

Vancouver-Langara



Vancouver-Langara has been held by the BC Liberals since the riding was created in 1991. Polling data marks the race as a swing riding with the 26 year old NDP challenger Tessica Truong in a slight lead (within the margin of error) to unseat the BC Liberal incumbent Michael Lee.

In a swing riding, teachers' votes and voices are of critical importance! Voters, friends and family look to us to accurately relate the current state of public education. So if you're convinced by the arguments made by any of these candidates, share your opinions with others!

We've conducted some research to give VESTA members more information leading up to Election Day. Last week, a teacher written questionnaire was sent out and we have heard back from some candidates.

VSB Elementary schools included within the riding: John Henderson, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Annie B. Jamieson, Sir William Osler, Sir William Van Horne.

VSB Secondary schools included within the riding: John Oliver, Sir Winston Churchill, Ideal Mini School, Eric Hamber

The major party candidates:

BC Liberals: Michael Lee (Incumbent)



With a career as a business lawyer, Lee entered electoral politics in 2017, winning his race by 2,000 votes over NDP candidate James Wang. Since taking his seat in Victoria, Lee ran for Liberal leadership after Christy Clark's departure from politics, placing third. Lee is currently the Official Opposition Co-Critic for Indigenous Relations.

Political priorities: Investing in public safety to help eliminate “permanent tent cities”. Working with the parent community in Vancouver-Langara to ensure schools are built to meet their needs. Eliminating the PST for one year.

Response to VESTA questionnaire: No response received.

VSB Fun Fact: Lee says he fought hard to pressure the VSB so that Eric Hamber Secondary will have an auditorium in their new school.

Sources: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7335886/bc-election-2020-vancouver-langara/>
<https://www.bcliberals.com/team/michael-lee/>

BC NDP: Tesicca Truong



After graduating from SFU with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, Truong has worked as a housing, community and climate change policy analyst, including having worked in this capacity for federal Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament. Truong states that she is “not running in spite of being young, in spite of being a Vietnamese Chinese Canadian, in spite of being a woman...” she is “running because of it.” If elected, Truong would be among the youngest ever seated in BC politics.

Political priorities: Fighting the housing crisis, climate crisis and enacting a COVID-19 recovery plan that “works for all”.

Response to VESTA questionnaire:

On underfunding of BC Public Schools: “I can’t state strongly enough how important this issue [is] to me. I spent my time in the public education system under a BC Liberal government and know first-hand the impacts of underfunding. Education funding is crucial”...”This school year, districts will receive an estimated \$627.4 million to support students with special needs, a \$162.8-million (35%) increase since 2016-17”... “Our government also restored tuition-free Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning, removing roadblocks set up by the BC Liberals for people wanting to upgrade and pursue their dreams.”

On new teacher recruitment and retention: “As a millennial and someone who has seen so many of our friends and peers move away because of the impossible cost of living in Vancouver, this issue deeply resonates with me. One of the key issues is the cost of housing – we need to address the housing crisis and allow people to stay in their communities”

VSB Fun Fact: Truong graduated at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary from both the International Baccalaureate and French Immersion programs. In an interview with the Tyee, Truong credited her education at Churchill Secondary and the Trek Program with helping her learn of the importance of protecting the environment.

Sources: <https://votemate.org/bc2020/candidates/4019>
<https://tesiccatruong.bcndp.ca/>
<https://thetyee.ca/News/2020/10/07/Tesicca-Truong-No-Avocado-Toast/>

BC Greens: Stephanie Hendy



Having received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Physiology from SFU in 2013, Hendy has worked in a variety of healthcare contexts for the last several years. She identifies as a scientist, but also as female, queer and a person with a disability. This is important to her as she argues that “when enough political candidates have more in common with the average person, they are better suited in communicating with empathy and urgency than someone who has not had those lived experiences”.

Political priorities: Revising the MSP formula to include vision care and dental. Increasing representation of low-income, people with disabilities and LGBTQ2S+ in government.

Response to VESTA questionnaire: No response received.

VSB Fun Fact: Hendy studied at Kitsilano Secondary and the Vancouver School Board Adult Education Centre.

Sources: <https://votemate.org/bc2020/candidates/4083>
https://www.bcgreens.ca/stephanie_hendy