

VTU Steering Committee 2026 Nominee Statements*

Tintin Yang - I am running for the position of treasurer for the VTU because I want to continue supporting the VTU by supporting its operations and keeping the organization sustainable for years to come. I have previous experience managing budgets and tracking finances as Interim Co-Executive Director at the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users and have also managed program budgets at the DTES Neighbourhood House. The present political moment is filled with potential to seize power as a tenants movement. In the global context, tenant movements are growing across the world and demonstrating their strength through rent strikes and other forms of collective action. On a local scale, the VTU continues to grow in size, continues to build relationships with other social movements across the city, and continues to find ways to expand our reach to organize groups that have historically been made marginal in our city. I want to support the ongoing incredible work of the membership, and I know that I have the skillset to contribute in a treasurer role. Thank you.

Grace Ma - I have lived in Vancouver on and off for 8 years now, and have been a member of the union since summer 2024. With much trepidation and reverence for the role, I hereby declare my self-nomination to be on the steering committee for the year 2026. I understand there is still much I have to learn, and that I am still relatively privileged as a cis settler with a graduate degree despite being marginalized as a chronically ill WOC. Since being radicalized under the first Trump regime as an international student in the US, my political journey led me to organizing with UBC Students Against Bigotry in 2019, Sulong UBC in 2021, and now VTU. I firmly believe in the autonomous, neighbourhood-based organizing approaches of our union in order to build long term resilience and apparatus for victories in the face of rising fascism, economic hardship, and the impact of the imperial boomerang on our communities. I look forward to supporting the functioning of the union in a variety of ways, including through political education, alliance building, and getting to know the general membership better in our neighbourhoods.

Tyler Wong - The Vancouver Tenants Union has been growing faster and faster for a couple of years now. We have a couple new chapters and many new members (myself among them). In addition to new members, we also have new sympathizers. People who aren't members (yet) but who are becoming more aware of our work and its potential.

In 2026 my hope is that the VTU continues to be loud, clear, and unapologetic about our values while continuing to welcome new members into our ranks. To achieve this, I will continue my work with the TLL campaign putting on events that attract attention, connect with people, and tell our story with the ultimate goal of strengthening the unions overall capacity. Beyond recruitment, it's also really important that new members are provided with a real understanding of how the union works, what it's about, and how they might engage with it in a meaningful way. I would like to support that by continuing to attend roundtables so I can understand what different chapters and working groups need and help to direct people and resources towards those needs. I think that this would also involve my getting back into comms work on a more consistent basis.

Talon J. Lestat - When elected, I will make sure every renter in Vancouver knows who the VTU are -- and what they stand to gain by joining us.

I will also be organizing work-groups and a better-structured division of labour within VTU -- based on each members' strengths/weaknesses/needs -- for the purposes of community outreach, member recruitment, collective-content creation, and relationship-building with individuals and pre-existing groups/causes we are naturally-allied with.

Will Gladman - I have been an active member of the VTU since 2017 and have been on the Steering Committee for the past year, performing the Co-Treasurer role along with Abby.

The VTU is in a period of exponential growth and activity and I am ready to support this important organizing work in whatever ways I can. I want to help develop chapter capacity and bring new leaders into the union. I would also like to continue the work of helping the VTU become more sustainable long-term. I have learned a lot about the VTU's finances in the past year and am well placed to help us to meet some ambitious goals we have set this year.

Thank you.

Ben Ger - As conditions continue to worsen, it is time for the Union to advance our fight for justice & revolutionary change for tenants. My vision for the union is one in which tenants are free to imagine an alternative to today's world. One where people are free from for-profit evictions, harassment, surveillance, and homelessness. A union that fights for a world where people have meaningful control over their homes, neighborhoods, and communities.

The work we have done these past few years has laid the blueprint for what will get us free:

(1) Organizing Tenant Collectives, where tenants take meaningful ownership over their own liberation, and can make effective change through direct action.

(2) Mutual Aid projects that inspire tenants to care for one another and reduce our reliance on institutions that seek to harm & control us.

(3) Solidarity with Local & International Struggles Against Displacement, like those of the Palestinian, Filipino, and Turtle Island Indigenous peoples. Migrants must not be blamed for the rent crisis.

(4) Strong & Autonomous Chapters, bound together tightly through a mutually agreed upon vision.

If elected I will fight with all I have to ensure this union continues to win, learn and grow.

Rajpreet Sidhu - [no statement]

Abby Leung - [no statement]

*** Nominee statements may be given in advance, or made on the floor before elections.**