



LUSH VALLEY

2018 COMOX VALLEY FOOD SECURITY SURVEY FOR MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES

RESPONSES FROM VILLAGE OF CUMBERLAND MAYORAL, COUNCILLOR & SCHOOL TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

Total Number of Surveys Sent to Village of Cumberland Candidates: 10

Total Number of Candidates who Responded: 4

CANDIDATE NAME: LESLIE BAIRD

Candidate Position: Mayor

- 1. In the Comox Valley, we estimate that 1 in 5 people experience poverty and food insecurity. Healthy food and community food engagement have been shown to lead to significant long-term health and well-being outcomes, especially for children. If elected, what would you do to ensure all residents have access to healthy food? How will you support community-based food security programs?**

The Cumberland Community Schools offers a lunch program for children at the school. Our Recreation department partners with Lush Valley to hold a number of projects. The Village residents participate in picking fruit thru the Cumberland Bear Initiative Society

- 2. A Vancouver Island Region Food Charter has been written and supported by food security organizations across Vancouver Island (these are funded by *Island Health*). It sets out a vision for a health-oriented, local and equitable food system. If elected, would you support the adoption of this Food Charter for your jurisdiction?**

I would support a Vancouver Island Region Food Charter.

- 3. The development of progressive food security policy is important at all levels of government. If elected, would you support the development of a Municipal/Regional Food Policy Council? Would you advocate for local jurisdictions to work with other levels of government on food security issues? What food security issues do you see as being a priority for this region?**

I am presently sitting on a Vancouver Island Mayors committee to promote a Social Procurement policy in all areas of Vancouver Island. The Committee has already had discussions of next steps including working with Island Health to buy local food products for all their facilities.

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- 4. In 2010, the region created a comprehensive [Sustainability Strategy](#). If elected, will you encourage the adoption of relevant 'food security actions' outlined in the strategy?**

The Vancouver Island Economic Alliance has been working on "Island Good" buy local for the last couple of years and have a pilot project that grocery stores are participating in. They have been surprised by the positive results.

- 5. Would you support using municipal/regional lands and infrastructure to develop local food systems (e.g. farmers' markets, community gardens, land leasing, etc). If yes, what would be your first priority?**

The Village supported the Comox Valley Farmers Market in Cumberland this year with grant funding from our Community Grant program.

- 6. What will you do to increase awareness of food insecurity and address related issues such as poverty and affordable housing?**
- 7. Do you have any other comments related to food security you would like to share?**

Good fresh, healthy food is essential to our health!



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CANDIDATE NAME: EDUARDO URANGA

Candidate Position: Mayor

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2. A Vancouver Island Region Food Charter has been written and supported by food security organizations across Vancouver Island (these are funded by *Island Health*). It sets out a vision for a health-oriented, local and equitable food system. If elected, would you support the adoption of this Food Charter for your jurisdiction?
3. The development of progressive food security policy is important at all levels of government. If elected, would you support the development of a Municipal/Regional Food Policy Council? Would you advocate for local jurisdictions to work with other levels of government on food security issues? What food security issues do you see as being a priority for this region?
4. In 2010, the region created a comprehensive [Sustainability Strategy](#). If elected, will you encourage the adoption of relevant 'food security actions' outlined in the strategy?
5. Would you support using municipal/regional lands and infrastructure to develop local food systems (e.g. farmers' markets, community gardens, land leasing, etc). If yes, what would be your first priority?
6. What will you do to increase awareness of food insecurity and address related issues such as poverty and affordable housing?
7. Do you have any other comments related to food security you would like to share?

Interesting enough, I am running for Mayor of the Village of Cumberland and I am elected, food security and urban agriculture will be pretty close to the top of my agenda. Please read the attachments and let me know your comments.

I am working on creating a food secured future for the Comox Valley that is sustainable and resilient.

(Please note that LUSH Valley has not included campaign platforms in the compiled survey responses)

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CANDIDATE NAME: VICKEY BROWN

Candidate Position: Councillor

- 1. In the Comox Valley, we estimate that 1 in 5 people experience poverty and food insecurity. Healthy food and community food engagement have been shown to lead to significant long-term health and well-being outcomes, especially for children. If elected, what would you do to ensure all residents have access to healthy food? How will you support community-based food security programs?**

I am and have been a strong supporter of food security projects for many years. I would continue to support initiatives that allow residents to grow (and sell) food products on their properties, encourage community gardens by allocating and allowing public spaces to be turned into food gardens, I also support Farmers' Markets as instrumental tools in food security. I believe food sharing/gleaning projects can continue to be a source of healthy local food and appreciate the work LUSH does with this. I would also continue to raise awareness of the importance of healthy local food sources as a means to meeting our goals of food security.

- 2. A Vancouver Island Region Food Charter has been written and supported by food security organizations across Vancouver Island (these are funded by *Island Health*). It sets out a vision for a health-oriented, local and equitable food system. If elected, would you support the adoption of this Food Charter for your jurisdiction?**

Absolutely

- 3. The development of progressive food security policy is important at all levels of government. If elected, would you support the development of a Municipal/Regional Food Policy Council? Would you advocate for local jurisdictions to work with other levels of government on food security issues? What food security issues do you see as being a priority for this region?**

Yes I would support the development of a Municipal/Regional Food Policy Council. Yes I would advocate for working with other levels of government. Top issues for food security include: Emergency food services (a food bank or similar service) is currently unavailable in Cumberland. Also there is no ALR land within the Village boundaries and very limited agricultural production within the Village. As a region we could be producing so much more food, lets increase food production here in Cumberland and the whole Valley! Land is increasingly expensive and farm succession planning is weak. Are there things we can do municipally or regionally to support this?

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4. In 2010, the region created a comprehensive [Sustainability Strategy](#). If elected, will you encourage the adoption of relevant 'food security actions' outlined in the strategy?

Yes

5. Would you support using municipal/regional lands and infrastructure to develop local food systems (e.g. farmers' markets, community gardens, land leasing, etc). If yes, what would be your first priority?

Yes, but I'm afraid the Village does not have much in the way of land. I would look at anything we do have that might be suitable for community gardens, such as partnerships with private land owners, support for farmers markets, land leasing and farmer mentorship programs, and any other ways we might encourage more growing and selling of local food.

6. What will you do to increase awareness of food insecurity and address related issues such as poverty and affordable housing?

I would continue to look into various ways to support affordable housing (rentals and builds) and food security in the Village. Housing is a huge concern of mine. The increase in housing costs in Cumberland in particular has put many families (many of them single parent) in a position where they are having to choose between rent and healthy food, or are having to leave rentals because of housing sales. I am proud to have brought the Cumberland Coupon Program to the Village via the Farmers' Market as well as ensuring access to the healthy lunch program when I was with the Cumberland Community Schools Society Board of directors.

7. Do you have any other comments related to food security you would like to share?

I think we have a great opportunity here in the Village to support local food producers and growers and develop more food security initiatives either with existing organizations such as LUSH and CCSS or new ones specific to the Village. I look forward to working on this!



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CANDIDATE NAME: ROGER KISHI

Candidate Position: Councillor

- 1. In the Comox Valley, we estimate that 1 in 5 people experience poverty and food insecurity. Healthy food and community food engagement have been shown to lead to significant long-term health and well-being outcomes, especially for children. If elected, what would you do to ensure all residents have access to healthy food? How will you support community-based food security programs?**

In my time on Cumberland Council, I have supported initiatives to expand community garden space at SD 71's Cumberland Community Campus and zoning to allow for urban agriculture and garden gate sales. I will continue to advocate for improved food security in Cumberland and the Comox Valley through measures that we've already taken, and supporting the establishment of a food hub.

- 2. A Vancouver Island Region Food Charter has been written and supported by food security organizations across Vancouver Island (these are funded by *Island Health*). It sets out a vision for a health-oriented, local and equitable food system. If elected, would you support the adoption of this Food Charter for your jurisdiction?**

Yes, I would bring the Vancouver Island Region Food Charter to Council for endorsement, and forward on to AVICC & UBCM.

- 3. The development of progressive food security policy is important at all levels of government. If elected, would you support the development of a Municipal/Regional Food Policy Council? Would you advocate for local jurisdictions to work with other levels of government on food security issues? What food security issues do you see as being a priority for this region?**

I would support the development of a regional food council to work with other regions, provincial & federal governments. A priority for me would be the establishment of a food hub that could house storage, processing, distribution and sales of food products in our region.

- 4. In 2010, the region created a comprehensive [Sustainability Strategy](#). If elected, will you encourage the adoption of relevant 'food security actions' outlined in the strategy?**

Yes, Cumberland has already adopted many of these in our Official Community Plan (OCP) and regulatory bylaws.

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- 5. Would you support using municipal/regional lands and infrastructure to develop local food systems (e.g. farmers' markets, community gardens, land leasing, etc). If yes, what would be your first priority?**

Yes, establishment of food hub.

- 6. What will you do to increase awareness of food insecurity and address related issues such as poverty and affordable housing?**

I am deeply involved in these issues in my day job as Director- Homeless & Housing Programs at Wachiay Friendship Centre, where there are partnership(s) with LUSH Valley.

- 7. Do you have any other comments related to food security you would like to share?**

Food hub.