

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: Michael Wiebe
Office Seeking: Park Board Commissioner
Party Affiliation(if any): Greens
Public Website: www.becascadian.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? Yes and fight to continue the move towards a stonger localized food system.
2. What actions in the VFS and/or LFAP would you focus on first?
Creation of healthier menus in parks facilities with a local food strategy
3. What have you already done for food in your community?
Helped support the Sole Foods movement, partnered with Vancouver urban farms, created an urban garden, own a locally sourced restaurant, lead on a successful zero waste project, restaurant consultant on food strategy, worked with food suppliers to decrease waste
4. Given the many priorities of a municipal government, how do you feel food can contribute to our city?
Food is a central component of life, which every citizen can share and would help grow our communities.

Issues 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?
Support year round markets, local food education plan, promote grocers that support local, work with food banks to buy fresh local produce
6. Given Metro Vancouver's upcoming 2015 organics ban, what initiatives would you support to get us to zero food waste?
Strong education strategy, remove bin fees for organic containers, waste consultants, specific BIA zero waste strategies, forced regulations on waste removal companies
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? Communal gardens and education.
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?
Ban packaging.

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

To ensure that every child has the opportunity to enjoy and understand what great local food is and how it's produced.

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?

A location strategy that focused on promoting the actual location the food was created.