



JANE THORNTHWAITE
Candidate – North Vancouver-Seymour
BC LIBERALS

I was first elected as MLA for North Vancouver – Seymour in 2009 and have since had the honour of representing my constituents at the Legislature. I am a mom of three, and my children have been a driving force in my advocacy to improve life in my community. I first entered politics because I wanted to make a difference for my family and other families on the North Shore, and that is why I still care so much about creating opportunity for the future in North Vancouver. I have a proven record as an MLA to deliver for North Vancouver, investments in schools such as the new Argyle Secondary and the Windsor field, highway infrastructure like the \$198 M Lower Lynn Interchange project, health care like the HOpe Centre and Foundry, and in transit with a new B-Line route and Seabus. However, there is still much more to be done and I hope to represent North Vancouver-Seymour once again.

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?

JT Response: The NDP has called a self-serving and unnecessary election during a pandemic and businesses are struggling to stay afloat, keep their employees and pay their rent. Many like our local film industry are having difficulty obtaining adequate COVID-19 testing to ensure actors and crew are safe on set. A BC Liberal Government would immediately increase the capacity for COVID-19 testing province-wide so that everyone is able to get tested and get their results quickly.

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?

JT Response: The NDP has increased or instigated 23 more taxes since becoming government in 2017. One of the most significant new NDP tax burdens is the Employer Health Tax which is forcing small businesses across B.C. to raise prices, lay off staff, or close their doors. To make matters worse, the funds from the \$2 M pandemic relief fund will not even start flowing to struggling businesses until the end of the year because of this snap election. The BC Liberals are committed to economic recovery for small businesses, we will eliminate the PST for one year and decrease to 3% in the second year. We will also immediately eliminate the 2% small business income tax and guarantee loans for tourism and hospitality businesses. We would be committed to assisting small businesses in adopting COVID-19 protections by providing support for personal protective equipment from WorkSafe BC surpluses. The BC Liberals would also take real action to address sky-high property tax assessments on the airspace above small businesses by implementing split assessment. Ensuring that small businesses have hope for the future is critical to have thriving communities for years to

come, and that can only happen with a government who is committed to restoring confidence in BC.

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?

JT Response: I am proud of my record in delivering the \$198 M Lower Lynn Interchange Project currently under construction at the foot of the cut. It will dramatically improve the east-west traffic flow within North Vancouver when completed. I've also been a huge advocate for rapid transit to and within the North Shore. I am a proponent of Dr. Stephan Nieweler's research who has presented to the North Vancouver Chamber and North Shore councils. We need to ensure any rapid transit investment is matched with diverse housing options along those routes, and that developments are matched with adequate transit options. Translink needs to make decisions not just on resident population but include commuter patterns and employment density. Significant transit could be offered within the decade if the province made decisions on performance-based investment rather than politics. Alongside transit investment to help move those who live and work on the North Shore, the BC Liberals will reduce skyrocketing strata insurance premiums and incentivise municipalities to build diverse housing options in a timely manner by cutting red tape, fees and taxes.

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?

JT Response: The BC Liberals will re-establish B.C. as a global climate leader and make it a place where people have clean and green choices in transportation, buildings, and public services. We would ensure the carbon tax is revenue neutral, where the money goes into green technology initiatives, not just general revenue as the NDP has done. We will ramp up electric vehicle charging stations, support investments in renewable energy and ensure a comprehensive greenhouse gas strategy that reduces emissions while enabling our world-leading sustainable resource development.

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?

JT Response: Ensuring that Canadians who want to be trained or re-trained to enter British Columbia's vibrant tech industry is another critical part to rebuilding B.C.'s economy for the future. The BC Liberals support diversifying employment opportunities while promoting training skilled labour. Under our previous BC Liberal government, the tech sector grew to be a major part of our economy and known around the world for its innovation. With so much uncertainty about the future, the next government needs to give considerable thought to how to bring foreign skilled workers for our industries and prioritize the training of skilled labour to meet the demands in the market.

