

## Mayoral Candidate Responses

Question	Heather King	John A. Meech
Slate or Indep.	Independent	Independent
Residence	South Delta	South Delta
1. In your first year in office would you support the formation of a Seniors Advisory Committee as a Council committee?	<p>Thank you for your time in reading my answers. I would be more than happy to discuss these important issues in person.</p> <p>At the council meeting this evening I worked to ensure that the request put forward on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2011 by the seniors planning committee were heard. Specifically I wanted staff to work with the seniors planning committee to establish a Seniors Advisory Committee of council (either Mayors standing committee or council committee) that focused on these three topics 1) housing 2) transportation 3) non medical services. Most importantly, that this committee not be relegated to a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation and Culture committee, but that it be a free standing committee of its own.</p>	<p>Not only will I see this committee is formed, I will participate as Mayor directly in setting up the terms of reference and how the outcomes of its deliberations will impact on work being done by staff and other committees.</p>
2. Funding to local agencies - Are you willing to increase municipal grants to local agencies providing these services?	<p>Yes I am committed to helping our non profit agencies better assist our most vulnerable in our community. We are working with our seniors centers to also be an emergency shelter for the community and will work at ways of helping them in exchange for this service. That way, we are prepared in the event of an emergency to look after our homeless citizens immediately and to provide them with the comfort that they need</p>	<p>The Municipal grant program to all non-profits is a subject area that must be examined in detail as we prepare the first budget that I would administer. In principle, I support extending support funding to the organizations mentioned here. Delta Corporation, however, seems to have had a policy to "take-over" these groups and bring them under the umbrella of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Department. (Burns Bog, Animal Shelter,</p>

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		<p>Recycling, Arts Council, etc.) There appears to be some major "empire-building" going on and a lack of respect and support for the original organizers of these groups. I will change that attitude and get Delta back on track to serving its citizens, particularly those volunteers who dedicate so much hard work and time to helping others.</p>
<p>3a. Housing Task Force Report - What are you prepared to do to implement the recommendations accepted by Council?</p>	<p>We need a Housing Advisory Committee on Council to specifically look at making housing affordable and desirable. When I am Mayor, I will ensure that the partners on this committee would have council, provincial and Federal representation as well as seniors, youth, (agencies such as: Housing be mine that advocate for housing for developmentally disabled adults) and developer representatives. This will then work with the community to implement the Housing recommendations in our local communities.</p>	<p>I was unable to find a Spring, 2011 Housing Task Force Report, but there was one submitted in March 2010. It's main recommendations were as follows with my comments interspersed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Legalize secondary suites in all single family dwellings. Essentially this has been done but I think the way it is being regulated is rather heavy-handed and needs some revisions and flexibilities to assist homeowners with long-standing suites to upgrade to Code in a more helpful way.</li> <li>2. Provide incentives for basements in single family dwellings. I think this is similar to above. Not sure what incentives are being considered.</li> <li>3. Encourage subdivision of large single family lots. This is a good idea in principle but must be done with care otherwise we could see a real mish-mash of small developments within existing single-family homes, each having its own style and form that is not conducive with a planned and regulated civic neighbourhood. We need to involve</li> </ol>

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		<p>neighbourhoods in some of this decision-making or we need to assemble these lots into a larger scale program involving blocks of residences that are properly planned. We need to be coordinating with the neighbourhood and with developers.</p> <p>4. Encourage additional housing units in single family neighbourhoods in the form of detached suites.</p> <p>This may be fine for current developments with backyard laneways but I see some difficulties with "grannie-flats" in many neighbourhoods. Reminds me of the house-boy's kaya in our backyards in Zambia.</p> <p>5. Encourage ground oriented multi-family housing near community gatherings (i.e. community centres, schools, or places of worship), and near commercial centres and transit corridors. Should be done. I would advocate for these homes where we can fit them in. Perhaps certain parkland can be used for these homes with a swap of land where homes are being razed being converted to parks</p> <p>6. Explore other housing tenures for multi-family housing that does not require a strata council. Not sure what this is aimed at. Some strata councils work – others don't.</p> <p>7. Encourage low rise mixed-use development with commercial at grade near town centres such as Ladner, Tsawwassen, and the Social Heart in North Delta, and along the Scott Road corridor.</p>

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		<p>We need to create facilities to encourage a work-live lifestyle for young families wishing to run a small business</p> <p>8. Encourage medium to high rise mixed-use development with commercial at grade at key nodes along Scott Road.</p> <p>Again this could support work-live lifestyles.</p> <p>9. Require developers to provide housing that is more sensitive to a range of income levels. Affordable housing to meet the needs of people in poverty is a difficult problem. Do we isolate these folks or attempt to integrate them into the overall community? Developers shun this approach as it is less profitable – need to find ways to bring all parties together to find a resolution. I would work hard to find consensus in neighbourhoods.</p> <p>10. Lobby other levels of government and the development industry to work in partnership to create housing that is more sensitive to a range of income levels.</p> <p>Yes, this would be part of the consensus-building I mentioned above.</p>
<p>3b. Lack of seniors housing - What are you willing to do with Delta's land bank to help address this need?</p>	<p>We need to approach developers as they propose housing to see what they can do for affordable housing (5% perhaps). Some developments may not be suitable as they are too far from transit or too high end (price wise). There currently is a development proposal that has been brought forward to council to gage our reaction at a recent workshop. It would be seniors housing on 56th</p>	<p>I totally agree with this sentiment and have been working since 2007 to see that housing needs for our ever-increasing seniors' population is increased. For those seniors looking to downsize, most are forced to leave the community. The problem is exasperated for those seniors in need of home-care or assisted living who often cannot be placed in a facility here in Delta so their families</p>

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	<p>street in Tsawwassen next to the Coast hotel where seniors would share facilities with the hotel (restaurant, pool, workout room etc). There is another one that has indicated they want to build seniors housing along 64th and highway 91. We need to look at these options to determine ways to serve our aging community. There is currently a 2 year wait for seniors' facilities in all of Delta and with an aging demographic, that problem will only increase. I am willing to look at encouraging this type of development for our seniors.</p>	<p>must travel long distances to Surrey and in some cases Maple Ridge to visit their loved ones. Any new major development that comes forward for approval must contain a significant amount of housing dedicated to seniors needs. Together with the Fraser Valley Health Care Authority we must add more assisted-living facilities to meet the needs of all Deltans and allow them to continue living here in our community</p>
<p>4a. What are your plans to improve sidewalks, street lighting, curbing, and intersections to ensure safety of pedestrians?</p>	<p>Sidewalks in Delta need an incredible amount of work and vision to meet the future demands for mobility aids, curbing and general safety. Our current budget only allows \$300,000 to be spent on sidewalks every year in Delta. That allows for only 500 meters of new sidewalks every year. As your Mayor I will ask your opinion on where you would like your tax dollars spent to ensure that your voice is heard. I will also ensure that funding grants are maximized to ensure that we focus on improving our crosswalks, and pedestrian sidewalks. For Intersections, I will also work with outside agencies, such as ICBC for shared funding to improve our intersections in Delta where we have the worst safety record (120th and 72nd Ave. in North Delta).</p>	<p>More and more seniors are maintaining their mobility using small electric scooters. As more of these come into our communities, we may need to install more "bike lanes" to protect them from faster moving vehicles. Lighting needs should be addressed wherever seniors are located or in need of better lighting. Our sidewalks need to be designed for these vehicles to enter and exit into the roadway.</p>
<p>4b. If elected, what are your plans for seeking improvements to</p>	<p>Translink has clearly indicated that no new transit will be forthcoming for Delta in the next 10 years or more. It is very difficult to travel within areas of</p>	<p>Restoration of some direct transportation from Delta (both N and S) to downtown Vancouver is essential to meet the needs of seniors. We need to</p>

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transit for Delta?	<p>Delta, however I travel on transit from Tsawwassen to Downtown using the 602 and Canada Line and find it very convenient. My son and husband are regular commuters who travel to Richmond and North Vancouver every work day. So the most pressing part of transit seems to be more getting around within North Delta or travelling between the two communities. As I work with the industrial areas of Annacis and Tilbury, they have another dilemma of how to hire the best workers when they need a car to work in the industrial areas. We clearly need to work at cost sharing our own commuter service bus to address the gaps in transit. As your new Mayor, I will create a Transit/Transportation committee of council to address these issues working out solutions with the development community, business and industrial areas and with seniors and youth to shape our own solutions to this issue.</p>	<p>find ways to coordinate bus services for the needs of seniors in a more efficient and effective manner. TransLink needs to adjust its criteria of measuring performance with respect to seniors as opposed to the general public. At the moment they only respond to where growth is occurring. Some modest population growth in Delta would help out here and would help maintain generation of capital creators that is ever diminishing.</p>