

Medal of Good Citizenship Selection Committee Member Biographies



Honourable Anne Kang, M.L.A. was first elected as the MLA for Burnaby-Deer Lake (now called Burnaby Centre) in 2017.

Anne is the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. Anne previously served as Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training, and Minister of Municipal Affairs. She has also held roles as Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors, Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism, and Minister of Citizen's Services. She immigrated to British Columbia as a child and has lived in Burnaby for more than 30 years. She has been an active community volunteer since the age of 8. Anne was a three-term Burnaby City Councillor before becoming an MLA and was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 for her contribution to Canada.

Anne completed her post-secondary education at the University of British Columbia, receiving a Bachelor of Music, a Bachelor of Education – Elementary, a Diploma in Special Education – Learning Disability, and a Master degree in Special Education - Gifted and Creative Learner, and completed two levels of Montessori Certification. Before being elected MLA of Burnaby-Deer Lake, Anne was a music teacher in the Burnaby school system. Anne lives in Burnaby and has two children who attend school in Burnaby.



Leigha Horsfield For more than 20 years, Leigha has been involved with supporting business and economic development in the North Okanagan region. In her role as Executive Director of Community Futures North Okanagan, Leigha works as part of a dynamic team who supports business retention and expansion, workforce development and economic development planning. Leigha is active in the community through her involvement as a Director with the Community Foundation of the North Okanagan along with various committees and organizations in the region.



James (Kent) Macaulay has worked in various fields, including as a Community College Program Coordinator, an Education Officer at a provincial museum, a Coordinator of Training for Justices of the Peace throughout BC, and as Executive Director of an investment fund supporting new community economic development initiatives in Saskatoon. Active in his community, Kent is Treasurer for the Prentice Place Wishing Well Association and a Board Member for Servas Canada.

Kent is also a Neighbourhood Organizer for the Quadra Island Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program and a volunteer worker at community lunches at the Quadra Island Community Centre. Previously, associated on the Boards of Oxfam Canada, Gay and Lesbian Health Services of Saskatoon and Big Brothers of Saskatoon. Mr. Macaulay holds a BA, Bachelor of Education with Distinction, a Certificate in Teaching English as a second language and a Postgraduate Diploma in Communications, Continuing and Vocational Education from the University of Saskatchewan. He also holds a Diploma in Intercultural Education and Training from UVic.



Frank Palter has been a hospitality and tourism professional for over 41 years. Mr. Palter is the Lead Bartender at the Fairmont Waterfront of Fairmont Hotels and Resorts. Previously, he was a Sales Associate at HCareers. Active in his community, he has enjoyed opportunities to help operate and fundraise for school events. Mr. Palter is the recipient of the Fairmont Heartist – Front of House Monthly Colleague 5 times. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce - Hotel and Food Administration program at the University of Guelph.



Kate Dickerson is currently the Vice President of People Services at Vancouver Community College (VCC). Kate provides executive oversight for VCC's people strategy and practices including recruitment, labour relations, compensation & benefits, HR systems, people development, performance management, employee retention and recognition initiatives, change management, health and safety, disability management and workplace wellness. Kate serves on the board of the Open Door Group in Vancouver.

She has over 20 years of Human Resources and Disability Management experience in Public Healthcare, Information Technology Consulting and Public Safety. Kate has her MBA from SFU and is a Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR), HR certificate at Algonquin college in Ottawa and a diploma in Rehabilitation Management from SFU.



Jerome Francis has a dynamic career spanning over two decades in education. He is a seasoned professional known for his expertise in executive strategic leadership. His journey started as a certified teacher, where he taught in the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education sectors.

His commitment to excellence in education led him into a broader sphere as he ventured into leadership roles, steering organizations toward transformative change. Jerome lives in Port Coquitlam.



Sonia Kaur Virk is a passionate and committed community member who has demonstrated her dedication by organizing various initiatives through the Punjabi Cultural Community Association of Victoria, a nonprofit organization that she manages alongside her mother. Their fundraising events have raised significant funds for the Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island, WIN-Women in Need Community Cooperative, Victoria Hospitals Foundation-Cancer Care and the Esquimalt Syrian Refugee program.

Sonia is also a proud Sikh; in 2023 she spoke at the Saanich Remembrance Day Ceremony where she recognized Sikh soldiers who sacrificed their lives for Canada.

Alongside her community work, Sonia is also a student at the University of Victoria currently pursuing a Bachelor of Social Sciences, with dreams to pursue a career in community development.