

PLATFORM: Meet the Candidates

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates – Federal Election 2021



JIM HANSON

Candidate – Burnaby North-Seymour
NDP

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

Jim is a two-term District of North Vancouver Councillor, and founder of personal injury law firm, Hanson and Company. Jim is a Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations Committee member, a member of the North Vancouver Policing Committee and Chair of the North Vancouver Committee on Substance Abuse. He is a past member of the North Shore Chamber of Commerce.

Jim has dedicated his career to defending individuals against large corporations and governments and he works hard for his community by speaking out on environmental issues, Indigenous and racial justice, affordable housing, better transit and stopping the TMX pipeline.

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?

In the pandemic, Trudeau’s government had to be forced by the NDP to provide people any real support. I’m talking about the 75% wage subsidy, Double/Extended CERB, support for youth, renters, small business, seniors, sick workers – the immediate help we needed to get through the crisis.

The pandemic has taken a toll on Canadians. We’re ready for it to be done – and have a future we can look forward to. Canadians have sacrificed enough – and our hardest-hit sectors shouldn’t have to pay for the recovery. The billionaires that profited from the pandemic – they should pay.

Our next steps are clear. We have a plan to create over one million additional good new jobs:

- Building up our communities, with investments in affordable and energy-efficient housing, transportation, and energy infrastructure
- Making products that people want and need here, including critical PPE, vaccines, zero-emission cars, and clean tech



- Creating good jobs for those who care for our loved ones, expanding childcare, and boosting wages and working conditions for long-term care workers.
- Building better workplaces for all workers with paid sick leave, pharmacare and dental care, a higher minimum wage, and expanded training opportunities.
- Supporting Canada's small businesses

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?

I believe that small businesses should have access to all the support they need to get through this crisis, grow, innovate and stay competitive in Canada and around the world. Jagmeet Singh stood up for emergency small business aid during COVID-19, lower small business taxes, opposed unfair merchant fees, and fought to make it easier to pass on small businesses to the next generation.

The NDP will make sure that small businesses wage and rent subsidies continue until small businesses are able to fully reopen. To help small businesses get people back to work, we'll implement a long-term hiring bonus to pay the employer portion of EI and CPP for new or rehired staff.

I will hard for small businesses and help them tackle issues that impact their bottom line. As more and more small businesses rely on credit card and virtual transactions, the NDP would put an end to gouging by capping high credit card merchant fees at a maximum of 1%.

Our plan for public, universal pharmacare will also save businesses approximately \$600 per employee with extended health benefits every year.

To help Canadian small business step out on the world stage, we will streamline access to government export services and make it simpler to break into foreign markets. We'll also provide small- and medium-sized businesses with a single point of contact to help ease regulatory processes and support compliance - freeing up time for entrepreneurs to invest in growing their business.

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?

We need to fight the climate crisis like we want to win. The climate crisis is putting everything we value at risk. Conservatives say that the climate crisis isn't real – the Liberals just act like it isn't. Mr. Trudeau's hypocrisy is staggering: declaring a climate emergency and then approving a pipeline the next day. Instead of thinking forward, he continues to give Big Oil billions in subsidies.

We've got a plan to fight the climate crisis:



- Eliminate fossil fuel subsidies once and for all
- Undo the Liberals' decision to let big polluters off the hook
- Cut emissions by more than half and meet the 1.5 degree target that scientists say is necessary to prevent catastrophe
- Create hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs by investing in clean energy, energy efficient affordable homes, electric transit, zero-emission vehicles.
- Retrofit all homes across the country

Canada should be a leader, not a laggard. We are the only G7 country whose emissions have gone up since the Paris agreement. Under Trudeau, we have the weakest 2030 climate target of any. G7 country. The Liberals have spent more on fossil fuels on average compared to Stephen Harper and the Conservatives.

As your Member of Parliament, I will do everything in my power to advocate for better climate policy, from investing in green jobs to fighting the TMX expansion that puts both our climate and our community at risk.

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?

Jagmeet Singh and the NDP have brought forward short- and long-term plans to get people working and strengthen small business. It starts by helping small business attract and retain workers by reducing their operational costs and allowing them to offer enhanced wages and benefits. Some of the steps I mentioned earlier are critical to that goal of reducing expenses for small business – the long-term hiring bonus to pay the employer portion of EI and CPP for new or rehired staff, and the capping of credit card and virtual transaction merchant fees at a maximum of 1%. This will allow businesses to truly invest in their workers and reduce costly turnover of staff who otherwise are looking for better opportunities.

At the same time, the federal government needs to be a better partner with provinces and territories in training and retraining programs, including:

- Expanding face-to-face and virtual access to Adult Basic Education so that adults who want to finish their core high school education can do so close to home.
- Improving real-time labour market data/analysis and then delivering labour market agreements with provincial governments that are more in sync with each province's sectoral needs.
- Removing inter-provincial trade ticket barriers and improving the mobility of skilled tradespeople by providing a national structure when it comes to things like mandatory trades certification.
- Finally, we need to modernize our credential recognition system so that the people who want to come to our country can have easier entry into the occupations they have trained for.



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?

Transit and transportation have been a top of mind issue for voters on the North Shore for as long as I have been talking to them.

Because we know everyone wants to do their part, we will make it easier to get and use a zero-emissions vehicle (ZEV). As Canada moves towards 100% of all new car sales being zero-emissions by 2035, we will make sure that more of these vehicles are built here in Canada. We will extend federal incentives for ZEVs and provide a break for working families by waiving the federal sales tax on ZEV purchases, and grow these incentives up to \$15,000 per family for made-in-Canada vehicles. To make ZEV use easier, we'll build out Canada's charging infrastructure and help people purchasing new or used ZEVs cover the cost of installing a plug-in charger.

We desperately need solid transit investments here to attract and retain our workforce and keep our economy moving. An NDP government will partner with cities and towns on a transit system that works for us. While Justin Trudeau loves talking about investing in transit, in too many cities across Canada people are struggling with transit that is unreliable, expensive and underfunded.

Instead of rolling out an ambitious plan to get our communities moving, as they promised in the last election, this Liberal government wasted billions of taxpayer dollars on an infrastructure bank that's completed no projects since it was set up in 2017. We need to do better.

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?

Everyone in Canada should have a safe, affordable home. Under Justin Trudeau, Canada's house price to income ratio is the highest in the OECD – by a large margin. Only a third of Canadians could afford to buy any type of home right now. And under Justin Trudeau, price of homes has increased by 55%.

This means that people are being priced out of the North Shore. Workers can't stay near their jobs, and families can't stay together. Even my own children have been priced out of Seymour.

We've got a plan to invest right now to create half a million units of quality, affordable housing across the country. Our plan will create jobs, and build the rental, cooperative, and social housing that is so desperately needed.



To help put an end to speculation that's fuelling high housing prices, we'll put in place a 20% Foreign Buyer's tax on the sale of homes to individuals who aren't Canadian citizens or permanent residents. New Democrats will also fight money laundering, which fuels organized crime and drives up housing prices. We will work with the provinces to create a public beneficial ownership registry to increase transparency about who owns properties, and require reporting of suspicious transactions in order to help find and stop money laundering.

