

**VOICE NEW WESTMINSTER**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 18, 2008

## **VOICE NEW WESTMINSTER ANNOUNCES ITS SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES**

**New Westminster, B.C.** - *Voice New Westminster* is pleased to announce its complete group of candidates seeking election to the New Westminster School Board on November 15<sup>th</sup> under the *Voice New Westminster* banner.

Joining incumbent Trustee Lisa Graham on the *Voice* school board slate will be Casey Cook, Maylen Crespo, Jim Goring, Kirpaul Kaur, Patrick O'Connor and Shelley Waldie.

Biographical information for all seven *Voice New Westminster* school board candidates is appended to the end of this media release.

Speaking on behalf of the Directors of *Voice New Westminster*, Casey Cook said the organisation is delighted with the diversity and the broad range of skills and experience reflected in *Voice's* school board slate.

"In bringing forward this diverse group of candidates we are making a statement that we take the name we have chosen - *Voice* - seriously," said Cook. "We have representation from all parts of our community to give them an opportunity for a direct voice at the decision-making table. We've made considerable efforts to bring top-notch people to our group of candidates and to address issues of gender balance, experience, cultural representation, the geography of New Westminster and proven leadership qualities."

*Voice New Westminster* was formed nineteen months ago to support a broadly-based, non-partisan slate of candidates for mayor, council and school board.

*Voice New Westminster* is comprised of residents from all parts of the city sharing a common vision for a reinvigorated and sustainable New Westminster.

- VOICE -

For more information, please contact Casey Cook at 604-522-7338 or at [info@voicenewwestminster.org](mailto:info@voicenewwestminster.org)

## **Attachments & Online References**

- [www.VoiceNewWestminster.org](http://www.VoiceNewWestminster.org)

### **Casey Cook - School Trustee Candidate (Voice New Westminster)**

Casey and his wife Jan have two adult children, Aaron and Kori, and a grand-daughter, Lexi. He and his family have been residents of New Westminster for 22 years.

Casey (the youngest of five children) was born on May 11, 1945, in The Hague, Holland - just days after the cessation of WWII. He arrived in Halifax with his family in 1950 and shortly thereafter settled in Burnaby.

Casey attended high school in Burnaby, graduating from Burnaby Central High School. He attended college in Michigan, earning a B.A. in 1969.

Casey is retired from the Vancouver Parks Board, where he worked as a Civic Administrator. In this capacity he worked with several communities and neighbourhoods in the delivery of services and community development.

Casey also has a long association with the New Westminster Salmonbellies Senior Lacrosse Club, serving in the capacities of President, General Manager, and Coach from 1980 to 2003. During that time the team won numerous league titles, going to the Mann Cup eleven times, and winning the Mann Cup four times.

On three occasions Casey was named the British Columbia Lacrosse Association Coach of the year. In 2000, Casey was inducted into the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame as a builder.

Casey served four terms as City Councillor and ran for mayor in the last civic election ([www.caseycook.ca](http://www.caseycook.ca)).

Casey currently sits on the boards of the Kiwanis Seniors Care Centre, the Fraser River Discovery Centre and the Massey Theatre Society. In 1988, he was the founding President of the Glenbrook South Residents Association.

Over the past number of years, Casey has had the opportunity to serve on many city and regional committees including: St Mary's Hospital Board (six years), Lower Mainland Municipal Association (Vice-President), Lower Mainland Drug Strategy Committee, GVRD -Parks Committee, Ministry of Children and Families - Transition Advisory Committee, Early Childhood Development Committee, MCFD Community Advisory Table, Federation of Canadian Municipalities - Committee for Community Corrections, Heritage Advisory Commission, Traffic Advisory Committee, Seniors Committee, Environment Committee, Transportation Committee, Bicycle Advisory Committee, Special Services and Access Committee, Museum and Archives Committee, Social Issues Committee, Literacy Sub-committee, Arts Council, Parks Committee, Fire Committee, Queens Park Wooden Floor Committee, Cold and Wet Weather Shelter Strategy Committee.

### **Maylen Crespo - School Trustee Candidate (Voice New Westminster)**

Maylen is originally from Mexico and has been a resident of New Westminister since 2002. She lives in the Kelvin-Moody Park neighbourhood and her two children attend the Early French Immersion program.

Maylen is currently a Coordinator for the Immigrant Leaders Program in New Westminister with experience in cross-cultural communication, racism and immigrant challenges. As a community development worker for the Access New Westminister Project, she helped train and then supported the participants who implemented an Immigrant Survey in the City of New Westminister.

Maylen believes that public education is the foundation of a free and strong society, one that provides an equal opportunity to develop the full potential of its members.

By addressing community issues, whether it is bringing business to the table, recruiting donors to fund more sustainable approaches or in engaging people, a community creates the capacity to respond to its changes and challenges, promotes civil participation and builds more inclusive communities.

### **Jim Goring - School Trustee Candidate (Voice New Westminister)**

Jim has lived in New Westminister since 1989. He is married with two children attending New Westminister Senior Secondary. He is also President of the Glenbrooke North Residents Association and a past board member of the Massey Theatre Society.

Jim previously served as a Trustee on the New Westminister School Board from 1996 to 1999. Highlights of his term included development of the Glenbrook Middle School and approval and development of the Queensborough Middle School. He also served as trustee liaison to Howay and Queensborough Community Schools.

Jim earned a Masters of Business Administration from the University of British Columbia, a Bachelor of education degree from Lakehead University and a Bachelor of Science degree from Laurentian University. He also holds designations as a CAIB (Canadian Accredited Insurance Broker) from the Canadian Insurance Brokers Association and a CRM (Canadian Risk Management) from the Canadian Institute of Risk Management.

Following graduation from university, Jim taught high school for 5 years.

Jim is currently Senior Vice President and Practice Leader for Technology Risk Services with Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc., a global risk management consultant and insurance broker. His prior experience concentrated in the technology sector, with seven years at Digital Equipment and Xerox, as an industry manager and systems integration consultant,

plus three years with the Bank of Montreal as a commercial banking manager. He joined Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc. in 1994. Jim is responsible for managing the Technology Risk Services Group and consulting major clients in the technology and bio-technology sectors with risk management and insurance issues.

**Lisa Graham - School Trustee Candidate (Voice New Westminster) INCUMBENT**

Lisa is an incumbent school trustee who in her two terms on the school board has demonstrated a passion and dedication to education in New Westminister. That same passion was recognised when she was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for advocacy work done on behalf of children and families.

Lisa grew up in the Massey-Victory Heights neighbourhood where she and her husband, David, live in a house built by Lisa's family; so far, five generations of her family have lived in that house. Lisa and her husband both attended F.W. Howay Elementary School, as have their two children.

Lisa attended Marian Regional High School in Burnaby, an all-girls' catholic school, and then transferred from Douglas College to SFU for post-secondary education. She worked for 8 years in the hospitality industry as a sales and personnel manager and ran her own company with 80 employees.

Lisa's son, David, who was diagnosed with autism at the age of 20 months, has just turned 18 and has been part of the New Westminister Secondary's Life Skills Program. Lisa's daughter, Julie, upon completion of grade 5 at Howay, attended Connaught Heights for grades 6 and 7 prior to starting grade 8 at NWSS this year.

With firsthand "special needs" experience and a focus on well-rounded students who are literate as well as socially and physically active, Lisa has represented the students and staff of this district with an integrity that is genuinely impressive.

Lisa is Chair of the school district's Education and Social Responsibility Committee and trustee liaison to numerous committees and schools.

Over the years, Lisa has served on the city's Social Issues Committee; with the "Literacy Now" initiative; on the school district's Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement process; on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary D-Day/Juno Beach Committee; the forum for Crystal Meth awareness; the Ministry of Children and Family Development Community-Table; Canada Day celebrations; May Day festivities; and on the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee.

She is also trustee liaison to the New Westminister Montessori Society and through her two terms has been trustee liaison to various New Westminister schools including Howay, McBride, Hume Park, Tweedsmuir, Robson, Connaught Heights, Kelvin and Ecole Glenbrook Middle School.

Lisa also holds the title of "official" trustee dunk-tank volunteer for community fundraisers.

### **Kirpaul Kaur - School Trustee Candidate (Voice New Westminster)**

Kirpaul and her husband have lived in Queensborough for 12 years. They have three children: Jeevan in Grade 9, Jodhan in Grade 7, and Kirin in Grade 4. Kirpaul was born in Burnaby. She attended Lochdale Community School, Burnaby North, and Burnaby Central. Kirpaul also attended SFU where she completed her teaching degree.

Kirpaul has been teaching in Elementary Schools for 9 years and has taught almost every grade at the elementary level. She currently teaches a combined Grade 6/7 class at J. T. Brown Elementary School in Surrey. She previously taught adult ESL for 7 years and night school. Kirpaul also worked with Open Learning Agency in creating ESL programming and is also featured in a show called Bacha Party that airs on Channel 10 on Saturdays.

Kirpaul serves as the teacher in charge at her school and chairs a number of committees at the school including the Speech Meet, Science Fair, Intermediate Team, Leadership Group, and leads a variety of extra-curricular activities such as soccer, Sun Run, the Chess club and the Recycling Program.

Kirpaul is presently enrolled in a Masters in Curriculum Program Degree that that will be completed in April of 2009. One of her areas of interest is in developing leadership capacity amongst students and adults.

### **Patrick O'Connor - School Trustee Candidate (Voice New Westminster)**

Patrick was born in Vancouver and raised in the Oakridge area where he attended Dr. Annie B. Jamieson Elementary School and Sir Winston Churchill Senior Secondary. He also attended the University of British Columbia where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religious Studies.

Patrick's family connections to New Westminster date back to the late 1920's when his mother and several of her siblings were boarded with the nuns at the Catholic orphanage on 12<sup>th</sup> Street; partly because schooling was not available where the family was living and partly to learn English (French was the family's first language).

Patrick and his wife, Hedy, have lived in New Westminster for 17 years. They have two daughters attending New Westminster Senior Secondary and a son at Herbert Spencer.

Patrick and Hedy's daughters previously attended Lord Kelvin Community School and Glenbrook Middle School in the Late French Immersion program. Their younger daughter also attended Herbert Spencer for grades 3 to 5.

Patrick has been actively involved in New Westminster school district issues for many years and has diligently served as a Community Representative on the school district's Finance and Administration Committee for several years (now renamed the Finance and Facilities Committee).

Patrick works in the communications field as a researcher and writer. He previously worked in the audio and music recording industry and served as a Constituency Assistant in the New Westminster constituency office.

Patrick was also part of the committee that organised New Westminster's Commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Juno Beach landing. He is also a founding director of Voice New Westminster

### **Shelley Waldie - School Trustee Candidate (Voice New Westminster)**

Shelley was born in Manitoba and raised in Pointe Claire Quebec. She moved to BC in 1990.

Shelley has been a resident of New Westminster for over 14 years and lives in the Connaught Heights area with her husband of 10 years, Brian Waldie, and their two school aged children, Megan and Liam.

Shelley's children attend the Early French Immersion program at Lord Tweedsmuir Community School where Shelley and her husband have been actively involved in the school's PAC. Shelley is also a member of Canadian Parents for French, and has worked with them hosting Soiree's designed to welcome the new French Immersion population to the school.

Shelley previously served as a director of the St. Barnabas Daycare Society for six years, first as the society's treasurer for four years and then as board chair for two years. As chair, Shelley represented St. Barnabas Daycare on New Westminster's Early Childhood Development (ECD) committee endorsing a business planning process to help the 35 year old daycare move into a successful future.

Shelley works in the Learning Resources Department at Douglas College (her employer of 18 years) and served two years on the College's Education Council.

Quality Childcare is near and dear to Shelley and one of the things she would like to focus on as a trustee is achieving the early learning objectives established by the ministry of education. Shelley believes that adequate facilities are key to the success of both schools and childcare and she would like to see childcare and early learning integrated into our schools.