



Co-ops on the municipal ballot: who's talking about us...?

There are only two days left in the campaign to elect mayors and councils in municipalities across British Columbia. We're always curious to know who is planning to put housing co-ops front and centre in their affordable housing strategy...if they have one.

CHF BC has just completed a quick check of the platforms and positions issued by candidates for mayor and council across the province.

Here's a summary of what we found. Top marks went to those who mentioned housing co-ops explicitly in their platforms; silver medals to those who mentioned affordable housing as a priority. Our apologies to anyone we missed.

We think it's worth knowing who our supporters are as we prepare to vote on November 15. But whatever your views, above all get out and vote. You can make a difference in your community for the next three years, so be sure to make your voice count.

Co-op Housing Champions!

In Vancouver:

[Vision Vancouver](#) will prioritize [co-op housing](#) by:

- Leveraging City-owned land to build new co-ops in partnership with the sector, and
- Championing the protection of co-op housing that have expiring leases

Vision Vancouver also has an aggressive plan to promote the creation of more affordable homes with an emphasis on family housing.

[One City](#) will enable and support successful affordable housing models, including co-ops.

[Green Party of Vancouver](#) will support housing co-ops by:

- Resolving land lease extensions for False Creek co-ops
- Facilitating loans for co-op renovations through the City's new Affordable Housing Agency
- Lobby senior governments for a national housing strategy including funds to build, renovate and maintain affordable housing, including co-ops

The Green Party also has an ambitious plan to protect renters, maintain existing affordable housing and encourage the development of new affordable housing.

In Surrey:

Surrey First will work with the Surrey City Development Corporation to create partnerships with business and developers to create co-op housing and a Land Trust for affordable homes.

Affordable Housing Advocates

The following candidates or campaigns have expressed a commitment to affordable housing as part of their election platforms.

Vancouver

NPA, COPE and the Vancouver Cedar Party have all published extensive platforms detailing their approach to the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Vancouver, but none mentioned housing co-ops explicitly.

Richmond

Richmond First Voters Society (Councillor Bill McNulty)

New Westminster

Incumbent Mayor Wayne Wright chair's Metro Vancouver's Housing Committee.

Mayoral candidate Jonathan Cote calls for the use of the City's housing reserve fund to leverage the development of an affordable housing project in New Westminster.

Port Moody

Incumbent Mayor Mike Clay promotes a diversity of housing and living options in Port Moody.

Port Coquitlam

Incumbent Mayor Greg Moore supports an affordable housing policy.

North Vancouver (City)

Incumbent Mayor Darrell Mussatto has published an affordable housing policy online.

Mayoral Candidate Kerry Morris has also addressed the need for affordable housing in his campaign material.

Maple Ridge

Mayoral Candidates Ernie Daykin, Mike Morden and Nicole Read have all published positions on affordable housing.

Victoria

Mayoral candidates Dean Fortin (incumbent) and Lisa Helps have both expressed their commitment to an affordable housing policy online.