

Call Me — I Want to Hear from You

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To donate:

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Useful numbers to keep

- Emergency: 911
- HealthLink BC (nurse advice, 24 hours): 811
- BC211 (help finding local services): 211
- Seniors Abuse & Information Line: 604-437-1940
- District of Squamish: 604-892-5217

VOTE DESJARDINS

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Authorized by Donna Wall, Financial Agent, 604.898.5601

DESJARDINS

for Council

Time for Change!

A Booklet for **Squamish Seniors**

Long-term care, housing, safety,
property taxes, and how to vote

Livability • Affordability • Fiscal Responsibility • Accountability
— using Common Sense

Janice DesJardins

Candidate for Squamish District Council

VOTE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026

Dear Neighbour,

There are more than 4,000 seniors living in Squamish. Many of you don't use social media, don't read the news online, and use your phone only to make calls. That's perfectly fine — but it means a lot of what the District and the candidates put out never reaches you.

So I've put the parts of my platform that matter most to seniors on paper, in one place, for you to keep.

Squamish is at a point where sound decisions based on community needs, common sense, and affordability are what count. I am running because Squamish needs help, and I want to be part of the team that addresses your concerns.

Please call me any time. I want to hear from you.

Janice DesJardins
604.815.9994

I acknowledge that the land on which I live is the unceded territory of the Skw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation).

How to Vote

You can vote early. Two advance days are at The 55 Activity Centre.

Day	Where	Hours
Wed. Oct. 7	The 55 Activity Centre	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Thu. Oct. 8	The 55 Activity Centre	Noon – 8 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 10	Totem Hall, 1380 Stawamus Rd.	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Thu. Oct. 15	Brennan Park	Noon – 8 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 17 VOTING DAY	Brennan Park, 1009 Centennial Way	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Vote by mail

Pick up an application at Municipal Hall, 37955 Second Avenue. Your ballot must arrive by 8 p.m. on Oct. 17. If you mail it back, it must reach Municipal Hall by 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 16. Anyone picking up a package for you must be named on your application.

If you need help

All voting places are wheelchair accessible, with priority service and a hearing loop. You can bring someone to help mark your ballot. There is special voting at Hilltop House, Shannon Falls, and the hospital.

Questions? Election Office: 604-892-5217

Getting Around & Staying Active

Transit

- Send the District's OnDemand bus to the upper Highlands — Tabletop Road and the Dowad area — where people can't get down to the bus routes we already have.
- Build safe sidewalks from those neighbourhoods down to the bus stops.
- Pay for it with savings in the existing budget and developer contributions. No new taxes.

Recreation

Brennan Park Recreation Centre is aging. Whatever we do — repair, renew, or replace — it has to be what residents actually want, with accessible design and a facility that serves all ages and abilities. And it has to be paid for fairly, with grants, partners, and naming rights, not just your property taxes.

Who I Am

My roots here go back to 1912, when my grandfather, Alex Munro, moved to Squamish. He founded our volunteer Fire Department, built the first firehall, and served as the first Fire Chief for 38 years — all as a volunteer. Community service is in my genes.

I've been volunteering in Squamish for decades. I sat on the District committee that developed our first tourism plan, and with the Squamish Estuary Conservation Society on the Squamish Estuary Management Plan.

Today I speak up for seniors in care and their families:

- Vice Chair, Vancouver Coastal Association of Family Councils
- Co-Chair, VCH Regional Resident & Family Councils
- Member, Independent Long Term Care Councils Association of BC
- Member, Senior's Aging at Home Community Network

I know this community, its history, and its people. I will listen, I will show up, and I will work hard for every resident.

A Seniors Advisory Council

There are over 4,000 seniors in Squamish. Our issues are broadly the same as everyone else's, but they are more complex — and Council has kept overlooking that.

A number of seniors have asked Council to create a Seniors Advisory Council, the same as they did for youth. One of them is a retired, highly respected geriatrician. If we had that Advisory Council, our problems would not have grown to where they are today.

Last year the District endorsed the Age Friendly Community Plan, put together by District staff, a grant, and a number of Squamish residents. Council needs to read that plan — and then see that it gets done.

What I will push for

- A Seniors Advisory Council, just like the one for youth
- Putting the Age Friendly Community Plan into action

Property Taxes

Our property taxes are far too high. People are leaving Squamish because it costs too much to live here, and property taxes are part of the reason. That is hard on everyone — especially seniors on a fixed income.

The numbers

- Taxes on an average single-family home in 2026: over \$4,000 — about \$350 a month
- The District's own 10-year plan expects another 13% increase in 2027

My commitment: for 2027, I will press Council to direct staff to bring back a budget with zero increase in property taxes.

We take care of needs first, and look hard at wants. We go through every line of the budget from scratch (zero-based budgeting), use the room left when old debts are paid off, and keep future increases no higher than the cost of living.

Your Voice at Council

You shouldn't have to guess how or why a decision was made. I will do my best to ask for your support on major issues and keep you informed and involved.

What I will push for

- A weekly "Council Corner" in the Squamish Chief, where Council reports on issues and meetings
- Every letter to Mayor and Council put on the meeting agenda
- A yearly "How are we doing?" questionnaire, with a public meeting to share the results
- A referendum before major capital spending
- Council taking back the authority it has handed over to staff

Long-Term Care

A crisis Council must own

The facts

- Hilltop House is full — 86 residents and a two-year waiting list.
- Our hospital has only 20 acute care beds. For at least two years, 10 to 14 of them have been filled by seniors who aren't sick — they are waiting for long-term care.
- Seniors who can't get in are sent to West or North Vancouver — over 100 km from family and friends.
- Last fall the Province announced a new 152-bed care home. This spring they pulled the funding.

Our Mayor and Council need to go to Victoria and lobby long and hard. Council has won ministerial support for projects for other groups — it is time they worked as hard for the seniors who built this town and pay property taxes.

Assisted Living

We need more, now

Shannon Falls is our only Assisted Living residence. It has just 75 units for a region of about 50,000 people, and only 20 of those are publicly subsidized. The waiting list is over two years.

Our senior population is growing fast. Grandparents have moved here from all over Canada to help their children with the grandkids — and they are aging here. The Province has not said it plans to partner with anyone to build more.

What I will push for

- Direct our Economic Development Officer to find private partners (like Amica or Chartwell) and provincial partners (BC Housing) — for both higher- and lower-income seniors
- Require new developments to help with seniors' housing, through land or money

Keeping Seniors Informed

Council may be surprised to learn how many people in Squamish don't use social media, don't read the news online, and don't handle their mail on a computer. Some have a smartphone but use it like a landline.

Apart from tax notices, utility bills, and pet licences, the District relies on the internet to keep people informed. That leaves a lot of you out.

What I will push for

- Better use of bulletin boards at the library, grocery stores, and doctors' offices
- Weekly sessions with the 55+ group to teach these tools, for anyone who wants to learn
- A few desktop computers at Westwinds and the 55+ Centre

Being Ready for Emergencies

Squamish faces real risks from floods, wildfires, and other natural hazards. I will push for a strong emergency program with clear evacuation plans, regular updates to the public, and money spent on the things that protect us when disaster strikes.

Being prepared is not optional. It is one of the most basic jobs of local government.

Feeling safe downtown

Homelessness and mental health crises on our streets affect how safe everyone feels. Moving people from one spot to the next doesn't solve it. Squamish already has provincial help through the HEART and HEARTH programs. I'll push to get a HEARTH site chosen quickly so we don't lose that funding — and to join Built for Zero, a national program that keeps track of every person who needs housing so no one falls through the cracks.

The Right Kind of Housing

Council and staff seem to think seniors should all be happy in apartment buildings. Condos are not the answer. Many seniors won't rely on elevators — when they break down, people with mobility issues are trapped.

Seniors want to live near Downtown or Garibaldi Village, where they can walk to shops and services. They want ground-level, wheelchair-accessible homes with a small patch of grass and a patio — and no building maintenance to worry about.

Eagle Grove is a great example: a partnership between the District, the Province, and Britco, started by a committee of seniors who needed to downsize. It's a model worth repeating.

Other ideas worth pursuing

- Strata developments and housing co-ops, where costs stay steady
- A manufactured home park — one of the most affordable ways to own your own home

Safe Sidewalks & Parking

Sidewalks

- Clear the snow from all downtown sidewalks — especially Cleveland and 2nd Avenue. Clear the sidewalks before the trails!
- In the fall, clear the wet leaves. They are slippery too.
- Fix uneven pavement and cracks.

Parking

Most seniors over 75 have some trouble getting around.

- Two or three seniors' parking stalls near every medical clinic and the post office.
- No more removing parking stalls near seniors' residences and seniors' housing — especially not for bike lanes.

A Safe Community for Seniors

Seniors are hit hardest by safety problems — falls on icy sidewalks, elder abuse, and loneliness that leaves people vulnerable.

What I will push for

- Streets and buildings that are easy to get around safely
- Community check-in programs, so no one is forgotten
- Bylaw enforcement that protects the most vulnerable
- A full safety check of our sidewalks, lighting and crossings — fixing the worst spots first, starting with routes used by seniors, children and people with disabilities

Bylaw complaints about noise, unsightly properties, and parking often sit for weeks or months. Enforcement needs enough staff, quick answers, and the same rules for everyone.