



2022

Campbell River Local Election



Candidate Profiles

CANDIDATE PROFILES

To assist voters in finding information about the Campbell River municipal candidates in the 2022 municipal election, the City has produced an online Candidate Profile Guide.

All candidates were given the opportunity to submit a brief candidate profile and photograph, to let voters know about themselves and their platforms.

The views and opinions expressed in the profile statements are those of the candidates, and do not reflect the position of the City of Campbell River.

The profiles have not been edited in any way and have been listed alphabetically.

LOCAL ELECTION

On Election Day, October 15, the citizens of Campbell River will elect one (1) candidate for the position of Mayor and six (6) candidates for the positions of Councillor.

ADVANCE VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

- Wednesday, October 5 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Community Centre, 401 – 11th Avenue
- Wednesday, October 12 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Community Centre, 401 – 11th Avenue

Advance polls are available to anyone who is eligible to vote.

GENERAL VOTING DAY

Saturday, October 15th from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Campbell River Community Centre, 401 – 11th Avenue and Southgate Middle School, 740 Holm Road

Council Candidate: Ken Blackburn

Ken Blackburn has lived and worked in Campbell River for the past 18 years. He is currently the Executive Director of the Campbell River Arts Council and Program Manager for the Museum at Campbell River.

Ken is passionate about Campbell River. He believes that this is an important time for change in our community. New voices are needed to create an economy of positive growth, one based on both our natural geography and our rich culture. Campbell River is poised to be a progressive city of destination for the world.

Leadership needs to be dynamic, engaged and trusted. A leader needs to understand the essential relationship between the private sector and the not-for-profit sector within a community. Both contribute equally to a local quality-of-life and are dependent on each other for economic success.

Ken Blackburn has sat on numerous City committees over the years. He has created over 800 community programs.



[Website](#)

Mayoral Candidate: Micheal Calhoun

The will of the people should be ones driving force.

Council Candidate: Doug Chapman

Fiscally Conservative, Socially Progressive: Our political representatives are responsible for ensuring that the future residents of our city are looked after. A major part of this is dual-vision; looking at the reality and needs of the present, while simultaneously considering the impact of our decisions 10, 20, 30 years into the future. Making sound financial and operational decisions that help to create the future we want to see for ourselves, and coming generations, is our primary responsibility as leaders. Unhoused people and those battling addiction need our support. We need to take action to provide that support, which in addition to being the right and humane step to take, helps to improve the safety and economic stability of our community. Tax increases need to be kept to a minimum and, at the same time, appropriate residential development needs to be encouraged by the City of Campbell River.



Mayoral Candidate: Charlie Cornfield

My name is Councillor Charles Cornfield but I prefer just Charlie.

In 1991 my family decided to put our roots down and make Campbell River our home.

My formal education and work experiences are in forestry, natural resources, recreation, tourism and Senior environmental management.

I have served for 17 years as Councillor and 3 years as your Mayor. I bring a tremendous amount of experience and knowledge to the role of Mayor.

I value a city that incorporates the ocean, rivers, streams, parks, and green spaces connecting our neighbourhoods.

I will balance economic, social and environmental issues while moving the community to a bright and promising future.

I am proud of Council's accomplishments and the role I have played.

Rich, poor, young or old, you have a voice with Charlie. I will represent the whole Community. I'm approachable, accountable and I care.

I want to be your Mayor - AGAIN!



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Mayoral Candidate: Kermit Dahl

After 37 years in Campbell River & 4 years as a city councilor I'm ready to step up and campaign for the mayors seat. I am running for the mayors seat with a vision for our city that will include:

1. Preserving what we value as a community
2. Being open to new ideas and hearing what residents and business owners of the city have to say
3. Reviewing all major proposals openly with a focus on what is best for families and businesses that want to live and work where they were brought up

Campbell River is at a crossroad, the city will need strong leadership from mayor & council to navigate the serious issues in front of us, our homeless & lawlessness in our downtown core, housing attainability & availability, and our never ending appetite to raise taxes are 3 key areas the next council will need to focus on.

I'm committed to bringing a vision for the future of our city that will be welcoming & inclusive – a partnership that involves young & old

Kermit Dahl



[Website](#)

Council Candidate: Mike Davies

Mike Davies is a custom furniture maker and woodworker, painter, sculptor, photographer, musician and YouTube entertainer. When he's not helping create art education programming for The Crow's Nest Artist Collective, he's out in his workshop, playing with his son or creating delicious meals for his family and friends in his kitchen or on his barbecue.

After graduating as part of the first ever grad class of Timberline Secondary in 1998, Mike went off to explore his passions and find himself through education and lived experience before returning to Campbell River to cover the community as a journalist and set down his young family's roots here. After covering the city for the Campbell River Mirror for the better part of a decade, he's now turned his attention to making his community a better place through creating and supporting arts and culture initiatives and building partnerships between the business and non-profit sectors.



Council Candidate: Gwen Donaldson

I live in Willow Point with my husband, Paul Dowler, and two elementary-aged kids. I have a master's degree in public administration from UVic, and I have spent about a decade working in the commercial and sport fishing industries. I believe that good governance, sound policies, optimism, and cooperation should form the foundation of our city hall.

I own a small business, Jellyfish Group, where I have worked on a number of community-based projects, including: the Community Action Team, Recreation and Culture events, Hama?elas Community Kitchen, food security, dementia awareness, GoByBike Week, and CR Live Streets. I volunteer with Special Olympics and have been involved in Campbell River's early childhood programs. I am proud to live, work, and raise our kids in Campbell River.

I will support a Campbell River that is:

- economically resilient and efficient.
- safe, socially innovative, and responsive to diverse needs.
- is transparent, respectful, and collaborative.



[Website](#)
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Council Candidate: Colleen Evans

I've served as City Councilor for 8 years. I've proven my ability to get things done with a respected leadership style that values collaboration and consensus building. I'm dedicated to finding solutions on the issues that matter most to you and your family. It's important to me that decisions around safety and crime reduction, affordable housing, social concerns are made with community input across all sectors.

Public role:

- Co-Chair BC Social Procurement
- Trustee Vancouver Island Library Board
- Director Strathcona Regional District
- Director Strathcona Gardens Commission
- SRD Liaison Community Health Network

I care deeply about my community having volunteered on the Boards of:

- Community Foundation,
- Museum
- Tidemark Theatre
- Founder of 100 Women Who Care Campbell River and a
- Director Children's Health Foundation, Qwalayu House.

I'm committed to serving the citizens of Campbell River and excited about our positive future. I respectfully ask for your vote.

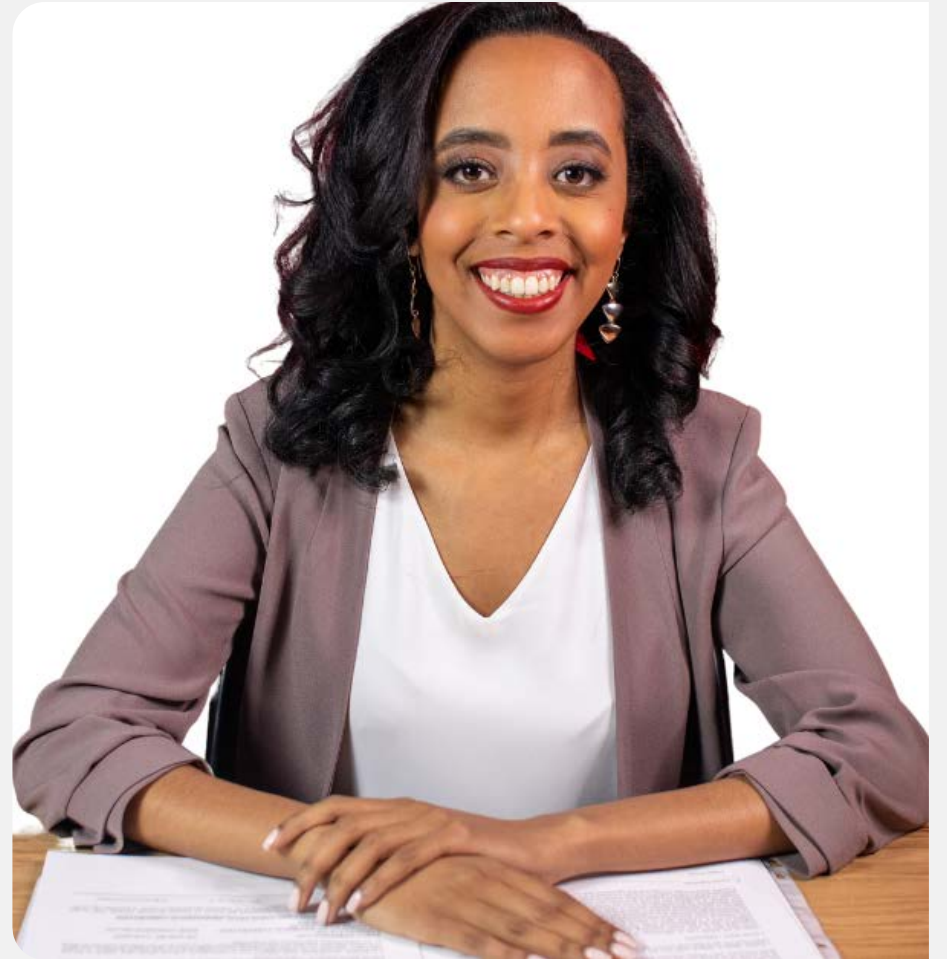


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Mayoral Candidate: Saron Gebresellassi

Saron Gebresellassi is an award-winning Trial Lawyer, Private Prosecutor and Business Owner. Originally from Ontario, Saron was known in its press galleries for being highly organized and always at ease. Saron was hired by a client to come to Campbell River to win a court case and found the Salmon Capital to be equal parts enchanting and majestic. Saron Gebresellassi is experienced in major crisis management, running negotiations with the Premier's team and the Prime Minister's Office.

Saron Gebresellassi will declare Campbell River open for business on the first day in the Mayor's Office and usher in recovery from the catastrophic events of the last 2 years. Saron's priority is to address the homelessness crisis before it's too late. In her spare time, Saron enjoys playing piano, connecting with family and fishing. She is fluent in 7 languages including one that can be spoken under water. For platform visit saron.nationbuilder.com/donate.



[Website](#)

Council Candidate: Tanille Johnston

I was born and raised in this beautiful city. I completed my Masters in Social Work at UVic and returned home with my husband and two senior dogs to raise our daughter here. I work as Manager of Primary Care for the Vancouver Island Region of First Nations Health Authority. Being Liq^witda^xw from the WeWaiKai First Nation, I would be the first Indigenous City Councillor for Campbell River, which is long overdue.

I'm passionate about cycling, soccer, volleyball, culture, creativity and equity. I believe in giving back, showing up, and lifelong learning.

Thriving communities are built on collaboration, ingenuity, determination, and healthy relationships amongst business, leadership, and community members and groups.

My priorities are the implementation of a transportation plan that provides options for how we move through our city; increasing the availability of affordable housing and childcare spaces; and equitable infrastructure investments that enable our whole community to thrive.



Council Candidate: Ron Kerr

City Councillor RON KERR is running for re-election.

Ron believes, “We can’t create prosperity while being independent from each other. With our many volunteers, groups and committees, we can accomplish an enormous amount. Together we make Campbell River an attractive and safe community. I would like to continue the work of keeping all of us involved. I believe working together with respect and integrity, we can achieve all our goals while making Campbell River a place we are proud to call home.”

Some of the positions Ron Kerr has been appointed to over his last three terms on Council.

- Director of Strathcona Regional District for 11 years
- Director of Comox-Strathcona Regional Hospital Board and Waste Management Board for 11 years
- Public Safety Committee and Community Action Team
- Community Health Network’s, Table of Partners
- Executive Board of Vancouver Island Regional Library for 8 years
- Commissioner on the Strathcona Gardens Commission



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Council Candidate: Ben Lanyon

Priorities: a safe and beautiful downtown, a more growth-oriented approach, improved housing affordability, and minimal property taxes. I want a mandate to push Campbell River up to its full potential and remain positioned to stay there (top ten livable cities in BC).

Background: Two amazing high-school aged kids, business-owner downtown, seventeen-year resident of Campbell River, Chartered Professional Accountant, and I have served on many boards over the years.

Hope to see you on Oct 15th!

Thank you,

Ben



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Council Candidate: Sandra Milligan

Sandra Milligan lives the motto "Vision to Action". Milligan has developed a deep portfolio of leadership experience over 20 years in town. She has served on multiple Boards, developing and realizing collective vision. Milligan has literally built community assets; from the Aquarium, to Greenways Land Trust, advocating for bike lanes, and public involvement in Beaver Lodge. "I appreciate the strong volunteerism in town." Milligan has shown similar commitment to raising her three children and her full-time work as a university educator.

Now more than ever we need leaders like Milligan, with an optimistic vision for our future, the dedication, and proven ability to realize that vision. Current challenges like ensuring housing for all can be solved; Milligan's has the skills to see the necessary steps. She uses her community connections, builds collaborative, respectful teams, and does the hard work to help Campbell River develop its assets and overcome its challenges.



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Council Candidate: Sue Moen

Sue Moen has been in love with Campbell River for 12 years. Her immediate priorities are housing, reconciliation, climate change and our local economy. Her values of equity, diversity and inclusion will ensure decisions are considered and fair.

Sue has been a banker, a small business owner and a farm labourer. She has worked in retail, education, arts and culture, tourism and in the non-profit sector in food security and housing. She is the co-manager of the Farmers Market and an active member of the Canada Day Committee.

Moen knows we must change how we do business, how we interact with our natural and built environments and how we move through community. She believes in using local expertise and experience to responsibly re-localize many parts of our economy.

Sue wants to be a bold and decisive voice in City Hall to connect community and tackle the multiple crises we face.



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Council Candidate: Claire Moglove

I have 10 years Council experience and over 30 years as a lawyer, retiring in 2014. I operated my own law practice as a sole proprietor. I have lived in Campbell River for over 30 years and I am passionate about its potential and future. My past/present community involvement includes being a Board member for the CR Community Foundation, the Willow Point Seniors Housing Society, the CR and District Museum, volunteering at the Hama?elas Community Kitchen, and coordinating all of the volunteers for the Relay for Life and Terry Fox Run.

Provincially, I have served on the Boards of both Vancouver Island University and Vancouver Island Health Authority.

If re-elected to council, my priorities will be housing, public safety, protecting our natural surroundings and promoting a modern, progressive community.

In my spare time I love kayaking, reading, cycling, gardening, running, hiking, bridge and travelling to new and interesting places.



Mayoral Candidate: Larry Samson

I am running for the position of Mayor of Campbell River in upcoming municipal election.

I was born and raised in Campbell River; I served this community for 34 years in the Fire Service retiring with the rank of Fire Chief. Throughout my years I have volunteered in many different organizations as well as serving on City Council for 7 years. These life experiences has prepared me to seek the position of Mayor for the City of Campbell River.

We are facing some difficult decisions in the upcoming years; public safety including the deterioration of our downtown and the crisis of our most vulnerable citizens, a City budget that is not balanced even though taxes increased by over 3% this year, threats to our health care system and protection of our natural resources.

People ask why I am running for Mayor “it’s because I strongly believe I can make difference”.



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Council Candidate: Susan Sinnott

I grew up in Campbell River, raised a family, and established my law practise here. I want to give back to the community that has given me so much and I've done it by volunteering with CRTV, Head Injury Society, Museum, City Airport Commission, and the Community Foundation. Now I want to bring my skills to city council.

I want what you want. A safe community, a place our kids can afford to live in with jobs that allow them to raise a family.

I want an effective city council that is transparent. My priorities include delivering excellent core services, fostering growth and development; and making housing more affordable, controlling property taxes, creating more legal suites, and partnering with first nations.

I am passionate about delivering the best service to Campbell River and if elected, will work to the best of my ability to fulfill my promises to you.

Susan L. Sinnott

Barrister & Solicitor

B.Sc.(Hons), MBA, LL.B



Council Candidate: Sean Smyth

Sean Smyth has years of experience in various leadership roles. His 23 years working in every aviation industry sector, from helicopter logging support to airlines, has forced Sean to be a swift learner. He excels at public speaking and thinking on his feet. Sean was elected to the city council in the by-election of 2021.

Sean has resided in Campbell River for 14 years, working for numerous local and national companies. He was a member of the Campbell River Airport Authority for eight years, developing a working relationship with the city council and staff while learning the mechanics of municipal governance.

Sean, his wife and two young children are an active family. They enjoy organized sports, mountain biking and skiing. Sean's parents recently moved to Campbell River to be closer to family and enjoy the high quality of life the city offers. Despite honest efforts, Sean remains a terrible fisherman.



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Council Candidate: Ferris Stirling

Hello Campbell River! I have been fortunate enough to have always called Campbell River my home. Having been born and raised here, I 've been lucky to have made so many friends, clients, teammates, and coworkers over the years. From working at the sawmill, to banking, to helping small businesses, there is no place I would rather be. During this time, Campbell River has more than doubled in size and with that struggles have grown to the point where the city needs to re-focus on making Campbell River healthy and safe for everyone. Campbell River needs a candidate who stands up to Island Health and BC Housing to let them know they must do better for Campbell River, while also lending support to citizens, employees, and businesses. Want a dedicated Campbell Riverite on your side? Please consider me on October 15th and let's put Campbell River First!



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Contact Info

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