

MEET THE CANDIDATES

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates – Municipal Election 2022



Catherine Pope

Councillor Candidate – District of North Vancouver

Investment in Public Transit

Q1: If elected, what will you do to advance local, provincial and federal government commitments to transit infrastructure investments to, from and across North Vancouver?

The North Shore urgently needs relief from the congestion on the bridge as it is causing staffing shortages, slowing down construction and impeding the economy. I will be a strong voice in advocating for early completion of the BRT Bus Rapid Transit system to the North Shore. It will provide the quickest and most cost-effective form of relief. I support a Skytrain link, however this could take a decade to build. Additionally, we need more – much more – transit throughout the North Shore, especially in the east west corridors. Bike lanes need to be expanded. The goal is to get people out of their cars and the only way to do it is to provide them with easy access to transit, safe bike lanes.

Access to Primary Health Care

Q2: If elected, what will you do, in the short and long term, to support better access to primary physical and mental health care (doctors, dentists, etc.) in North Vancouver?

I feel that mental health is one of the most important issues facing all of us today. I will advocate for the Province to continue providing mental health care for youth at the Foundry and collaborate on finding more effective ways to deliver and support people with mental health problems. We need to do everything we can to retain family doctors on the North Shore. They need improved funding formulas, less business and paperwork burdens.

Rising Costs / Property Taxes

Q3 – Many businesses continue to feel the impact of the pandemic and need support to navigate the current environment, in particular seeking help to reduce their costs and to increase the pool of skilled workers from which to hire and train. If elected, what will you do to help reduce the burden of costs on business? What policies or programs will you introduce to reduce cost pressures and make North Vancouver a more tax-competitive jurisdiction for businesses?

The housing affordability problem is directly linked to the worker shortage. We need to increase affordable housing and worker housing and stop saying no to projects that the province is providing funding for (via BC Housing,) especially when developers come to the table with proposals that align



with the Official Community Plan. I commit to advocating for business, keeping a lid on taxes, streamlining the permitting and approval processes and saying YES to developments that meet the needs of the community and businesses.

Availability of Affordable Housing

Q4– Local governments play a central role in housing. If elected, what will you do to accelerate investments to increase the availability of affordable housing options for people and employees who live and work in North Vancouver?

I will vote YES to more development projects that provide affordable housing and rentals and align with the Official Community Plan, including environmental best practises. I commit to streamlining approval and permitting processes. I agree with David Eby’s proposal to allow homeowners to build 3 units on their single family lot, in addition to allowing basement suites, coach houses, duplexes and multi family homes. I would like to see the federal government get back into the business of funding housing coops - and I would like to explore rent-to-own possibilities.

Local Government services – Support for Businesses

Q5 – A municipal government’s processes can greatly affect the economics of doing business. If elected, what will you do to support more efficient transactions and timelines in support of businesses in North Vancouver?

Again, we need to streamline municipal services, permits and licensing. Make it easier for businesses to focus on their operations, instead of getting bogged down in paperwork.

