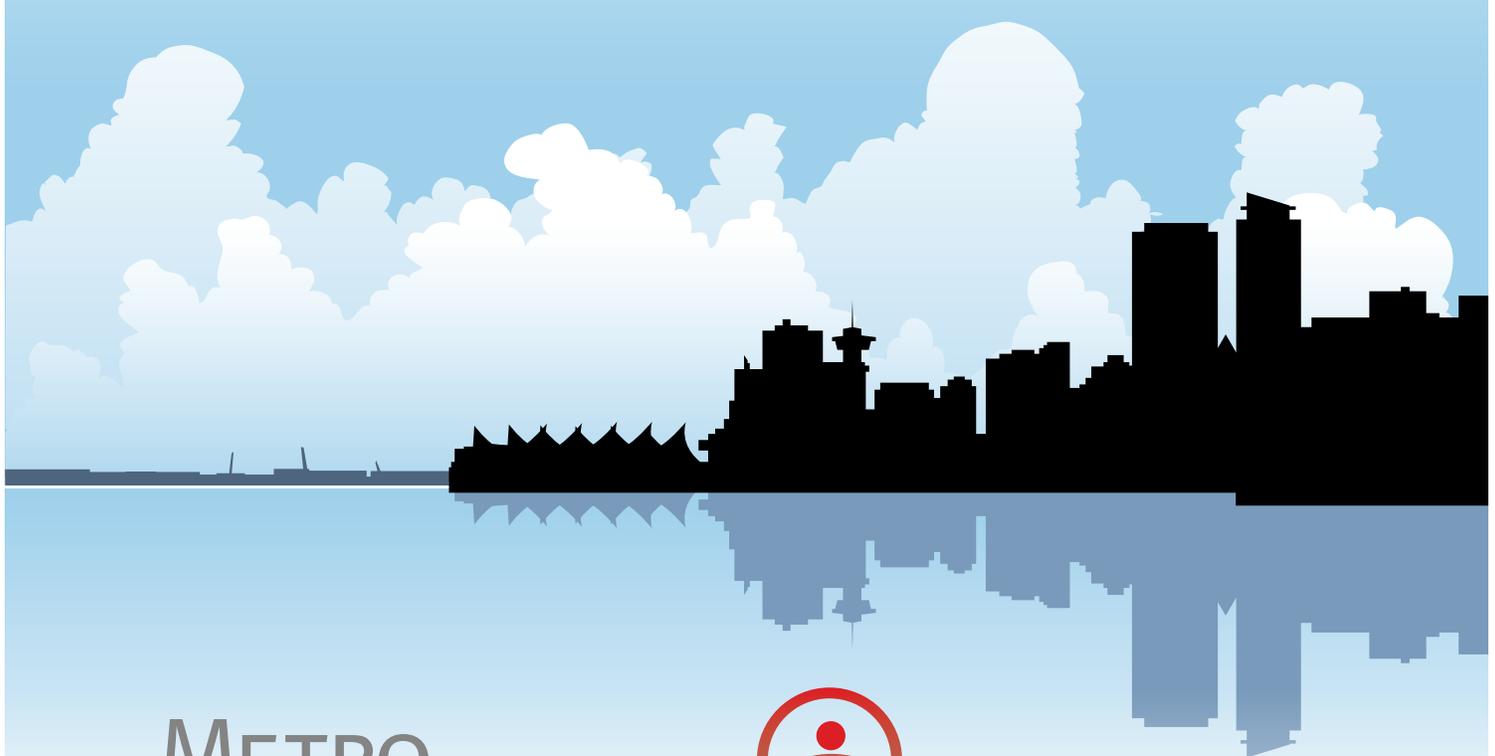


PROVINCIAL ELECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ASSEMBLY APRIL 4, 2017, Italian Cultural Centre

Metro Vancouver Alliance is a broad-based alliance of 57 civil society institutions who work together for the common good. Our member and sponsoring organizations represent 200,000 people in Metropolitan Vancouver and over 700,000 people across the Province.

At our Municipal Election Accountability Assembly October 19, 2014, we received commitments from local politicians on our civic agenda. Tonight we will be asking the provincial party leaders to support our efforts on Economic Justice, Affordable Housing, Accessible Transit and a Strong Foundation for Healthcare at the provincial level.



METRO
VANCOUVER  ALLIANCE

Organizing for the Common Good.



Tonight's Agenda

Territorial Acknowledgement, Welcome and Introductions

Our Commitments and Proposals

- Economic Justice for all
- A Better Housed Province
- Accessible Transit for all
- A Strong foundation for Healthcare

Responses from Provincial Party Leaders

Call to Action

Cultural Performers

Burundian Community Association of BC Youth Group is a dance group that helps children preserve their culture and language and increase the number of graduates among the Canadian Burundian youth.

Saint James Music Academy (SJMA) is a free afterschool program that teaches classical music and life skills to at-risk children and youth living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Through the power and joy of making music together, children grow into their full potential as both artists and young citizens. Since its founding, SJMA has touched thousands of young lives and made the "power of the possible" a reality for many.

Indangamirwa Traditional Dance Group was created in July 2015 by four Rwandan women. The founding members recognized the need to stay in touch with their culture while creating a platform for entertainment and personal growth. Indangamirwa has two meanings: The literal meaning, which is "The beautiful ones to stare at"; and the cultural meaning: "The beautiful cows that are presented as bride price during marriage ceremonies".

Harmony of Nations drum circle has existed in the DTES community for over 8 years. It is made up of people of many different nations and was co-founded by the late Norma Jean Baptiste.

Rebecca Duncan is a Language Consultant, Cultural Worker and strong ambassador for the Squamish Nation. She has dedicated her life to preserving the Squamish Language and rich history through storytelling, weaving and traditional health & wellness. No matter where you're from it is important to know your ties to the land, this is your identity!

Member Organizations

Labour

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1724
BC Federation of Labour
BC Government and Service Employees' Union
BC Teachers' Federation
Burnaby Civic Employees' Union, CUPE 23
Canadian Labour Congress, Pacific Region
CUPE Metro
Delta Teachers' Association
Health Sciences Association Staff Union (HSASU)
Hospital Employees' Union
Public Service Alliance Vancouver Region
UNIFOR British Columbia Council
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1518
The Vancouver and District Labour Council

Community Groups

ALIVE (Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement) Society
Association of Neighborhood Houses of BC (ANHBC)
Burnaby Taskforce on Homelessness
Burundian Community Association
Capilano University School of Communication
Carnegie Community Centre Association
The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
HandiDart Riders Alliance
Jackson Avenue Co-op
Livable Income for Equality
Populace Restaurant
Raycam Community Centre
Reach Community Health Centre
Single Mothers' Alliance of BC
Strathcona Residents' Association
United Way Community Impact and Investment
Vancouver Community College

Faith Groups

Canadian Baptists of Western Canada
Downtown Eastside (DTES) Catholic Parishes
Eco-Justice Unit of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster
Fairview Baptist Church
First Lutheran Church
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Grandview Calvary Baptist Church
KAIROS BC
Longhouse Council of Native Ministry
Presbytery of Westminster Social Justice Action Committee (The Presbyterian Church in Canada)
Our Lady of Guadalupe Tonantzin Community
Servant Partners
Sisters Assoc. of the Archdiocese of Vancouver
Sisters of the Instruction of the Child Jesus
St. Andrew's Wesley United Church
St. Augustine's Catholic Parish
St. Catherine's Anglican Church
St. Clement's Anglican Church
St. James' Anglican Church
St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Parish
St. Laurence Anglican Church
St. Mary's Catholic Parish
St. Thomas's Anglican Church

Sponsoring Organizations

Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver
Anglican Diocese of New Westminster
Vancity Savings Credit Union

**The province we want:
A fair, equal and poverty-free place,
with economic justice for all**



BC has the second highest poverty rate in the country and is the only province without a plan to reduce poverty. A comprehensive poverty reduction plan will address social assistance rates, low wages, child care, education and health care.



Persons receiving provincial disability assistance currently have their Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Disability benefits clawed back by the provincial government, despite having contributed to CPP in their working years. This traps people in poverty, unable to support their basic needs.

We commit to:

- Working with you to develop and build popular support for a poverty reduction plan and the elimination of the Canada Pension Plan Disability claw back.

We ask the candidates to:

- Work with the Metro Vancouver Alliance and a broad range of advocates and organizations to develop and implement within one year of the election, a legislated, comprehensive poverty reduction plan for BC.
- As a first step in addressing poverty, commit to the elimination of the claw back of Canada Pension Plan Disability benefits for people on provincial Persons with Disabilities assistance.

A better housed province



Failure to build new affordable housing units and repair existing housing stock over the past 30 years has led to a crisis in housing affordability. While attention has focused on the spectacular increases in real estate prices, there is also a serious crisis in the rental housing market. Rising land values have led to an epidemic of evictions as landlords have taken advantage of loopholes in the Residential Tenancy Act.

We commit to:

- Working with our member institutions and partners to develop innovative solutions unique to each community to address the building crisis.
- Making available to BC Housing staff the personal testimony, community case studies and all information needed to identify weaknesses in the current Residential Tenancy Act.



We are asking candidates to:

- Spend \$3 billion per year, including matching all of the housing funds transferred from the federal government, to build 10,000 new affordable housing units per year for the next five years to meet the current need and to preserve and re-invest in existing affordable housing stock.
- Strengthen the Residential Tenancy Act to tie rent to the unit, instead of to the tenant, so that landlords cannot increase rents between tenancies, plus eliminate the parts of the Act that currently allow fixed lease contracts, renovations, and unfair rent increases because of geography.

Accessible transit for all



The population of people over 70 years old will continue to increase rapidly in BC over the next decade. There is already a chronic shortage of HandyDART service resulting in social isolation, missed medical appointments and other negative effects. And in 2014 the Government of British Columbia committed to become “the most progressive jurisdiction in Canada for people with disabilities—where disabilities are no barrier to living full lives.”¹

We commit to:

- Providing the Premier, ministers, and provincial government staff with political support, testimony, and case studies to bolster their funding decisions on HandyDART services.

We are asking candidates to:

- Commit to providing funding through a special grant to increase HandyDART service hours by 5% per year for the next four years, 2018–2021, for all TransLink and BC Transit HandyDART services. The funding for TransLink would be in addition to the service increases in 2018 and 2019 already supported through municipal property taxes.

¹ Accessibility 2024 Action Plan http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/careers/about-the-bc-public-service/diversity-inclusion-respect/accessibility2024_update_web.pdf

A strong foundation for health care

Primary health care (PHC) is the foundation of Canada's health care system, providing access to both health and social services. But services like physiotherapy, counselling, home support and home care are becoming harder to access because patients are confronting a growing number of barriers, including financial and geographic. We support the commitment of the Ministry of Health to increase access to coordinated primary, community and social care services so that patients can obtain the right service from the right provider at the right time.



We commit to:

- Working with our member organizations in support of provincial and health authority efforts to increase access to primary health and social care by people across the province. Reach out to the medical profession to encourage dialogue with our member organizations, which represent many hard-to-reach and under-served patients.

We are asking candidates to:

- Commit to establishing a primary health care partnership table, including representatives from Aboriginal and multicultural communities, to identify strategies to reform BC's primary health care system.
- Work with the Metro Vancouver Alliance and the BC Association of Community Health Centres to develop an annualized global funding model for Community Health Centres in British Columbia that encompasses the package of salaried, team-based primary care, health promotion, disease prevention, community development initiatives and social services.
- Invest in 20 new community-governed, not-for-profit or cooperative Community Health Centres throughout British Columbia to provide more British Columbians access to primary health care when and where it is needed.



Thank you!

To all our Member Organizations, Research Action Team Members, our partners and allies, our volunteers and delegates, our video team, our speakers, the party leaders, candidates and politicians who join us here tonight, our performers and everyone who helped make our Provincial Assembly a success.

...and an extra thanks to those who contributed resources

BC Government and Service Employees' Union

BC Teachers' Federation

CUPE Metro

Hospital Employees' Union

Public Service Alliance Canada

Sam Bradd – Drawing Change.

We acknowledge that this event takes place on the unceded territories of the Tsleil-Waututh, Musqueam and Squamish First Nations.



Twitter: @MetVanAlliance | **Instagram:** @metrovancouveralliance