



North Shore Young Citizens' Forum

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Cohort Participants

Fall 2020

Akshi Rivesha Parahag

she/her/hers



I have lived in 3 different countries, and many different cities throughout my lifetime. I have called the North Shore home for the past 5 years – and it has been one of my favourite places to live in. I am hoping to find work in meaningful projects in the future.

Alicia Ying

she/her/hers



I'm in my third year at UBC, majoring in English and minoring in Law and Society. I'm very passionate about social justice and seeking equity for marginalized groups, and because of this, I hope to pursue a career in human rights law or criminal law.

Andrea Davidson

she/her/hers



Andrea Davidson is a librarian, educator and non-practising lawyer who has worked in many different library settings (academic, special and public libraries) and has extensive experience building trust-based relationships with patrons and students, colleagues, stakeholders, and community partners. She is also passionate about trivia, audiobooks, hiking and eating all the baked goods her partner makes.

She is an uninvited, white colonial settler, a member of a multi-cultural family and a person with disabilities who works, lives and learns on the traditional, ancestral, and occupied territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, including those of the x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́lílwətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. The intergenerational trauma experienced by Indigenous peoples in Canada is ongoing: it's the result of colonial, genocidal policies such as the Indian Act which are still in place to this day. Violence against Indigenous lands and waters is violence against Indigenous bodies and communities. Every Canadian is responsible for taking action to bring the Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action into reality

Christina Cassidy

she/her/hers



I am a local North Shore girl who loves getting out into nature and spending time with friends and family. I married my husband last year in our backyard and we are now expecting our first child.

Christina Radvak

she/her/hers



I am a green building consultant, designer and outdoor enthusiast. I love learning new things and finding new challenges for myself. I have a multicultural background, 2 passports (maybe three one day) and have lived in 3 different countries.

Becca Birkner

she/her/hers



I'm a long-time North Shore resident now raising my family in Central Lonsdale with my husband. My interests are wide-ranging, but my passions are engaging in care for the Earth as well as improving the systems where politics intersects with environmental care and health care. I am a Registered Nurse and have spent my nursing career at VGH - most recently in the Emergency department - before moving to a health-focused tech startup earlier this year.

Christopher Girodat

he/him/his



I'm a "good governance" nerd (which I know doesn't sound very cool, but I'm into it), which means that I love working with boards, committees, and other meeting and decision structures to help make organizations more effective. I love supporting students and young people in achieving their goals for making change to public policy to make the world more accessible to young people.

Darren Wong

he/him/his



I am a high school teacher at Carson Graham Secondary teaching Social Studies and Physical Education. I'm also a coach for the wrestling community and I love exploring all that the North Shore has to offer.

Erika Finlay

she/her/hers



I am very grateful to live on the side of Mt. Seymour in Deep Cove with my two young boys and husband. I've worked at a digital marketing tech company called Unbounce for the past five years leading equality initiatives and employee engagement and internal comms in both Vancouver and Berlin. I recently completed an MA in Professional Communications & Culture at Royal Roads University.

Emily Kelsall

they/them/theirs



For my entire life, I've lived as a settler on Musqueam, Tsleil-waututh and Squamish land. I'm a storyteller, comedian and activist who is excited to be alive at this moment in history. To change the world with words is one of my dreams, I'm a huge fan of humour, absurdity, and really tight rhyme schemes.

Emma Cunningham

she/her/hers



I am someone who likes to have fun, and enjoys working/connecting with people. I have a lot of energy and get excited about doing new things.

Gem Johnson

she/her/hers



I am a religious freedom advocate with a strong penchant for witchy activities! I strongly believe in religious equality and equity across the board, and want to help others achieve that.

Ismail Askin

he/him/his



I am currently a university student studying political science and philosophy. I come from a mixed Mexican and Turkish background and my experiences growing up in different countries have shaped me deeply. Alongside school I also currently work a full-time job in a managerial position at a tourist resort.

Meghan Mathieson

she/her/hers



I have lived in Lower Lonsdale for more than a decade and love the close-knit walkable neighbourhood, especially when exploring parks with my two kids. I am driven by curiosity and seek to understand how things - especially complex systems - work. In my spare time, I am building community as a member of the Driftwood Cohousing development. Currently, I am enjoying the engagement and connections with my city and my neighbours the North Shore Young Citizens' Forum is providing.

Louis Wong

he/him/his



I am a recent BA Geography graduate from SFU and I've been living in the DNV my whole life. I am very interested in urban planning and hope to one day work in the planning field!

Mariah Dutnall

she/her/hers



I was born and raised on the North Shore and love everything it has to offer. In the winter months you can find on the local mountains, and in summer months I am often escaping the hustle and bustle of Vancouver and am hiking and camping or surfing in Tofino.

Savin Narwal

she/her/hers



I am 19 years old and am currently living in West Van and attending University remotely. I study English Literature at King's College London, allowing me to follow my passion of reading and writing. I'm very creative and love activities that allow me to use my creativity like art, baking, cooking and writing. I have lived in West Van most of my life and love the magnificent nature and exploring outdoors with my dog, Melo.

Michael Corey

he/him/his



I'm a lifelong North Vancouver resident who also works on the North Shore in the marine industry. Outside of work, I enjoy all things our community has to offer, including the great local restaurants (take-out only at the moment) and our proximity to nature that gives us all sorts of terrific outdoor activity opportunities.

Ethan Walker

he/him/his



I am from and live in the City of North Vancouver and enjoy exploring my city, as well as the greater Vancouver Area. I am a second-year student at Capilano University and I am willing to learn new things and enjoy doing so. I also like to problem-solving issues (especially those that are civic related).

Raashi Ahluwalia

she/her/hers



My name is Raashi Ahluwalia and I have over 7 years of top-tier legal counsel experience, ranging from serving as an in-house counsel for the South-East Asia operations of a Fortune 500 media company to managing contracted service document flow in the British Columbia Public Service.

I take pride in being warm-hearted, service-minded and solution-oriented while representing culturally diverse clients in evolving legal, technological, industry and community landscapes. I enjoy using dialogue, education, negotiation, advocacy and law and policy for promoting vibrant democratic societies and well-governed business organizations through growth and accountability.

My partner and my spiritual mentor inspire me to become a better version of myself each day. Most of my non-work hours are spent admiring nature while walking, practicing yoga, reading autobiographies/ biographies of world leaders propagating the message of peace, and chanting Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo.

Teodora Zlatanova-Geroeva

she/her/hers



I am a mom of a 5-year-old girl. I am curious about people and cultures, passionate about languages, technology and psychology, and an advocate of the importance of achieving work-life balance. I moved from Bulgaria to Canada in Oct. 2019 and am a Canadian permanent resident.

Mark McLaren

he/him/his



I'm a lifelong North Vancouver resident who also works on the North Shore in the marine industry. Outside of work, I enjoy all things our community has to offer, including the great local restaurants (take-out only at the moment) and our proximity to nature that gives us all sorts of terrific outdoor activity opportunities.

Tyler Norman

he/him/his



I'm Tyler, I am currently the Executive Director to the Member of Parliament for Burnaby North-Seymour. Originally from Victoria, I moved to Vancouver in 2012 and, aside from living in Scotland for 6 months, have called the Lower Mainland home ever since. I am passionate about public service, and whether or not it's through my job, my volunteer activities, or in my personal life, I am drawn to work that improves communities and the people within them.