

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A new voice for New Westminster – VOICE New Westminster holds inaugural meeting

Group forms to take on New Westminster mayor, councillors and school board in next civic election

New Westminster, B.C. – A newly formed civic electors' group in New Westminster held its inaugural meeting last Monday night January 8th.

The new group will operate under the banner of "VOICE New Westminster" and they plan to identify and support a full slate of candidates for Mayor, Council and School Board in the next civic elections, just under two years from now.

Newly elected VOICE President, Blair Armitage, stated: "This group has been a long time coming for New Westminster and it was formed in response to many calls from a broad cross-section of New Westminster's community members; people who are concerned with what they see happening with the city and the school board."

"VOICE New Westminster is presenting a very comprehensive vision for liveable and sustainable growth for New Westminster's distinct neighbourhoods," said Armitage. "We want to see a balanced and integrated approach to planning and development in Westminster."

At the January 8th inaugural meeting, VOICE New Westminster adopted a constitution and elected an executive and a fifteen member board. "We've set a very aggressive agenda for ourselves," said Armitage. "We are very committed to having an organization that will listen to and represent the views of all New Westminster residents and businesses."

VOICE New Westminster will be holding a public information meeting at Grace Hall, located at 57 Seventh Avenue in New Westminster, on Monday, January 29th starting at 7:00 pm. Anyone interested in joining this diverse group of community members sharing a common vision and values for a sustainable and reinvigorated New Westminster is invited to attend.

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BACKGROUND

VOICE New Westminster's members value the attributes that make New Westminster unique: Its significant history, its enduring sense of community, its developed downtown core, its location on one of Canada's great waterways, and its proximity to Vancouver. All of these make New Westminster an appealing place for residents, tourists and business owners alike.

New Westminster will experience tremendous growth in the coming years and VOICE New Westminster's vision for that growth reflects the dignity of New Westminster's past while balancing the dreams, hopes and desires of its residents and businesses.

VOICE New Westminster's members believe that our vision for a reinvigorated and sustainable New Westminster can only be achieved through the collaborative efforts of our resident and business communities, and we will be actively engaging all members of our diverse New Westminster community in this process.

VOICE New Westminster's members value competent stewardship of the community's resources, integrity, transparency and competent management by elected municipal leaders. The members of VOICE New Westminster believe strongly in holding our elected municipal leaders responsible and accountable for the processes they engage in and the decisions they make with respect to the use of our community's fiscal and natural resources.

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