



Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council

<http://dnchome.wordpress.com> | dtescouncil@gmail.com

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL (DNC)

December 2012 Board Election

HOW TO RUN IN THE BOARD ELECTION

You must be a resident of the DTES* and agree with the constitution (See page 3 of this package).

How to apply

1. **Read** through this package to learn about DNC.
2. **Fill out a nomination form** – Available at VANDU (380 E Hastings) and in the CCAP office (Carnegie 2nd floor), on the back side of this package.

Return your form on the back side of this package in the nominations box at VANDU or the CCAP office or to one of 3 DNC board members on or before 5pm Friday December 9th:

- a. Tami Starlight (Co-President): 604-790-9943
- b. Herb Varley (Co-President): 604-773-2517
- c. Kelvin Bee (Board member): Find him at Aboriginal Front Door

Or email the information from the form to: dtescouncil@gmail.com

3. **Come to the Annual General Meeting and be ready to make a speech** there about who you are and why you're a good candidate for the DNC board.
4. **If you can't make it to the AGM:** Please indicate this on your nomination form and write an election statement that can be read out for you at the AGM.

*If you are a **Natural Community Member** (non-DTES-resident DNC member) you cannot run in the election but still must submit a nomination form to be considered by the board to fill an at-large seat.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Saturday December 10

2:30pm

Dodson Hall

(25 W. Hastings)

*AGM celebration meal
while the ballots are counted

*\$3 honorarium available

WHAT IS THE DNC?

The DNC is a DTES resident group with an elected board and about 1000 members (so far) that advocates for the needs, interests, and aspirations of our neighbourhood. We are organizing with DTES residents, our neighbours, to unite, act and seek control over the decisions affecting our lives.

Who can be a DNC DIRECTOR?

The 21-member DNC board of directors will reflect the actual population and diversity of our vibrant neighbourhood.

The DNC has seventeen (17) board members who are elected by housing types:

- 5 seats --- Social housing reps (government subsidized including co-ops and supportive housing)
- 5 seats --- SRO hotel reps (private or publically owned including non-profit run hotels)
- 3 seats --- Market housing reps (rental or owned)
- 4 seats --- Homeless and Special Needs Residential Facility (living outside, in a shelter, or in assisted living) By proportion of population, there should be 2 homeless seats but we inflate the representation to offset the difficulties homeless people experience participating in regular meetings.

PLUS: four (4) more seats appointed at-large after the AGM elections are done:

- 4 seats --- Member at Large (to ensure the board is balanced in terms of race, gender, age, sexuality, interest and committee representation and to be recommended by the DNC Board after the AGM and voted on at the next - December - DNC General Meeting)

Natural community members (live outside the neighbourhood but have been elected as honorary DNC members) can put their name forward for a Member at Large seat but are limited to 2 seats.

BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

An active DNC general membership is the foundation of the DNC. The board has an important role in preparing general meetings, implementing priorities and decisions decided at general meetings and organizing the work of the DNC in an effective way.

The DNC Board is an active working committee that meets weekly. DNC Board members will be involved in the work of the organization through committees. The DNC has no staff so all of the work of DNC must be carried out by its board and members.

DNC'S HISTORY

In order to form a neighbourhood council, 3 meetings were hosted by the Carnegie Community Centre Association, Access Association of Chinese Canadians for Equality and Solidarity and the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users in the Carnegie Theatre in 2009. Over 100 residents came to these meetings and drafted a basis of unity statement that was later turned into a constitution. A structure for the future board was agreed upon as well. In Feb 2010, a 13 member interim steering committee was elected to hold monthly general meetings, prepare the constitution and bylaws, organize around community issues and prepare the community for the first DNC AGM. In November 2010 this steering committee held an Annual General Meeting and a 20 member board was created. In November 2011 the DNC's second board was elected and that board appointed at-large board members as well as two co-presidents and a treasurer. On December 8 2012 the DNC's third board will be elected to serve the community through to the end of 2013.

2011-2012 DNC BOARD MEMBERS

Richard Cunningham, DJ Joe, Jamie Richardson, Dave Hamm, Harold Lavender, Ann Livingston, Ann Marie Monks, Wendy Pedersen, Roland Clarke, Dave Murray, Tami Starlight (co-president), Ivan Drury, Jenn Allan, Kelvin Bee, Herb Varley (co-president).

Elected board members who dropped off since the election: Jada Martinson, Paul Martin, Irene Mountain, Joe LeBlanc, Louie Alexander

DNC'S CONSTITUTION

We are a representative group of Downtown Eastside residents who advocate for the needs, interests, and aspirations of our neighbourhood.

1. We seek to **act in honor of the Tsleil-Waututh, Musqueam, and Squamish nations** whose unceded lands the DTES occupies. We stand for the national, territorial, and cultural rights of Indigenous peoples.
2. We **defend DTES residents** regardless of how each person came to live in the DTES, and regardless of each person's legal status.
3. We seek **community control** over neighbourhood planning, policy, land use, and community development.
4. We are for **community directed** accessible education and recreation programs.
5. We strive to **stop gentrification** and the involuntary displacement of DTES residents.
6. We work for dignified, low-income **affordable housing** at welfare and pension rates and **livable incomes** for all.
7. We advocate for self-determined and accessible harm reduction **health care**.
8. We support a **legal drug market** based on health and human rights principles.
9. We stand **against all stigmas, discriminations, and violence** that silence and marginalize DTES residents.
10. We support **women's safety** as a basic and unconditional right.
11. We advocate for the **rights of sex industry workers** and especially survival sex industry workers to safety and dignity.
12. We stand for accountable, community-positive policing that prioritizes **peoples' safety** over property.
13. We aim to honor, respect and celebrate the **members of our community**, including the racially oppressed founding communities of the DTES – Coast Salish, Black, Chinese, and Japanese – and our community's history of working for social and economic justice by continuing this work with **care, love and camaraderie** as our guiding principle.



Kelvin Bee: find him at AFD