and elected officials ignore consultants reports with plodding monotony. One hopes that this in not the fate of the feasibility study on passing a *Living Wage Policy*. This policy-to-be has been long in coming.”

Claus Andrup: Maple Ridge (answered option 1)

"I'm fully supportive of passing a living wage policy in my city and School District. In these economic times, it is imperative we support families and children who currently live in poverty. Family income is a major determining factor on successful educational outcomes for our children. Livable wages also provide stimulation for our local economy. The more organizations and individuals who support this aim will only result in positive benefits for families and our community in general."

Chris Dorais: City of North Vancouver (answered option 1)

"Based on my background in finance, I know how destructive a low wage system can be to our economy. I strongly support all the efforts to increase the minimum wage in Richmond and expect this way a key factor to help our residents get rid of poverty."

Jun武岩駿 WUYAN Jun: Richmond (answered option 1)

"I would be supportive of a study to investigate the feasibility of a living wage.

Before implementing it, I would have to learn the cost of a Living Wage Policy, and also the impact its cost would have on either the services the City provides the more needy in the City, and/or the increase in taxes that would have to be passed on to the taxpayer, especially those of lower or fixed income.

I would not wish to simply shift the challenges from a disadvantaged group of Richmond workers, to another disadvantaged group of Richmond taxpayers."

Peter Mitchell :Richmond (answered option 2)