

Embargoed until 16 September, 11am



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13 September 2023

To News Editor

STRENGTHENED CARE NETWORK TO SUPPORT DIVERSE NEEDS

More representation in Council from social and other key sectors enable North West CDC to better support residents in the North West District

North West Community Development Council (CDC)'s new line-up of District Councillors under its Council – the apex volunteer committee under the CDCs – will be better positioned to support residents who may face challenges beyond financial difficulties. With a significant increase in the number of influential leaders from Social Service Agencies, as well as representation from healthcare and education sectors, North West CDC will be able to leverage the volunteers' expertise and networks, to assist residents facing multi-faceted issues. The deliberate appointment of volunteers from the identified sectors is in line with the CDC's ground sensing

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on residents' needs, which often cut across domains and require the support of multiple agencies, partners, and volunteers.

2 The **North West Council Appointment Ceremony and Appreciation Lunch** will be held on 16 September 2023 at The Parliament House, and graced by **Guest-Of-Honour (GOH), Mr Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance** (*See annex A for media programme*). There will be an announcement on a new Cost-of-Living Grant, where \$9.5million will be disbursed to the 19 divisions in the North West District, to support residents in coping with the rising costs.

3 Over the next three years, North West CDC will continue to work closely with the newly appointed District Councillors to roll out programmes for all segments of residents, with a focus on uplifting the less privileged, while also building capabilities and resilience through upskilling opportunities, as well as aggregating resources and connecting partners to the needs in the community. Elaborating on the crucial role in which the council members play, **Mayor of the North West District, Mr Alex Yam** says "The CDC sits in a unique position to play the role of an enabler in the District, through forming meaningful networks and aggregating resources. We are excited to have passionate individuals join the Council, bringing a unique blend of skills, experiences, and network to drive programmes and contribute towards the development of our North West District." (*See annex B for fact sheet on Council*)

4 Through the North West Council Appointment Ceremony and Appreciation Lunch, North West CDC will officially appoint the 9th Term of Council, comprising 63 District Councillors who are active volunteers in their

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own communities. The new line-up includes several experienced District Councillors who have served the North West for many years, and passionate individuals from the public and private sectors, with varying industries such as healthcare, education, social support, and SME business owners. District Councillors play an important role in building valuable networks to sustain programmes in the District.

5 One of the newly appointed District Councillor, **Mr Steve Kon**, 50, Executive Director of New Life Community Services, has collaborated with the CDC on various projects to support New Life's pool of beneficiaries. With a strong passion to serve individuals with different needs, Steve is motivated to support the vulnerable community by identifying the various gaps within the community, and hopes to work with other District Councillors to tap on their resources, collaborate and create new initiatives, which will provide targeted support to address these gaps.

6 Apart from Social Service Agencies, this term's line-up also includes young volunteers who are already active in community work. One example is **Dr Faisal**, 34, Geriatric Doctor and community engagement lead for the National Healthcare Group Resident Council. His dedication in providing quality care and support for seniors is apparent in his line of work and involvement in championing community events for seniors in the District. Dr Faisal recently also spearheaded a Community Engagement Day, mobilising over 100 resident doctors to interact with the seniors in the North West. With his appointment as a District Councillor, he hopes to work closely with the CDC to innovate more sustainable solutions to continue supporting seniors in our community. *(See annex C for profile stories)*

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7 The CDC will continue to work closely with the 9th Term of Council members and leveraging on their expertise to strengthen the spirit of care in the North West, as well as aggregate the available resources, build capabilities, and connect our partners to community needs – aligning to the CDC's mission of building a Caring and Healthy North West community. To explore volunteerism opportunities, please write to northwestcdc_partnerships@pa.gov.sg.

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Media Invitation

Media is invited to **North West Council Appointment Ceremony and Appreciation Lunch 2023** at The Parliament House on 16 September 2023. A media doorstep with spokespersons, Mayor of North West District, Mr Alex Yam, as well as District Councillors, could be arranged. See below for details of the media event.

North West Council Appointment Ceremony and Appreciation Lunch 2023

Date: Saturday, 16 September 2023
Media arrival: 11:30am
Venue: The Parliament House
1 Parliament Place Singapore 178880

Contact Person for Media:

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Enclosed:

- 1) Annex A – Media Programme for North West Council Appointment Ceremony and Appreciation Lunch 2023
- 2) Annex B – Fact Sheet on North West CDC Council
- 3) Annex C – Profile Stories
- 4) Annex D – Media FAQs (Appended separately)

[About North West Community Development Council \(CDC\)](#)

The Community Development Councils (CDCs) were established to build a tightly knit, compassionate and self-reliant community. North West CDC works closely with various community and corporate partners to strengthen Singapore's social fabric; and encourages the more able and successful to come forward to help the less successful, and to foster greater sense of community ownership and self-help among the residents.

We strive to align our activities and efforts with our mission:

(a) Aggregator of Needs and Resources

To help the less fortunate through local assistance programmes

(b) Builder of Capabilities and Capacities

To bond the community through projects & programmes to bring them closer to one another

(c) Connector of Communities

To develop strategic partnerships with corporate and community partners to better serve our residents

To achieve our mission, North West CDC continues to build programmes to provide support to residents under four key pillars:

i. Uplifting the Community

To support for residents through local assistance schemes and encourage self-reliance and empower residents to improve their lives and employability.

ii. Promoting Health and Wellness

Through a range of healthy living programmes, we hope for our North West residents to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle, and join our health and wellness movement.

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iii. Advocating Green Living

Working towards a sustainable future, we aim to imbue a green mindset and spark behavioral change among residents. Through various green initiatives, residents are encouraged to adopt green habits starting from the simplest actions.

iv. Enabling Partnerships and Volunteerism

We will play our enabler role in connecting our community and corporate partners' resources and volunteerism, to serve the various needs in the community.

The North West District comprises Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC, Nee Soon GRC, Sembawang GRC, Holland-Bukit Timah GRC, and Bukit Panjang SMC.

North West Council Appointment Ceremony and Appreciation Lunch 2023

**Saturday, 16 September 2023
The Parliament House, 1 Parliament Place S178880**

MEDIA PROGRAMME

Time	Programme
11:30am	Media arrival
12:00pm	Arrival of Mayor Alex Yam
12:30pm	Arrival of GOH, DPM Lawrence Wong
12:45pm	Opening Address by Mayor Alex Yam
1:00pm	Welcome Speech by DPM Lawrence Wong
1:10pm	Commencement of Ceremony
1:30pm	Media Doorstop (upon request)

Fact Sheet - About North West CDC's Council

Council members are like Board of Directors in other organisations or companies, where they are expected to lead, and identify opportunities for change in a wide variety of issues that affect all segments of our local community, including disadvantaged groups, youths, and elderly. Their primary role is to identify ideas, skills, and resources to bring them together to support the CDCs and strengthen CDCs' key thrusts of Aggregating Resources, Building Capabilities and Connecting the community.

The Council will leverage on the resources and network through its members to foster community bonding and promote social cohesion. In North West CDC, there are six standing committees – Social Support, Healthy Living, Green Living, Partnership and Outreach, Finance, and Life-long Learning Standing Committees to spearhead programmes in various focus areas. The ninth term of office of North West CDC will be from 27 July 2023 to 26 July 2026.

The 9th Term of Council comprises Chairman Mr Alex Yam, Vice-Chairpersons, Dr Lim Wee Kiak, Mr Liang Eng Hwa, and Ms Carrie Tan, as well as 63 District Councillors, 8 Grassroots Advisers of the North West District, and the CDC's General Manager as the Secretary-Treasurer.

Profile Stories

Ms Santha D/O Raman, 53

Special Needs Educator (HOD), Minds Woodlands Garden School

Santha is a passionate educator for the special needs community. Aside from mentoring them and being a part of their growth, she also hopes to educate the public and reduce public stigma of persons with disabilities. She has been championing initiatives to showcase her students' talents through performances, and supported campaigns to educate the public that not all disabilities are physical or visible.

Santha hopes that being a part of the North West CDC's Council will have more opportunities for her to collaborate with other District Councillors and provide more support to the special needs community. Through community events and engagements, she hopes to make a positive impact and contribute more to the society.

Ms Elysa Chen, 39

Executive Director, CampusImpact

Having served as a District Councillor for three years, Elysa has seen first-hand how needy families have benefitted from the CDC's programmes and is also inspired by the dedication of her fellow Council members to continue serving the community.

Working in the social sector and helping children from less-privileged backgrounds for many years, Elysa has learned to identify the needs and the gaps in the community. In which she hopes to use this skill to better the CDC's initiatives and explore more partnerships with various parties to strengthen the support given to them.

As a new mom, Elysa also hopes that her contributions will expose her son to grow up as an individual who wants to give back to the community.