



SUSIE CHANT

**Candidate – North Vancouver-Seymour
BC NDP**

Born in LGH, with a home in Lynn Valley since 1988. As a Registered Nurse, I worked both in other parts of Canada, and overseas. I am now a team leader with Vancouver Coastal Health. I am a member of the Royal Canadian Navy Reserves, for forty years. My husband runs a business from our home, and my two adult daughters grew up here. We were foster parents, providing a safe home for teenage girls, supporting them to get back to their families. I volunteer as a SunRun clinic leader - for 24 years - and also with as a leader with Girl Guides of Canada. I enjoy the company of our friends and neighbours, hiking our local trails, and quiet times with my book, cat, and dog.

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?

SC Response: As a Registered Nurse, I recognize that testing opportunities as a high priority, and will continue to be so. Currently in NVan we have a drive through site, and the Urgent & Primary Care Centre providing testing, and there are plans for other testing sites to be established. I would continue to support the efforts by Vancouver Coastal Health in providing time testing and results in a variety of forms. This would allow access for all of those needing to be assessed for Covid, and a timely receipt of results, which helps get staff back to work if safe to do so.

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?

SC Response: John Horgan is clear, the NDP is committed to a plan that will keep building a better future for everyone – Keep BC Moving Forward. In the platform release on Tuesday, he spoke to concerns of small business, with targeted tax credits to help in rehiring. As an MLA, I commit to keeping these concerns on the table, throughout our Covid recovery. Additionally, there is a Covid response benefit of up to \$1000 per household, which has which will help everyone in British Columbia.

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?

SC Response: Affordable housing is a priority through out the province, and here in North Vancouver. Many of the nurses on my teams are not able to live in the community in which they work, not an unusual circumstance in any work environment. People come in from Burnaby, Surrey, Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, increasing the ongoing traffic congestion. We need to insure folks have affordable housing in the community that they work in. The counterpart to this is that we lose workers to other places, which is also not sustainable. The NDP platform includes; a recovery benefit aimed at helping families and stimulating the economy, rent freeze until end of 2021, the caps on rent increases, \$10/day daycare, transit free for children under 12. Additionally, the NDP is looking at expanding transit options, and cutting ICBC car insurance costs by 20%. As an MLA, I would be fighting to insure our riding is fully included in these plans, and that they are reviewed regularly for usefulness, and accessibility to all.

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?

SC Response: Clean BC is a plan well ahead of it's counterparts in Canada and North America with a 2050 target of zero emissions. This is to be achieved through transitioning to clean energy alternatives and investment in new technologies. I recognized, as does the NDP, that all of BC needs to improve our record of environmental stewardship. My pledge to you is to work together with North Van, and all other levels of government cooperatively (not competitively!) to determine and implement further steps that make sense in our community.

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?

SC Response: This topic has been on my mind and in my heart for many years. I have had the opportunity to meet, work with and employ people who have skills far beyond the roles they have been able to secure. In my mind, this is a massive loss to our community, and our province. We invite people to Canada, give immigration merit points for education and training, then deny or significantly delay access to the opportunity to utilize those valuable skills, which then decay. Already, a series of reviews have been done to address some of these concerns. I continue to be a willing advocate and representative for folks who arrive with such valuable gifts that could be immediately beneficial to our province and our community. I would be remiss if I did not speak to our film industry, which has adapted to Covid and bounced back strongly. A significant number of film industry professionals live in North Vancouver and contribute immensely to the local economy. The jobs are varied, and plentiful, hi-tech, labour intensive, creative, green and clean. The NDP has pledged to support new job opportunities in many sectors, and I fully support that pledge.

