

Driven by a vision to improve Port Alberni for the generations to come, Debbie Haggard embarked on a journey into municipal politics after her well-deserved retirement in 2018. Now in her second term as Councillor for the City of Port Alberni, she is also Chairperson of the Regional Hospital District and Vice-Chairperson of the ACRD.

Debbie moved to Port Alberni at a young age and has made the community her life-long home. Councillor Haggard's deep connection to her community has been evident throughout her career. She worked in the financial industry where she was recognized as being one of the top performers across Canada. The latter part of her career saw her working in small business and economic development. She not only collaborated with numerous small businesses in the region but also showcased her entrepreneurial spirit by co-founding and supporting her husband with the managing of the business.

She has always believed in giving back to the community. One of her accomplishments that she is most proud of is the work that she did in female hockey, both locally, regionally and provincially. She has the distinction of organizing the first out sold event at our then new Multiplex when she invited the Women's National Hockey Team to play an exhibition game against Team Sweden as they were preparing for the Olympics. Even with her busy schedule, she is always willing to support and donate her time to those organizations in need.

Before stepping onto the political stage, Councillor Haggard wore the hat of the president of the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce. In this influential position, she wasn't just a leader; she was an innovator. Debbie was instrumental in launching new business initiatives and meticulously drafting grant proposals, all with the aim to bolster the local economy and provide a brighter future for Port Alberni.