

Maureen Nicholson



Candidate Statement

Hello, Bowen Islanders. Please vote for me for mayor and Islands Trust trustee in the upcoming election.

Our next council will likely be a mix of experienced and new councillors, serving at a time of risk and opportunity for our island home. As a voter, you'll be selecting your preferred candidates, and you'll also be electing a group of individuals who must function as a team. Please think about your choices through this lens.

The new mayor, I believe, needs to have substantial practical and demonstrated experience and skills to successfully guide Council, work with staff, and serve the community. I have the required experience and skills to do so, having served two terms on Council, two terms on the Metro Parks Committee, and a term as Metro Director for Bowen Island. I also have constructive relationships with our municipal staff and respect their abilities to provide information, advice, and services.

My main priorities as mayor for the 2022-2026 term would be

- To complete, without disruption, the capital projects we've started and to do so in a fiscally responsible and transparent way
 - To develop an updated or new Official Community Plan that better reflects who we are now and where we want to go
 - To find additional sources of revenue to support essential infrastructure projects
- I hope to serve with a Council that shares those priorities.

For the trustee role, the Islands Trust recently requested a provincial government review of the Trust mandate, structure, and operations. I believe I can contribute to that discussion in an informed way and with genuine curiosity.

I'm a communications professor at Douglas College and have lived on island for 17 years, first as a married homeowner on an acreage in a rural part of the island, now as a single renter in a more populated area. My time over those years has been enriched by working together with many of you on community boards, advocacy groups, and projects.

This past term has been tough, and sometimes genuine successes have been lost sight of. After more than 20 years, we have a new fire hall. We are underway with the community centre. We enabled the health centre and a purpose-built rental building. We're tackling the water and sewer infrastructure challenges in the context of climate change impacts. We've mitigated cost impacts on the community by securing some \$16 million in external funding since 2017. We're making headway on things that the

community has identified as important, and I'm happy to have been part of that. Throughout, I've made an effort to communicate factually, clearly, and transparently.

I'm looking forward to a slower pace as we complete our capital projects and then push the pause button — to take some time to catch our breath and reflect together as a community.

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