



## Jessica Todd

**Term on Council:**

2015 - Present

**Hometown:**

North Vancouver, BC

**Current Community:**

Vancouver, BC

### Inspiration

The Council aligns perfectly with my passions for youth and community. It provides a hands-on opportunity to support community initiatives, to learn from other inspiring youth leaders, and to get involved with an organization like Coast Capital.

### Fun Fact

I love to travel. I have been to over 20 countries so far and hope to keep adding to the list. There is nothing like experiencing new culture, seeing new scenery, and of course, enjoying new culinary experiences.

### What do you hope to achieve on the Council?

My background in law has exposed me to a lot of the ground-level issues facing youth. I hope to bring insights from these experiences and to engage in critical, team-based assessments of how the needs of youth in our communities can be best addressed.

### What accomplishment are you most proud of to date?

Completing my first triathlon. I have always been a runner, but I was a very weak swimmer and had never road biked. Just completing the open water swim felt like a huge accomplishment, but I was mostly proud of myself for getting out of my comfort zone and training for something entirely new.

### Bio

Jessica Todd is a graduate of the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Law, and is currently employed as an articled student at a Vancouver law firm.

During law school, a four month internship as a clerk to the court judges at the Provincial Courthouse in Vancouver had a profound impact on Jessica. She witnessed the legal consequences of poverty and addiction in the Downtown Eastside on a daily basis, driving home the impact systemic issues can have on low-income communities, and especially its impact on youth caught in the cycle. This led Jessica to become involved in the Legal Education Outreach program, teaching students in low-income Vancouver high schools about legal issues. She was also a board member for the Hoop-Law Charity Basketball Tournament benefiting Vancouver charities like Night Hoops, which provides a sport outlet for underprivileged youth.

While growing up, Jessica's experiences coaching elementary and high school girls basketball teams solidified her understanding of the importance of youth programming in developing key life skills. It also showed her the impact female leaders can have as role models for youth. Jessica currently serves as Vice-Chair of the YWCA's Youth Advisory Council, and has been a

long-time volunteer with the Canadian Cancer Society's annual Relay-For-Life event and Camp Goodtimes, a camp for youth affected by childhood cancer.



Jessica exploring Plitvice Lakes National Park in Croatia.