



AMELIA HILL
Candidate - West Vancouver-Capilano
BC NDP

Hello, I am Amelia Hill though many of you likely know me as Mia Hill. I am an advocate for housing, the environment, and human rights. I have lived, worked, and played on the North Shore my entire life. I have been working for MLA's of the current government for the past 3.5 years. I know the ministries inside and out. I know how casework works in the Legislative Assembly's structure. I help constituents receive life bettering services from the provincial government daily that they did not even know were offered. This community needs an MLA who works hard for every member of the community. I will be accountable, accessible, and driven. I love this community and it would be an honour to be your MLA.

QUESTION 1. *Impacts of COVID.* The availability of rapid COVID testing is a critical issue for local business as they work to ensure a safe work environment for their staff and customers. Staff/kids are back...Businesses need their staff back at work, staff need to get back to work. Given the economic impact of uncertainty around COVID in the workplace, what would you do to address the ongoing availability of rapid COVID testing?

AH Response: Covid-19 is an extremely stressful time on every front. The BC NDP understands the constant pressure for more testing sights and faster turnaround. Most individuals are receiving their results within 24-48 hours. First an easy step I feel we need to continue to push is the education surrounding testing. YOU DO NOT and should not go and get tested unless you have symptoms. I understand it is a stressful and scary time, but this delays the speed in which affected individuals can receive care. Dr. Bonnie Henry and her team are doing a phenomenal job. When they feel it is safe to further expand the locations of which can perform testing as well the individuals who can administer these tests I would support this expansion. I am happy to see how the Urgent Care Facility in North Van pushed forward by MLA Ma has been such pillar of the community in this unprecedented time. Moving forward into flu season the \$1.6 billion preparedness plan will deliver 7,000 new front-line health care workers in long-term care facilities and assisted living to ensure safe and quality care for high risk community members. The BC NDP will also be providing free COVID-19 vaccines to anyone who would like them once they are available. More than anything in this trying time we need to live by the words of Dr. Bonnie Henry "be kind, be calm, and be safe".

QUESTION 2. *Costs on Business.* Many small businesses are desperately trying to get their customers back. They are struggling to find ways to get the revenue they need to survive through COVID. We see the increasing burden on business related to costs that government can control such as Property Tax Assessments and the Employee Health Tax. What would you do to help keep the costs for business down so they can maintain the jobs they provide and survive this tremendous downturn?

AH Response: As an individual who has worked for many small and medium businesses in the riding I know even the day by day outside of COVID-19 is challenging. During COVID-19 I was happy to see and assist constituents at my work with

property tax cuts, deferred tax payments, BC Hydro rate relief, and more across BC offered by the government. If elected I would support the NDP's plan to invest an additional 1% of GDP in the people and communities of BC. This will help drive new growth to communities and provide an expected extra 18,000 jobs a year. In addition a 15% refundable tax credit based on eligible new payroll, \$300 million in recovery grants to support around 15,000 small and medium BC businesses, and a temporary 100% PST rebate on select machinery and equipment. I also look forward to the opportunity to connect small business owners with mentors. This will promote growth, new opportunities, new access, and more. This will be offered through the RevUp program. Without small businesses I would be where I am or the person I am today. I have so much love and appreciation for the 24 hour 7 day a week commitment a small business is. When elected I plan to work closely with small business owners in the riding and to be in constant communication with them

QUESTION 3. *Transportation & Housing.* Employees working in North Vancouver are not able to find reasonable transportation or affordable local housing options. Businesses are suffering, choosing to move, or simply closing as a result. What would you do to ensure transportation and affordable housing investments are made to support the needs of the community and the future of our local small businesses?

AH Response: Transportation is a constant battle on the North Shore. Whether that is waiting hours for the bridges or being trapped on the low road. I am a firm believer that a way we improve the traffic problem which is also an environmental problem is make alternatives both more accessible as well more enjoyable. I am glad to see the new B-Line that has been brought to the North Shore as well the increase in trips offered daily on the SeaBus. Transit needs to continue to be expanded and innovated upon. Long term I would like to see a form of transportation rail on our side of the bridge. I will also support income incentives for individuals purchasing electric vehicles as well the removal of PST on E-bikes. Housing and a safe roof over an individual's head is always my priority. Saying that I am in full support of the rent freeze during this uncertain time of pandemic. The NDP will also be offering a renters rebate. To ensure as well that these houses can be made and still financially sustainable for builders we will be reducing the costs of construction. In the last 3 years the government has already offered more than 25,000 affordable housing units and intend to get that number up to 114,000 in coordination with the 10 year housing plan. The Homes for BC plan is the largest investment in affordable housing in the province's history. I will be an advocate for safe, affordable, and accessible housing and transit in West Vancouver Capilano.

QUESTION 4. *Climate Change.* The issues of climate change remains a concern for the business community. What is your position and your party's position on the most important steps that need to be taken in the next year to address this issue?

AH Response: My generation is terrified and working every day to roll back and slow down the climate disaster we are currently living in. I am happy that this government launched CleanBC. I already spoke to the financial incentives that will be offered by an elected BC NDP government surrounding active transport and electric vehicles. There will also be an expansion of public vehicle charging stations to continue the efforts of making electric vehicles as appealing and productive as possible. There will be a BC wide ban on single use plastics. I would also like to speak to the protection of Wildlife quickly. The North Shore saw the devastating end to so many bears lives this year for no reason. Bears are not the only species being devastated by urbanization but they are on the forefront currently. I would push legislation to protect our furry, scales, and feathery friends. We also need to continue to protect BC's old growth. 353,000 hectares were protected in September and that protection needs to continue. All efforts in all sectors taken by the government need to be done in collaboration with the indigenous peoples. The environment is a sector where descendants of settlers have and continue to learn so much from the indigenous people. If we do not take increased action over the next year and years to come, we will no longer have time for a discussion.

QUESTION 5. *Retraining Underemployed Workforce to Meet Opportunities in the BC Tech Sector.* The NV Chamber has championed a provincial call for the funding of retraining and skill enrichment that will help more fully employ new Canadians and other individuals with technical aptitude to support the growing needs of our growing local and provincial technology sector. What is your position on this and what steps would you take to tap into this talent and economic potential in our community?

AH Response: The Tech Sector has and continues to be a strong force pushing the economy forward. I believe we can support individuals in this sector by making education and training more affordable for students. By keeping student fee increases low. By making post-secondary training more available to individuals particularly in high tech and health. We will create 2,000 new tech-relevant spaces in public post-secondary institutions. Investing further into apprenticeships. I am also so excited to say that the NDP is expanding tuition waivers to all former youth in care. I also plan to work with the government to provide training to those in dying sectors to make the transition to jobs such as tech available to them. The industry is ever changing and you need a government that plans to keep up. That is the NDP.

