

PLATFORM: Meet the Candidates

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates – Federal Election 2021



TERRY BEECH

Candidate – Burnaby North-Seymour
FEDERAL LIBERALS

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

Terry Beech was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Burnaby North—Seymour in 2015. Mr. Beech is an accomplished and experienced entrepreneur, educator, and advocate. He entered public service over 15 years ago when he was elected as a city councillor. He was named one of Maclean’s Top 30 Under 30 in 2004, one of Business in Vancouver’s Top 40 Under 40 in 2013, and was also selected as an Action Canada Fellow. He has also been voted Parliamentarian of the Year for his Civic Engagement by Members of Parliament across all political parties

As an adjunct professor at Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia, Mr. Beech was co-author of The In-Credibility Factor, which highlights his desire for Canada to become a global leader in innovation and entrepreneurship. He founded HiretheWorld.com, and was a co-founder of Twinbro, a non-profit organization that has helped over 25,000 students obtain millions of dollars in scholarships and financial aid.

While serving as a city councillor, Mr. Beech began his studies in public administration at Capilano University, where he was named one of the school’s “Alumni to Watch.” He holds a Bachelor’s degree with a joint major in Business and Economics from Simon Fraser University, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Oxford. He is currently raising his family in Burnaby North—Seymour with his wife.

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?

The best thing we can do to support our businesses is to get through the pandemic successfully. We have a clear, science based strategy to do this. That will allow us to continue to lower our debt-to-GDP ratio and give Canadian entrepreneurs new opportunities both domestically and within global supply chains.



Businesses had to make hard decisions throughout the pandemic and our Liberal government has been there to support them through business loans, rent subsidies, and wage subsidies. Although we've been doing everything possible to support businesses, we're also leaning heavily into recovery. We are

supporting small businesses by lowering taxes from 11% to 9% and extending Canada's Recovery Hiring Program, so as businesses get back to normal they can get their employees back to work.

We made sure that our investments supported employees and small businesses and we helped tens of thousands of businesses stay open and protected millions of jobs. Billions of dollars in value, built over generations in many cases has been protected, now it is important to make sure that we come out ready to grow. Canada has recovered 92% of pre-pandemic jobs, while the U.S. has only recovered 75%. That is thanks to our health-based approach.

We have a comprehensive recovery strategy that will address unique challenges sector by sector. This includes maximizing the use of PacifiCan, British Columbia's new Economic Development Agency, and providing support for those industries hit the hardest by COVID-19.

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

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

I am committed to a safe recovery that sees businesses emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever. Businesses are the backbone of our community and essential to local innovation, and deserve our full support in making this transition as seamless as possible.

The cost of freight is especially painful at the moment and supply chain disruptions are a major challenge, but it's also an opportunity. Canada has an ability to leverage our highly vaccinated population to fulfill global supply chain gaps and to create new relationships. This is especially true given the fact that Canada now has some of the greatest market access thanks to trade deals like the new NAFTA, the Canadian-European Trade Agreement, and the Trans Pacific Partnership.

We're also empowering women to participate in this recovery like never before. We strengthened our Women Entrepreneurship Strategy, and we are reducing fees for child care in this province by 50% within the next year.

I am also personally quite excited about PacifiCan, a new Federal Economic Development Agency just for British Columbians. This agency will be able to create new programs specific to B.C. industries, while having a budget that is finally comparable to provinces like Ontario and Quebec. The future in B.C. and in Canada looks bright, and I am personally excited to help build it.

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?



Climate change is real. It is both a global crisis we face as well as a significant economic opportunity. Our ambitious climate plan, detailed in “A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy,” has been praised by leaders across the political spectrum. Previous NDP Leader Tom Mulclair called it “marvelous”. Dr. Andrew Weaver, climate scientist and past leader of the B.C. Green Party said, “...it is the only feasible plan put forward by any of the federal parties.” Mark Jaccard, energy economist and SFU professor gave the Liberal plan an 8/10, the Green party 4/10, and the NDP 2/10.

Over the past six years our government has done more to cut pollution in a practical and affordable way than any other government in Canadian history. We will continue to make polluters pay, and will require oil and gas companies to reduce emissions using near-term targets. This includes a reduction in methane by 75% within the next 9 years. We will move up our commitment to end fossil fuel subsidies from 2025 to 2023.

We will build a circular economy and invest in a zero waste future, including a comprehensive plan to address plastics. In B.C., we have made the largest commitment to any species by investing \$647M in wild salmon and we’ve committed \$50M to protecting old growth forests.

Our entire economy is built on a healthy and clean environment. Sustainable growth that protects clean air, soil, and water is the only responsible path forward.

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?

Before entering politics, I was a small business owner and non-profit founder. I understand the needs of business owners and the challenges we face. My wife also runs a family business, and she’s experiencing the same struggles as other business owners I speak to on the doorstep: they need workers. That is why we have committed to extend the Canada Recovery Hiring Benefit to help small businesses rehire much needed staff and get Canadians back to work, safely. We also created the Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program, to help the hardest-hit industries, including the tourism and hospitality sectors, access low-interest loans.

We have launched significant investments in skills training and have ensured our domestic workforce has access to the programs they need to thrive. Where businesses source labour continues to evolve. To respond to that change, we are establishing a Trusted Employer system to streamline application processes for Canadian companies hiring temporary foreign workers to fill labour shortages that cannot be filled by Canadian workers. In addition, an Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot and work with employers and communities across Canada to welcome 2,000 skilled refugees to fill labour shortages in high-demand sectors. We will also continue to invest in programs like Canada Summer Jobs and Young Canada Works to support businesses in hiring students and youth.

These are unprecedented times, and you can be assured that I will work tirelessly to address the evolving needs of your business and advocate for the support you need.



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?

Addressing transportation and traffic congestion has been a top priority for me over the past six years. Rapid transit is critical to ensure the North Shore is accessible to workers and customers. Since 2015, we've been clear that investments in clean public transportation is key to a green recovery. That's why we've invested in electrifying and expanding fleets, improving accessibility, and increasing the safety of bus stops.

Additionally, in July, I was happy to join the PM in announcing extending SkyTrain lines and purchasing 200 SkyTrain cars to service our community, while investing in a plan to connect the North Shore and Burnaby. I will advocate for the preferred rapid transit route between the Seabus to Capilano, over the 2nd Narrows Bridge to BCIT and Metrotown. The Lower Lynn Improvement Project is also well underway in order to make transit over and across the interchange easier, in addition to an \$11M upgrade coming to Phibbs Exchange to make the commute over the bridge better and faster. Continuing investment in both zero-emission buses and cars, as well as charging stations will create jobs, shorten our commute and help us to save the planet.

In addition we have invested in Canada's first Active Transportation strategy to ensure more people can get around on bikes and on trails. Coupled with our ambitious National Housing Strategy, we are making sure more people can live where they work and spend more time with their family.

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 federal government has been out of the housing game for almost 30 years. This means we've been accruing an infrastructure deficit up until 2015.

In addition, the supply of single family residences has reduced every single year since 1994, which is an indicator of our land constraints. We also have record low interest rates, which inflates the value of assets. Fortunately, all parties now seem to support some version of a National Housing Strategy, which is a good thing.

The question is how can we provide relief in the short term while executing a smart and effective strategy over the longer term? First, we need to recognize that housing will not be solved on the North Shore alone, we need a collaborative regional solution. Second, we need to build up housing related infrastructure, everything from transport to wastewater treatment facilities. Third, you need an



agressive National Housing Strategy, which in addition to the \$72B plan we are currently implementing has three additional pillars:

The first is to build more supply, including 1.4 million units over the next 4 years.

The 2nd is to taper demand. Primarily by disincentivizing the use of housing as an investment vehicle instead of as a place to live.

The third is to provide a viable path to home ownership.

I'd encourage everyone to read our 30 point plan to accomplish this at liberal.ca/housing. Generation Squeeze has just assessed the Liberal housing plan as the best of all party platforms.

