

THE PLATFORM · IN-DEPTH REVIEW

Proactive Proficiency

Mithila Karnik · Port Coquitlam Council Candidate, 2026

Election Day · October 17, 2026

The Pattern

Port Coquitlam keeps solving problems after they've already cost us something. Look at the pattern:

CHILDCARE

Nine people at one hearing nearly blocked a 65-space daycare. It took the mayor invoking an emergency override to reverse it, because no policy existed to prevent it in the first place.

FLOODING

The city approved \$24 million in pump station upgrades only after a 2024 storm damaged roughly 100 homes and residents saw a considerable sewer levy hike the following year to catch up.

CIVIC SPACES

We built a Bellagio-style fountain downtown and are yet to disclose what it costs to run every year.

POLICING

PoCo shares one police detachment across nearly 200,000 people, while our smaller neighbour Port Moody has run its own department since 1913.

RATS

PoCo ranked among BC's top 10 "rattiest" cities and there's still no coordinated citywide strategy, just a phone number to call after the fact.

"I'm not here to shout about the fires we keep fighting. I'm here to build the kind of city that stops lighting them. Not a louder voice, just a wider worldview. It is time for Port Coquitlam to have a paradigm shift; to move from complacency and reactionary measures to Proactive Proficiency. And that will only happen with young, fresh perspectives — especially those that are engaged in understanding what civic measures were done better elsewhere."

— Mithila Karnik, Port Coquitlam Council Candidate for 2026

The Platform

01 PoCo For Families

- 1,768 residents used recreation financial assistance in 2025. Nobody tracks how many eligible families never applied because they didn't know, couldn't navigate it, or hit a language barrier. I'll fix that gap.
- Nine objections nearly cost this city 65 daycare spaces. The Child Care Action Plan update is due in 2026. I'll track it publicly until it delivers real spaces, not just a report.
- PoCo already requires 25% family-sized units in new multi-family builds. I'll hold that line in every development discussion, not just when it's convenient.
- BC gave municipalities inclusionary zoning and tenant protection tools in 2024. I'll push PoCo to finish its review and adopt them.

02 Downtown Every Day

- The Giggle Dam has sat empty for two years. Residents deserve a plan, not another purchase.
- We know what the Leigh Square fountain cost to build. Nobody knows what it costs to run. I won't vote yes on new infrastructure again without that number up front.
- The bandshell came down for a tent stage. If that's revitalization, residents should have been asked before the decision, not surveyed after.
- Cultural programming shouldn't run on volunteer grant-writing. I'll fight for a dedicated fund so Indigenous recognition, Lunar New Year, Sijdeh Behar, Diwali and a weekly market are permanent fixtures, not side projects or volunteer efforts.

03 PoCo Forward

- Parking gets worse as density grows. I'll treat that as a problem to solve in the OCP refresh, not a fire to fight later.
- Flooding isn't a one-off anymore. I'll push for infrastructure standards built for the storms we're actually getting, not the ones we used to get.

- PoCo made a top-10 "rats-infested" list. I'll push for prevention, not damage control once it's already an infestation.
- Accessible spaces and affordable programming exist because past investment made them possible. I'll defend them when budgets tighten, with a real accessibility audit and a seat at the table for the people they serve.
- City services should work on your schedule, not city hall's. An AI assistant for after-hours questions, ACTIVENet's waitlist features finally turned on, and real phone-based booking for seniors. All configuration, no new spending.

Digital resident tools: Phased implementation within the existing technology budget. Digital tools are licensed SaaS platforms at costs comparable to existing software spending.

Senior and recreation booking improvements: Configuration changes within the existing ACTIVENet recreation system. No new capital required.