



# Vancouver Racquets Club

4867 ONTARIO STREET  
VANCOUVER BC V5V 3H4

PHONE: 604-874-0242  
EMAIL: [office@vrc.bc.ca](mailto:office@vrc.bc.ca) • WEB: [www.vrc.bc.ca](http://www.vrc.bc.ca)

---

## 2021 NOMINATION PACKAGE

### INCUMBENT NOMINEES

#### **David Sedgewick, President**

My name is David Sedgewick and I'm a dual squash and badminton member at VRC. I have been a VRC Board member for 2 years and I am currently serving as President of the club. I first joined the club in the 90's while at UBC. In that time I have seen the sports landscape across the lower mainland change dramatically with the rise of many badminton warehouse clubs and the decline of small squash clubs consolidating most elite play to a small number of facilities including VRC. The expectations of badminton and squash players in our region has changed and VRC needs to make adjustments also in order to stay relevant and in fact to survive.

We need to shift the focus of the board away from a status quo and to one that is primarily focused on making adjustments in order to secure a new favourable lease this coming year.

I am proud of my tenure as President of the club with the primary focus of keeping members safe during the many phases of the COVID pandemic, while still providing a valuable service to members.

I feel that my board experience and skill sets so far has been beneficial to the board and I'd like to continue building on the great work we've done.

#### **Sarah MacKinnon, Treasurer**

I am writing to be considered by the membership to remain on the VRC Board. I have been a member of the Club since 2003 when I first learned to play squash, and I currently serve on the Board in the role of Treasurer, which I've held for the last few years. This is my second time volunteering; previously I held several positions, including President. My husband and daughter are both also members who enjoy what our Club has to offer. For those of you that don't know me, beyond spending time at this Club, I am the CFO of a local clean-tech company where I've been a member of the Management Team for the last 9 years.

I love our Club; I value the strong sense of community that VRC offers to its members, starting with saying hello to Paul (owner of Birdies & Balls) at the front door, having a fun game of

squash with the many friends I've made over the years through in-house and City leagues at box games and socials, and ending the evening enjoying some social time in the Last Serve Bar. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve this Club and its members.

**Michael Khoo, Badminton Director**

Born in Singapore, I grew up in Port Alberni. Badminton became a family activity for me, my brothers and my dad. My mom cheered faithfully from the sidelines.

I enjoy meeting people of all ages and stages. And I enjoy celebrations that bring people and food together!

Since 2018, I have been the Director of Badminton. During the past three years, I have worked with my fellow Board members, management and the Head Coach to provide fair court access, competitive tournaments and high-quality badminton programs. However, during these pandemic months, it has been challenging to adapt to the ever-changing public health orders.

If re-elected, I am committed to continue serving as a positive and productive Board member. I am committed to ensure that the VRC is diverse, equitable and inclusive, which offers quality facilities and programs in which members, staff and guests feel welcomed, safe and engaged.

**Gerry Takeuchi, Fitness Director**

I have been on the Board of Directors for the Vancouver Racquets Club for twenty years now, the past ten or so years as Fitness Director. I have also served on a lot of subcommittees, (ie Pro Shop, Kitchen, House, to name a few), over the years and can offer a lot of history and insight into decisions that previous Boards have made. I recognize that twenty years is a very long time to be on this or any Board but am very concerned that our squash membership is equally represented on the next Board for 2022 In addition to volunteering on the Board, I also volunteer in other capacities at VRC such as the promotion of tournaments and events, helping to man the front desk for covid protocols, (every Monday for over eight months this past year), volunteering for various squash tournaments, as well as organizing the weekly Friday Night Doubles event.

**Frank Price, House Director**

I have been a member of the Vancouver Racquets Club for over 30 years and served on the board for about 15 years. I have served as Badminton Director, Social Director, House Director, Vice President and President. I am currently the House Director and work with John Grant to maintain our club facility. I am also the Masters Representative for both Badminton BC and Badminton Canada on their Competitions Committees. I am the chair of the Canadian Masters Badminton Association and have worked for many years to support Badminton in our province and across Canada. The Racquets Club is my second home and I am proud to be an Honourary Life Time Member. I would be pleased to serve another year on the board.

**Ana Laureano, Social Director**

During my time on the Board, I've worked hard to bring fun, social events to VRC, where all members are welcome. In addition to these events, I also advocate for your concerns of fair access, transparency, diversity and inclusion. All members matter and I'm listening! Fortunately, I spend equal amounts of time playing squash and badminton, so I'm easy to find.

I believe in ethical practices and a democratic process, as I try to serve the best interests of VRC members. I'm grateful that many of you have entrusted me to be your voice on the Board.

**Olivia Chang, Director at Large**

My name is Olivia Chang and I'm a dual badminton and squash member at VRC, although primarily focused on badminton. I have been a VRC Board member for a year and would like to seek re-election.

With much of the focus on club operations and COVID -19, I'd like to continue on to pursue the lease for VRC. The city was also mostly focused on their operations and COVID-19 and I feel this upcoming year will be when we would be able to establish a new lease.

My previous Board and Committee experience includes BC Women's Hospital, Vancouver Board of Trade, Surrey Board of Trade, Alberta Continuing Care, BC Care Providers and BC Seniors Living Association.

I feel that my Board experience and my skill sets in marketing and government relations would be an asset to the Board.

**Alex Luk, Director at Large**

I have served on the VRC board for two years and I have been a VRC member for over 14 years. I am seeking to serve on the board for another year and continue to make a real difference. My primary interest is to strengthen VRC's financial position such that VRC will have more resources to promote the sport of squash and badminton in accordance with its constitution. On the revenue side, I plan to look into strategies for membership growth and retention by researching changes in membership model and classes, re-aligning various stakeholders' interests with the club, and enhancing membership value and experience. On the cost side, I plan to look into modernizing the membership portal and improving the efficiencies of the work process for the administration.

**Sushil Nirwal, Director at Large**

Hi, I'm Sushil Nirwal and I am excited to seek election to the board as a Director at Large for the upcoming year. VRC is home to many badminton players of various levels and I look forward to working with other Board Directors, General Manager, and members to continue making VRC a great place to play.

For those of you who don't know me, I have served on the board since 2018 in a few different capacities: Vice President, President, Past President, and Director at Large. I am a competitive player and participate in all Masters Tournaments. My professional background is in accounting with over 10 years in decision support roles which include financial reporting, process improvement, better efficiencies, and cost savings to hit targets and maximize profitability within multi-national companies. I am also a small business owner bringing business awareness to the table.

My main focus as a Director at Large will be to continue to give back, ensure members are represented, and positively affect change to support VRC for 2021/22.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Hussein Salemwalla, Director at Large**

Hi, my name is Hussein, I've played squash all my life, and have been an active squash member since 2018. I joined the VRC board in 2020, to give back to the VRC community. Throughout the past year, I sat on the squash pro hiring committee, which was successful in finding a qualified pro before the start of the typical squash season. I am also currently involved with a committee to ensure there is fair access to organized events for all members at the club. I hope to continue to serve the VRC community as a board member.

**NEW NOMINEES**

**Nominee: Rachel Lim**

**Nominated by: Paul Deziel**

I have been a VRC member since February 2018. I would like to serve on the board to promote opportunities for players of all levels to develop their skills on the court and to help foster the great community feeling we have at the club. I hope to use my skillset to drive the club forward by improving our operational efficiency, upgrading our facilities, and working with our club pros to enhance the programs and services we provide.

I specialize in business analysis and project management and have experience in clinical research, accounting, contracts management, systems analysis, and process improvement. My background includes a BSc (Hons) in Life Sciences and Psychology from Queen's University and a Master of Management from UBC.

I am strongly motivated to help VRC create an enjoyable experience for all its members to encourage them to maintain a lifelong relationship with their sport and with the club.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Nominee: Jennifer Arntorp**

**Nominated by: Jane McDonald**

Jenn has been a member of VRC since 2003, playing squash and participating in league as a player and a team captain. She is committed to lifelong physical fitness for health and can often be found on the court, in the gym, running the trails or hiking mountains. Professionally she holds an executive leadership position with Corcym, a global medical device company and manages their local manufacturing facility. Jenn also has prior experience volunteering for a non-profit charity as membership director and president. Her vision for the club is for it to be as welcoming and supportive as it was when she joined while adapting to the changing times. VRC is a second home to many of us and we need to work together to keep it this way. Jenn can contribute with her leadership experience, communication skills and genuine appreciation for the club and its membership.

**Nominee: Liyan Tian**

**Nominated by: Kevin Cao**

Liyan was on the board of World Chinese Badminton Association serving as secretary general for two years. She was also in charge of fund raising for the associations sport event. I believe her experience and the love of sports will benefit VRC in many ways.

**Nominees: Stefan Currie-Roberts**

**Nominated by: Ryan Teraverst**

I have been an active adult squash member at the Vancouver Racquets Club for over six years. During that time I have participated in many club tournaments and activities, and volunteered to assist with them whenever I am able.

This club has given me great friends and a welcoming place to play a sport I love. I would like to join the board to give back in a more meaningful way and help keep our club an active, vibrant and growing community coming out of the pandemic and beyond.

I believe my skill-set would be an asset to the board: as a lawyer I have strong communication and organizational skills and an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a board member. I have sat on several boards and committees in the past, and I pride myself in being a good listener and a constructive contributor to discussions.

**Nominee: Elisha Liu**

**Nominated by: Karren Britten**

I was introduced to VRC at ten years of age. VRC had done a tremendous job at igniting my passion for badminton, and this sport has been a saving grace throughout my life. My passion led me to train and participate in numerous competitions while striving for each personal best. Most importantly, it has led me to groups of people with the same undying passion who continue to play regardless of any limitations.

At VRC, I continuously live through the stories the Masters players talk about with the incredible experiences they had before my time at the club, and I've realized that one day, I too, will be passing down the foundations that have been set forth by those before me. I bring to the Board my experiences as a badminton player since junior years, and the vision to promote and enrich the grassroots to pass down VRC's legacy.

**Nominee: Wilson Tze**

**Nominated by: Julia Lian**

VRC is a great place for badminton, squash, fitness and social. I have been joining in this club over 15 years but seems that the number of memberships is getting lesser and lesser. I think now it's time to make some changes. Hoping that each member can enjoy our club facility fairly and equally; hoping to attract more new members and previous members; hoping our club is the safe place for sport and social. Looking forward to see you all at AGM.

Thanks for your support.

**Nominee: Karren Britten**

**Nominated by: Elisha Liu**

I have been a member of the Vancouver Racquets Club since 1982 and a past member of the Board.

VRC is at a crossroads and needs to have a plan to rebuild the membership that I believe I can help with.

I am not able to play much since my hip surgery, so I have a bit more time to help.

**Nominee: Helen Kim**

**Nominated by: Ernie Chan**

I have been and currently am an active volunteer in various VRC committees with the objective of creating a culture that people want to be a part of because it makes them happy!

As a dual member, I've observed the importance of balance, respect and cohesiveness within and between the different aspects of the club and its members.

On the Board I hope to support VRC's growth and improvement using my 20+ years' experience in Finance, Administration and Operations.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Nominee: Andrea Guerrero**

**Nominated by: Ana Laureano**

My name is Andrea Guerrero, and I am writing to express my desire to join the board of directors. I have been an active member for a few years now. I primarily joined as a squash member. Since then, I have become more involved by participating and volunteering in both squash and badminton programs, events and tournaments. These have allowed me to get to know the wonderful and passionate community that is VRC.

I am a high school teacher by profession, and I have been involved with sports my whole life. I've advocated for the importance of sports in the lives of my students. My vision for the club is to develop the programs.

**Nominee: Inderbir Singh Hundal**

**Nominated By: Hussein Salemwalla**

I have been a member of the Vancouver Racquets Club for over 20 years. I have grown up as a junior in the club and pursued a passion for squash through my adult years and hope to continue to do so at this club. VRC provides a venue for not only squash and badminton but fosters social connections and a community. My vision for the club is that we continue on this path following the social and athletic disruption from the pandemic and meet the anticipated demand for the type of services that the club provides. Recruiting new members, and development of a well-organized juniors and young adults squash program is essential for a sustainable squash membership. I will leverage the experience gained through my long association with VRC, work with other non-profits and passion for squash to work with the Board and staff in continuing to develop a squash program for juniors and adults.

**Nominee: Gavin Cavanaugh**  
**Nominated by: Michael Khoo**

I have been involved with Badminton for over 20 years and love the game at all levels and disciplines.

Having served with the Prince George Racket Club as well as the Fort McMurray Racket Club, I would like to use my experiences to help the VRC in any way I can.

**Nominee: Jamie Shum**  
**Nominated by: Elisha Liu**

My name is Jamie Shum and I am currently an Adult badminton member in good standing with the club.

Having been introduced to the sport of badminton by family members, there was always a social aspect that came along with the competition. As I searched for new competitors at various community centres, school gyms, and badminton centres, my badminton circle steadily expanded and so did my sense of community within the sport. It was this community which inspired me to contribute to a range of events, both local and international in scale over the last 13 years.

Every time I am at VRC, I am reminded that no matter how fierce the competition is on court, you will always be welcomed afterwards at a party upstairs. By fostering this balance of competition and community, I believe we can set a strong foundation to serve VRC members for generations to come.