



North Shore
Young Civic
Forum



North Shore
Community
Resources

CONNECT • EMPOWER • PARTICIPATE



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NORTH SHORE YOUNG CIVIC FORUM

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Participants



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RAKASHDEEP KAINTH

CO-FACILITATOR

Rakash, a current Master's student at UBC, majoring in Public Policy and Global Affairs and specializing in Governance and Social Policy. Rakash brings a multidisciplinary perspective with a background in Public Administration and Sociology from Punjabi University, India. As a key figure at the Strengthening Democracy Foundation,

Rakash contributes significantly to research and facilitation. Noteworthy achievements include assisting in the development of policy communication courses at UBC Extended Learning and serving as a Policy Researcher at the National Scheduled Castes Alliance in India. Rakash's dedication extends to community projects, exemplified by his Capstone Project at UBC with the Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation, showcasing a commitment to collaborative endeavors. Rakash's ultimate goal is to make meaningful contributions in both private and public domains.

HASSAN MERALI

CO-FACILITATOR

Hassan Merali is a communications and engagement professional who is passionate about civic engagement and democratic participation. Hassan is also a longtime post-secondary education advocate, where he has advocated for better access to education, sexualized and gender-based violence prevention, and equity, diversity, decolonization, and inclusion.

Hassan graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Interdisciplinary Studies from Capilano University, where his research focused on the intersection of digital technology and public discourse. Through roles on various boards and councils, including the Capilano University Board of Governors, Capilano Students' Union, North Shore Young Civic Forum, and North Vancouver Constituency Youth Council, Hassan has witnessed the impactful role young people can play in shaping their community. Based on the unceded lands of the Coast Salish Peoples, he is dedicated to increasing accessibility to public institutions, ensuring everyone's voice is heard in decisions that shape their future.



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Facilitators



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CHRISTINA RADVAK

ALUMNI FACILITATOR

Christina is a Mexican-Canadian settler based in what is known as North Vancouver. They love to climb, ski, trail run and camp. Christina is an entrepreneur and artist who creates new programming and art centered sustainability, inclusivity and community.

They are also a Fundraising Director at the L.A. Foundation where they create partnerships within the outdoor industry to help fund programming and operations. They have also been a climbing and skiing mentor with Mountain Mentors for more than four years.



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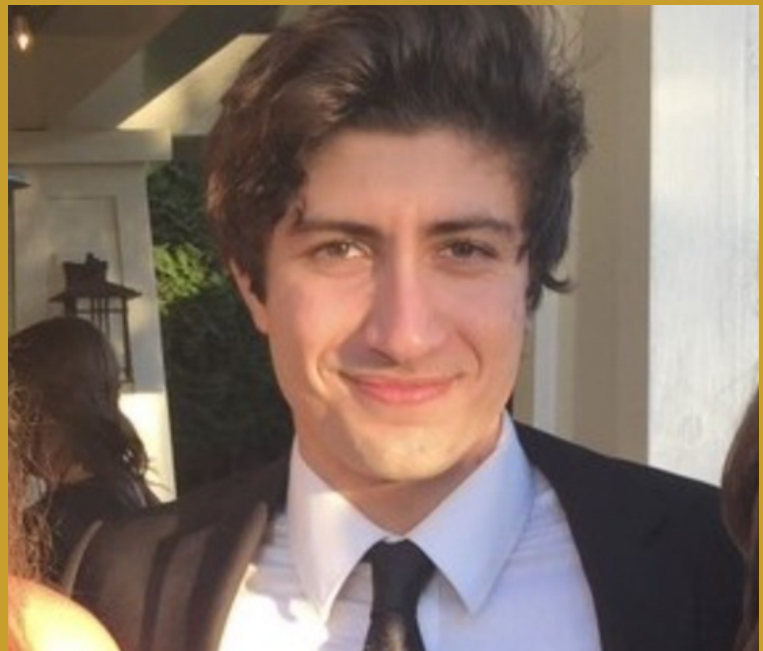
ADAM CHRUSCICKI

I was born in Poland, moved to Canada when I was 17 years old and for the past two year have been calling North Vancouver home. I am an Internal Medicine physician at the Lions Gate Hospital, and run the North Shore Lipid Clinic. I love running, skiing, and hiking in the forest with my dog. Excited to be a part of the program.



ALAN HENDI

I am a 24 year old aspiring lawyer currently working as an account manager at a travel and tech company. I am passionate about community engagement and am excited to be a part of this forum.



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ALI TELISCHIAZAR



ANDREA BLENDL

Andrea has called North Vancouver home for over two decades. Born in Mexico City, her family moved to Vancouver when she was young before eventually settling in North Vancouver. She graduated from SFU with a degree in Communication and then worked in the marketing and communications departments of some of the most recognized brands in B.C. including CBC, CTV, 103.5 Move, 94.5 Virgin Radio, TSN Radio and Vancouver Whitecaps FC.

Six years ago she co-founded a small food manufacturing business in North Vancouver, Solecito, that hand-makes authentic Mexican-style salsas, tortillas, enchiladas and burritos, as well as wholesale products for restaurants. When she's not running her business, she enjoys spending time with her husband, two young girls and their family dog, as well as baking, cooking, doing yoga, hiking and reading.



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BRADY CARPENTER

Brady grew up on the North Shore playing all sports, especially rugby and football/ Brady still resides in Lynn valley with his family, where he has a financial planning practice. Brady enjoys training for marathons all over North Van.

CAMILLE MANTILLA CORREA

As a settler on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Tsleil-waututh, and Squamish Nations, I acknowledge with gratitude that it is a privilege to learn, work, and grow on this land. Having resided in the North Shore since my family immigrated from Mexico in 2007, I have come to call this community home. I like to channel my passion for community engagement into my volunteer work with local pride organizations and at the offices of local MLAs.

When not studying or working, you can usually find me hiking, cafe hopping, exploring the local music scene or trying out new creative endeavours like pottery. I am excited to collaborate with other Forum members and hope to draw from our diverse backgrounds to foster meaningful conversations and drive initiatives for the betterment of our community.



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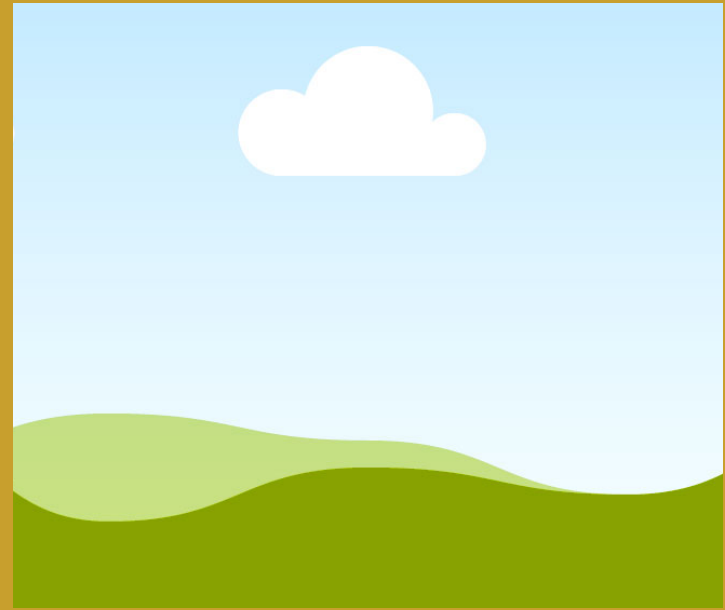
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CHRISTINA MINTENKO

BC born, well travelled, new to Vancouver, currently working in sales and marketing at a private seniors residence. Passionate about making a positive impact, specially interested in clean accessible water and women's empowerment. Entrepreneur and artist at heart. National award winner of chocolate flavour - up and coming premium chocolate business.



CHRISTINE FRIESEN

As a software engineer by trade with a Masters in Cybersecurity I currently work to protect user data in the new world of artificial intelligence. I am a firm privacy advocate and also believe open data can invigorate civic involvement. Historically I've run facilitation workshops and leadership seminars for special interest groups such as women in engineering and student representatives as well as coordinated and run logistics for multiple interdisciplinary academic conferences. I'm a Canadian recently returned to Canada after many years abroad and I hope to bring perspectives and solutions from those foreign municipalities for the benefit of the North Shore.



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DANIELLE DENIS

N/A



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EDWARD BOOKER

Relatively recent immigrant to North Vancouver from the UK. I have lived in a few places in the lower mainland as well as Ottawa. I would love to work towards making the North shore an even better community for culture, sport and nature.



ERIN BEHNCKE

Originally from the interior of BC, I moved to the Lower Mainland to complete my Bachelor of International Economics at UBC. After graduation, I started with BDC where I had the opportunity to work with the North Van & Sea-to-Sky team. Our team is fully focused on supporting locally owned businesses.

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JJ ENG

Listener. Visual storyteller. Problem solver. My name is JJ and I am a 3rd year communication design student at Capilano University's IDEA program. I captivate, communicate and challenge the status quo with humility, empathy and compassion. I am interested in sustainable community-minded experiences that entice people to it, together. I love a small gesture that leaves a grand impression - that will always delight me and push me to be even more curious and observant. Lastly, my contributions are meaningless without the talents of people around me so I am excited to learn from this caring group, also leveraging their skills for social good.



JONO DANIELI

Jono Danieli has been operating within the corporate marketing and development industry for the past 10 years, focusing primarily on natural resource exploration and critical minerals, he works for a myriad of clients as a corporate consultant. He was born, raised and currently lives in North Vancouver, BC with his wife Severin, their son Rafael and their dog Roma.



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JULIA BLINSKI

My name is Julia, and I am a public servant dedicated to strategic health and social policy. Having lived most of my life on the North Shore and raised in an immigrant family, I have a strong interest and passion for community and social issues. While working for the BC Government and pursuing a graduate degree, I spent a few years in Victoria. However, the North Shore holds a special place in my heart, and I am happy to be back living and engaging with its vibrant community. Some of my other areas of interest include housing, transportation, and politics. Outside of work, I enjoy watching movies and Drag Race, crocheting, and spending time with my terrier-poodle mix Charlie.



KEVIN DICKIE

Born on the Sunshine Coast and raised in North Vancouver, I have a deep appreciation for the majestic West Coast. I believe that a shared sense of community is what makes a place liveable, desirable, and comfortable. When we share our knowledge, skills, resources, artistic flairs, dedication, histories, and whatever else we offer, we foster this sense. I have had a variety of jobs throughout my career, but all of them have been centered around serving the different places I've called home. Once an ESL teacher and now working at Lions Gate Hospital I am an advocate for a strong labour force. I don't know exactly what's in store, but I'm excited to be a part of this project with other like-minded folks. Let's do this!



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LUKE SAVILLE

I am a new resident of North Vancouver as of May 2023, alongside my wife, two dogs and our son who was born in November 2023. Originally I am from Southern Alberta, where I grew up and went to school. I have a B.Sc. in Biochemistry and a Ph.D. in Biomolecular Sciences. I enjoy kayaking and fishing in the area, and playing video games and cooking at home.



MEGHAN BONNICI

Born and raised on the picturesque North Shore, I've always found inspiration in its breathtaking landscapes and vibrant communities. It's here that I've not only lived but also pursued my education, immersing myself in the unique environment. I am an experienced professional with a passion for leadership, HR, and real estate, I've dedicated my career to making a difference in both the corporate world and local communities.

My journey into leadership and human resources has been marked by a commitment to fostering inclusive workplaces and empowering individuals to reach their full potential. In the realm of real estate, I hope to leverage my expertise to guide clients through the intricacies of buying, selling, and investing, ensuring they make informed decisions that align with their goals and aspirations. Beyond my career, I find fulfillment in giving back to my community, whether through volunteering, mentorship, or advocating for causes close to my heart. As a mother of two, I feel, it's important to leave the community better for the next generation. I believe in the power of collaboration and continuous learning to drive positive change and create lasting impact. As I continue to navigate life's journey, I remain grateful for the opportunities and experiences that have shaped me into the person I am today and proud member of the North Shore community.

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MITCH STOOKEY

I'm 38, cisgender male settler who was born in the US and emigrated to Canada as a kid. I have been married 12 years, have two kids (8 and 4) and I work in Animation.

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NATALIA IZZO MANZANO

I am a Brazilian immigrant who came to Canada in 2010. I did my undergrad in Urban Planning at Concordia University in Montreal. I moved to Vancouver in 2016 and since then I have been working for a nonprofit affordable housing provider as a real estate project manager. I have been living in North Vancouver since 2017. I lived in grouse woods, Blueridge and now in lower Lonsdale with my partner and my 18 month old baby. I love mountain biking and that is why I moved to this side of the bridge.



NICK TOREN

A broadcaster by trade, I've worked in many different ways of media. I have my own YouTube channel and co-host 2 podcasts. I play every sport under the sun and love being active.





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PAOLA BLENDL

Paola grew up in North Vancouver. She has a Bachelor of Commerce from UBC and spent four years working in Management Consulting in Toronto and Calgary. For the last nine years, Paola has been working at the Clinton Health Access Initiative, helping Ministries of Health across 26 countries in Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Central America with their strategic planning and financing for malaria elimination activities. In her spare time, Paola enjoys outdoor activities with her 2 year old daughter, husband, and dog (paddle boarding, hiking, mountain sports, etc.), cooking, and playing the NYT suite of word games.



I am passionate about contributing to the wellbeing of people and planet, both now and into the future. This passion has been at the heart of my professional and academic experiences - in working and recreating in the outdoors, completing my master's in Resource and Environmental Management, and now in my job as a Community Consultant. I love making food, playing and listening to music, running around with my dog, learning new things, and listening to others' stories. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to explore all of this and more on the unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwətaʔt (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, who have actively stewarded this land since time immemorial.



**ROSEMARY
LANGFORD**

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RYKER ZILKEY

I am a young professional having lived here in North Vancouver the vast majority of my life. I grew up here on the North Shore and then moved to Victoria for post secondary education at UVic, ultimately returning back to North Vancouver to live and work as an Engineer at Seaspan. At Seaspan, I am the Mechanical Engineering Discipline Lead for the Royal Canadian Navy's Joint Support Ship that we are building here in North Vancouver. My hobbies include exploring our backyard here on the North Shore through hiking, trail running and cycling around the Lower Mainland.



SASHA MCGRENERA

Meet Sasha McGrenera, a dedicated community advocate rooted on the North Shore. With a background in working with young children and vulnerable populations, Sasha passionately creates inclusive spaces while championing environmental stewardship. Sasha, with her friendly demeanor, positions herself as an ally for all. Her strategic approach to community building not only fosters a supportive environment but also contributes to the well-being of our planet. Committed to learning and enhancing communal bonds, Sasha is on a mission to build neighborhoods that truly feel like home for everyone.



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SOHAIL KOSHKOYE DELSHAD

I'm a student at Capilano University in the general arts program. I hope to transfer to Simon Fraser University next year, where I plan to pursue a bachelor's in political science with a minor in public policy. I'm Iranian-Canadian and was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I moved to British Columbia in 2014 and have lived on the North Shore ever since. I'd like to gain knowledge and experience regarding the processes of local legislation as well as different aspects of government. Through attending the youth civic forum, I hope to learn while also bringing about positive change in my community.



STEPHEN BEARD

I'm a qualified accountant with 10 years of experience, including several Director level roles. I consider myself both an environmentalist and an advocate for democratic reform. When I first moved to Canada I took a career break, and I was awarded a small grant by a research organization to write a report evaluating the effectiveness of the Canadian Government's published 2030 emissions reduction plan. I spent three months researching and assessing all aspects proposed in the plan, and as a result I have a very strong understanding of current Canadian environmental policy. I also set up and organised an educational MeetUp group for studying and discussing alternative democratic structures, and I consider democratic reform in Canada as an essential pre-requisite to environmental reform. In my spare time I primarily relax through sports, and I'm a qualified tennis coach, soccer coach and outdoor rock-climbing instructor.

