



My name is Willow Reichelt, and I'm running for re-election to the Chilliwack Board of Education.

I grew up in Chilliwack and have raised my children here. I love my community, and I want it to be a thriving city where our diversity is celebrated. I remain steadfast in my commitment to working to create an equitable district where every child feels included and has the supports necessary to learn.

I am proud of many of the things we have accomplished as a Board. Our strategic plan is a forward-thinking document that focuses on the vital areas of reading and numeracy while also acknowledging the systemic barriers that some students face and that need to be addressed.

In my next term, I want to focus on equity and reconciliation. True equity would mean that every student in the district would have access to the programs and services that support and inspire them regardless of their economic background or the neighbourhood they live in. It would mean that students of all abilities were able to fully participate in learning and play. We've made progress, but we have more work to do.

Reconciliation is not just a goal but a duty. Our new district motto is Syós:ys lets'e th'ále, lets'emó:t (one heart, one mind, working together for a common purpose). Using a Halq'eméylem phrase as a guiding principle for the district is one example of our commitment to true partnership with Indigenous people. Our work will not be done until every student feels excited to go to school and we achieve parity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous grad rates.

The vast majority of Chilliwack residents want to see an inclusive board that supports all students. We don't want our education system dragged back to the 1950s: We are focused on the future!