

Vancouver Food Policy Council All Candidates' Questionnaire

The Vancouver Food Policy Council (VFPC) is an advisory group to Vancouver City Council, providing ideas and policy recommendations toward creating a thriving local food system. The primary goal of the VFPC is to examine how our local food system operates and provide ideas and policy recommendations to Vancouver City Council on how it can be improved. VFPC is comprised of passionate people from various sectors of the local food system. Members include farmers, food distributors, nutritionists, processors, waste managers, activists, and academics engaged in the food system. The VFPC functions as a bridge between citizens and civic officials, coming together to work on food policy initiatives that benefit all Vancouverites.

Candidate Name: Colin Shandler
Office Seeking: Mayor
Party Affiliation(if any): Independent
Public Website: Shandlerformayor.blogspot.com

Please complete the questionnaire and send back to us at info@vancouverfoodpolicycouncil.ca. We'll post your responses on our blog, and on the wall at our All Candidates Forum Oct 15th.

General Questions:

1. Will you endorse the Vancouver Food Strategy and/or the Park Board Local Food Action Plan if you are elected?

I would like to think so, however I have not met all the members of the VFS or read the constitution of the organization. I love food, people and our Neighbourhoods. Always support good works done by persons with good intentions.

2. What actions in the VFS and/or LFAP would you focus on first?

First thing I would do is allocate and spend genuine time with the VSF and LFAP representatives, get to know the key members, the goals, actions, time lines, previous results and then see how we as a council could help.

3. What have you already done for food in your community?

Ding! I founded the Tipper restaurant in 2008, a community focused adventure with fresh food and wonderful co-workers. This is my strength for sure. I started my employment carrier in the food service industry at 14 year old and have worked my way up to the key leadership roles within each food service giants, A&W (10yrs), Milestone's (5yrs), Moxies (3yrs) SJP (3yrs) and now humbly currently cooking for the Neighbourhood almost daily. "feed your friends" & "thank you lil' restaurant" are directly linked to my food service knowledge and joys.

4. Given the many priorities of a municipal government, how do you feel food can contribute to our city?

Food choices, systems, transportation networks, product selection is the quickest way to impact the wellbeing of Neighbourhoods, cities, countries and the entire globe. The distance between our hands and our mouths instantly covers the distances between peoples from all over the world. "want to change the world? change what, how and when we eat"

Issue Based Questions:

5. Given the Greenest City Action Plan's goal "to ensure that the majority of residents live within a five-minute walk of a basket of fresh produce" and the Vancouver Food Strategy's goal to "improve access to healthy, affordable, culturally diverse food for all residents", what initiatives would you use to support these goals?

This is a fantastic goal.

6. Given Metro Vancouver's upcoming 2015 organics ban, what initiatives would you support to get us to zero food waste?

Also a fantastic goal. I do have a few concerns, so I would like to review this program so it is effective and not a burden on the food service industry along with residents. An effective program needs the leadership of foodservice professionals, & local residents alike.

7. Given that Vancouver has a rich urban agriculture community (e.g. community gardens, urban farming, beekeeping, backyard chickens) what is our biggest missed opportunity to this point?

Knowing that this is a missed opportunity. We as a city are not doing enough. Period.

8. How would you as a municipal politician work with other levels of government on issues that may be considered outside of Vancouver's jurisdiction e.g. ALR, raising welfare rates, GMOs, migrant farm labour, others?

Most of the time the best way to change something is to lead by example within our own neighbourhoods, cities and jurisdiction.

9. What role do you think local governments play in supporting healthy and sustainable food in schools?

Yes! without question!

10. The Vancouver Food Strategy and Talk Food To Us program engaged thousands of residents in the development of the strategy. What kind of engagement process would you utilize in food policy work?

I feel very confident that myself and new colleagues will lend tremendous support to positive food systems in Vancouver.