

Mayor Michelle Staples

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Mayor Michelle Staples served seven years on Duncan City Council before being elected to her first term as Mayor in 2018, becoming the first woman to serve in that position. She is a mother in transition of adapting to being an empty nester, a lover of hockey and lacrosse, who is engaged deeply in her community, and has spent a large portion of her career as an independent contractor, facilitator who has volunteered with a long list of local organizations and groups.

She works as the Executive Director of Social Planning Cowichan and has been involved in community development in the Cowichan Valley for well over 20 years with a significant amount of work dedicated to Reconciliation, Climate Change, Equity and Justice issues.

She holds a BA in Applied Communications, Diplomas in Business Administration and Computer Technology, and certifications in Facilitation, Counselling Inclusive Leadership, Mediation, and Diversity Training. She is working on her level 3 Local Government Certification and has plans to resume her studies to complete her Master's Degree in Integrated Studies.

She sits on several boards and committees some as a voting member, others as a non-voting liaison, all diverse, each filled with people working together committed to doing what they can to apply solutions to some of the most unprecedented challenges faced in our lifetime. She truly believes that the only way forward is working together where we can achieve anything if we have the openness to listen, the willingness to try and the courage to lead.



Active Appointments (Voting Member)

- Cowichan Valley Regional District, Board Director
- Governance Committee (CVRD)
- Cowichan Watershed Board, Director (CVRD)
- Duncan/North Cowichan Joint Utilities Board
- Island Coastal Economic Trust, Member, Executive Committee
- Island Coastal Economic Trust Southern Committee Director
- Municipal Insurance Association of BC

Active Appointments (Non-Voting Liaison)

- Duncan Cowichan Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Duncan Business Improvement Area Society
- Duncan Youth Council
- Cowichan Community Action Team
- Bee City Liaison
- Island Corridor Foundation Liaison Committee
- Nanum 'lyus tth'ele Committee
- BC Climate Caucus

Provincial Appointment (Voting Member)

- BC Climate Solutions Council

Former Appointments/Liaison

- Cowichan Covid Task Force on Homelessness Co-Chair 2020-2023
- Totem Sub-Committee, Chair
- Environment Committee
- Official Community Plan Advisory Committee, Chair 2022-2023
- Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities Climate Leadership Committee, Founding Co Chair 2019-2024

Per Council Procedure Bylaw No. 3050, Mayor Staples is an ex-officio member of all City Committees and is afforded the same rights as other members, including debate, making formal motions, and voting.