



BURNABY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
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PRESS RELEASE:

For Immediate Release

Burnaby Teachers' Association (BTA) Endorses Mike Hurley and BCA School Trustees

At the recent September 18th, 2018 Staff Representative Assembly of the Burnaby Teachers' Association, members carried motions to endorse the following candidates for the October 20th municipal election:

Mayor:

Mike Hurley (Independent)

School Trustees:

Suresh Bhayana (BCA)

Ryan Stewart (BCA)

Bill Brassington (BCA)

Jen Mezei (BCA)

Peter Cech (BCA)

Gary Wong (BCA)

Larry Hayes (BCA)

The New Westminster District Labour Council (of which the BTA is an affiliate) has also endorsed Mike Hurley and the BCA school trustee candidates.

The BTA endorsement of Mike Hurley was informed by a number of factors, in particular the issue of affordability and housing in Burnaby. Burnaby is currently ranked 70 out of 72 municipalities by the BC Non-Profit Housing Association for housing supply and affordability. Since 2010, Burnaby has seen a decrease of 712 rental units whereas other metro municipalities have seen increases.

Leanne Sjodin, president of the Burnaby Teachers' Associations notes that "classroom teachers have been witness to the negative impact of affordability of housing, displacement and lack of rental units". Members at the Representative Assembly expressed concern for the lack of action in the past 15 years. Hurley's campaign calls for a moratorium on demovictions and includes a commitment to support affordable housing.

The BTA endorsement of all the BCA school trustees was informed by the leadership of BCA candidates around their commitment to supporting teachers and public education. Notably, BCA school trustees have been committed to ensuring that our schools are places where quality education, safety and inclusion are a priority for youth and families.