

## **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: **Stuart Mackinnon**

Office Seeking: **Park Board Commissioner**

Party Affiliation (if any): **Green Party**

Public Website: **[www.betterparks.ca](http://www.betterparks.ca)**

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

General Questions:

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

**I endorse the Vancouver Food Strategy and the Park Board Local Food Action Plan.**

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

**I would focus on affordable access to nutritious food throughout the Park Board network.**

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

**At the Park Board Community Gardens are an important link with the populous and a way of promoting nutritious local food. I would continue my support of these gardens.**

Issues Based Questions:

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?

**As stated in the previous answer, I would continue to promote community gardens. I also think community centres can be a source of information on healthy choices. Community Centres are uniquely situated to serve the populace at large but especially those new to the city.**

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

**Encourage the green waste and recycling programs through information available through the Park Board network or Community Centres, day-cares, and recreational amenities.**

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?

**As a teacher I think the lack of community gardens at schools has to be the biggest wasted opportunity to this point. Both elementary and secondary schools would be great places for local food growing where kids can not only enjoy the benefits of local food but learn the importance of food security.**

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?

**Networking with other municipal officials and working with NGOs and others to promote the values of a fair and equitable society**

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

**I believe they play a primary role. City, Park Board, and School Board need to work more closely together to promote healthy and sustainable foods everywhere but especially in schools. Good eating habits begin in childhood.**

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 would like to see more consultation with youth. Find out what they eat and why and if given information about the foods they eat would they change their habits (I believe they would). This consultation could be done in Community Centres as well as schools.**