

Bowen Island Candidate Survey Responses - November 2014

Name	Candidate for:	In the last year, all North Shore municipalities and School Districts formally endorsed the North Shore Food Charter . If elected, what will you do to support implementation of the Charter?	Urban farming includes activities such as backyard gardening, sale of produce and seedlings, keeping of small livestock (i.e. chickens), edible landscaping, and farming of leased/borrowed urban land. Most of these activities are currently not permitted under City/District bylaws and policies. Do you support urban agriculture initiatives, and if so how will you support urban farming initiatives in your community?	Many cities have food policy councils established to bring municipal staff, local experts and community members together to research and develop policies related to local food security issues. If elected, what priority would you place on forming a food policy council for the North Shore?	The demand for locally-grown food on the North Shore is growing. If elected, what priority will you place on increasing access to locally produced, fresh healthy food for North Shore residents?	What is your level of interest in supporting new food businesses (eg. small scale food processors, producers, markets, etc.) in your community?	Food waste is a growing issue in our region, and food recovery is emerging as an innovative method to ensure that fresh food avoids disposal and makes it onto the table. If elected, what priority would you place on supporting food recovery initiatives on the North Shore?	Please use this space to elaborate on any of your responses to the "ranked" questions above.
Michael Chapman	Council	I would work with all the Mayors and Councils on the North Shore, to promote the implementation of the Food Charter. Local food will help us all live better and reduce the harm we do to the environment around us.	Fortunately on Bowen we are not so restricted. We have partnerships with Metro for the use of some of their land for community gardens. More would be better! Keeping green waste on Island is a top priority for me.	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	We need to keep our valuable green waste on Bowen for processing and sale. This is a very high priority for me. Looking just at cost per ton, does not take into the cost to the natural environment to drive our green waste on a ferry and take it away for us!
Maureen Nicholson	Council	I already participate in Bowen Agricultural Alliance (BAA) and Bowen in Transition events (including its annual sustainability tour), help organize Bowen Heritage's annual Applefest (which includes a farmers' market), and grow most of the vegetables for our family. So, on a personal level, many of the issues reflected in the North Shore Food Charter matter to me and have affected how I live my life. In my candidate statement, supporting environmental sustainability (for example, on-island composting and local agriculture) is one of my goals. If elected, I may have the opportunity to provide encouragement, structure, and opportunities for our local organizations to expand their programs and involve more Bowen Islanders (kids and adults) in local farming, growing, and gardening.	Yes, I support these farming initiatives. Because many parts of Bowen Island are rural, these initiatives are often already part of everyday life and no bylaw or policy revision is required. Some islanders who live in the less rural areas have expressed an interest in farming on leased/borrowed land, and some arrangements have been struck with individual property owners. I will encourage more of these arrangements, perhaps through incentives, demonstration gardens, or repurposing of underutilized municipal land. I will support additional farming initiatives by listening to the ideas of the organizations and people most involved: Bowen Agricultural Alliance, Bowen in Transition, and the farmers and growers of the island. One need identified by farmers included in a recent sustainability tour, for example, is for a local slaughterhouse for chickens, turkeys, and pigs. I will look into this further because it's both a business opportunity and important for food security. I also read quite a bit about these issues, so I will be more alert for models of small-scale farming that have worked well elsewhere as well as for the broader initiatives underway through Metro Vancouver.	An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	Bowen is a small island, and I'm not sure a "food policy council" is necessary at the municipal level. However, I could see some merit in a group that looked at the larger picture.
George Zawadzki	Council	I'm all for food protection, but would need to be better educated on the process before I can comment on implementation.	Yes I support them, and if there was a initiative proposed in our municipality, I would give it favorable consideration.	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in	Food protection is a growing concern world wide and we need to start dealing with. I eat, and support fresh and local as much as possible. No GMO!