

# COQUITLAM

## The Questions for Mayoral and City Council Candidates:

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Recognizing the importance of salmon to British Columbia, what will you do to reduce or prevent pollution in our local salmon-bearing streams?

### **2. Protecting our natural assets**

How will you protect our natural assets including forests, streams, wetlands, wildlife habitat and other ecosystems in the face of development pressure?

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

What steps have you taken, and what steps will you take as a mayor/councillor, to ensure that our communities maintain a strong connection to nature?

### **4. Climate action and resilience**

What **three policies** will you support or introduce to proactively prevent and pay for climate-related disasters while also reducing greenhouse-gas emissions?

## RESPONSES FROM COQUITLAM MAYORAL CANDIDATES:

### **HODGE, Craig**

#### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Protecting our streams and salmon habitat has been an important priority for me on Council.

Coquitlam has strengthened its rules around construction-site water discharge and introduced real-time water-quality monitoring and control systems. This work began in the Stoney Creek watershed and has since expanded city-wide, helping prevent millions of gallons of non-compliant wastewater from entering our local creeks.

As a member of Metro Vancouver's Water Committee, I have also been pleased to support the work of kʷikwə́łəm First Nation and its partners on the kʷikwə́łəm tákʷ Hatchery near the Coquitlam Dam, which is working to restore the historic sockeye salmon run in the Coquitlam watershed.

As mayor, I will continue strengthening protection and monitoring of our waterways and working with First Nations and other levels of government to restore and protect salmon habitat for future generations.

## **2. Protecting our natural assets**

I'm proud of my work at both the City and regional level to acquire and protect environmentally important land.

This year, I advocated for Metro Vancouver's acquisition of more than 150 acres around Quarry Road to expand Minnekhada Regional Park. This land includes forests, wetlands and fish-bearing waterways that will now be protected from development.

As Coquitlam continues to grow, we need to be equally committed to protecting the natural areas that make our community special. As mayor, I will continue looking for opportunities to acquire and preserve environmentally sensitive land, protect our streams and wildlife habitat, and ensure growth is balanced with environmental protection.

## **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

Throughout my time on Council, I have strongly supported expanding and improving Coquitlam's parks, trails and natural areas so that residents can continue to enjoy nature close to home.

Looking forward, I want to continue acquiring and protecting parkland as our community grows. I would also like to protect more land along the east side of the Coquitlam River and explore extending the trail network toward Crystal Falls.

We should also continue planting more trees on City land and work with the School District and private property owners to expand our urban tree canopy. Growth should not mean losing our connection to nature, rather it should mean creating more opportunities for people to experience and enjoy it.

## **4. Climate action and resilience**

My three priorities would be:

1. Expand EV infrastructure and support cleaner transportation. As an early EV driver myself, I advocated for requiring EV charging infrastructure in new multi-family developments. I want to

continue expanding public charging options and making it easier for residents to choose lower-emission transportation.

2. Protect and expand our natural assets. Forests, wetlands, streams and urban trees are not only important environmentally, but they also help communities manage heat, heavy rainfall and other impacts of climate change. I will continue supporting parkland acquisition, tree planting and the protection of environmentally significant land.

3. Strengthen flood protection and climate-resilient infrastructure. Coquitlam is bordered by major rivers and we need to be prepared for more extreme weather. I will continue working with provincial and federal governments to invest in dikes, drainage, flood mitigation and other infrastructure needed to protect residents, businesses and critical City assets.

## **INAMDAR, Madhavee**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Developers Pay for Infrastructure First: Ensure that developers fund necessary stormwater management and environmental protection infrastructure before development impacts local streams and watersheds.

Infrastructure Capacity Assessments: Require clear, documented infrastructure assessments prior to council approval for major growth decisions to ensure local drainage and runoff systems will not pollute or overload stream habitats.

Tree Canopy & Climate Resilience: Protect streams from rising temperatures and run-off pollution by preserving and expanding the local tree canopy along critical zones, which naturally filters water and maintains cooler water temperatures vital for salmon survival.

I would also focus on strengthening Municipal fines and accountability specifically in municipal salmon bearing streams like Coquitlam river, Hoy Creek, and Stoney Creek with strict enforcement and modern infrastructure.

### **2. Protecting our natural assets**

To protect Coquitlam's forests, streams, wetlands, and wildlife habitat from development pressures, natural assets must be treated as critical municipal infrastructure:

- Growth That Pays Its Fair Share: Require development to pay for its full impact on natural systems rather than downloading environmental costs onto residents or future generations.
- Annual Infrastructure Capacity Scorecard: Establish an annual capacity scorecard that tracks ecological health alongside municipal infrastructure, ensuring development does not exceed what the natural ecosystem can support.
- Implement strict policies to protect existing forests and green space while expanding canopy coverage across growth areas.

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

Maintaining a strong connection between residents and the natural environment relies on inclusive infrastructure, advocacy, and accessible community spaces:

Age-in-Place & Inclusive Infrastructure: Ensure that parks, greenways, and trails are designed with accessibility features so that seniors, youth, and residents of all mobility levels can easily access and enjoy nature.

Accessibility Priority Mapping: Create a citywide Accessibility Priority Map to identify and fix missing links, ensuring every neighbourhood has safe, walkable access to local parks and green spaces.

Riverview Advocacy: Actively lead multi-government advocacy involving Indigenous partners, regional, provincial, and federal governments to ensure the historical, cultural, and natural lands of Riverview are protected and integrated thoughtfully into the community.

### **4. Climate action and resilience**

To prevent climate-related impacts, build local resilience, and ensure big polluters pay their fair share, three priority policies I will advocate and work towards:

- Join the "Sue the Big Oil" Class-Action Lawsuit: Hold major fossil fuel corporations financially accountable for their contribution to climate change, bringing money back into the city to help pay for climate-related disaster mitigation and infrastructure upgrades.
- Extreme Weather Safety Plans: Implement proactive safety plans across all neighbourhoods to protect residents especially vulnerable populations and their pets from climate disasters such as heat domes, atmospheric rivers, and severe storms.

- Tree Canopy & Climate Resilience Expansion: Protect existing mature trees and plant new canopy to reduce greenhouse gas impacts, absorb carbon, manage stormwater runoff, and combat the urban heat island effect.

## **RESPONSES FROM COQUITLAM COUNCIL CANDIDATES:**

### **Dr. ABDI, Behzad**

#### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Protecting our salmon-bearing streams requires preventing pollution before it reaches the water.

I support stronger monitoring of stormwater and construction sites, effective erosion and sediment controls, rapid response to spills, and clear accountability when pollutants enter our drainage system or waterways. As Coquitlam continues to grow, watershed health must be considered early in development and infrastructure planning—not after problems occur.

I also support using data and monitoring technology to identify pollution risks and problem areas, while working closely with local streamkeepers, environmental organizations, First Nations, residents and businesses.

Education is also important. Many pollutants entering streams originate from everyday activities, so residents and businesses should have clear information about what can and cannot enter storm drains.

Growth and environmental protection should not be treated as competing objectives. With proper planning, enforcement and modern monitoring, we can accommodate responsible growth while protecting salmon habitat and the health of our watersheds.

#### **2. Protecting our natural assets**

Forests, streams, wetlands, wildlife habitat and mature trees are infrastructure in their own right. They help manage stormwater, reduce urban heat, support biodiversity and make Coquitlam a healthier and more attractive place to live.

I support identifying important natural assets early in the planning process so development can be designed around them wherever reasonably possible, rather than addressing environmental impacts at the end of the process.

I would support implementing Coquitlam's Urban Forest Management Strategy, strengthening tree retention and replacement where appropriate, protecting streamside areas and wildlife corridors, and using measurable environmental indicators to track results.

At the same time, Coquitlam needs housing and infrastructure. I believe the right approach is responsible growth: using good planning, scientific evidence and professional environmental assessment to determine where development should occur and how impacts can be minimized.

Protecting nature and building a growing city can—and must—be planned together.

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

Through more than a decade of community leadership in the Tri-Cities, I have helped organize community activities and major public events that bring residents together in our parks and public spaces. That experience has reinforced how important accessible public spaces and nature are to community well-being and social connection.

As a councillor, I would support expanding and connecting parks, trails and greenways; protecting and growing our urban tree canopy; and ensuring that growing neighbourhoods continue to have convenient access to nature.

I would also like to see stronger partnerships with schools, streamkeepers, environmental organizations, First Nations and community groups for tree planting, stewardship, environmental education and volunteer activities.

Access to nature should not depend on which neighbourhood someone lives in. As the city becomes denser, we should use data to identify areas with lower tree canopy and limited access to green space and prioritize improvements there.

A growing city should remain a green city.

### **4. Climate action and resilience**

I would focus on three practical policies:

#### **1. Climate-resilient infrastructure and natural systems.**

Invest in drainage, flood protection, wildfire preparedness, tree canopy, watersheds and green infrastructure, using climate-risk data to prioritize projects before emergencies become more costly.

## **2. Responsible climate financing.**

Integrate climate risk into long-term capital and asset-management planning, pursue provincial and federal resilience funding, and ensure that new growth contributes appropriately to the infrastructure it requires. Prevention is generally a better use of public funds than repeatedly paying for avoidable damage.

## **3. Reduce emissions through buildings and transportation.**

Improve energy efficiency, support practical building electrification, expand EV-charging infrastructure, advocate for better public transit and create safe walking and cycling connections. Implementation should be measurable, phased and mindful of affordability.

My approach is to combine environmental responsibility with fiscal responsibility. Climate policy should have clear objectives, measurable outcomes and transparent reporting so residents can see whether programs are actually delivering results.

## **BUCHAN, Phil**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Recognizing the importance of salmon to British Columbia, what will you do to reduce or prevent pollution in our local salmon-bearing streams? The developers must have stricter regulations on them when they are building close to these salmon bearing streams . We also need to lobby the federal government to mandate that tire companies stop using the toxic 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-Q) because it is washing into our salmon streams and killing the salmon. The major threat to our salmon is climate change and extreme weather which is affecting water temperature. We have to do everything we can to combat climate change to protect our salmon and the streams they swim in. Protecting 30% of the watershed in BC by 2030 is a necessity to reduce or prevent pollution in our salmon bearing streams.

### **2. Protecting our natural assets**

I want to slow down development on Burke Mountain to protect the bear habitat up there and work with the provincial government to set up wildlife sanctuaries so the bears can have a protected place to call home. The streams and riparian areas must be protected for future generations to enjoy. The wetlands are very environmentally sensitive areas and we must keep them intact for eternity.

Streamside protection bylaws and significant setbacks so there is lots of room when extreme weather and flooding happens, and of course a strong tree bylaw with tree retention as priority and also set a canopy target.

We should as a community consistently conserve water and energy.

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

My background has focused on being an environmental advocate and protecting rivers, lakes, oceans and trees and the wildlife that inhabit these natural spaces. I have volunteered clearing invasive species and educating the public about how to protect and maintain the natural ecosystems that are all around us. I want to change the outdated tree bylaws we have in Coquitlam to bring us on par with the other municipalities in Metro Vancouver. I was the President of the Burke Mountain Naturalists from 2024-2025. I was Vice President of the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society in 2023.

### **4. Climate action and resilience**

The first policy is having another vote to bring in the Zero Carbon step code now not waiting until 2030 when it is mandated by the province. Secondly, have a vote on council to join the Sue Big Oil class action lawsuit so the city can recoup the costs from the Fossil fuel companies who have caused the climate change we are experiencing. Lastly, we will have to build climate resilient infrastructure to protect us from extreme weather such as flooding and landslides which Coquitlam has already experienced in the last few years.

## **CAMPBELL, Tali**

Coquitlam is fortunate to have incredible natural assets, including our forests, streams, parks, wildlife and access to nature are a major part of what makes our community a great place to live. As our city continues to grow, I believe we have a responsibility to ensure growth is thoughtful, responsible and balanced with protecting the environment we all value.

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Our salmon-bearing streams are an important part of Coquitlam's natural environment and need protection.

I support strong enforcement of protections around waterways and riparian areas, as well as ensuring development and construction sites have appropriate sediment, erosion and stormwater controls in place.

The City should also continue working closely with local streamkeepers, stewardship organizations, the kwikwə'łəm First Nation and other levels of government. These organizations have tremendous local knowledge, and I believe the City should listen to and work alongside the people who spend countless hours caring for our waterways.

Education is important as well. Residents and businesses need clear information about how pollutants entering storm drains can ultimately affect our streams and aquatic ecosystems.

## **2. Protecting our natural assets**

One of my campaign priorities is responsible growth. Coquitlam is going to continue growing, but growth should not mean sacrificing the natural features that make people want to live here in the first place.

I support protecting environmentally sensitive areas, maintaining healthy urban forests and tree canopy, protecting streams and wetlands, and incorporating green space and habitat connectivity into long-term planning.

I also believe environmental considerations need to happen early in the planning and development process rather than being treated as an afterthought.

At the same time, Council needs to recognize that housing, transportation, infrastructure and environmental protection are interconnected. My approach would be to make decisions based on evidence and long-term community impact while finding a responsible balance between accommodating growth and protecting our natural assets.

## **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

I believe one of the best ways to build support for environmental protection is to ensure people can actually experience and appreciate the natural environment around them.

Coquitlam has incredible parks, trails, waterways and outdoor spaces. I support continuing to invest in accessible parks and trails, protecting and expanding opportunities for residents to enjoy nature, and supporting environmental education and stewardship initiatives.

Community involvement is particularly important to me. Through my work in sport and community organizations, I have seen how valuable it is when young people are given opportunities to become involved in their community.

As a councillor, I would look for more opportunities to connect youth, families and residents with environmental stewardship, Indigenous knowledge, streamkeeper organizations and volunteer initiatives throughout Coquitlam.

#### **4. Climate action and resilience**

I would focus on three practical areas:

##### **1. Climate-resilient infrastructure and responsible asset management.**

We need to ensure our drainage systems, roads, public facilities and other infrastructure are prepared for increasingly severe weather events. Investing proactively in resilience and preventative maintenance can be far less costly than repeatedly responding to emergencies after they occur.

##### **2. Smarter land-use and transportation planning.**

As Coquitlam grows, we should concentrate growth in appropriate areas near transit, services and employment while creating safe and realistic alternatives to driving where possible. Better planning can reduce congestion, infrastructure costs and emissions while protecting more environmentally sensitive land from development pressure.

##### **3. Energy efficiency and lower-emission City operations.**

I support continuing to improve the energy efficiency of City buildings and infrastructure and reducing emissions from municipal operations where it is practical and financially responsible. I would also support pursuing provincial and federal funding opportunities for climate-resilience and emissions-reduction projects so the entire burden does not fall on Coquitlam property taxpayers.

Climate action and fiscal responsibility do not have to compete with one another. In many cases, planning ahead, protecting natural infrastructure and making smart investments today can prevent significantly larger costs in the future.

Ultimately, I want Coquitlam to remain a community where responsible growth, environmental protection and a strong economy can coexist. Protecting what makes our city special while preparing responsibly for the future should be part of every major decision Council makes

## **DJONLIC, Matt**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

This term, we implemented new rules requiring checks on water discharge. The FlowLink technology has been successful. We've also implemented a jellyfish system to catch discharge entering Stoney Creek. We'll continue to support local hatcheries and work with the Kwikwetlem First Nation on a new dyking project that offers an opportunity to restore some fish habitats.

### **2. Protecting our natural assets**

We focused development within the Urban Containment boundary, moving it away from environmentally sensitive areas that may have been planned for over 20 years ago. I'm proud of our work to create more wildlife corridors through land swaps and Metro Vancouver's purchase of property to expand Minnekhada Park.

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

We'll continue to invest in park expansions and plant more trees. Parts of Coquitlam undergoing redevelopment need green spaces.

### **4. Climate action and resilience**

Flood management is something important to me. I can't stress enough how good it is to see the City, Province, Federal Government, and Kwikwetlem working together on a new dyking system. I'll continue to advocate for city buildings to be built to ZCSC levels and introduce more park expansions (both recreational and nature based).

## **KIM, Steve**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Recognizing the importance of salmon to British Columbia, what will you do to reduce or prevent pollution in our local salmon-bearing streams?

I believe protecting our streams and waterways is an important part of managing growth in Coquitlam. We have a responsibility to make sure that our City's growth enhances the natural environment and the fish and wildlife that depend on it. During my time on Council, Coquitlam has strengthened its approach to protecting our streams, including better stormwater management and monitoring around developments, both large and small. But we must remain vigilant. I also support the City's continuing work on integrated watershed management because our streams, drainage systems, forests and development patterns are all connected.

Going forward, I will continue to support monitoring and stronger enforcement when pollution or sediment threatens our waterways, with extra care around local salmon-bearing streams. I also believe we must continue to work with and support Kwikwetlem First Nation, our neighbouring cities, and our many community stakeholders to reduce and prevent pollution in our salmon-bearing streams.

## **2. Protecting our natural assets**

How will you protect our natural assets including forests, streams, wetlands, wildlife habitat and other ecosystems in the face of development pressure?

Coquitlam is growing, and I think that makes it even more important that we plan carefully and protect the natural assets that make our community such a great place to live.

This year, Council adopted the City's Urban Forest Management Strategy. I supported that work, but believe the next step is making sure we actually follow through on the strategy. Having a plan is important, but so is measuring what we are doing and seeing whether we are getting the results we expect.

I want to see continued investment in our urban forest, including tree planting and replacement, protecting mature trees where possible, restoring natural areas and dealing with invasive species. We also need to continue protecting our streams and riparian areas, in addition to continuing to take natural areas into account when we make decisions about development.

Coquitlam will continue to grow, and we need housing and infrastructure for our residents. But growth needs to be planned properly. We need to look at the impact on trees, waterways, wildlife habitat and the overall environment, and make responsible decisions that balance today's needs with future generations.

## **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

What steps have you taken, and what steps will you take as a councillor, to ensure that our communities maintain a strong connection to nature?

One of the things I value about Coquitlam is the access our residents have to parks, trails, forests and other natural areas. I believe we need to make sure that continues as our city grows.

During my eight years on Council, I have supported investments in parks and recreation facilities across the city. I also believe that connecting with nature is not just about large parks. It is about having trees, green spaces, trails and opportunities to enjoy the outdoors close to where people live.

I would like to see us continue working with community groups, stewardship organizations, schools and residents to create more opportunities for people to get involved.

I supported the adoption of the City's Environmental Sustainability Plan, Climate Action Plan and Urban Forest Management Strategy. So we now have important plans in place to guide this work. I am committed to monitoring these plans as they are being implemented, and looking at adjustments when and where appropriate based on data and results.

#### **4. Climate action and resilience**

What three policies will you support or introduce to proactively prevent and pay for climate-related disasters while also reducing greenhouse-gas emissions?

For me, climate action is about both reducing emissions and being prepared for the impacts of extreme weather.

First, I would continue investing in climate-resilient infrastructure and emergency preparedness. When we build or replace City infrastructure, we should be thinking about the conditions we are likely to face in the future, not just the conditions we have today. For emergency preparedness, we need to maintain appropriate reserves and pursue provincial and federal funding when possible. We shouldn't wait until a major event occurs and then try to find the money to respond.

Second, I would like to continue strengthening enforcement of our stormwater bylaws, including higher fines where and when appropriate for non-compliance. I believe stronger enforcement and meaningful penalties can help reduce the number of incidents and ensure that those responsible for non-compliance bear more of the costs associated with managing the environmental impacts.

Third, I would support opportunities for low-carbon district energy and energy-sharing systems as Coquitlam continues to grow. As we add more housing and employment over the long-term, I

believe we need to look for ways to provide heating and cooling more efficiently and with lower emissions. District energy and energy-sharing systems could help reduce energy use and decrease greenhouse-gas emissions so I would support pursuing provincial and federal funding and other partnerships that can help make these systems financially viable, while keeping long-term costs for residents and businesses in mind.

## **KYLE-LEFEBVRE, Geneviève**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Protecting our streams is personal to me. I live next to a salmon-bearing creek, and over the years I have personally picked up garbage and debris around the creek to help make sure it does not end up in the water. It may seem like a small action, but I believe protecting our environment starts in our own neighbourhoods.

I have also participated in community cleanups through my involvement with the Burke Mountain Residents Association. Being part of a residents' association has taught me something much broader: every neighbourhood has its own concerns, but ultimately we are one Coquitlam. What happens to a creek, forest, park or neighbourhood in one part of our city matters to all of us.

At the municipal level, I support strong enforcement of erosion and sediment controls at construction sites, water-quality monitoring where required, protection of riparian areas, and accountability when pollutants enter our drainage systems or waterways.

I also believe the City should continue working closely with local streamkeepers, environmental organizations and kwikwə'łəm First Nation. These groups bring invaluable knowledge and experience to the protection and restoration of our waterways.

As development continues, protecting streams cannot simply be an item on a checklist. Stormwater management, construction practices and development decisions need to protect water quality and fish habitat over the long term.

### **2. Protecting our natural assets**

Growth and environmental protection do not have to be opposing goals, but good planning is essential.

Tree canopy is particularly important to me. I have seen the benefits of living close to nature as well as the pressures that come with rapid development. Those pressures are not limited to one neighbourhood. From established neighbourhoods to our fastest-growing areas, residents deserve thoughtful planning that protects the natural assets that contribute so much to their quality of life.

I support protecting environmentally sensitive areas, streams, wetlands, wildlife corridors and significant tree canopy while directing growth to areas that can accommodate it responsibly.

Coquitlam has adopted an Urban Forest Management Strategy, and I support measurable implementation and transparent reporting. I also support strong tree-retention and replacement policies, expanding our tree canopy where possible, and ensuring new developments incorporate meaningful trees, green space and effective stormwater management.

Our natural assets are also infrastructure. Trees provide shade and cooling, wetlands and healthy soils help manage water, and forests and riparian areas provide habitat and contribute to climate resilience.

Development should contribute to maintaining and restoring these systems rather than simply replacing them after they are lost.

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

One of Coquitlam's greatest strengths is our access to parks, trails, forests, streams and mountains. For me, that connection is part of everyday life, not simply a policy discussion.

My involvement with a residents' association has given me a greater understanding of how important it is to listen at the neighbourhood level. Residents know their communities. They know the creek that floods, the trail their family uses, the trees they value, the park that needs attention and the changes happening around them.

Being involved at the neighbourhood level has also taught me to look beyond my own neighbourhood. A councillor represents the entire city. I want to listen to residents throughout Coquitlam and make sure every part of our city has a voice as we make decisions about growth, parks, trees, waterways and our natural environment.

As a councillor, I would support expanding and connecting trails and green spaces, protecting neighbourhood tree canopy, increasing shade in parks and public spaces, and making nature accessible to residents of different ages and abilities.

I would also support partnerships with schools, stewardship groups, environmental organizations and Indigenous partners that give residents, particularly young people, opportunities to learn about and participate in protecting our local environment.

I believe one of the best ways to build environmental stewardship is to give people opportunities to participate. When residents help clean a creek, plant a tree, restore habitat or learn about the wildlife around them, protecting nature becomes something we do together.

#### **4. Climate action and resilience**

My three priorities would be:

##### **1. Protect our urban forest while strengthening wildfire resilience.**

Our trees and forests are among Coquitlam's greatest natural assets. They provide shade, habitat, cleaner air and protection from extreme heat, and protecting our tree canopy is very important to me.

At the same time, I am increasingly concerned about wildfire risk as our summers become hotter and drier. Through conversations with residents, I have heard concerns about dead and dry vegetation and potential fire hazards, particularly where homes are close to forested areas.

Protecting our forests also means managing them responsibly. I support Coquitlam's continued implementation of its Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan and FireSmart principles, including appropriate management of hazardous vegetation and forest fuels in higher-risk areas.

Residents also have an important role. When people see a potentially dangerous tree, accumulation of dry vegetation or another concern on City property, they should be encouraged to report it, and the City needs to respond appropriately. Residents are often the first people to notice changes in the places where they live and walk every day.

##### **2. Build climate resilience into infrastructure and development.**

As we upgrade roads, drainage systems, civic facilities and neighbourhood infrastructure, we should plan for heavier rainfall, extreme heat, wildfire risk and other changing conditions.

New development should contribute its fair share toward the infrastructure required to support growth and climate resilience rather than placing that burden solely on existing taxpayers.

Climate resilience also means planning ahead. We need shade and trees during extreme heat, drainage systems capable of responding to severe rainfall, emergency preparedness and thoughtful planning where our neighbourhoods meet forests and other natural areas.

### 3. Reduce emissions through practical local action, including food recovery.

I strongly support food recovery and reducing food waste. This is something I have advocated for and put into practice through my community work.

Food that is still good should be recovered and redirected whenever possible rather than wasted. There is an important social benefit because good food can support people in our community, but there is also an environmental benefit. When organic waste ends up in landfills, it can generate methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.

I would support partnerships with community organizations, businesses and other levels of government that help prevent food waste, recover usable food and improve organic waste diversion.

I also support energy-efficient buildings, better opportunities to walk, cycle and use public transit, continued expansion of EV infrastructure, and pursuing senior-government grants so Coquitlam can take meaningful climate action while remaining responsible with local tax dollars.

Climate action should be practical, measurable and connected to everyday life. Protecting a creek, preserving trees, preparing our neighbourhoods for wildfire, recovering food instead of wasting it, and listening when residents identify problems are all examples of how individual actions and municipal policy can work together.

For me, environmental leadership is not only about policies at City Hall. It is also about action in our communities. My experience with community cleanups, caring for the salmon-bearing creek beside my home, advocating for food recovery and being involved with a residents' association has reinforced how much local action matters.

It has also reinforced something equally important: we are all part of one Coquitlam. Protecting our environment means listening to residents and working together across every neighbourhood in our city.

**MAZZAROLO, Robert**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Important actions were taken this current council term to further protect streams and creeks from construction site runoff and other forms of pollution, particularly the expansion of real time monitoring of creeks with Flowlink technology. This policy was expanded across the City where previously it was only required in the Burquitlam Lougheed Neighbourhoods. This technology provides water quality data in real time to City Hall. This allows City staff to be more responsive to issues in real time. Furthermore, enforcement has been increased for construction sites. There was one situation where one development was found to be attempting to circumvent the Flowlink technology. Upon City staff becoming aware of this situation, a "stop work" order was placed on the site immediately. For the next council term, I support hiring more bylaw officers to increase enforcement activities across the City. I believe, and feedback I have been receiving at residents' doors, the public desires increased enforcement.

## **2. Protecting our natural assets**

Provincial legislation requires all streams and creeks to be physically protected with Streamside Protection and Enhancement Areas (SPEAs). The width of the SPEA is determined by the characteristics of the stream or creek. I consider this to be beneficial for society and must remain in legislation. There was also a unique situation that I am proud to have supported on Burke Mountain where a specific creek that is salmon bearing and attracts many bears, was further protected with a 50 meter wide wildlife corridor expanding to 100 meters near a particular hotspot of bear activity with salmon. I also support the daylighting of many of our creeks and streams that were buried many decades ago when development was taking place. This is particularly true for south Coquitlam.

- This council term, Coquitlam adopted the Urban Forest Management Strategy (the "Strategy"). The Strategy is a significant step forward in managing our urban canopy. It has many positive aspects, but a few important ones to emphasize is the emphasis on planting 5,000 to 7,000 trees per year (the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago and the second best time is now), diversifying tree species that are planted across the city, and most importantly, an emphasis on education. Ultimately, education is the sustainable solution to protect our urban forest canopy. When residents choose themselves to plant more trees on their own property and choose to keep their mature trees because they see and understand the benefit to themselves and to their community, all residents will benefit.

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

Coquitlam has a number of programs to connect residents with nature. To name two, Coquitlam Park Spark and Tree Spree. Both programs are examples of how Coquitlam emphasizes a connection to nature.

### **4. Climate action and resilience**

Advance the implementation of the Zero Carbon Step Code. Other cities have done it and the city staff report provided to council this term stated that the costs to build housing either did not change, and in some circumstances were reduced.

1. Advance the implementation of the Zero Carbon Step Code. Other cities have done it and the city staff report provided to council this term stated that the costs to build housing either did not change, and in some circumstances were reduced.
2. Situational replacement and/or upgrading of mechanisms, processes, and equipment that reduce greenhouse gases such as the city did with Poirier Sports and Leisure Complex and Mundy Park Pool.
3. Implement the Climate Action Plan and the Urban Forest Management Strategy.

## **McBRYER, Cameron**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

I would like to increase fines for polluters. Up to and including revoking business licenses, or trying to increase punishment to I would also like to see more signage near areas where people walk/bicycle that is near to streams that it is a salmon habitat.

I quite like the nature signs that tell a bit about the local flora and fauna.

As part of my day job, I've worked with many different groups that install remote fish counters. One of my favourite projects was assisting one team build a solar and battery array down in Colony Farms.

### **2. Protecting our natural assets**

As we grow, we need to remember, most people are coming here BECAUSE of the nature. Development always has a cost, but we must be mindful of the nature that brought us here. I would rather see houses nestled between trees than high rises.

With that in mind I would like to see development take that into account. If there are large trees on a property, I would like to see those large trees remain as much as possible after development. There is no need to clear cut a property when a building isn't going to be using the whole parcel. Developers and builders need to clearly state the case as to why they need to remove certain trees. They might own the land, but those trees have been part of the community, cleaning the air and providing homes to small animals, before they arrived

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

What steps have you taken, and what steps will you take as a councillor, to ensure that our communities maintain a strong connection to nature?

I would like to grow the hatchery, and make the salmon releases even more special. Turn these types of events into big festivals.

I still remember volunteering at Riverview during a tree festival when I was a teenager and I learned so much about the tree varieties there. It kind of solidified my love of the area and protecting our trees.

I would like to encourage the school board through the school trustees to develop a stronger program of learning and experiencing local nature.

### **4. Climate action and resilience**

I believe gas stations should be paying into a fund constantly and consistently that when the gas station's useful life is over that money is used to reclaim the land right away instead of sitting fallow for years (see Como Lake plaza). This might need to be done as a region, otherwise I feel gas stations will relocate just to the borders of the city and reduce jobs within Coquitlam.

New stations should be built with an underground bladder technology that makes the end of lifecycle even quicker to clean up. I know these exist because one of my suppliers built their factory on land using this very technology. This could also be applied to chemical companies where spills are possible. And if that cost is too high, it might make them consider installing EV charging stations

I think we should find a way to encourage more trees being planted. This will prevent soil erosion, keep more water in the ground, and keep the city cooler. New developments should be built with young but mature trees in the boulevards, and restrictions on removing trees during development.

## **PERRY, Ben**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Construction sites, roads, industrial sites, and homeowners all contribute to pollution in salmon-bearing streams. In terms of construction, I would like to see stronger and quicker enforcement of construction run-off. Broadly in the community, I would like to ensure there is good education for homeowners about protecting salmon – this should be done in partnership with groups that are already protecting and enhancing salmon. Finally, for both private and public property, I would like to encourage landscape design that holds and filters water - rain gardens, swales, permeable surfaces, and wetlands.

### **2. Protecting our natural assets**

Having knocked on 1000s of doors, I have learned that the people of Coquitlam love and cherish the natural environment. We should have a strong tree bylaw with a concrete plan to achieve the 3-30-300 rule of 3 trees visible for every resident, 30% tree canopy by neighbourhood, and everyone should be 300m from a high quality natural environment. I would like to see a plan to create greenways around the city, introduction of and water-filtering swales and wetlands, I would also like to see daylighting of creeks.

It would be very useful for our city to have robust natural asset accounting to help residents and decision-makers understand the value of these natural areas.

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

I have been a participant and a leader in local environmental groups. I have led the climate group, Force of Nature Alliance, and joined in Urban Forest Forum, and events by Burke Mountain Naturalists and Riverview Horticultural Society. I was a lead organizer for debates on the environment during the federal elections in 2019 and 2025. I would like to see the city partner with environmental groups and leverage the volunteerism through supportive grants and logistical support from staff. These efforts should be led by local groups and not the city. I would also like to see space made available in local parks for interpretive and conservation activities.

### **4. Climate action and resilience**

1 Reduce emission from buildings and transportation:

New buildings should have zero emissions heating/cooling and hot water systems (zero carbon step code) Encourage micro-mobility, EVs and public transit use through transportation and development planning - mixed use communities, greenways, and bike infrastructure, including more public washrooms.

2 Prioritize climate-resilient infrastructure - including ecologically integrated rainwater management, permeable surfaces, review of dangerous slopes and applying remediation measures and requirements, and a cooling program for all residents.

### 3 Financial Sustainability Policy

Coquitlam needs long-terms financial planning for climate adaptation. We should also explore legal mechanisms for requiring polluters, including fossil fuel companies, to pay their fair share of the costs associated with climate change.

## **SAMIMI, Shereen**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Protecting salmon-bearing streams requires us to think about pollution at the watershed level. Recent research from Simon Fraser University and Fisheries and Oceans Canada found hundreds of contaminants in Lower Fraser River water and juvenile Chinook salmon tissue, including pharmaceuticals, pesticides, industrial chemicals and flame retardants. Sixteen contaminants were identified as having the potential for adverse effects on salmon and other aquatic life. This matters to Coquitlam. We have more than 300 kilometres of creeks and streams, and what enters our stormwater system can ultimately enter local waterways. In fact, the City specifically warns residents that material entering storm drains can flow directly into our creeks and streams.

As a City Councillor, I would support building on Coquitlam's existing water-quality monitoring and watershed-management programs, particularly as our population and development increase. I would support rigorous enforcement of erosion, sediment and pollution controls at development sites, continued and expanded real-time water-quality monitoring where evidence shows it is needed, and infrastructure that reduces polluted stormwater runoff before it reaches our waterways.

I would also prioritize stronger stewardship partnerships with Kʷikʷəʼāəm First Nation. Protecting salmon in Coquitlam should include Indigenous leadership, knowledge and stewardship, particularly given the Nation's longstanding work to restore sockeye salmon to the Coquitlam Watershed. I would support greater collaboration on water-quality monitoring, habitat restoration, watershed planning and salmon recovery, including opportunities to work alongside the kʷikʷəʼāəm Guardian Program.

Coquitlam has already demonstrated that prevention can work. After introducing real-time monitoring at construction sites in the Stoney Creek watershed, monitoring systems prevented more than 2,300 non-compliant discharges and diverted almost 4.7 million gallons of non-compliant wastewater from local creeks in a 12-month period. The City subsequently expanded the requirement to major development sites citywide. I would also support stronger public education around what enters our storm drains, including pesticides, oils, paints, cleaning chemicals and other pollutants, and make protecting salmon habitat part of how we evaluate development and infrastructure decisions. Salmon protection should not begin after contamination occurs. Our goal should be preventing pollutants from reaching our streams in the first place.

## **2. Protecting our natural assets**

I view protecting Coquitlam's natural assets as both an environmental issue and a public health issue. Forests, streams, wetlands, tree canopy and wildlife habitat are part of the infrastructure that makes a community healthy and resilient. They provide shade during extreme heat, help manage stormwater and flooding, support clean air and water, provide opportunities for physical activity and connection with nature, and protect biodiversity. This is particularly important as Coquitlam continues to grow. I support development and the creation of more housing, but I do not believe growth should mean treating our natural assets as expendable. Coquitlam's Official Community Plan already identifies Environmentally Sensitive Areas and provides mechanisms to protect and expand them, connect natural areas, acquire environmentally valuable land, and mitigate the impacts of development. I would support using these tools proactively as development occurs.

I would place particular emphasis on protecting existing ecosystems before relying on replacement or restoration afterward. For forests, that means prioritizing mature-tree retention and implementing Coquitlam's new Urban Forest Management Strategy, with measurable outcomes and transparent reporting. For streams and wetlands, it means maintaining strong riparian protections, preventing polluted stormwater and construction runoff from entering waterways, and ensuring development respects watercourse setbacks. Coquitlam already

requires Watercourse Protection Development Permits in areas near watercourses, including within 30 metres in most of the city, giving us an existing framework to build upon. I also want us to think about ecological connectivity rather than protecting isolated pockets of green space. The proposed Partington Creek Wildlife Corridor is a good Coquitlam example. Wildlife monitoring documented 57 species in the area, and the proposed corridor would maintain a connection between Pinecone Burke Provincial Park, Minnekhada Regional Park and surrounding green spaces while development proceeds nearby. I would support using ecological data and wildlife monitoring early in the development process to identify where similar connections need to be preserved.

My public-health perspective ultimately changes the question I would ask when considering development. Rather than asking only, “How much can we build here?”, I also want us to ask, “What natural systems are keeping this community healthy, safe and resilient, and how do we grow without losing them?” Development and environmental protection should not be planned separately. A healthy city needs both housing and healthy ecosystems.

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

One of the things I value most about Coquitlam is how closely our communities are connected to nature. Our forests, trails, creeks, parks and mountains are not simply amenities, they are actually a part of our daily lives.

From a public-health perspective, access to nature is part of creating a healthy community, and I believe that access should remain a priority as Coquitlam grows.

My own commitment to this has included environmental advocacy, participating in environmental cleanups, and focusing much of my academic work on issues including sustainability, food systems, ocean acidification and the relationship between environmental conditions and human well-being.

As a Councillor, I would focus not only on protecting natural areas, but on making sure people can actually access and experience them. Coquitlam already has an extensive trail network, and I would support improving connections between neighbourhoods, trails, parks and natural areas, particularly as new neighbourhoods are developed. I would also want access to nature considered alongside transportation and neighbourhood planning, so that experiencing nature does not always require getting into a car. Coquitlam’s Urban Forest Management Strategy specifically calls for maintaining a safe trail system that improves connectivity and access to nature across the city.

Equitable access matters to me as well. A connection to nature should not depend on which neighbourhood you live in. I support neighbourhood-level tree-canopy monitoring, protecting mature trees, expanding shade and greenery in areas that need it, and ensuring new development includes meaningful connections to parks, trails and natural spaces. Coquitlam's current Official Community Plan similarly calls for equitable access to green spaces, trails and urban forests in response to health and climate risks. I would also support expanding opportunities for residents to participate directly in stewardship, including tree planting, habitat restoration, invasive-species removal, stream stewardship and environmental education.

Ultimately, I want children growing up in a denser Coquitlam to have the same opportunity to know their local creek, walk beneath mature trees, encounter wildlife responsibly, explore a trail and develop a relationship with the natural environment around them. I have an 11 month old son, so I understand the importance of accessible nature, and a flourishing ecosystem.

#### **4. Climate action and resilience**

My approach to climate policy is that mitigation, adaptation and public health should not be treated as separate issues. The same investments that reduce emissions can often make Coquitlam healthier and less vulnerable to climate-related disasters. I would prioritize three policies:

1. Establish dedicated climate-resilience and prevention funding. I would support incorporating climate risk into long-term capital planning and creating predictable funding for preventative infrastructure, rather than waiting to pay for damage after disasters occur. This should include aggressively pursuing provincial and federal climate-resilience funding and ensuring growth contributes appropriately to the infrastructure it requires. In line with climate-resilience, I would advocate for zero data centres being built in Coquitlam and its surrounding areas.
2. Expand green rainwater and natural infrastructure. I would like Coquitlam to examine successful policies from other municipalities, including Vancouver's Rain City Strategy, and determine which approaches can be adapted locally. Rain gardens, permeable surfaces, trees, wetlands, green roofs and infiltration systems can help manage extreme rainfall and flooding while filtering polluted runoff, protecting salmon-bearing streams, reducing urban heat and supporting biodiversity. Coquitlam's own climate projections anticipate a 17% increase in total storm and rain events, making stormwater management and flood prevention increasingly important as our city grows.
3. Build low-carbon, climate-ready neighbourhoods. As Coquitlam grows, new housing should be planned alongside transit, safe walking and cycling infrastructure, tree canopy, green space, energy-efficient buildings and access to everyday services. I support advancing low-carbon

building standards and Coquitlam's Vision Zero direction while creating complete communities where residents have realistic alternatives to driving for every trip.

From a public-health perspective, I believe prevention matters. Climate resilience is ultimately about protecting people's health, homes and communities before disaster occurs. The question should not only be what climate disasters will cost Coquitlam, but what we can invest today to prevent those costs in the first place.

## **SU, Harvey**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Recognizing the importance of salmon to British Columbia, what will you do to reduce or prevent pollution in our local salmon-bearing streams?

I support strengthening measures to prevent sediment, chemicals and other pollutants from entering our stormwater system and waterways, particularly during construction. I also support continued water quality monitoring, effective enforcement, rapid response to spills and pollution, and working closely with local watershed organizations.

### **2. Protecting our natural assets**

How will you protect our natural assets—including forests, streams, wetlands, wildlife habitat and other ecosystems—in the face of development pressure?

I support protecting environmentally sensitive areas, riparian corridors, mature trees, wetlands and wildlife habitat as Coquitlam grows. I also support implementing Coquitlam's new Urban Forest Management Strategy, including measurable targets, stronger tree retention and replacement, restoration of natural areas, and annual reporting so residents can see whether we are meeting our goals.

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

What steps have you taken, and what steps will you take as a councillor, to ensure that our communities maintain a strong connection to nature?

I served as a Director of the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society from 2023 to 2024, participated in RHCS tree walks and helped coordinate donations to support its work. I have

attended Wondrous Tree Fellowship AGMs and, in 2025, I moderated a federal candidates' debate focused on environmental issues.

I have also spent years advocating for expanded West Coast Express service. Better public transportation is not only a transportation issue. Giving residents practical alternatives to driving can help reduce congestion and transportation emissions while improving quality of life.

As a councillor, I would support maintaining and expanding access to parks, trails, greenways and natural areas, as well as environmental education, community tree planting and volunteer stewardship programs.

I also believe we should continue consulting and working with local environmental organizations, schools, residents and First Nation.

#### **4. Climate action and resilience**

What **three policies** will you support or introduce to proactively prevent and pay for climate-related disasters while also reducing greenhouse-gas emissions?

**First**, I would support investments that prepare Coquitlam for heavier rainfall, flooding, extreme heat, wildfire and other climate risks.

**Second**, transportation is one of my priorities. I will continue advocating for expanded West Coast Express service, more frequent buses, better SkyTrain connections, safer walking and cycling infrastructure, and practical micromobility options. Giving people more transportation choices can reduce both congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Third**, I support implementing practical measures in Coquitlam's Climate Action Plan that improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions from buildings and City operations, and make new infrastructure more resilient to future climate conditions.

Coquitlam has established a target of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions by 45% from 2007 levels by 2030 and reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. I support measuring progress and publicly reporting results so that climate policies are accountable, practical and focused on outcomes.

## **THOMSING, Jane**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Salmon are an essential part of our ecosystems, and protecting the streams they depend on is something I take very seriously. Through my environmental work and years of volunteering, I have seen firsthand how human activity can harm wildlife and the health of our waterways.

On July 5, 2026, I stood in front of a storm drain to try to stop sludge from entering Oxbow Lake, a lake that provides habitat for salmon. As Shaughnessy was being paved, the storm drains had not been protected off Shaughnessy, allowing a stream of pollutants to flow toward the lake. I contacted bylaw enforcement and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and eventually located the site foreman and showed him the problem. He immediately stopped the work and covered the storm drains in River Springs.

This is the kind of action I will take to protect our environment. I will not just advocate for stronger protections; I will work to ensure they are implemented and enforced.

As a councillor, I will push for stronger protections for salmon-bearing streams by ensuring development respects streamside setbacks (which are far too lax) reduces runoff, and prevents pollution from entering our waterways. I will support better water-quality monitoring, stronger enforcement of environmental regulations, and increased public education about protecting our streams.

I also believe in taking practical action at the community level. Every spring, I participate in fishing-line clean-ups at Lafarge Lake because I understand the dangers discarded fishing line poses to birds and other wildlife. I want to see that same commitment to protecting our natural environment extended throughout Coquitlam's waterways.

## **2. Protecting our natural assets**

I understand fully that our forests, streams, wetlands, and wildlife habitats are essential natural assets that must be protected for future generations. With a degree in Environmental Studies and a diploma in Ecosystems Management, I have spent much of my life working and volunteering in conservation.

I will advocate for a development approach that prioritizes protecting existing natural areas rather than treating them as obstacles to construction. While door-knocking recently, I came across a property where all the trees had been cut down to make way for a new duplex. These were healthy, mature trees that did not need to be removed, yet under Coquitlam's current rules, their removal was permitted. This is exactly why we need stronger tree protection policies.

Tree retention must be a priority from the very beginning of the development process. We need to explore design alternatives that preserve mature trees and strengthen protections for

environmentally sensitive areas. I will support a comprehensive tree protection strategy, a citywide tree canopy target, and stronger environmental policies that recognize the importance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

Our natural assets also provide essential services by helping manage stormwater, reducing erosion, providing shade, and protecting communities from the effects of climate change. Protecting these natural systems can save billions of dollars in infrastructure and disaster-related costs. Protecting our natural assets is not just an environmental responsibility; it is a sound investment in our community's future, our financial resilience, and the well-being of generations to come.

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

What steps have you taken, and what steps will you take as a councillor, to ensure that our communities maintain a strong connection to nature?

My connection to nature has shaped much of my life and community involvement. I previously served as Chair of the Lower Coquitlam River Nature Association (LCRNA), formerly known as the Colony Farm Park Association, for over a decade and now serve as a Nature Ambassador for the LCRNA at ʔéxətəm Regional Park. Through this work, I have helped create opportunities for people to learn about local ecosystems and understand the importance of conservation. I now work closely with the kʷikwəʔəm First Nation stewardship group to educate the public about the importance of protecting local species, including the endangered Oregon Forestsnail.

I have also volunteered with environmental initiatives, helped establish a pesticide bylaw, and participated in litter cleanups, including organizing a self-motivated fishing-line cleanup at Lafarge Lake each spring. I have coordinated numerous free community programs, including Birding for Beginners, Guided Bird Walks, Hunter Moon Festival, Stories Under the Stars, and Art in the Park.

Most recently, I received a grant from the Regional Parks Foundation to bring seniors to ʔéxətəm Regional Park for a picnic and an opportunity to connect with nature. Programs like this are especially important in addressing social isolation, improving mental well-being, and helping people build meaningful connections with the natural world.

As a councillor, I will continue to advocate for accessible green spaces, nature-based education, and free or affordable community programs that bring people closer to nature. I will continue to seek grants and work with community organizations, local First Nations, and regional partners to create opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy and learn from our parks and natural areas.

#### **4. Climate action and resilience**

Climate change is already affecting our community through extreme heat, flooding, drought, erosion, and other impacts. I believe we need to be proactive rather than waiting for disasters to happen and then paying the much higher cost of responding to them. My three priorities would be:

##### **1. Protect and expand our natural infrastructure.**

I will support a strong tree retention and protection policy and a proper citywide tree canopy target. Our natural assets are climate infrastructure. Trees provide shade, absorb rainwater, reduce stormwater runoff, help prevent erosion, store carbon, and provide important wildlife habitat. Before removing a healthy mature tree for development, we should first be asking how we can design around it and retain it. Protecting what we already have is often much less expensive than trying to replace those natural services with engineered infrastructure after the fact.

##### **2. Make climate resilience a requirement in development and infrastructure planning.**

We need to stop approving growth without fully considering the climate and infrastructure impacts that come with it. I will advocate for climate-risk assessments to be part of major development and infrastructure decisions, particularly in areas vulnerable to flooding, erosion, landslides, drought, and extreme heat. We need to invest in stormwater management, drainage, green infrastructure, and resilient public infrastructure before problems become disasters. We should also establish long-term financial planning for climate risks so taxpayers are not left carrying the full cost of preventable damage.

##### **3. Invest in sustainable transportation.**

Transportation is a major source of greenhouse-gas emissions, and we need to make it easier for people to choose alternatives to driving. I will support reliable and accessible public transit, safe and connected walking and cycling routes, and infrastructure that makes active transportation a realistic option for people of all ages and abilities. New developments should be planned around transit and connected to schools, shops, services, parks, and community amenities so people do not have to get in a car for every daily need. We need to accommodate infrastructure that accommodates the growing use of e-bikes and e-scooters safely. This means designing routes and intersections with these forms of transportation in mind, while also making sure pedestrians and people with mobility challenges are protected. Sustainable transportation can reduce emissions while also making our communities more affordable, accessible, and connected.

## **THORLEIFSON, Rosalinda**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

I know we test discharge from construction sites for turbidity and pH, but I don't think that tells the full story. It doesn't capture what's actually in the chemical treatments used to clean that water before it's released, like flocculants, or how those residues affect fish and wildlife downstream. I'd want to push for testing that covers that gap, not just clarity and pH.

### **2. Protecting our natural assets**

Provincial legislation has pushed density into a lot of areas that didn't see it before. I want to look at whether our development permit protections still hold up under that pressure, and I'd rather have that conversation with groups like yours than guess at it myself.

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

Growing up here, easy access to nature was just part of daily life, and I want to make sure that stays true as the city grows. As a councillor, that means protecting access to trails and green space, and advocating for environmental education, whether that's through the school board or programs the city runs directly, so kids grow up with the same connection I did. It also means building a culture where people respect these spaces, not just visit them.

### **4. Climate action and resilience**

Three things I'd support: continued flood mitigation funding, including dike upgrades and the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy work already underway; sustained wildfire mitigation for the Burke Mountain interface areas, including expanded planting of fire-resistant species like aspen in our highest-risk zones; and a proper management plan for Pinecone Burke Provincial Park, which I'd push for given how much of Coquitlam's wildfire risk sits right along that boundary.

I'm still learning a lot of this in depth, and I'd rather say that plainly than fake expertise. I'd welcome sitting down with TCEA and your member groups, both before and after the election.

## **TOWNER, Teri**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

I fully support initiatives and actions that keep pollution and harmful substances out of our streams. This type of protection requires a combination of public education, good development practices, monitoring and enforcement.

I support continuing Coquitlam's strong approach to erosion and sediment control, stormwater management and water-quality monitoring, particularly around construction and development sites. We also need to continue responding quickly and enforcing the bylaws when spills or pollutants enter the drainage system. I am aware of a recent spill that originated from a strata complex where a roof maintenance worker spilled roof sealant and did not take appropriate containment measures or report it appropriately. The city's Public Works team became aware of the spill and flushed the area with clean, dechlorinated water which improved the local creek water quality. The incident was also reported to the

Province and enforcement and cost recovery will be pursued. This matter may have been preventable if companies trained their employees. Many people don't realize that what enters a storm drain can flow directly into a local waterway. I support continuing practical education and community programs that help citizens understand their role in protecting our waterways.

As Coquitlam grows, I will continue to support evidence-based watershed planning that protects fish habitat while accommodating the needs of a growing community. And on a very practical level, I'll continue picking up litter, including a lot of cigarette butts, before the toxins have a chance to make its way into our storm drains and streams.

### **2. Protecting our natural assets**

Coquitlam is fortunate to have significant forests, streams, wetlands and wildlife habitat, and protecting these natural assets needs to remain an important consideration as our city grows.

I support using the tools we already have - including the streamside protection enhancement areas – limiting development, removal of native vegetation and soil disturbances with these areas. Also, as outlined in the Environmental Sustainability Plan, important natural areas must be identified and protected as early as possible in the planning and development process.

Coquitlam is a growing community, with provincially-mandated housing targets, and needs housing, infrastructure and amenities. I believe the goal should be thoughtful planning that accommodates growth while protecting significant natural areas, maintaining connections

between habitats and looking for opportunities to restore or enhance natural areas where possible.

I will continue to support practical, science-based decisions that balance environmental protection with the needs of a growing city. And although this isn't development-related, on a very practical level, as a member of the Burke Mountain Naturalists, I'll continue

volunteering at invasive plant removal events (such as Himalayan blackberry and yellow flag iris) so they don't threaten native vegetation, nesting opportunities etc.

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

One of Coquitlam's greatest strengths is how easy it is to connect with nature, even as we grow and become more urban. During my time on Council, I have consistently supported investments in parks, trails, greenways and natural areas, as well as improvements that

make these spaces more accessible and enjoyable for residents. As a volunteer and engaged Coquitlam resident, I have also promoted and personally participated in tree planting, invasive-species removal, shoreline and litter cleanups, nature walks, tree tours on səmiqʷəʔelə (Suh-MEE-kwuh-EL-uh)/Riverview lands and other community stewardship

activities.

Going forward, I will continue to support expanding and connecting our trail and greenway network, protecting access to natural areas as neighbourhoods grow, and creating parks and public spaces that incorporate nature rather than simply built amenities. As a member of the Metro Vancouver Regional District, I was pleased to support the purchase of four private properties to expand Minnekhada Park by 62.5 hectares – increasing the park by 25%.

I also support opportunities that get people directly involved in caring for our environment. There is something very valuable about planting a tree, pulling invasive plants, walking a local trail or helping clean up a stream or shoreline - particularly when we can introduce children and young people to those experiences. I just returned from a resource fair

at a local high school and one of the exhibits there was the City of Coquitlam's Park Spark program. This program provides meaningful opportunities for residents to connect with parks and I fully support these initiatives. The more opportunities people have to experience our natural environment, the more likely they are to value and protect it.

### **4. Climate action and resilience**

I believe municipalities should focus on practical climate actions within our jurisdiction that protect residents, infrastructure and taxpayers. I was pleased to bring forward and successfully have an anti-idling bylaw established, approved and implemented in Coquitlam.

Three areas I will continue to support are:

1. **Climate-resilient infrastructure:** Continue supporting incorporating climate resilience into the design, maintenance and replacement of civic facilities and other infrastructure to better prepare for flooding, extreme heat, drought and severe weather. This includes continuing to expand our urban forest with diverse, climate-resilient trees that provide shade, help manage stormwater and withstand changing conditions.
2. **More transportation choices:** Continue advocating for improved transit including more bus connections to Skytrain – especially in underserved neighbourhoods. I also will continue to advocate for more car share options so it's easier for families to eliminate a vehicle. We also need to incorporate increased walking and cycling connections within our city, continue expanding cycling infrastructure and continue installing EV charging infrastructure. All these initiatives give residents practical alternatives that can reduce both emissions and congestion – as well as help address household affordability.
3. **Energy-efficient buildings and City operations:** Continue improving the energy efficiency of civic buildings and our City fleet, while supporting practical opportunities for residents and businesses to reduce energy use and emissions. Recent examples of energy-efficient buildings and low-carbon facilities include the Place Maillardville Community Centre and the Mundy Park pool. I supported advancing the zero carbon step code ahead of the provincial requirements but it did not pass the Council vote. Coquitlam developed a Climate Adaptation Strategic Plan in 2020 and a Climate Action Plan in 2026. My priority is to ensure these plans are implemented responsibly and results are measured and monitored. I will also encourage pursuing senior-government funding wherever possible rather than shifting unnecessary costs onto Coquitlam property taxpayers.

## **TRAN, Lili**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

I will improve stormwater management so oil, road salt, pesticides, sediment, and other contaminants are filtered before reaching creeks; protect and restore riparian areas with native vegetation; and ensure construction sites follow strict erosion and sediment-control rules. I will

also support regular water-quality testing, public reporting, and quick action when pollution is detected.

I will also work with residents, stewardship groups, First Nations, and other governments to restore damaged stream habitat and educate the public about actions that help salmon, such as reducing pesticide use, properly disposing of chemicals, and keeping litter and pet waste out of drains.

## **2. Protecting our natural assets**

I will make forests, streams, wetlands, and wildlife habitat a priority in every development decision. This means strengthening environmental setbacks, preserving connected green spaces, restoring sensitive ecosystems, and requiring development to avoid, minimize, and fully mitigate environmental impacts.

## **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

Spending time in our local parks, forests, and along our streams has shown me how important these places are to our quality of life. I have supported and participated in community efforts that help neighbours experience, understand, and care for nature through stewardship, environmental education, and the protection of green spaces.

If elected councillor, I will bring that same commitment to city planning by protecting and connecting parks, forests, streams, and wildlife corridors, expanding the urban tree canopy, and ensuring that growth includes accessible green space and safe walking and cycling connections.

I want every resident—especially children, seniors, and people of all abilities—to be able to enjoy nature close to home. I will listen to and work alongside First Nations, schools, residents, and local stewardship organizations to restore habitat and support nature-based learning, community gardens, and volunteer programs. I will also push for clear targets and public reporting so residents can see that these commitments produce lasting results.

## **4. Climate action and resilience**

**(i) Build resilient, low-carbon infrastructure:** I will accelerate drainage upgrades and natural flood protection along local creeks and ravines, strengthen climate-resilient development

standards, and advance Coquitlam's target of planting 5,000–7,000 trees annually and maintaining 50% canopy cover.

**(ii) Create a dedicated climate-resilience fund:** I will combine development charges, senior-government grants, and appropriate polluter-pays fees to fund drainage and slope-stability projects, creek monitoring, neighbourhood cooling, emergency readiness, and resilience upgrades for residents and stratas—with annual public reporting.

**(iii) Cut emissions from transportation and buildings:** Because transportation produces half of Coquitlam's community emissions, I will pursue the City's target of 50% of trips by transit, walking, and micromobility; build safe links to all four SkyTrain stations; expand public EV charging; and support energy retrofits and stronger low-carbon building standards

## **WARREN, HARRY**

### **1. Protecting salmon-bearing streams**

Recognizing the importance of salmon to British Columbia, what will you do to reduce or prevent pollution in our local salmon-bearing streams?

'Enforcement is a key plank of preventing and reducing pollution. Signs can be posted at hot spots where this occurs to inform where to dispose of pollutants. Moveable Trail cameras could also be used to identify individuals that doing the polluting, regularly being checked by city staff.'

### **2. Protecting our natural assets**

How will you protect our natural assets including forests, streams, wetlands, wildlife habitat and other ecosystems in the face of development pressure?

The city of Coquitlam has broad features that protect wild areas via setbacks and environmental regulations in new developments. I do support these processes and if they need enhancements in certain areas, I will support that.

### **3. Connecting our communities with nature**

What steps have you taken, and what steps will you take as a councillor, to ensure that our communities maintain a strong connection to nature?

Being a past director of the Como Watershed Group from many years ago, I'm well aware of the steps needed to maintain environmental stewardship. I'm a big fan of Coquitlam's Bad Seed program and I have participated with invasive removal of plants with the city as a volunteer.

#### **4. Climate action and resilience**

What **three policies** will you support or introduce to proactively prevent and pay for climate-related disasters while also reducing greenhouse-gas emissions?

This is an important part of what the city has been doing, as the city moves to improve infrastructure to match more severe weather events. It's a slow process, but it is part of every infrastructure improvement that the city does. The city has built buildings and new fleet cars to reduce greenhouse emissions in the past decade.