



## Kelsey Yamasaki

**Term on Council - :**  
2017 - Present

**Hometown:**  
Richmond, BC

**Current Community:**  
Richmond, BC

### *Inspiration*

I believe that strong, resilient communities are the result of people coming together to inspire community driven change; I also believe that youth-serving initiatives play an important role in fostering community cohesion. Being part of the Youth Get It Community Council will provide a great opportunity for me to give back to the community.

### *Fun Fact*

As part of my undergraduate studies I completed a study abroad program in Seoul, South Korea, where I learned a lot about their unique culture and customs, and established many life-long friendships.

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

I hope to learn more about local community organizations and initiatives in order to make a meaningful contribution to the grant allocation process. I also look forward to meeting and working alongside all of the other Council members

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

As part of my undergraduate research I had the opportunity with two colleagues to conduct a community-needs assessment for a local non-profit organization. I gained invaluable experience learning about the research process, and our findings helped the organization to achieve their goal of taking on a leadership role within the community.

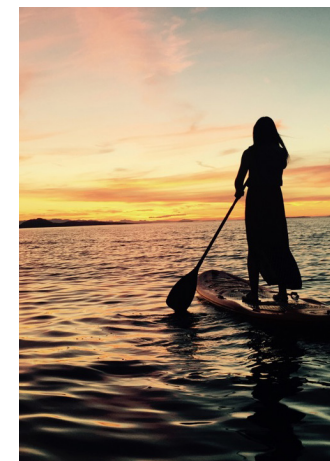
### *Bio*

Kelsey studied language, history, religion, and culture at Bahrom International Program before attending Vancouver Island University (VIU) where she completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology. Kelsey is currently completing her Masters in Community and Regional Planning at the University of British Columbia.

As a Student Ambassador at VIU, she had the opportunity to play an active role in the "Welcome Weeks" events where she helped new students transition to university and help them recognize that they are a valuable member of the VIU community.

Kelsey was also a part of a senior project where she and two colleagues conducted research on behalf of the Parksville-Qualicum Community Foundation (PQCF).

As part of her practicum at VIU, Kelsey participated at a grade 2 and 3 classroom where many students came from a lower socioeconomic background.



Kelsey enjoying her favorite season, the summer, while paddle boarding

She was inspired to teach the students about making healthy eating choices and learned how important it is for young students to receive proper nutrition so that they have the energy needed to focus in the classroom and reach their full potential.

Kelsey believes that healthy, vibrant communities are created when community members have all basic needs and are encouraged to share their ideas and to be a part of the dialogue.