

**Cindy Carkner (CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL)**

1. Why are you running for office and what do you hope to accomplish?

I am running for Port Coquitlam city council because I love and care about this City. I would like to be part of the team that creates culture and recreation, develops new business, maintains and works hard for a more environmentally sustainable community to live, work and play. I believe in Poco Pride.

2. Do you consider yourself a good choice for voters concerned about environmental issues? If so, can you briefly describe why?

Absolutely! Why, because I am interested in those same issues. I try to learn and do what I can to make changes in my everyday life so I contribute to a greener city and world. Those decisions could be small things like, do I really need to use the car again, taking a reusable straw with me in my purse, trying to stop using single use plastic, choosing places to eat where I know compostable products are used. Using the right disposal methods available in our City.

3. Do you consider yourself a good choice for voters concerned about environmental issues? If so, can you briefly describe why?

There are a few environmental challenges in Poco. If I was to choose one I would say. Vehicles ,we all drive too much. Better bike lanes, Skytrain could help. I know there is discussion on many of these items and I don't have exact answers but I would certainly love to be in the discussion for solutions .

4. What is your assessment of our City's environmental plan?

I like the assessment of our City's Plan .I have read every part of it. I feel it has been a priority for a long time and the right work is being done.

5. How will you ensure that there is an environmental 'voice at the table' with respect to decisions around development, urban forest management, and canopy coverage?

I think a voice at the table could and should include organizations such as yours, presenting and teaching council so we can make informed intelligent decisions in a timely manner. Some of those discussions have happened and there has been action taken for improvement. Passive home development is something I am interested in and would be in favour of recommending.

6. Tree losses occur regularly in the following situations:

- single family homes being redeveloped
- increasing density in existing neighbourhoods
- new development in existing forested areas

How would you approach the challenges these activities present?

7. Do you support the IPCC recommendations to decrease carbon emissions by 45% from **2010** levels by 2030, and reach net zero by 2050?

I support the IPCC recommendations.

8. How will you protect our City's streams?

Protecting Streams I don't know too much about. I do know trees and native plants are important. Maybe some access to sensitive areas should be protected so the public can't destroy the growth. I would encourage planting native plants and the possible removal of invasive plants to ensure future safety. Dumping, garbage and misuse, stiff fines should be implemented and areas where this happens readily should be monitored.

9. Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam only:

Would you support additional road crossings of the Coquitlam River? If so, where?

**Erik Minty (CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL)**

**1. *Why are you running for office and what do you hope to accomplish?***

I believe that serving on City Council is the most effective way for me to contribute to the long-term resilience and health of the community that I discovered in 1997 when I chose to raise my family in Port Coquitlam.

The main challenge we face is the conflict between the perils of rapid urbanization and suburban sprawl. I would like to see Port Coquitlam grow through gentle densification that focuses on balancing the long-term needs of residents while maintaining and enhancing the natural assets that make this city such an attractive place to live. By making it a more attractive place to do business we can start to close the jobs deficit, reducing transportation demands.

These goals will require establishing a strong system of regular public engagement, something we currently do quite poorly. Frequent neighbourhood open-house events where members of the public can interact directly with city staff, and expansion of the citizen roundtable program to replace the committees that were disbanded, would provide deeper collaboration opportunities for participation from citizens with more specialized knowledge or interest.

**2. *Do you consider yourself a good choice for voters concerned about environmental issues? If so, can you briefly describe why?***

While I don't consider myself to be an environmental expert, I genuinely share these concerns and believe that strong environmental stewardship is an essential foundation to a healthy community. It is also one of the foundational principles of the Green global political movement which I support. I am also a long-term thinker and creative problem solver, with a consistent track record of building systems that stand the test of time.

Everyone has their own set of circumstances, but I believe individual choices can inspire others and show us where we need to improve. I've personally chosen to adopt a lifestyle free of car ownership and a meat-free diet – mainly to show that these sustainability choices are possible, but also to better understand the challenges associated with them.

I also believe that civic and political action are important aspects of democracy. In 2017 I led the establishment of a local Tri-Cities team for the BC Green party, and I continue to take an active leadership role in the non-profit group Force of Nature. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the West Coast Climate Action Network and am committed to furthering my education by completing the Sustainable Development Certificate program at SFU that I started in 2021.

**3. *What do you see as our City's greatest environmental challenges and what actions would you propose to address them?***

The most obvious environmental threat we face is flood risk, but urban development places stress on our urban forest canopy. We need to move forward with a Natural Asset inventory, develop a plan to address the shortcomings of our dykes, and start work on identifying areas where natural

assets such as swales can be added or enhanced to improve the ability of engineered assets to better absorb high levels of rainfall in areas already prone to seasonal flooding. I'd also like to start identifying more opportunities where street trees can be added to provide cooling, improve air quality and groundwater absorption, and reduce traffic speeds.

**4. *What is your assessment of our City's environmental plan?***

It's only a very high-level plan and it's 11 years old. The overall strategy is sound but it needs to be updated with further detail on specific initiatives, including budgeting and timelines, and a commitment for monitoring and adjusting to ensure effective implementation. On the surface it doesn't appear that much real progress has been made on the stated objectives.

Since it's so badly out of date now, I would prioritize a comprehensive review of where we currently stand with the stated objectives; which initiatives that were called for have been put into place and how effective they were; and a critical analysis of why certain initiatives failed and what we could do going forward to either ensure they or an alternative effort can succeed.

**5. *How will you ensure that there is an environmental 'voice at the table' with respect to decisions around development, urban forest management, and canopy coverage?***

The best way to do this is to establish an environment roundtable with active involvement from grassroots community groups, to gather public input and help advise Council with an expert lens on issues of concern. The Committee on the Environment was eliminated during this last term of council along with most other committees. The intent may have been to streamline decision making but I believe that has created a significant disconnect between City Hall and the public.

**6. *Tree losses occur regularly in the following situations:***

- *single family homes being redeveloped*
- *increasing density in existing neighbourhoods*
- *new development in existing forested areas*

***How would you approach the challenges these activities present?***

When looking at both tree retention and tree replacement, it's important to distinguish between young and mature or "significant" trees. Due to the length of time it takes for most tree species to reach maturity, the stated policy needs to be strengthened to state that they should not be removed for any reason. The current policy of allowing the removal of mature trees only when they pose a hazard or if they are diseased or dying, ensures that any unwanted trees will be found to meet one of those criteria. It is better in my estimation to set an expectation that provides up-front clarity to homeowners and developers so they can effectively plan around existing trees. Even dying trees provide ecological value.

In situations where trees were inappropriately planted too close to existing buildings, or too close to one another, removal is sometimes unavoidable. The current policy of 1:1 replacement may be insufficient to account for the survival rate of trees to maturity. Many jurisdictions have a 2:1 or 4:1 replacement policy to ensure the tree count is preserved. Such a policy would not be out of line, particularly with the "fee in lieu" program that provides an alternative if there are no suitable tree locations on a property.

Again this touches back to the importance of building our Natural Asset Inventory - mature trees in particular have a significant economic value that otherwise goes unrecognized. Of course they provide a wide range of other benefits but recognition of economic value is a significant step forward in promoting retention efforts.

**7. *Do you support the IPCC recommendations to decrease carbon emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, and reach net zero by 2050?***

I see this as an imperative, non-negotiable target. While it is true that our small city has an insignificant impact on global emissions, the world is preparing for a rapid shift away from fossil energy. Helping individuals and families reduce their reliance on fossil energy, will lessen the impact of those global changes, particularly on those already at financial risk.

One example of how to achieve this is by attracting more local businesses. This would enable nearby families to make more trips by walking, reducing the distance they need to travel and in many cases the number of vehicles they need to own. This strategy improves affordability while reducing transportation emissions.

Achieving this will require an actively managed and monitored plan, and a comprehensive approach to address community emissions, primarily by reducing the energy consumption demands of transportation and buildings. Fortunately there are many resources available to support the development of such a plan.

**8. *How will you protect our City's streams?***

The best way to protect natural assets is to start giving them the same treatment that we give to engineered assets.

Moving forward with a formal inventory of our natural assets as part of the Natural Asset Management Initiative would help to ensure that these assets are formally recognized and not undervalued. This in turn will help city planners to recognize the downstream costs associated with replacing natural assets such as streams with engineered assets.

It's also important to provide the necessary tools and support for homeowners whose homes are adjacent to streams. Most homeowners I've spoken with in this situation want to do the right thing but aren't experts and require expert guidance. When they approach the city, they are given little or no support or information. It's important that the city provides better outreach to these homeowners with information resources. This is a low-cost preventive measure that will pay hidden dividends.

**9. *Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam only:***

***Would you support additional road crossings of the Coquitlam River? If so, where?***

No.

While I do support measures to provide long-term relief of roadway traffic congestion, adding roadway capacity is the least effective strategy for achieving this. There are better alternatives. I

would support modest expansion of the Kingsway crossing, to accommodate separate cycling lanes as part of a regional Cycle Highway program. Not for additional motor vehicle lanes.

Any additional or widened crossings should be pedestrian-only crossings. If higher-capacity connections are needed, a high-speed urban gondola as part of the public transit network is a potential low-cost, low-impact alternative to additional river crossings that we should investigate further.

**Darrell Penner (CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL, incumbent)**

1. Why are you running for office and what do you hope to accomplish?

As a long time resident I want to ensure that our community is a safe and healthy place to live ,raise our families , affordable and work. A complete community.

2. Do you consider yourself a good choice for voters concerned about environmental issues? If so, can you briefly describe why?

I certainly would say the I am. As you are aware I am the founding president of the Hyde Creek Streamkeepers. I have been directly involved in applying and receiving funding for numerous in stream and off channel projects.

3. What do you see as our City's greatest environmental challenges and what actions would you propose to address them?

Climate change without a doubt. Reducing our GHGs is a major part of addressing this issue. Addressing this is definitely a complex one but there are policies such as requiring all new builds to use electric heating and cooling systems.. which I support.

4. What is your assessment of our City's environmental plan?

I believe is defiantly the best one to date.

From the beginning of the process in setting out what council wanted in the plan was to have real actions the are achievable so that this document would actually be useful.

5. How will you ensure that there is an environmental 'voice at the table' with respect to decisions around development, urban forest management, and canopy coverage?

By being at it.

6. Tree losses occur regularly in the following situations:

- single family homes being redeveloped
- increasing density in existing neighbourhoods
- new development in existing forested areas

How would you approach the challenges these activities present?

It's a real catch 22. To densify most of the time requires a building site to be cleared to maximize the density.

Not all properties should be densified so evaluating each application carefully to ensure it's the right project for the area.

We have agreed bylaw that certainly helps protect trees and has a requirement to replace (in most situations) a replanting requirement.

7. Do you support the IPCC recommendations to decrease carbon emissions by 45% from **2010** levels by 2030, and reach net zero by 2050?

Of course I do I hope we can get there.

8. How will you protect our City's streams?

By following all the Federal and Provincial regulations

10. Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam only:

Would you support additional road crossings of the Coquitlam River? If so, where?

I would support a crossing at Lincoln.



**Paige Petriw (CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL)**

1. Why are you running for office and what do you hope to accomplish?

I'm running for council for two key reasons. The first is that I've served the past four years on the Port Coquitlam Mayor's Citizen Advisory Roundtable, where I've provided input and feedback on many of the city's projects and initiatives. Through this role, I've developed a passion for contributing to the future of our city. Furthermore, Mayor Brad West has encouraged me to run for council, citing a significant need for a younger voice that brings the perspective of both mothers and small business owners. Advocating for these two groups is something I've been dedicated to doing for a long time. With careful consideration, I came to the decision that this is where I want to use my experience and my voice. Right here in my community, making a real difference.

Diversity in age and demographic among council members is imperative to represent the many residents in our city. Millennial women—specifically business owners, mothers and leaders—have a powerful voice in our community. The perspective we bring to the table is substantial, and our stake in this community's future is deep-rooted. It's time that voice be represented on Port Coquitlam's City Council.

2. Do you consider yourself a good choice for voters concerned about environmental issues? If so, can you briefly describe why?

Yes, I consider myself a good choice for voters concerned about environmental issues. One of the main things that drew me to Poco to start my family here is our nature, parks and trails. I'm a lifelong Tri-Cities resident and I've watched our three cities change drastically over the past 33 years. While I support development that benefits our community through housing, commercial spaces and services, we need to balance these projects with protecting our green spaces as much as possible. Additionally, I will support the development of a thorough climate action plan for our city. Climate change is a global issue, and it's important that all municipalities have intentional policies in place to do our part to protect the planet.

3. What do you see as our City's greatest environmental challenges and what actions would you propose to address them?

Extreme weather, including heat domes, atmospheric rivers, and rising water levels in our rivers due to freshet and the rapid increase in spring temperatures.

4. What is your assessment of our City's environmental plan?

Our city has been taking action steps to protect and enhance our environment, including the New Greener City program which planted 411 new trees (the largest number in Poco's history). The program also prioritizes public education which I believe is key for residents to appreciate the importance of environmental initiatives. In the coming year, council has committed to

developing a formal climate action plan. My assessment overall is that the intentions to improve are positive, however the creation of the climate action plan is critical to carry us forward in a meaningful way.

5. How will you ensure that there is an environmental 'voice at the table' with respect to decisions around development, urban forest management, and canopy coverage?

I will advocate for considering all projects and initiatives carefully through all different lenses. This includes not only an environmental perspective, but also perspectives related to affordability, accessibility, inclusivity, community safety, health/wellness, and others.

6. Tree losses occur regularly in the following situations:

- single family homes being redeveloped
- increasing density in existing neighbourhoods
- new development in existing forested areas

How would you approach the challenges these activities present?

Ensuring development proposals incorporate tree preservation in the designs as much as possible. Weighing the cost of removing trees against the benefit of any development to the community to ensure the projects are worthwhile when trees need to be removed.

7. Do you support the IPCC recommendations to decrease carbon emissions by 45% from **2010** levels by 2030, and reach net zero by 2050?

Absolutely.

8. How will you protect our City's streams?

Through public and youth education, awareness initiatives/campaigns, stream clean-up events and programs, and most importantly incorporating stream protection in the city's new climate action plan. Bylaw enforcement around litter and improper disposal of hazardous materials may also be appropriate.

9. Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam only:

Would you support additional road crossings of the Coquitlam River? If so, where?

I'm unable to give a firm position on this issue at this time. As with all decisions I make, I want to ensure I'm fully educated and have considered the issue from all perspectives before coming to any conclusion. This would mean engaging in discussions with all advocates and impacted residents, as well as gaining a full understanding of the transportation challenges that an additional road crossing would mitigate.

## Justin Alexander Smith (CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL)

### 1. Why are you running for office and what do you hope to accomplish?

Fundamentally, I'm looking to increase political engagement between the citizens of Port Coquitlam and the city council through improved communication channels + outreach + programs. I believe that through increased collaboration & having people invested in council, we can move forward with plans to improve + support Port Coquitlam more confidently.

My biggest policy goal is to increase affordable housing in the city through sustainable means. This will require the collaboration between city councillors, city planners, residents, and importantly, experts & activist organisations who are familiar with environmental risks.

We're facing a crisis on two fronts - a climate crisis and an affordability crisis. While city council cannot entirely solve these issues w/o the support of provincial/federal governments, we must take every step possible to tackle these crises at home.

Within my first few months on council, I plan to create a direct portal for citizens + organisations to reach out to me to share their concerns. Likewise, I hope to arrange meetings with environmental organisations + affordable housing organisations to assess our cities current deficiencies and begin crafting a plan to address them.

### 2. Do you consider yourself a good choice for voters concerned about environmental issues? If so, can you briefly describe why?

I believe I am. Simply put, I recognize that we're in an existential climate crisis that threatens life on earth should we not have serious politicians at all levels taking every possible step to address it. Current legislators at all levels of government have failed their constituents and future generations. It is abhorrent.

I know I'll need to live on this planet, and I know the direction we're headed in isn't great. We need politicians who accept that fact, and are willing to stand up to big industry, oil & gas + special interests and tell them NO.

Beyond my beliefs, I closely studied environmental politics at my time at SFU; specifically, I've researched alternative energy + renewable energy, and recognize the importance it has in achieving a just transition away from fossil fuels.

Finally, I recognize that I cannot, and will not, have all the answers. I'm a strong proponent of collaboration + relying on the experts in our community to help craft policy. If elected, I'll want to work closely with your organization, Force of Nature, Greenpeace, David Suzuki (etc.) to make sure that environmental activism is visible & supported within our city.

### 3. What do you see as our City's greatest environmental challenges and what actions would you propose to address them?

I'm going to cheat and say two:

1. Terribly insufficient transit infrastructure that leads to an overreliance on cars. Southside Port Coquitlam is incredibly underserved, and with much of the city's resources centralized in 3-4 hubs, we need to do a better job at getting people where they need to go w/o a car. Frankly, we need councillors to use their platform to petition TransLink + higher levels of government to provide more funding & a real plan to expand transit in Port Coquitlam.
2. The transition from older, single family homes to higher density units (which I believe is absolutely necessary to help tackle the affordability crisis) is going to present challenges environmentally. I'll be relying on experts here to ensure that we're moving in a net-positive direction. Cost-Benefit analysis should be done w/ a specific focus on the environment whenever a new project is proposed.

4. What is your assessment of our City's environmental plan?

The EnviroPlan is insufficient, and the work we've done to try to meet the EnviroPlan's goals are insufficient. We need a holistic strategy, not a strategy that focuses on individual tasks w/o addressing the larger picture.

5. How will you ensure that there is an environmental 'voice at the table' with respect to decisions around development, urban forest management, and canopy coverage?

As I mentioned in Q2, I'm going to open a direct portal for citizens + organisations to reach out & book time with me to share their concerns and work together on finding solutions. I'll also push to maximize transparency, so environmental organisations aren't caught off guard by the city's decisions.

We shouldn't need to rely on people leaking information for stakeholders to be informed.

6. Tree losses occur regularly in the following situations:

- single family homes being redeveloped
- increasing density in existing neighbourhoods
- new development in existing forested areas

How would you approach the challenges these activities present?

My default position is to oppose the mass removal of trees for new projects. The tearing down of a small forest between Nova Scotia Ave / Citadel Middle school for expensive single family homes was a tragedy, and I'm greatly concerned about our current plans for the Gates Park expansion.

For other cases (specifically increasing density in existing neighborhoods), I'll turn to the experts to help understand the impact of the affected trees on their ecosystem and turn to a cost-benefit analysis from there. Should we choose to take down a tree, we'll need to ensure that we work to offset that loss for future generations through appropriate planting.

This really will be a case by case process; however, I will not blindly vote for projects w/ environmental concern without ensuring adequate thought + planning goes into it.

7. Do you support the IPCC recommendations to decrease carbon emissions by 45% from **2010** levels by 2030, and reach net zero by 2050?

Yes, and I'd like to see it sooner.

8. How will you protect our City's streams?

1. Oppose industrial activity that could pollute streams
2. Oppose new developments that will destroy life in streams
3. If/When needed, advocate for funding to clean up streams.

9. Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam only:

Would you support additional road crossings of the Coquitlam River? If so, where?

I do not, and don't anticipate supporting this. If there is a proposal, the city would need to work with environmental experts to ensure it is done in a safe way + it would need to be justified as to why the crossing is needed.

I don't see the need, so I don't support it.