

Dear Poco Soccer Parents/Guardians/Friends:

Poco Soccer is poised to grow! Our revised Academy Program has attracted a record enrolment, Poco Soccer's leadership and initiative was crucial in creating a new Tri-Cities Soccer District and we are set to announce other tremendously-exciting developments for our organization.

One area that continues to hamper the development of our players, however, is the lack of quality soccer fields, particularly artificial turf fields. Pitt Meadows, Coquitlam, North and West Vancouver, Vancouver, Port Moody, Surrey, Langley, Burnaby, Richmond, etc have all recently built new artificial turf fields. **We are perhaps the only municipality in the Lower Mainland that has not constructed a new turf field within the last 10 years!**

For the past 5 years, the Executive of the Port Coquitlam Soccer Association has met on numerous occasions with Poco City Councillors, the Mayor and Parks and Recreation staff, attended Council meetings and invited elected officials to our events to highlight the need for new fields. Reports commissioned by the City in 2007 and 2010 - and endorsed by Poco Parks and Recreation staff - re-affirm what Poco Soccer has been saying for years – Poco needs at least 2 new artificial turf fields. Barry Becker, the Director of Parks and Recreation, has **recommended** that the City include in its 2012 budget funds to build a new artificial turf field on the Gates gravel area in 2012, at an estimated cost of \$1.62 million. To date, Poco Soccer has remitted \$100,000 to the City in trust towards this cost. Efforts to date to have funding for a new turf field included in the City budget have proven unsuccessful.

The Poco Municipal elections will be held next Saturday, November 19th. **With over 1,700 players in Poco Soccer, the parents of these players represent an estimated 3,000 votes! Now is the time to elect a Council more supportive of athletic funding!**

Current Councillors **Glenn Pollock** and **Brad West** and Mayor **Greg Moore** have been extremely supportive of including funding for a new artificial turf field in the 2012 budget. Other candidates whom we know would support local sports include **Michael Thomas** (currently a soccer coach with Poco Soccer) and **Dean Washington**.

Incumbent candidates who have not indicated they would support funding for a new athletic field include Michael Forrest, Michael Wright and Sherry Carroll.

At this time next year, your child could be playing soccer on a newly-constructed turf field at Gates Park. Please get out and vote and consider supporting the following candidates:

For Council – **Glenn Pollock**
Brad West
Michael Thomas
Dean Washington

For Mayor – **Greg Moore**

Thank you for supporting your child!

Regards,

Darrell Dudley
Vice-President
Port Coquitlam FC Soccer Association