

MEET THE CANDIDATES

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates – Municipal Election 2022



Ellison Mallin

Councillor Candidate – District of North Vancouver

Ellison Mallin is an independent council candidate for the DNV. Born in Lions Gate Hospital and raised in Lynn Valley, he went to Eastview Elementary School and then Sutherland Secondary and Simon Fraser University. He currently works for MLA Susie Chant in North Vancouver – Seymour.

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?

I will support the work required to create Translink's 10-year plan, which includes two Bus Rapid Transit Lines connecting from Burnaby and Vancouver to the North Shore. Should ridership on these lines show promise, I will advocate for a better fixed link connection to the North Shore. As a more immediate priority, I will advocate for better inter-North Shore transit options. A SkyTrain that crosses the inlet may be expensive, but a fixed line connection within the North Shore could be built a lot faster at a much lower cost in the interim. We need to also look at some seasonal transit solutions, like a summer ferry between Deep Cove and Port Moody, as well as bike shuttles to popular mountain biking destinations. I will support more transit-oriented housing and reduced parking along major transit corridors to improve ridership. I will also be advocating for multi-family developments to have the option to buy in to a transit pass system, like our U-Pass for universities, which creates significantly discounted monthly passes for more people.

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?

One of the reasons I decided to run in the first place was to advocate for municipalities to become more involved in creating healthcare solutions. I believe all town centres should have healthcare options and can be zoned for such. We also need much better healthcare options in the areas east of the Seymour River, where crossing through highway traffic to get to the hospital on Lonsdale is not a workable option. My proposal is creating a healthcare hub at Parkgate Centre in the existing VCH space there. Beyond that, most of the work is just advocacy at the provincial and federal levels. I work for MLA Susie Chant, who was a community care nurse and is a great advocate for more healthcare resources. With strong municipal support, I think we can get a lot of work done.

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?

I would support measures to ban triple-net leases entirely. We also need a rework of our property tax assessment and appeals process. Large commercial lot owners continue to hold up the system with unnecessary challenges that put the burden of costs onto smaller landlords, landowners, and tenants. Much of this work requires focused advocacy from municipalities that we previously have not seen much of. I would work to change that. Also, by building complete communities and not taking industrial land or commercial land for uses it was not intended for, we can create better options for businesses. Much of our continued rising costs in local governments come from poor land use planning, and these are systemic issues that need immediate redress.

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?

As an absolute priority, we need to fix the systemic issues behind some of our housing woes. This means we need to create an actual definition of affordability, and we need to update our zoning bylaws to make them simpler and modern. I will advocate for a definition of affordability to be tied to the minimum wage, so that we can have entry level workers who live where they work, and so businesses do not need to try to set wages at amounts to compete with the costs workers are facing. Beyond these systemic fixes, we need workforce housing as an immediate priority. We have shut down previous attempts to create this, which has been disappointing. I will support workforce housing, especially for some of our most essential workers, like healthcare, education and frontline jobs. This will have some positive repercussions all the way through our local market I hope. For the overall housing development situation, I would love to see more “gentle densification”, including townhomes, duplexes, triplexes, and low-rise housing. We need more missing middle housing as a priority.

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?

We need to update our zoning bylaws, which are over 50 years old as an immediate priority. This will streamline a lot of work, and make future work by staff and council easier. Cutting red tape always



seems too populist a phrase to use, but that is what we need to do. The District of North Vancouver always tries to find different ways to say no, and we need to be more progressive and innovative than that. I want to see more creative business ideas get approved, and more spaces for them to thrive. On a bureaucratic level, I do support the merger of the library boards, and I want to see some changes at the North Vancouver Rec Commission to make it a more effective public service. We need bring North Vancouver into the 21st Century and that will involve many systemic changes. On a personal level, I also commit to treating the role of councillor as a full time job.

