

## MEET THE CANDIDATES

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates – Municipal Election 2022



### Greg Robins

Councillor Candidate – District of North Vancouver

Born in Winnipeg and schooled in journalism in Toronto, I moved here 21 years ago to raise a family with my wife Nicole. A lifelong entrepreneur, I have owned magazines, retail stores, and now a management services agency. I earned my MA in Leadership from Royal Roads University and participate in advisory committees at Lanagara College. I am the Chair of the Lookout Housing + Health Society Foundation and volunteer for several community organizations. I can often be found hiking the trails, snowboarding at Grouse Mountain, or mountain biking on greens and blues.

#### 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?*

As a community, we need to continue advocating for increased transit options across the Burrard Inlet and across the North Shore as part of Transport 2050 - Translink's Regional Transportation Plan. The Transport 2050 plan is a broader plan which must integrate with any systems being brought to the North Shore. We must recognize, as a community, that transit will only come to us when our population increases, and the challenge for the District will be to densify the North Shore in a way that is healthy for our community while justifying transit investment.

#### 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?*

While the province is primarily responsible for health care, the District must find ways to provide affordable housing for the wide range of staff required to operate related services. We can't have a dentist without a hygienist and we can't have a doctor without an administrator - and if we do, they may have to drive here exacerbating the traffic challenges we have. It comes back to providing a home for the workers and even the professionals.

#### 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?*

Businesses are struggling to find staff willing to cross a congested bridge to work on the North Shore, and this is due to the lack of residents in the District in the 25- 39 age range. This drives up wages, triggers signing bonuses, and expensive retention methods. I would focus on introducing a wider range of housing through a modernization of our zoning bylaws to allow the people businesses need to live and work here.

### **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?*

The District can follow in the footsteps of other progressive municipalities and give flexibility to renovators and builders through an update of regulations. Our zoning bylaws are over half a century old and reflect the restrictions on housing from a bygone era. Ultimately, this means we are excluding the people we want and need here: physiotherapists, dental hygienists, mechanics, and even our own children. Let's update our bylaws and free up options so we can provide the kind of housing people are demanding.

### **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?*

As a former business owner in the District (Organics@Home Urban Delivery) I have seen the lack of support and assistance business owners face in the District. As a councillor, I will seek a stronger role for the new Business Services Manager with more resources planned to support the position over the next two years. The Manager should be tasked with collecting research from the business community and build an action plan to reduce the points of greatest friction.

