

Dear friends, family, co-workers, supporters and members of the media:

I am writing to announce my candidacy for city councilor in the Victoria riding and the launch of my campaign website at [www.futureisnow.ca](http://www.futureisnow.ca).

Today, as the youngest candidate for council, I join a growing number of youth demonstrating a building potential for a positive shift in vision, democracy, action and politics. As popular and long-standing local politicians like Bea Holland, Hellen Hughes and Dean Fortin shift their ambitions from the council table, we are presented with an exciting opportunity to integrate creative new solutions and reform into our civic agenda for the next three years.

As the longest-standing executive member of the City of Victoria Youth Council I have patiently been waiting for an opportunity to officially, legitimately and internally represent the lost voices of Victoria since I started to develop the bridge between youth, mainstream culture, grassroots activism and civic bureaucracy more than three years ago.

I am running in response to the call for a revitalized democratic strategy and new opportunities for civic participation. I also hope to address many of the social, environmental and economic sustainability issues that the city has failed to respond to independently. It is a time for action and not re-action as we face new global challenges like gas and food shortages, global warming, and economic decline. Challenges that we can overcome and use to our advantage as we strive to become a world leader in shaping the future. More than anything, my goal for this election is to raise awareness of civic issues and the profile of the non-voting population, the youth voting population, and the youth in this city that are too young to vote at all.

I would love any opportunity to explain my platform, experience and community involvement in more depth. I would also encourage anyone interested in my campaign to visit my website at [www.futureisnow.ca](http://www.futureisnow.ca).

Thank you for your time and see you at the poles!

Sincerely,

Joseph Boutilier