

MEET THE CANDIDATES

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates – Municipal Election 2022



Holly Back

Councillor Candidate – City of North Vancouver

Before elected to Council, I operated a successful business in lower and mid Lonsdale. During that time, I organized many large fundraisers that benefitted our community. I was also involved with the Chamber, serving on the Board of Directors. I was honoured to receive the Chamber's Businessperson of the Year and Best Employer awards during that time.

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?

Effective public transit is critical to ensuring our local businesses can attract and retain staff. If workers cannot easily access their workplace by transit, that impacts their decision to work on the North Shore. As a result, our local businesses are suffering. The city has been working closely with INSTPP (Integrated North Shore Transportation Planning Project) and members of the North Shore communities, TransLink, and other levels of government to explore this problem and to create public transit that works for employees. I will continue to work with all levels of government and push for solutions that benefit our community.

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 have the highest respect for health care workers. However, the medical system is broken, and all levels of government must work together to create a better way to serve our community. Due to the doctor shortage, the BC government now allows pharmacists to renew some prescriptions and they will soon be allowed to prescribe medication for minor ailments. First responders (paramedics and firefighters) will receive training to expand their ability to provide medical assistance when on calls. These are small steps in the right direction to relieve some of the stress on our overburdened doctors and hospitals. But much more work is needed. We must continue to apply pressure on government to recognize the education of foreign doctors and allow them to practice in BC. Our ambulance system is not working, and our city must take a stronger stand to ensure better response times when our residents call 911.

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?

As a former business owner, I know how important small businesses are for our community. The city needs to continue with the roundtable discussions we started during the pandemic, so that we understand the unique and evolving needs of business owners and their staff. I will advocate for a fairer method of assessing commercial property that is not based on highest and best use, as the current method results in higher taxes for many businesses. I am committed to doing all I can to help our local 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?

One of the biggest challenges facing businesses is lack of staff. Many, especially restaurants, are having to reduce operating hours as a result. Part of the problem is lack of affordable rental stock. That needs to change and will be my major focus over the next term. While the City has made progress in this area, there is more work to do. Creativity and thinking ‘outside the box’ are key. Working with developers to ensure below market housing and increasing secondary suite stock will benefit younger residents and those wishing to live where they work.

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?

To streamline the permitting process, I would like to see a staff member assigned to each person who applies for a business licence. This staff person will walk the new business through the process from start to finish and issuance of the business license. The staff person will be responsible for streamlining the process and ensuring completion in a much quicker timeframe.

