

Council Candidate Responses

Question	Ranjit (Rani) Heer	Jeannie Kanakos	Bruce McDonald
Slate/Indepen.	Renew Delta Electoral Organization	Independent	Independent
Residence	North Delta	North Delta	North Delta
1. In your first year in office would you support the formation of a Seniors Advisory Committee as a Council committee?	Yes, I am very supportive of a Seniors Advisory Committee as a committee of council to be formed within my first year of office	<p>I would like to thank all those involved in the research and writing of “A Comprehensive Report’ which compiles and summarizes results of the work of three Task Forces – Support Services, Housing and Transportation. This document is very informative and will act as a guide moving forward in our work with Seniors in our community.</p> <p>When serving on Council 2005-2008, I was struck by the lack of coordination and support for the ‘social side’ of our community. Delta Council and Staff need to be much more plugged in to all aspects of the social needs of those we serve.</p> <p>1) I support the formation of a Seniors Advisory Committee as a Council Committee.</p> <p>2) I also support resourcing this work Seniors and addressing other social aspects of our community through the hiring of a ‘Social</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to briefly answer these questions. I look forward to a much more robust dialogue with the Planning Team and the Committee when it is established</p> <p>I am in full support of a Seniors Advisory Committee. In the interest of full disclosure, I got my Gold Card last year.</p>

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		<p>Planner’. Through my work, I am currently working with a team for the City of Richmond to develop a ‘Ten Year Social Planning Strategy’. This has involved bringing the community stakeholders, such as the Richmond Seniors Committee, Volunteer Richmond and others into a facilitated discussion on how to work together more effectively to serve the community. More and more communities throughout BC and across the country are developing ‘Social Plans’ and the timing is overdue for Delta to move forward in this direction – which should start – based on your work with the formation of a Delta Council – Seniors Advisory Committee.</p>	
<p>2. Funding to local agencies - Are you willing to increase municipal grants to local agencies providing these services?</p>	<p>Yes, I would be willing to increase municipal grants to local agencies providing these services. Supporting local organizations is one of Renew Delta’s commitments in our Platform (please see www.renewdelta.com).</p>	<p>Thank you to the Chair and members of the ‘Support Services Action Team.’ The recommendations for the improvement of support services are helpful. Thank you also for the development of the Seniors Community Resource Card. 1) I support reviewing the Delta Budget and making room for</p>	<p>A major task of the Seniors Committee will be to identify quality of life services and particularly gaps in the provision of those services. We have great group of service agencies in Delta and we must provide increased support to them. Council, however, may not be in a position to fully fund all of those needs.</p>

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		<p>additional grants to local agencies. I would want to make sure that we are not duplicating work undertaken by other levels of government and would like to work with you to understand better where the priorities are so that these grants can be provided to those groups most in need.</p> <p>In terms of 'other' solutions, would it be helpful for the Municipality to support development of an organization of a source of Volunteers who wish to assist with the provision of 'non medical' services to our Seniors? Other communities are doing this</p>	<p>We must fund those that are our responsibility and where the responsibility is a higher level of Government we must lead the charge to correct the system</p>
<p>3a. Housing Task Force Report - What are you prepared to do to implement the recommendations accepted by Council?</p>	<p>As the Task Force noted, Delta's population is getting older and diversifying, and their housing needs are changing. In addition, we need to attract more young families to Delta in order to maintain a vibrant community, keep schools open, etc. I believe we should implement many of the recommendations in the report, including options for fee-simple row housing, co-housing, and non-strata duplexes. I support increased density, but do not support high rises in any</p>	<p>The 2011 Housing Task Force provided ten very significant recommendations. Many of these will require amendments to our Official Community Plan. And when undertaking the OCP reviews – in all our communities – we need to take into consideration the social side of the community. The following are some actions which our community can move on which emanate from the Delta Housing Task Force Recommendations which will benefit housing options</p>	

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	residential areas.	<p>for Seniors:</p> <p>1)I support the recent move to legalize secondary suites – as many of our Seniors are living in these;</p> <p>2)I also support the recent work to provide incentives for basements in single family dwellings as they can be made into affordable legal safe suites for Seniors;</p> <p>3) While on Council, along with my colleagues I approved several two and three lot splits to provide for smaller lots and more affordable housing – especially in North Delta. In future these can all have basements and secondary suite. I will be looking at the benefit these kinds of proposals can bring to Seniors when they come before Council;</p> <p>3) I would like to ‘hurry-up’ the Review of the North Delta Area Plan to hear from residents on issues like – detached suites. There are many areas where this would work and would support looking at this ‘out of the box’ type solution in all of the community;</p> <p>1)I will encourage ground</p>	

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		<p>oriented multi-family housing which is beneficial to Seniors near community centres, schools and churches – and especially on transit corridors;</p> <p>2) I support exploring other tenures for multi-family housing which do not require a strata council;</p> <p>3) I will support, through the area planning process, the consideration of ‘low rise’ mixed use development with commercial at grade near town centres;</p> <p>4) I will also support the consideration of medium rise mixed use development at key nodes along 120th Street – which are supported by and in keeping with neighbourhood designs;</p> <p>5) I would like to look at what other communities are doing to provide ‘affordable housing’. Richmond just completed an ‘Affordable Housing Strategy’ and Surrey also has undertaken work in this area. Delta can draw on these ‘best practises’ from a Delta perspective;</p> <p>5) I have experience with and contacts in the provincial and federal governments which I</p>	

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		would like to use to raise Delta's needs and vision for Seniors.	
3b. Lack of seniors housing. What are you willing to do with Delta's land bank to help address this need?	I would be open to looking at all options relating to Delta's land bank in order to accommodate the growing needs of the seniors population. I have spoken to many seniors who would prefer to stay within the community "hubs," close to transportation and amenities. In addition to looking at alternatives for low-rise facilities I would like Council to explore ideas for infill housing such as cottage homes and "pocket" retirement communities within existing neighbourhoods.	Yes. In addition, the Municipality can place and 'option to purchase' on desirable parcels for development for Seniors	Delta does not have a significant land bank. We have land in the parks system and some around Municipal building such as the Ladner Leisure Centre, North Delta Rec. Centre etc. We have some land in the agricultural areas but that is leased for farming and is designated ALR. The solution, I believe, rests in a change in how we plan and zone residential areas. I am not suggesting a massive alteration to our current neighbourhoods and community. We can however be more imaginative about smaller lot, house, and apartment development. We can entertain strata developments and reduce the time it takes to get such developments done. We can bonus developers with some density if they are agreeable to providing seniors housing. There are solutions, we just have to be open to them
4a. What are your plans to improve sidewalks, street lighting, curbing, and	I believe that a healthy portion of Delta's existing budget surplus should be used to make improvements to street lighting,	I will review the Delta Budget to increase funding for the improvement of sidewalks, street lighting, curbing and intersections	Delta has a long standing program to improve our sidewalks, street lighting, curbing and intersections. We have much

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intersections to ensure safety of pedestrians?	<p>curbing, sidewalks and intersections, especially those areas that have been identified as hazardous. Some seniors have told me that the timing of “walk” lights at intersections needs to be lengthened to accommodate their needs, particularly given the variety of mobility aids being used. These and other changes should be made. Renew Delta is proposing to introduce a new “neighbourhood planning” approach in Delta to encourage more citizen involvement. Community improvements would be part of this process. I would also promote working more closely with the Delta Police on implementing measures that would improve safety for Delta citizens.</p>	<p>to provide safer and more accessibility for Seniors.</p>	<p>more to do and I understand the problems much more personally now that I have two artificial knees. They are magic, as far as I am concerned, but you do have to work through balance and strength issues. That certainly increases ones awareness of big problems caused by seemingly small issues.</p>
4b. If elected, what are your plans for seeking improvements to transit for Delta?	<p>I would advocate for increases to local bus service in Delta. I would also like to see transit and transportation issues addressed as part of the new neighbourhood planning process.</p>	<p>1) We have extreme transit needs in all parts of Delta –especially for Seniors. As ‘Delta alone’ we are not being heard. I would contact Mayor Watts, and Mayors from the Langleys and White Rock to form a ‘South of the Fraser’ lobby of federal and provincial government representatives as</p>	<p>I am on record in fighting for better transit in Delta. We are poorly served by Transit and I made that very clear just two weeks ago when Transit appeared as a delegation to Council. Transit is currently focused north of the river and we need to either convince the board to change that</p>

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		<p>well as Translink. We are not being served adequately:</p> <p>2) I will work for improved i.e. more services; and,</p> <p>3) The reinstatement of direct bus service from both North and South Delta to Vancouver</p>	<p>bias or change the governance system so Delta and surrounding areas can be heard.</p> <p>I am Delta's representative on the South of The Fraser Rail Task Force which is made up of representatives from several communities and agencies including three universities. Our goal is to re-establish a light rail transit system on the old interurban right of way from Sky Train at Scott Road to Chilliwack. The line only runs about three kilometres in Delta but would become the spine for a much more accessible overall system and to can be done at a fraction of the cost of Sky Train</p>