



The Advocate

www.surreyteachers.org

Letter from the STA President Gioia Breda

Dear Colleague and Neighbour! Again I send you greetings from the Surrey Teachers' Association. We are reaching out to you again to encourage your full participation in the provincial election.

Our local has endorsed the NDP candidates, and has donated money to their campaigns. We've already seen what "the wild west of political campaign financing" truly means, as we have been bombarded with advertising even before the writ was dropped on April 11th. Government ads have been promising many things but what they have not promised is a fully-funded public education system. To ensure that our concerns about our students are an election issue, the STA has commissioned billboard, social media and radio ads. We hope they remind voters about what our students need. I see this time as an opportunity to shamelessly promote the cause of teachers and public education to absolutely everyone I meet or talk to. It is high time that we elect a government that shows they believe in public education.

We also hope that you have received our message encouraging teachers to vote in the early polls. Research shows that one of the main reasons people don't vote is they just get really busy. If anyone is likely to be very busy on Election Day, Tuesday 9 May, it would be teachers! Time vanishes quickly in a teacher's day! Planning to vote early would give teachers many chances before the polls close: Saturday April 29, Sunday April 30, Wednesday May 3, Thursday May 4, Friday May 5 and Saturday May 6, 8am to 8pm. You can find where to vote at <http://elections.bc.ca/2017-general-election/where-to-vote/>



Election Issue 2017

STA Full-time Table Officers

President - Gioia Breda
pres@surreyteachers.org

First Vice President - Laura Barker
1-vp@surreyteachers.org

Second Vice President - Matt Westphal
2-vp@surreyteachers.org

Health & Safety Officer -
Kristine Olsen
grv-hs@surreyteachers.org

Grievance Officer - Sue Heuman
grieve@surreyteachers.org

Grievance Officer - Joanna Cerazy
grv-spt@surreyteachers.org

Pro-D Issues Officer -
Anne McNamee
pro-d@surreyteachers.org

General Inquiries
sta@surreyteachers.org
604-594-5353

Other Executive Members:

Local Representatives to the BCTF:

Jatinder Bir
Devinder Kaila
Julia MacRae
Bhupinder Mattoo
Andy Nesdoly
Kelli O'Malley

Secretary-Treasurer: Karen Moon

Members at Large:

Helen Kelsey
Erin Coleman
Gavin Hainsworth

Teachers Teaching on Call
Representative: Nicole Jarvis

Con't on the next page

CON'T from front page

Teachers who will be voting in Surrey's nine ridings will find information about local candidates in this issue of The Advocate. Before the writ was dropped, members of the PAPR committee asked each candidate the same six questions. Interviews were done in late March/ early April so in some cases platforms had not yet been released. NDP candidates for all nine ridings responded, but only three BC Liberals and three Green party candidates responded, despite extensive efforts to reach them.

Peter Fassbender (MLA in Surrey Fleetwood and former Education minister) made a revealing comment when asked about the difficulty we were having reaching liberal candidates, saying "well, now that I know the nature of your questions I can tell them and they will contact you." So much for asking each candidate for their personal responses!

In this issue we provide a snapshot of each candidate's answers. A more detailed version of the interviews was emailed to staff reps to distribute to teachers on Thursday April 18th and will also be available on our surreyteachers.org website.

Students in Surrey will also have an opportunity to ask candidates questions during the all-candidates debates that will be held as part of StudentVote.ca. Teachers in over 60 schools in Surrey will be organizing a parallel election in their schools where students vote before the actual Election Day. We are quite excited about the high number of schools participating in Student Vote this year because voter participation is significantly higher in ridings where Student Votes are held. What is most interesting is that the results of the actual election often mirror the results of the student election. If a Student Vote is not being held at your school, why not consider organizing one? The non-partisan organization behind Student Vote provides tons of resources and support materials

Although all students will be able to vote if their school holds a Student Vote, some of our students will also be able to vote in the actual election if they have lived in B.C. for at least 6 months and are 18 years old by election day. We love the idea shared with us by a Langley teacher who organizes a "first-time-voter pizza party" and then takes the kids in a group down to the poll on voting day. He announces their entrance, and everyone in the poll cheers them in for their first time exercising their franchise. If you would like to encourage students to begin exercising their right to vote by hosting such a party, let us know and we will chip in for the pizzas.

So whether it's just making a personal plan to vote early or whether it's attending debates, or shamelessly promoting the cause of public education or even volunteering for a candidate, teachers have the opportunity to shape the outcome of this election in favour of public education.

If we don't, who will?

In solidarity

Gioia Breda President of the STA

Whose bright future?

By Lizanne Foster, teacher in Surrey.

Hyperlinks in the article can be accessed in the online version at surreyteachers.org or on HUFFPOST BC.

The B.C. Liberals want voters to believe their promise of a future so bright they've got to wear shades, but all I can think about are the **331 children who have died in government care** since Christy Clark was elected in 2013. There is certainly no bright future for them. In the 2013 election we were promised "families first" but we soon discovered that it was only the families of the very wealthy, the ones who could afford \$10,000 a plate dinners, whose concerns would be heard by the premier. Families who could **not afford daycare were not heard**. Families forced to choose between **paying rent or buying food** were ignored. Families trying to **survive on minimum wage** did not factor into the premier's concerns.



For whom is the premier promising a bright future? Certainly not the children with learning disabilities who struggled to learn in overcrowded classrooms, the casualties of 15 years of **deliberate defunding** of public education. Certainly not adults wanting to **complete their high school education** or those in post-secondary institutions who are **increasingly using food banks** to cope with high tuition fees. Perhaps the bright future is only for students in private schools that have enjoyed a **66% increase in government funding** since 2005? The newspaper wraparound election ads promise us a "strong" B.C. but on what foundation is the future of our province being built?

Conventional wisdom has it that a society's future is predicated on the strengths, skills and knowledge of the youth but if we look at the way young people in this province have been treated by the B.C. Liberals since 2001, our future has a shaky foundation.

Cracks in our future foundation are already evident with a new report revealing that we have the **worst economy in the country for young people**.

Unlike older generations who enjoyed steady employment, younger people will have to get used to a world of **precarious employment**: temporary, casual and seasonal work that make up the bulk of the jobs that the B.C. Liberals boast about.

And while they're struggling to make a living, our younger generations will have to find a way to manage the burden of all the **contractual obligations** made by the B.C. Liberals when **B.C. Hydro** and I.C.B.C. have been completely plundered in the cause of a "balanced budget".

As if that's not enough, they will also have to pay for the clean-up costs of environmental disasters, like the **\$40 000 000 for Mount Polley spill**, since one of the advantages of those **corporate donations** is the **deregulation** that allows mining companies to siphon profits from our natural resources without concern for environmental destruction. The more I think about it, a future under the B.C. Liberals is only bright if you happen to be a corporation, one of the many whose **donations made international news**.

If you can't afford the \$10 000 a plate dinners, the B.C. Liberals have little to offer you besides more of what we've been subjected to since 2001: increasing poverty, increasing housing costs, increasing **deaths while waiting for ambulances** or waiting for care in **hospital emergency rooms** and increasing deaths of children in government care.

What the B.C. Liberals offer is so bleak that accepting their promises would be like paying for "protection" from the very mob who have already destroyed everything. A decimated social safety net, a huge debt burden, and **no viable plan to mitigate climate change** portends a future that is anything but bright for B.C. under Christy Clark's leadership.

As teachers whose daily work is to guide young people in shaping their future, we cannot in good conscience vote for a government whose sixteen year track record clearly demonstrates a complete disregard for what children need in order to be the kind of citizens our province can rely upon in the future.



We interviewed candidates who responded to our request. This resulted in nine BC NDP interviews, three BC Liberals and three BC Greens. Interviews took place in the last week of March, first week of April, 2017. We asked each candidate the same six questions, and publish below, organized by electoral district, a selection of their answers. The entire transcript of the interviews is available on the sur-reyteachers.org website, should you care to view it and see the selection of answers in the context of their longer responses.

1. Did you attend public school? Can you comment on your personal experience?

*if children: Do / Did your children attend public school? Can you comment on your experience as a parent?

2. Surrey has 7000 students in portables. If your party forms government, what will you do about the chronic underfunding which has caused the chronic overcrowding of schools in Surrey?

3. BC has one of the worst child poverty rates in our country. What will you do to reduce child poverty and income inequality in BC?

4. Many school districts, including Surrey are already not able to hire enough teachers teaching on call to fill the daily absences. With our language restored, more TTOCs will find classroom positions, exacerbating this already serious problem. What might you propose to address both the TTOC and teacher shortage we are facing?

5. What changes is your party proposing for the education system and/or teachers in BC and to what degree do you support these changes?

6. If your party forms the next government, what do you think should be the government's objectives in the upcoming 2019 bargaining with the BCTF?

SURREY- FLEETWOOD

Jagrup Brar NDP candidate for Surrey- Fleetwood

I attended public school in India, and did two master's degrees, one in India and one in Manitoba.

Whatever I am is because of the public education system. I have two kids, both in public school. At the same time I must say that my daughter went to a school where she had three or four years in a portable, and I have heard stories about that, too.

On portables: It is completely unacceptable that we have 7000 kids receiving education in portables, and don't have real classrooms. I am pleased to say that John Horgan has announced that if we form government, we will move these kids into classrooms, and create spaces or build new schools, in four years.

On poverty: remember I was the MLA who did the Welfare Challenge, I first-hand have knowledge of the kind of experience and pains people go through. Particularly kids. We have had the highest child poverty in this province...that is completely unacceptable.

I would like to say it is a complete failure of the BC liberal government that they have been fighting with teachers for over 15 years.. We will work with BCTF to find solutions to attract teachers to this province.

Peter Fassbender BC Liberal Candidate for Surrey- Fleetwood

I graduated from QE Secondary. I had a great journey in my public education. It was lots of fun, I have lots of good memories. I met my current wife as a result of attending Queen Elizabeth. My children and my grandchildren attend public school. I am proud to support the public system and like every young person, they've had good days and not so good days, but that's life.

On portables and underfunding: I don't accept the characterization of the chronic underfunding or chronic overcrowding. We have the fastest growing school district in the country. We have less portables today than we had in the 90's. We continue to invest record levels of funding in Surrey, in terms of building and renovating existing facilities.

On poverty: We are working hard to keep a strong economy, create vibrant opportunities, to create good paying jobs. We have delivered on that on many fronts and will continue to do that. We believe that the best way to eliminate poverty is to give people a chance for meaningful employment and will continue to do that.

On the looming teacher shortage: We signed an agreement with the BCTF and every school district in BC. Staffing is a local problem at the school board.

I think we work well together despite some past differences. We negotiated the longest settlement in the history of the province, has given stability for teachers, for students, for school districts and communities. I am delighted at the cooperation we have with teachers to enhance our curriculum and to provide more of the learning outcomes that we know are critical for students now and in the future. I appreciate the hard work of the teams to develop the K-12 curriculum.

We should be bargaining to maintain the long term stability. When I was Education Minister, our goal at that time was to have a 10 year agreement. We didn't get 10 years, we got 6. I hope that we can negotiate a 10 year agreement in the next round and that we can continue to build on that with stability for teachers, students and the learning outcomes for young people in our province.

Tim Binnema Green Candidate for Surrey- Fleetwood

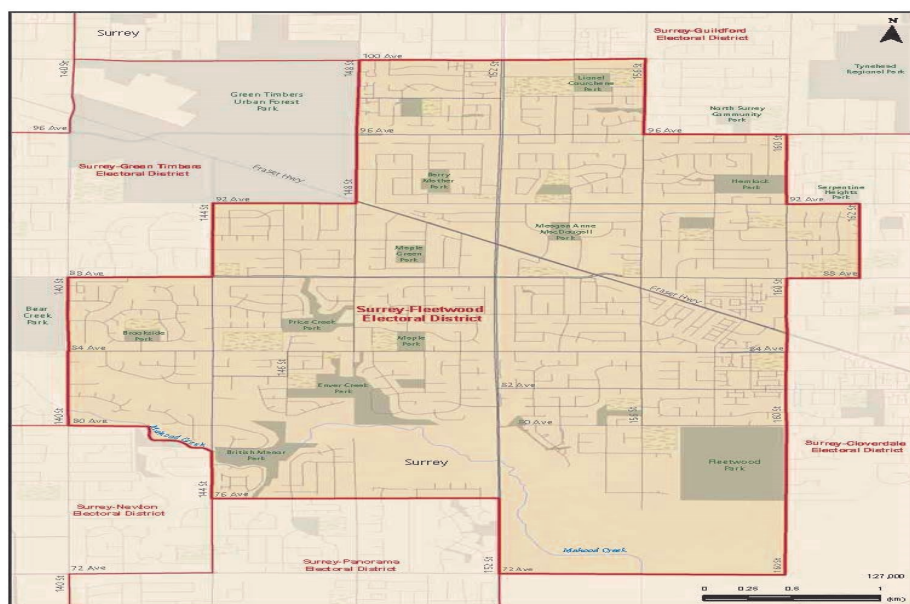
I attended public school from K-10, and Gr. 11 and 12 I went to a private Christian school.

My children are all adults now. They all attended the Surrey Christian School.

The Green Party does plan to increase funding by over \$200 million, is what we've written in our platform. I recognize in Surrey with its growth in population needs a particular way to manage and plan. There seems to be a lack of coordination. It's more reactive than proactive. I would advocate for a more proactive approach to community development.

On poverty, one of the Green Party policies is to try to bring on the guaranteed income approach. We want to at least pilot that at first.

On the looming teacher shortage, [I think] you need to have people interested in becoming teachers, so they feel that is a rewarding career, so part of the problem is the bad blood between the government and the teachers. The Green Party approach is always to act collaboratively with the stakeholders. That is one step. We are also very focused and invested in professional development. I know teachers already have an active and helpful PD regime, but we want to invest more. Anyone who seeks the career will be supported throughout their career.



SURREY PANORAMA

Jinny Sims NDP candidate for Surrey- Panorama

I went to public school in England, and if it wasn't for my school and teachers I wouldn't be where I am today. I was 10 and didn't speak English. My grandchildren are in public schools. First of all, the provincial government has not built enough schools in Surrey. The population did not grow overnight. I'm proud that John Horgan has committed during our first four year term that students will not be in portables. We need real classrooms for real kids.

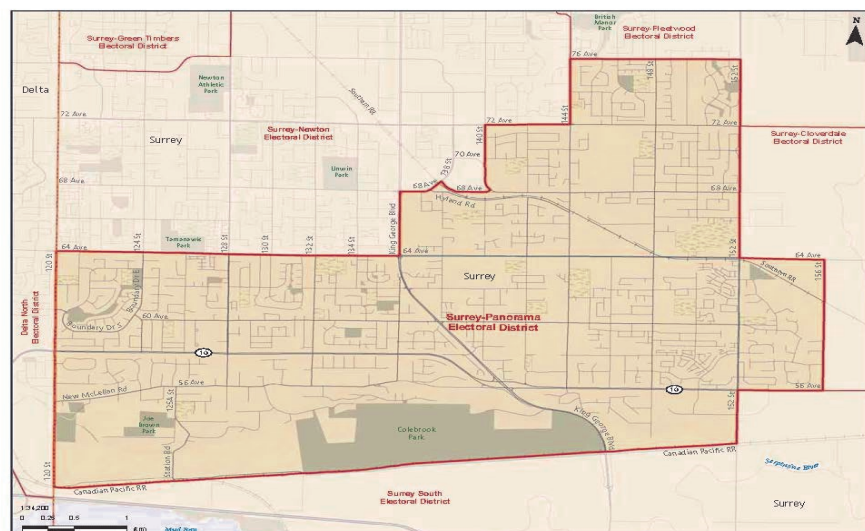
On Poverty, I feel I've been fighting this all my life. Federally as MP I pushed for a poverty reduction, because you need targets for systemic change. Provincially, we need one...It has to have targets, because without them can't know if making progress. \$10/day daycare, so parents can go to work with reliable daycare. Raising minimum wage: \$15/hour is not enough, but we have committed to it by end of term. And building affordable housing. And having decent paying jobs in BC. We seem to be shipping them out, so young people don't have those jobs to go into. We need a multi-pronged approach to lift children out of poverty.

On the looming teacher shortage: This is good news, that there is a teacher shortage in many ways. In 2002 we lost 6,000 full time teachers, many couldn't get on a TTOC list, and left the system or left the province. We've had people graduating and having to wait 5,6,7 years to get a job. We have teachers out there working in other jobs. There needs to be a campaign to bring them into the system. And look at retired teachers as a short-term solution, and we have to look at recruiting from outside. I'm an outside recruit. In 1975 there was a shortage, and I came from England. We need to sit down with post-secondary institutions to figure out how to grow enough teachers in BC. Once again you need a multifaceted approach, but also short-term solutions.

In the long term, working conditions and competitive salary will bring people into teaching. We are still not competitive and will always lose people, so that needs to be addressed.

Change is coming at teachers at a speed that is unmanageable without additional resources. I think we need to bring about systemic change that is sustainable, funded, and science-based, and involves the professionals. This is where a conversation between the BCTF and newly-elected NDP government...To bring about change, you need resources....

No other candidate in Surrey-Panorama responded to our request for an interview.



SURREY – WHITE ROCK

Niovi Patsicakis NDP candidate for Surrey - White Rock

I attended public schools, my parents were immigrants, and I did not speak English. My first languages were Greek and French. It was thanks to public school that I learned to speak English. I had extra support in those days, an ESL teacher who took me out. I went on to high school and university, By the end of the first term, we will have schools in place instead of portables. Portables are taking money out of day to day operations. Money that could be going to support, into EAs, into programs, for example the gifted programs, the French Immersion programs, resources, all that money is going to portables.

On poverty: our plan is to support moms, and make things more equal with the \$10/day daycare program, which has been very successful in Quebec. It will help moms get back to work, will enable people to spend money and boost the economy.

On the looming teacher shortage: Money that has gone to portables for years has taken the ability of school boards to hire enough teachers on call. Many specialist teachers are called when there are not enough TTOCS to work in classrooms, and special programs that are vital to helping our children succeed are left blank.

We are not a party that will dictate to teachers. For example, new education plan doesn't have enough resources (books technology training) to be successful. Government needs to work closely with the experts.

No other candidate in Surrey-White Rock responded to our request for an interview.



SURREY-WHALLEY

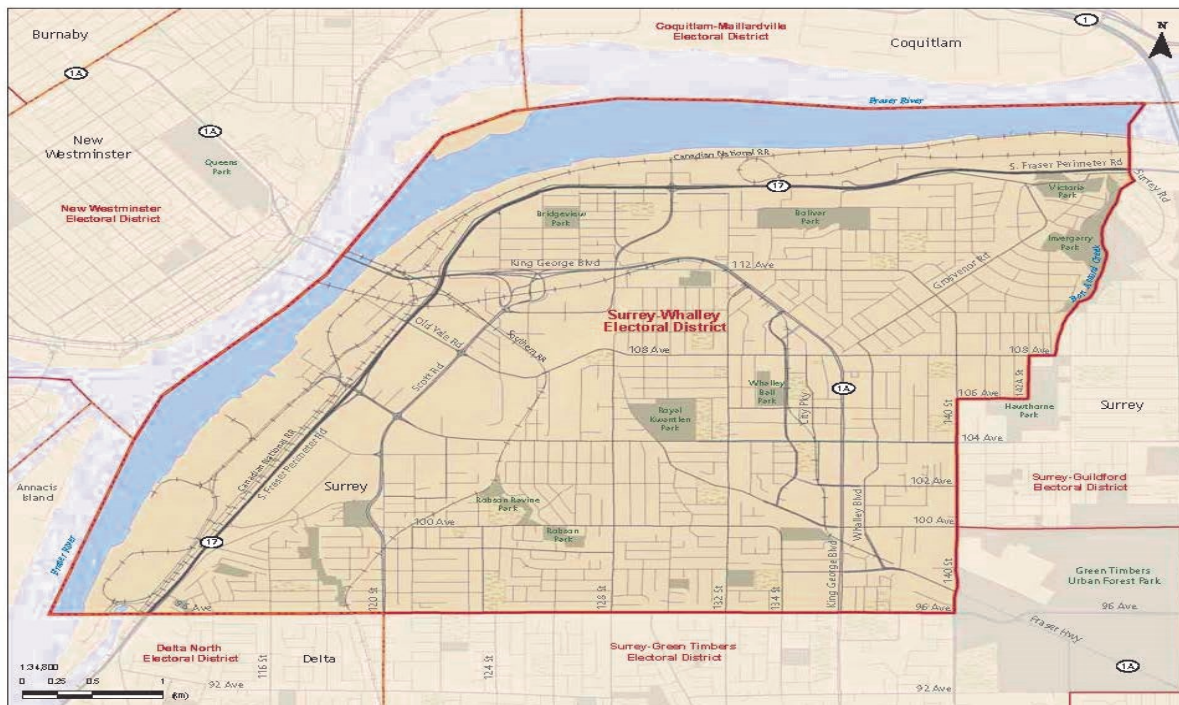
Bruce Ralston NDP Incumbent, Candidate for Surrey- Whalley

I went to public school, elementary and high school, my children went to public school. My parents are public school teachers, my sister just retired as a public school teacher in Surrey. Two kids attended James Ardiel and went to secondary in New West, my daughter went to Gabrielle Roy, then to New West. All of my kids have attended university, and my son went to Columbia in New York, so James Ardiel didn't set him back in any way.

On poverty: we have introduced a private member's bill to have a poverty reduction plan. It's not a partisan issue. The tone is set at the top. When you have a commitment, since kids live in families, whether \$10/day child care, increase in affordable housing, to raise minimum wage to \$15/hour, it's not everything, but these are substantive measures that would reduce child poverty.

On the looming teacher shortage: In some ways it's good problem to have, because the government was forced by the Supreme Court of Canada to order restoration of contract language stripped in 2002, they are forced to hire teachers. My sister worked as a TOC for 7 years before getting a permanent position. Many TOCs will welcome chance to get permanent position. In terms of dealing with shortage, faculties of education will be drawing more people, and I would think that the province may have to hire teachers from other provinces, but my preference would be to give priority to students who are training in BC or have grown up in BC. I think the key issue, which Rob Fleming has talked about, is adequate funding. We used to be first or second per capita pupil funding, and now ninth or tenth. I think specifically restoration of some of the specialist teachers would be important. They add value to the education system. If you want to have a thriving public education system...

No other candidate from Surrey-Whalley responded to our request for an interview.



SURREY-GUILDFORD

Gary Begg, NDP candidate for Surrey- Guildford

For me public school was a very good experience. I was born and raised in Ontario. Like John Horgan, I was the President of Student Council in my final years. Everything about it was positive. I loved it. I have a son and daughter both of whom were honor students. They became leaders from their athletic pursuits and because of their academic achievements. I was a policeman, so they moved around with me and they had experiences around the province. My wife was a teacher - I have a very good option about teachers!

On poverty: It's abysmal, that we in this province have a dreadful record on child poverty. If you have children living in poverty, it affects every aspect of their life. If students come to school hungry in the morning, they cannot concentrate on what you want them to learn. Our party will commit to a poverty reduction plan with documents so everyone will know what we intend to do.

On the looming teacher shortage: I think we have to be very inventive. We have to employ teachers who retired from teaching, teachers who have voluntarily withdrawn from teaching but are otherwise qualified. I think our commitment in the short run at least has to be to our students. We have to do what is necessary.

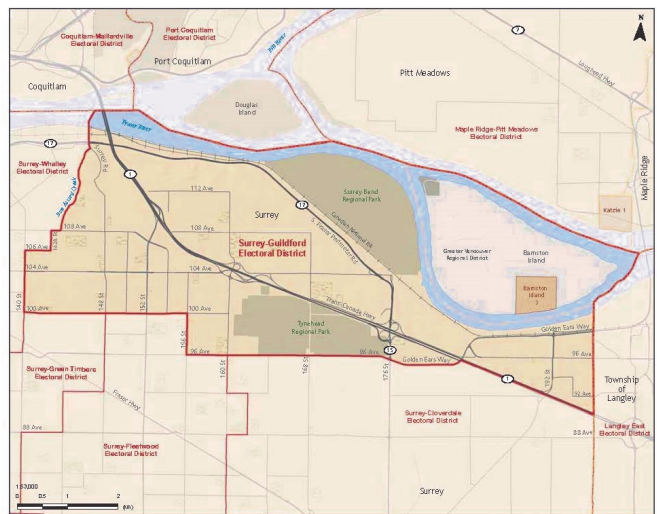
Jodi Murphy, Green Candidate for Surrey-Guildford

I attended public school. I grew up in Manitoba so graduated from high school there. I had a great experience with public school. My sister, mom, and aunt went to private school, and I was the first person to go to public school. That was mainly a financial choice of the family at the time.

For K-12, we committed to an increase of \$200 million above what the current government has committed in funding, or restored funding, to K-12. One piece of that plan I like is the restoring of adult education with \$10 million for free upgrading of basic courses for people who haven't graduated or had graduated and want to upgrade for post-secondary I'm well aware of two ways that the current government has harmed Surrey schools. An entire generation has been educated in portables, which were always said to be temporary, but so much time has passed.

On the looming teacher shortage: I think it's a big enough shortage that it will be difficult to fix it in the short term. I know first-hand from friends who are teacher or who became teachers in last decade. I am familiar with how they've struggled in last 15 years of underfunding, and without jobs. Some have left the profession or they left the province for: more secure jobs, better paying jobs. I think that the tools the government can use to most quickly address the shortage is to improve the conditions for teachers both in relationship to government as employer and for classroom conditions so it will again become a more attractive choice for people wanting to follow that career path, as well as looking at affordability issues to help people stay and thrive here.

I really believe in and trust core principles around sustainability, and healthy living, and a better way of interacting and treating people. I think that they would bring a much friendlier attitude to the relationship the government has with teachers. I don't like to think any change is just because it's change. I think the changing attitudes that the Green Party represents are really positive. Not just for teachers but for everyone.



SURREY- SOUTH

Jonathan Silveira NDP candidate for - Surrey- South

I didn't go to school in Canada, it was in Brazil. I do have a daughter who goes to public school and I commend our teachers who are a little stressed at the school my daughter goes to. It's very difficult for them. I appreciate their work.

On Portables: It's unbelievable, Surrey is the fastest growing municipality in BC, and we are not planning for the future. We have to make sure that we take every kid that currently studies in a portable and put them in a real classroom. We really must plan ahead. We've not done that. I cannot stress that enough. We must fully fund our public system and we have to do that immediately. I am fully committed to that.

For me, public education in BC has gone down significantly. We were the 2nd best funded school system in Canada and we're now second to last. I think that's where the change comes in. The best way to ensure a good economy in the future is to make sure that we invest in our kids today.

After we get elected on May 9th, we will most certainly strengthen our education system. It is unfair to ask teachers to fight for all of us just to be able to do their job and take care of our kids. That is outrageous. Teachers had to fight Christy Clark's government all the way.

Stephanie Cadieux BC Liberal Candidate for Surrey - South

I attended public school, from K-12, the full meal deal. It was a great experience. I had a great education in both rural and city settings. I think it prepared me really well for life and for post-secondary school. I do have some very close friends and a sister who are teachers who tell me how things are in the classroom.

On portables and underfunding: Right now, we are benefitting from current investments in schools. We need the kind of economy that can provide for that, which is what we've been committed to and continue to build to have the money to invest. Certainly, in my time in government, I've been working on getting new schools for Surrey. The \$317M announcement will help to create more spaces. There were 100 more portables in the 90s than there are now is my understanding. I want to see those numbers continue to be reduced. So as many kids as possible are in regular classrooms and that portables are only used when there is an overflow at certain times.

On poverty: This is certainly an area of concern and an area we're focused on. We've seen about a 50% reduction in the number of kids living in low income families over the last ten years. That means there are 79000 fewer kids in poverty today than there were. None of the other provinces have matched our rates of decline despite some other provinces having what they call a poverty plan. We need to continue to keep this focus and our approach is economy growth and people have access to jobs. It's family income which will affect whether or not children are in poverty.

We've done this in a targeted way with our single parent employment initiative. This helps single parents on income assistance or disability, helping them to get the skills and training they need and cover the costs. And then helping them find work and supporting them through that first year of work to establish themselves. There are 4500 single parents on the program, 900 are working and supporting their families who completed.

On the looming teacher shortage: I'm not a school district professional that knows how to staff for those kinds of things. It's up to school districts who will tell us where their challenges are. Surrey will be my focus. It seems like young teachers still need jobs. It's great that we have this demand. We have to be creative to find solutions to that.

There has been a lot of talk and effort which has been put into new curriculum. We all want the best for kids. The world is changing rapidly. We have to adjust what we provide to our kids. We need to understand the basics and also be open to new ideas/curriculum changes in how we do business and meet the teachers' needs creatively.



SURREY—CLOVERDALE

Rebecca Smith, NDP Candidate for Surrey-Cloverdale

I consider myself to be extraordinarily lucky when I attended school. I participated in a program called International Baccalaureate which was in Langley where I attended public school

On portables: This is a top priority for the NDP . John Horgan has already promised to eradicate the portables in the first year. Obviously this is paramount

On poverty: This is something that I am deeply passionate about . this is the only province that doesn't have a poverty reduction plan. one of the policies we are talking about is the \$10 a day childcare

On the looming teacher shortage: this problem has been caused by the chronic underfunding and attack on teachers. We need to make the teaching profession more attractive.

Aleksandra Muniak Green Candidate for Surrey-Cloverdale

I attended private grade 6 to gr 9 and public school before and after those years. Things have changed. I could see the difference in the two, in terms of support available, the kinds of programs that were available. When in public school, you had a sense you were amongst a sea of students. The public teachers were stressed; there were a lot of kids that needed additional help. I graduated in 2005, should have been 2003 but dropped out as a single mom and studied in a program for teen moms [at Guildford Park Secondary.] I struggled and then went back to alternative learning.

On Portables: it's crazy. I think there is no simple answer. We need to make education a priority and make sure the funding is there. Portables are not acceptable. We need to make education a priority.

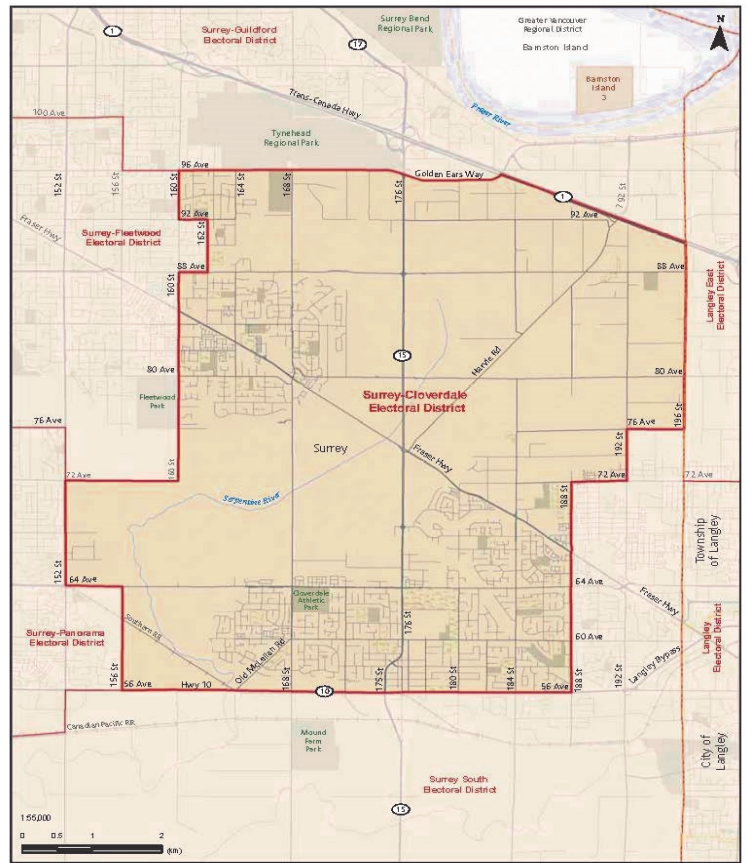
On poverty: BC Greens really want to explore a living wage. Poverty is such a vicious cycle and it is so difficult to get out of it. When kids grow up in a poverty environment, it affects their learning and later on in life, we see higher drug use rates, higher crime rates.

Education should be part of our society. Not to see it as a liability or as something to be cut back and managed. [It should have] no beginning or end but something that continues on through a person's life. May sound cheesy, but knowledge is power. Anyone who comes into power, should be empowering people with education and knowledge so that they can contribute back to their society.

SURREY- GREEN TIMBERS

Rachna Singh NDP candidate for - Surrey- Green Timbers

I did attend public school, but it was in India. Both my children are in public school system. My son will graduate this year. My daughter is in grade 3. Both of my kids have done extremely well because of the hard work that the teachers have put in. But, I have also noticed that the teachers are suffering. The schools are over-crowded. My daughter was speech delayed and I saw what a big line up [there was] to see a speech pathologist. I don't know about the kids that really need help, what they are going through. And the teachers want to help these kids as much as they can but they do not have the resources.



On poverty: I see families suffering. ... And we will also do something about adult education so that parents who are struggling can get proper training so they can go and get decent wage job.

On the next round of bargaining with teachers: Fair negotiation, and fair for teachers.

I went to Richmond BC public school. It was a great experience I started off in a 4 room school. We had no gym. Both my daughters attended public school as did both grandchildren. They had good administrators. All were wonderful except for one teacher.

(Follow up question:) Why create another office set up to build these schools? Can't the school district handle it?

On poverty: It's a huge question for us in BC, one of the challenges we have. Our economy is going so well especially compared to other provinces. It does tend to make, especially rentals and everything else more expensive. The government has initiated a single parent employment project, an awesome project. In the past a parent who wanted to upgrade training, you had to go off welfare and find the \$ to do that. Not any more. Now, you can stay on the system and you can upgrade, so that you can get better educated to make a better living. I absolutely understand that issue from [being on] the board of Surrey Urban Mission. We've been working a lot with people in poverty and I've been doing that for a long time. I serve meals, I get it. That's a real concern for me.

On the next round of bargaining: I think that the good news of the 5 years of labour peace with teachers is something we should grow on and feel positive about. I think we need another fair and solid agreement. The most important thing for me is that we focus on kids.



SURREY-NEWTON

Harry Bains NDP incumbent, candidate for Surrey- Newton

All my schooling was public. I grew up in Punjab, and went to public school. My children were born here and all went through public schooling. One of the reasons I ran was that I was mad enough at Gordon Campbell when he ripped up those collective agreements. I come from the labour movement...one thing I couldn't stand, it made me mad enough to say yes I'll run.

As a parent: It makes me proud to say my children are in public school, and public education provides them with the tools to compete with the best in the world. When we had parent teacher meetings, they were very helpful, teachers were always friendly, they gave me a picture of how my children were doing. They gave so much of their own time to help students grow into citizens.

On portables: I've been probably loudest, and fiercest advocate to get rid of portables in Surrey schools. John Horgan announced we would replace all portables with real classrooms in the first term. Real schools and real classrooms.

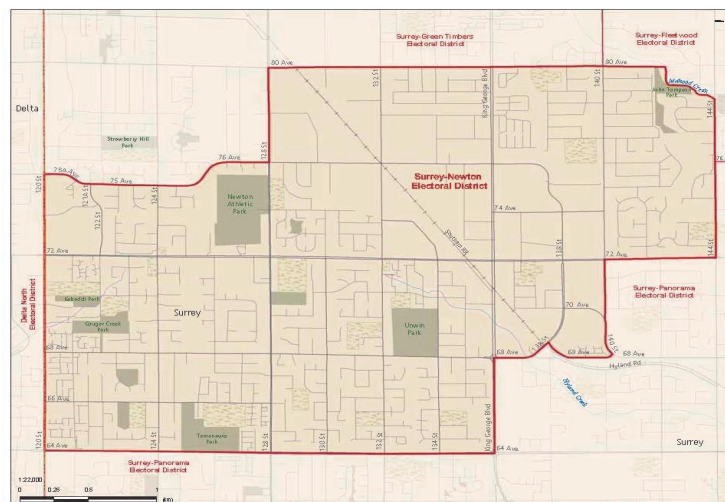
On Poverty: We have been hammering this government for last 12 years. BC is the only province without a poverty reduction plan. We have pledged that we will have a poverty reduction plan with clear goals and timelines.

On the looming teacher shortage: How do we fill those vacancies, we need to have a discussion. Should we train more teachers? Find a way to bring them from elsewhere? We need to discuss, and BCTF and STA can guide us. You know what the issues are, and what the solutions are that are acceptable to the teachers.

I think, my goal would be to make the public education system so good, so attractive, that no parent would feel the need to send their children to private schools.

On the upcoming bargaining in 2019: I in my life I have bargained enough collective agreements to know that the only way you can get the best outcome is to go to the table in good faith, have respect for each other. Teachers have been bashed for too long. We need to turn the corner and bring that respect, this is a noble occupation, and teachers are helping develop our children into good citizens; with a social conscience and mind, we need to make our system the best in the world.

No other candidate for Surrey Newton responded to our request for an interview.

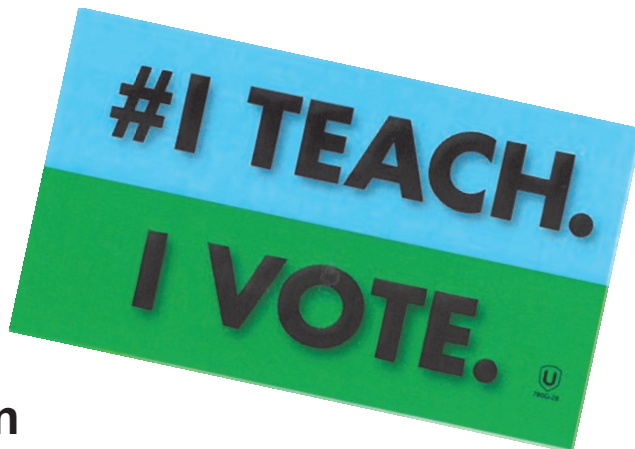


BC Provincial Election

May 9th, 2017

I'm voting because I care about...

- Fully funded public education
- Funding supports for students
- Free public Adult Education
- Equitable and inclusive schools
- Music, art & libraries in all schools
- Livable environment for our children
- Affordable, safe, available childcare
- Comprehensive housing strategy
- Youth in Ministry care to be safe and supported
- Fair minimum wages
- Reduced post-secondary tuition costs
- Quality, timely health care
- Support for seniors
- Fully supported and staffed provincial parks



SO WHAT ARE YOU VOTING FOR?

Advance Voting Dates:

Saturday, April 29th	8 am - 8 pm
Sunday, April 30th	8 am - 8 pm
Wednesday, May 3rd	8 am - 8 pm
Thursday, May 4th	8 am - 8 pm
Friday, May 5th	8 am - 8 pm
Saturday, May 6th	8 am - 8 pm

ELECTION DAY:

Tuesday, May 9th 8 am - 8 pm



To find out where to vote and how to register:
<http://elections.bc.ca/2017-general-election/>



EARLY VOTING DATES

April 29-30 and May 3-6, 8am-8pm.

Election Day is May 9th, 8am-8pm.

Check your voter registration ASAP at elections.bc.ca

surrey **teachers'** association

I TEACH.

I VOTE.