

# Jatinder Bir

## Fraser Zone



### **Academic Background and Education**

I attended public school from K-12 in the Surrey School District. My post secondary education includes a Master of Education – Educational Practice (SFU 2014-15); Graduate Diploma in Advanced Professional Studies in Education (SFU 2011-13); Bachelor of Education (UBC 2007-08); & Bachelor of Arts (SFU 2006).

### **Employment History and Professional Service**

My employment history includes, working part-time at London Drugs (1989-2008) & part-time for the City of Surrey (1998-2008) while caring for my children. I began my career as a TTOC in the Surrey School District & have since served as an Integration Support Teacher at Chimney Hill Elem., Strawberry Hill Elem., Dr. F.D. Sinclair Elem., Green Timbers Elem. & as Learner Support Teacher. I am at present teaching and leading as a Special Education Teacher at Tamanawis Sec.

My professional service includes appointments to: The Ministry of Education's Inclusive Education Policy Manual & Resource Development Team, SD36 Department Head, BCTF Local Rep, SURT Facilitator, & Rep Assembly Agenda Team. Additionally, I have served on the Surrey Teachers Association Executive for the past five years & I am actively engaged in numerous standing teacher-initiated committees including Teacher Mentorship Program, & Professional Development. Finally, I have served as a UBC School Advisor for Teacher-Candidate Program & Teacher Mentor for the Surrey College Education Assistant Program.

### **Community and Public Service**

My community service includes hosting Transitions Evening for families with children of diverse needs to network & access services/supports within our community. Also, I volunteer annually for a non-profit organization called West Coast Sikh Youth Alliance, where I provide seva in the kitchen-preparing food for children, youth, and adults. I have had the pleasure of coaching children & youth girl's basketball teams at school & coaching co-ed basketball for the YMCA league. Last but not least, I have served as a parent volunteer at my children's school & as a member of the Parent Advisory (PAC).

### **Election Statement**

For those who don't know me, I can summarize who I am in 3 words; I am compassionate, strong-willed, and committed. I am standing for election because I believe every teacher, and every student in BC should be represented by a teacher who is motivated by the social justice principles of our association while protecting and promoting our profession.

Teaching is a complex and demanding profession; hence; it is the teacher certification programs that must be at the forefront of progressive learning to cultivate new teachers' knowledge, skills and dispositions. Ultimately, our students deserve to be taught by highly-qualified teachers who are adequately prepared to teach every child in every classroom while ensuring public confidence in BC's K-12 system.

I am passionate about education and supporting our profession. I firmly believe that teaching comes from the identity and integrity of teachers just like me. I intend to support our teachers, while upholding professional standards and keeping teacher autonomy at the forefront. I am eager to be a part of a council which upholds professional standards, competence, professional conduct, future university teacher education programs in B.C., but I do so through a teachers' perspective. I will strongly advocate for teachers in our province because I have been fortunate to work alongside colleagues who continue to inspire me by working relentlessly and refusing to surrender to the combined menaces of poverty, bureaucracy, and budgetary shortfalls.

I am committed to inclusion and promoting diversity in education because I too, am a proud woman of colour; I know first-hand the value and importance of the range of perspectives, ideas, and experiences that diversity provides. It is important to ensure that a teacher is elected to advocate for the interests of teachers.

I ask you for your support and thank you for your consideration.