

Thanks for providing YES Vancouver with a copy of the Hot Pink Paper.

We would offer you the following comments on some of the topics mentioned therein.

YES Vancouver stands for equality for all, regardless of any intersectional labeling.



We do not believe in quotas, we believe in merit. 80% of our Council candidates are women. 5 of 8 candidates are ethnic minorities, and ¼ are LGBT. Our Party President is a woman with physical disability. We didn't seek these numbers, we sought the best. Quotas are demoralizing to the talent readily available, we saw affirmative action fail in dramatic fashion. YES Vancouver believes that where we lack strong skills/leadership, implementing programming/infrastructure to nurture/build those resources is key so that achievements are genuine. If the selection possesses bias, there are provisions to remove subjectivity from those processes which should be implemented in larger systems decision-making. Political Inclusivity in decision-making is inherently key to develop/determine the most well-rounded, comprehensive government action plan.

Indigenous Women and Girls

Indigenous Women and Girls are among the most overlooked populations in our community. Some voices are rising, welcomed, however we must enable all to access similar opportunities and fill what gaps are overlooked/lack capacity in current systems that may be excluding the development and growth of indigenous women and girls. We must reflect on and plan for all areas of municipal responsibilities such as safety, transport, and education that currently are not in consideration of the best interests of the indigenous communities. We must also strive to include those voices affected at every measure in order to fully appreciate the complexities of the municipalities oversight. YES Vancouver aims to listen and consult rather than dictate assumptions. More diverse voices help shape policies that can positively impact the quality of choice and life for us all. Roundtables, town halls, and other consultative practices will be implemented so that municipal access is expanded to include all residents.

Affordable Housing

The 49 page YES Vancouver Housing Plan [<https://yesvancouver.ca/letsfixhousing-action-plan/>] aims to provide homes for all bodies. By alleviating stressors which prevent Vancouverites from accessing safe, suitable, and affordable housing in a multi-layered policy, we determine that we can readily and steadily house the homeless, keep seniors close to their communities of

support, ensure access to community supports, build the middle class, and raise levels of social protections for all.

Child Care

Strong communities and strong economies are built with strong families. Investing in readily available quality child care for all is in everyone's best interests. YES Vancouver will direct a portion of the Community Amenity Contributions generated by the Let's Fix Housing Action Plan [<https://yesvancouver.ca/letsfixhousing-action-plan/>] towards providing subsidized child care spaces. We will provide incentives towards building child care spaces by providing Floor Space Ratio (FSR) bonuses. Larger entities understand the value of such investments into their communities, as it provides a healthier, more readily available, productive, and enthusiastic labour force which increases productivity and output within their systems. And quality child care ensures a solid future labour force and builds future leaders in generations to come.

Electoral Reform

We believe those elected to serve the residents of Vancouver, should accurately reflect the views of the people of Vancouver. However as a matter requiring provincial legislation, these issues are better addressed by senior levels of government.

Ending Violence Against Women

Vancouver needs to become a safer city for everyone. We are supporters of the Hot Pink Paper's recommendation that the city organizes an anti-violence campaign coordinated by the Mayor's office and all anti-violence organizations. Further to that, the YES Party President, Kerry Gibson, Women Planet 50/50 Champion, has been promoting the UN Women Safe Cities Platform within Vancouver City Hall, with the support of Councillor Bremner. Vancouver has agreed to sign on to this program, albeit with a weak commitment. We will continue to advocate for full implementation. Collaboration with the VPD, relevant NGOs, experienced stakeholders, and City Departments such as Transportation, Engineering, Entertainment, and Education to achieve a Safe City for all residents and visitors in all corners is an immediate priority. Safe Cities is also a byproduct of YES Vancouver's Housing Plan.

Environment, Climate Change and Resilience

Access to healthy, accessible, and reliable sources of water/air/green space has been a general priority for Vancouver City Hall through the Greenest City Action Plan. However, emergency planning and protocols are deficient, misdirected, and underfunded leaving women and children at risk without comprehensive training and guidance. With the perceived/apparent increases in natural disasters, we must reinvigorate our efforts to prepare for contested urban environments. YES Vancouver would petition CUE18

<https://www.canada.ca/en/defence-research-development/services/science-technology/army/cue-18/background-cue-18.html> a collaboration of the 5 allies (Australia, NZ, UK, US, and Canada) which is currently running experimental emergency trial operations in major cities (currently Montreal) to determine pitfalls and failpoints of our local emergency systems here in Vancouver at the earliest opportunity. We do not have the capacity nor knowledge at the local level so YES would create and implement dedicated collaborative efforts with all stakeholders and global experts to audit present emergency protocols, design enhancements, and implement updated plans and procedures with city-wide seminars, neighbourhood trainings, and scheduled drills integrating all emergency systems in preparation of possible disasters either man-made or otherwise. The designing of these plans will have a disciplined focus on the particular needs of women and children...how they perform in emergencies in order to determine efficient extraction, resources necessary for shelter and care, and other such considerations.

Transportation

We are releasing a series of detailed transportation policies. Check out www.yesvancouver.ca

Women, Work and Income

Access to housing in part enables access to rewarding educational and employment opportunities. Beyond that, the City of Vancouver must lead by example by auditing its own internal systems and structures to ensure equity for all in both administrative and political levels. Pay equity, access to equal employment opportunities, and equal treatment under generally accepted legislation must be enforced at all levels. Workplace harassment in any form will not be tolerated and whistleblower policy will be implemented to ensure safe non-consequential reporting. YES Vancouver does not intend to wait until Provincial or Federal Legislation determines the necessity to compensate all of its employees equally, it will seek to enhance its own internal policies and processes to achieve full equity, looking to forerunners Iceland, New Zealand, Quebec, Ontario, the ILO, and EPIC to provide guidance and leadership in developing such a plan of action.

Immigrants

Councillor Bremner and Party President Gibson recently met with the UNHCR regarding the promotion of their policy of Cities of Solidarity <http://www.unhcr.org/withrefugees/cities/> and are committed to following policy developed by experts in this field. President Gibson is also currently working with the private sector via Migranet, also in consultation with the UNHCR, to build the blockchain platform for global migration and settlement which will enhance governments abilities to safely and efficiently move people into communities such as ours while diminishing the black market of migration such as sex trafficking, an issue that is more prevalent in Vancouver than our public realizes.

Budgeting

In conjunction with other recommended internal auditing is the review of current municipal budgeting to ensure that there is a lens in it's annual creation and inception that addresses and incorporates full inclusion and diversity in all lines. YES Vancouver understands that to build a fully and truly inclusive and diverse Vancouver we must budget accordingly, and that we have been shown through expert research that such a focus creates happier, healthier, more socially and economically healthy communities for all residents.