

PLATFORM: Meet the Candidates

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates – Federal Election 2021



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PEOPLE'S PARTY

Please note that these responses from each Candidate to questions posed by the North Vancouver Chamber are complete and unedited.

Brad is an accomplished risk management and insurance professional with extensive experience managing cases in the Supreme Court of British Columbia. He has been engaged in medical-legal practice for nearly three decades — analyzing forensic, financial, and medical information for its probative value. Brad holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration (BBA) from SFU, and the Canadian Risk Manager Designation (CRM) from the Global Risk Management Institute inc.

In the past he has been actively involved in several community and professional organizations, including the Burnaby Youth Soccer Association, the BC Soccer Development Program, and the BC Risk & Insurance Management Association (BCRIMA).

ECONOMIC RECOVERY FROM COVID-19

Q: What will you do to support economic recovery from COVID-19 in the hardest hit employers, business sectors and members of our community in North Vancouver?

Step one is to admit the terrible economic ignorance behind Covid trade-offs, and phase-out the unnecessary application of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI's) on businesses and the general economy.

A peer-reviewed study, conducted by Stanford University researchers, analyzed the coronavirus case growth in 10 countries in early 2020 and showed there was "no clear, significant beneficial effect of [more restrictive measures] on case growth in any country".

The study compared countries that enforced mandatory lockdowns, such as the US, England, and Italy, with countries that focused on voluntary responses, such as South Korea and Sweden.

A mathematical model was used by researchers who subtracted the "the sum of non-pharmaceutical intervention (NPI) effects and epidemic dynamics in countries that did not enact more restrictive non-



pharmaceutical interventions (mrNPIs) from the sum of NPI effects and epidemic dynamics in countries that did."

"In summary, we fail to find strong evidence supporting a role for more restrictive NPIs in the control of COVID in early 2020. We do not question the role of all public health interventions, or of coordinated communications about the epidemic, but we fail to find an additional benefit of stay-at-home orders and business closures," the research stated.

Supply chains have been shattered, and businesses continue to struggle with arbitrary government measures "to control the spread" that have never had a valid predicate - given the widely available epidemiological data.

SarsCov2 is not the Bubonic Plague with a 50% Infection Fatality Rate (IFR), or Smallpox with an IFR of 10%. It is a respiratory virus, and the best estimate of the IFR of COVID, globally, for those < 70 (i.e., the working and school-age population) is 0.05% (with a range of 0.00% to 0.31%). This was confirmed in a bulletin released by the World Health Organization in October 2020.

To support businesses in their recovery and rebuilding out of the controlled demolition caused by what is perhaps the most flawed and damaging public policy decisions since, well, ever, will require a WWII-level effort. It should involve investment in rebuilding our industrial infrastructure, re-incentivizing work, career training, and encouraging innovation.

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS (regulations, taxes, supply chain, access to capital).

Q: If elected, what would you within your role as the federally elected official to help remove these barriers and support our local business and employment sectors?

My answers to Question 2 can largely be found in my responses to Questions 1 and 4. The one comment I would make concerns investment. While the Bank of Canada can keep printing money to support government spending for as long as it may like, where that ship must eventually dock is at the port of higher inflation.

One cannot keep expanding the money supply while the supply of available goods and services remains static, if not in decline. Investment must be in viable enterprises capable of delivering a real rate of return over time; therefore, allowing the real economy to grow.

Further, sources in the financial community have advised me that many of their large accounts are sitting on cash and not borrowing – despite incentives. This is in no small part due to the overall economic uncertainty and growing a lack of confidence in the rolling vaudevillian political circus we have witnessed these past now how many years? If there is an actual plan in Ottawa for the Great Reset, let's hear it, in meticulous detail, now.



CLIMATE CHANGE/ENVIRONMENT.

Q: What is your personal position on climate change, and your party's commitment on the most important steps that need to be taken to address climate change and the environment?

Other than repairing the damage caused by the Covid-response public policy debacle, Climate Change is without question the greatest crisis facing us today.

But it is a crisis that appears to contain two parts.

The first part is an environmental crisis – from cutting down rainforests to grow soybeans (forests are also the greatest carbon sinks on the planet), to our increasingly acidified oceans killing off corals and other marine life - this crisis is visceral and very real.

The second part is a political crisis. Official pronouncements are at once contradictory and incoherent. Leaving in the minds of many responsible and informed people two key questions. What's the plan? And, how to meet the first challenge of the environmental crisis without doing permanent long-term damage to Canada's economy?

One of the example of the incoherence of the current plan being promoted by luminaries such as Mark Carney, Vice Chairman and Head of Impact Investing at Brookfield Asset Management, and UN special envoy for climate action and finance, is the proposition that Canada must radically reduce its carbon emissions, on its way to "net zero" by 2050, while failing to note that China's CO2 emissions are far away the highest on the planet. At nearly 11.0 billion tons annually (2017 – see attached graphic below), China's CO2 emissions exceed the combined total of the USA, the EU, Japan, and Canada!

Canada's annual CO2 emissions (617,000 tons) are basically a rounding error compared to China, which has announced plans to increase its CO2 emissions through the next decade, and plans to continue to build coal-fired power plants. In its nationally determined contribution to the Paris Climate Agreement (2015), China has said it would not peak emissions of CO2 until 2030.

So, is "the plan" for Canada to dismantle its industrial economy while China continues to grow theirs? If that's "the plan", then I don't like the plan.

Canada has many natural advantages when it comes to energy, including abundant clean renewable hydroelectric power, while also being the world's largest uranium producer. Our solutions to the climate crisis should, like China, be nationally determined. They should involve and employ Canadians in both planning and execution.

STAFF – ATTRACTION & RETENTION OF SKILLED STAFF.

Q: What is your position on this, and what steps would you take to get the underemployed back into the work force and support the social and economic potential this holds for our community?

As I discussed in my reply to Question 1., the problem businesses are encountering attracting and retaining skilled staff can be in part be ameliorated by ending the Kafkaesque rules and restrictions being placed on businesses and their staff as part of flawed Covid-response edicts. What sensible person would prefer to work under such conditions. Phasing out government income support programs (to solve a problem they created); which provide an incentive for people not to work, would also need to be set in motion. This is neoclassical microeconomic theory 101.

A medium-term problem is that after 18 months, a great many workers have been de-socialized from work. Drug and alcohol abuse have increased sharply, as have obesity rates and other chronic medical conditions. These represent a largely hidden epidemic lurking in behind governments profoundly ill-conceived Covid-response. Returning many of these workers to structured gainful employment can be akin to the rehabilitation and vocational challenges faced in trauma recovery – requiring a multidisciplinary public and private sector health response.

TRANSPORTATION.

Q: What would you do to ensure public transportation investments are made that provide better access to and across the North Shore to support the needs of North Vancouver, but also ensure the future of our local employers and the regional, provincial and national interests they support?

Approximately ten years ago I did a 3-year stint with TransLink’s Risk Management Department. While with company I had the benefit of taking in several sessions and presentations on transportation policy and planning in the Lower Mainland of BC. My overall experience while with TransLink confirmed that an efficient transportation system is contingent on it seamlessly integrating with a regions urban planning model. How also to integrate and balance the needs and demands of the various stakeholders – industrial, commercial, and residential – is the most vexing challenge of all.

The transportation issues faced by the North Shore are among the most challenging in the land. It has a growing population largely reliant on motor vehicles. It is also a major hub both for industrial activity and tourism/recreational travel. To exacerbate matters, the topography – bordered by a sea-line that pitches steeply to the North Shore mountains and bisected by large rivers.

So, what should a long-term transportation plan look like? Just putting more transit buses on the road by itself would seem inadequate. LRT? SkyTrain is a very expensive system, and due its technology requirements is also very expensive to maintain. A third bridge over the harbour linking with the other Skytrain lines would seem an essential. Urban planning models would have to work in concert with any build-out of transportation infrastructure – perhaps similar in kind to the high-density features of the Metrotown and Brentwood mixed-use UrbanShift model in Burnaby – a city with similar transportation challenges as the North Shore.



HOUSING.

Q: Do you support additional housing in North Vancouver? In what form and density should it take, and what would you do to ensure active and urgent federal support for these housing challenges in North Vancouver?

The challenges faced by the North Shore and the Lower Mainland generally, concerning available and affordable housing for the people who live, attend school, and work here, are not resolvable. At least not until we face-up honestly and courageously to the elephant in the room.

Money laundering.

British Columbia has become a global hub for money laundering by transnational organized crime syndicates -- some which appear to have essentially working relationships with host governments. Investigative journalist Sam Cooper's recent book "Wilful Blindness" offers an in-depth look on how massive international crime networks are targeting democracies worldwide and how authorities in some cases appear to be looking away.

How many empty homes are there on the North Shore and in the Lower Mainland? Do we even know? What's the point of greenlighting massive new housing initiatives if the increased housing stock will be either obscenely unaffordable, or simply unavailable to the average buyer?

We cannot wait for the outcome of the current Cullen Commission Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia, well intended though it may be.

What I propose is the establishment of a dedicated inter-agency federal task force, made up of resources and personnel gathered from various agencies, including: RCMP, Border Security Services, Fintrac, CSIS, and the Federal Prosecution Service.

We also require the Canadian Parliament to enact laws relevant to law enforcement in today's globalized and integrated world of organized crime. These new laws would likely need to be similar in construction and purpose to the Rico Act in the USA.

