

Party Platform Research

New Westminster Progressive Party

48 Page Party Platform on their website. They discuss renter issues under their “Growing Responsibly” section.

Pg.16 under “Growing Responsibly”

Plan at a glance - Renters

“Protecting renters and increasing housing affordability”

Pg.18 Under “Growing Responsibly”

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

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

Pg. 37 Under “Age Well New West”

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

“Encourage more seniors' housing and rental options close to healthcare services, shopping, parks and public transit.”

Community First New Westminster

Party Platform is on their website in 5 different subjects. Their platform discusses renters issues under it's "Where we live and work" section then more specifically under the subheader "More Than Housing - It's Home"

Under “Where We Live and Work” “More Than Housing - It's Home”

“A one-size-fits-all approach to housing will not deliver the outcomes our community deserves. We must ensure that people have access to a diverse range of housing options across the housing spectrum to meet their changing needs.”

Actions:

- Establish a rental office to address tenant safety and security concerns in partnership with tenants rights organizations.
- Continue to work with senior levels of government to ensure ongoing investment into subsidized, affordable and transitional housing.
- Explore ways to improve fire safety in older wood-framed multifamily buildings through tools such as retrofit supports and incentive programs.
- Ban no-pet clauses in new purpose-built rental buildings, ensuring that pet owners have more housing options.
- Support the installation of community EV charging stations in all multifamily buildings.

Under “Where We Live and Work” “More Than Housing - It's Home”

- Work with the Province and non-profit providers to secure the necessary shelter and supportive housing spaces.
- Explore the creation of a Municipal Housing Authority to more deeply support affordability across the housing spectrum.
- Support a range of housing options for middle-income earners including co-operatives, community land trusts and near-market housing.
- Prioritize the protection of rental housing stock through the expanded use of rental tenure zoning.

Under “Your City Hall” “Community Care and Safety”

Actions:

- Complete the hiring of 3 new bylaw staff.

Mayoral Candidate Research

Our researchers did extensive research into these candidates and the candidates running for council. Shared in this presentation is just a couple basic facts and any relevant tidbits. We have a document with much more information on each candidate.

Daniel Fontaine New West Progressives (NWP)

Incumbent Councillor first elected in 2022

Principal of MICHIFCO Consulting

Political science degree from the University of Manitoba

Daniel says “If elected mayor, he will champion responsible spending, safer and cleaner streets, stronger core services, infrastructure repair, and a more open city hall.”

Speaks a lot about the “taxpayer” and “taxpayer priorities”

See Voting Record Research for more info

Patrick Johnstone Community First New West (CFNW)

Incumbent Mayor elected in 2022.

Served two terms as councillor from 2014-2022

Bachelor of Science in Physical Geography from SFU

Masters in Earth Science from SFU

Patrick says he wants to get housing built quickly as one avenue for addressing the housing crisis while “making sure that people aren’t displaced in the process, as well as protecting vulnerable renters and the affordable housing that already exists”

See Voting Record Research for more info

Councillor Candidate Research

Jaimie McEvoy - CFNW

Incumbent Councillor first elected 2008 and has served for 5 Terms

Jaimie is currently the Director of the Hospitality Project at the New Westminster Food Bank, Shiloh-Sixth Avenue United Church

“Jaimie’s work on Council has consistently focused on housing, accessibility, and community well-being. Drawing on his background in heritage preservation, he has been a strong advocate for protecting existing rental housing, including pushing for renoviction and demolition bylaws to protect tenants. He also supports requiring below-market housing in new developments as part of a more balanced approach to growth.”

See voting record research for more info

Tasha Henderson - CFNW

Incumbent Councillor first elected in 2022

Masters in Planning degree

“On Council, Tasha has prioritized decisions that protect renters from renovictions and extreme heat, expand affordable housing, increase childcare spaces, and improve road safety around schools.”

“Throughout her career, she has worked alongside communities tackling poverty, affordable housing, and civic engagement. Her approach is grounded in looking at the bigger picture and addressing the root causes of issues, rather than relying on quick fixes. She also teaches policy and legislation at Douglas College, where she encourages more people to get involved in civic life.”

See voting record research for more info

Dalia Al-Hussaini - CFNW

Senior Facilitator at Building Resilient Neighbourhoods

Bachelor's degree, Mass Communication/Media Studies from SFU.

Master's Degree, City/Urban, Community and Regional Planning from UBC.

“Dalia is a renter, and professional facilitator focused on building networks of support between neighbours, so people feel connected and able to rely on each other when it matters. As a mother, she understands the stress of trying to make ends meet when childcare is either impossible to find or costs more than an entire paycheck. It’s the reason so much of her work in municipal research and public engagement has focused on affordable housing, childcare, and making communities more inclusive.”

Peter Jorgensen - CFNW

Went to Capilano University and The American Musical and Dramatic Academy

Adjunct Professor of Theatre Techniques at UBC and Producer

Co-Owner of Origins Chocolate Bars

“Peter knows that one of the biggest concerns for business owners is safe and clean streets. To that end, he supports expanding supportive housing for people without homes, alongside increasing affordable housing options across the city.”

Bereket Kebede - CFNW

MBA from Royal Roads University, a BA from the University of British Columbia, and an MA from Simon Fraser University

GM of Fraser Valley Regional Transit System

“Bereket is a transit advocate and community builder who loves to bring people together. A Queensborough local, he’s known for his efforts to inspire more civic engagement among youth, particularly in African diaspora communities. Bereket loves New West for its active engagement and continuous growth while still leading the way.”

Kane Tse - CFNW

Bachelor of Science - BS, Computer Science and a BS, Biochemistry from the University of Calgary

Assistant Bioinformatics Coordinator at BC Cancer

“Kane Tse is an advocate, healthcare worker, and president of the Queensborough Residents Association. He is particularly focused on making sure Queensborough residents are represented at the council table. He wants to strengthen connections between neighbourhoods, improve transportation and public safety, and encourage more people to take part in civic life.”

Paul Minhas - NWP

Incumbent Councillor first elected in 2022

Operator of Begbie's Pub

“Paul believes council should understand how its decisions affect residents, employers, storefronts and neighbourhood life. His priorities include accountable spending, stronger service delivery, safer communities, support for local businesses, and a stronger voice for residents and taxpayers at city hall.”

See voting record research for more info

Ken Armstrong - NWP

LL.B., Law from the University of Alberta and a B.A., Political Science from UBC

Associate Counsel at Icon Law Group

“Ken is focused on responsible growth, improved infrastructure planning, safer and more livable streets, and stronger respect for neighbourhood voices. He understands that decisions made at city hall have real impacts on families, commuters, taxpayers, and growing communities like Queensborough.”

Karima Budhwani - NWP

Master's degree in environmental studies from York University and a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School

Life, Leadership, and Mental Fitness Coach at Sage Minds

“Karima is focused on better listening, clearer communication, affordability, safer streets, stronger core services, and more transparent decision-making. She believes city hall should respect taxpayers and work harder to rebuild public trust through practical, resident-centred leadership.”

Rick Folka - NWP

Chartered Professional Accountant

Priority: “stronger financial oversight”

Believes his education as a chartered accountant gives him “technical experience in understanding how finances should work”

- Homeowner; Ran and lost in 2022
- Controller at Kopernik Lodge (Polish old folks home)
- Director of Finance at St Michael's Centre, Chief Financial Officer at Morgex Insurance, Chair at St Mary's hospital (2004)
- Does not think 30% property tax increase over 4 years needed to be so high**

Maryann Morrison - NWP

Governance Program at the University of Saskatchewan and UBC Sauder School of Business, Mini MBA, Business Administration and Management

Executive Director of North Fraser Métis Association

“Maryann believes local government should be practical, transparent, accountable, and responsive to the people it serves. Her priorities include supporting local businesses and economic development, building a safer and more vibrant downtown, strengthening arts, culture and heritage, supporting community organizations, and ensuring residents are consulted before decisions are made that affect their neighbourhoods.”

Ray Porcellato - NWP

Director of Analytics at Colorado Mammoth NLL

“Ray Porcellato brings lifelong New Westminster roots, deep civic pride, and hands-on community leadership through his role as president and general manager of the New Westminster Salmonbellies. In that role, he has helped carry forward one of the city’s most iconic sporting traditions while supporting the teamwork, volunteer spirit, and community connection that make local sport such an important part of New Westminster life.”

Geoff Homel - Independant

Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology from SFU

President of Antiquus Archaeological Consultants Ltd

“I'm running as an independent candidate. I don't wish to see New Westminster politics dissolve into the partisan theatre that seems to be encouraged by our federal voting system; we are all New West residents and all Canadians! I support the development of parks and greenspace, city accessibility for both commuters and locals, and programs to support small, unique, and weird businesses.”