

MEET THE CANDIDATES

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates – Municipal Election 2022



Jessica McIlroy

Councillor Candidate – City of North Vancouver

Jessica McIlroy is a one-term Councillor seeking re-election in the City of North Vancouver. Over the past four years, Jessica has sat on the City of North Vancouver Library Board of Trustees, the North Van Arts Council Board of Directors, the Lonsdale Energy Corporation Board of Directors, the Metro Vancouver Climate Action Committee, the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council, the Lower Mainland Lower Government Association Executive, and Chaired of the City's Climate and Environment Task Force; and an MSc in Environment Science and an MBA. Jessica is currently the Deputy Executive Director of Climate Caucus, and has held leadership positions with Climate Reality Project Canada, the BC Sustainable Energy Association, Passive House Canada, Marine Renewables Canada, and the BC Women in Energy Network.

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 City Councillor, my role is and will continue to be, supporting the advocacy efforts of North Shore Connects and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, and the inclusion and advancement of North Shore transit investments in the Translink five year and ten year plans. It is also the role of Council to ensure that the City streets and mobility networks are designed to support the efficient movement of transit and that we commit to road space allocations as needed. We must demonstrate our commitment to transit investments by prioritising transit oriented housing and the appropriate supporting infrastructure on our streets.

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?

Access to primary health care is a responsibility of the Province, but does require advocacy and support from local governments. This can take shape through channels such as the Union of BC Municipalities, where we saw an afternoon session on this topic this year with participation from health care professionals, Mayors and Councillors from around BC, and Minister Dix. The UBCM convention had twenty health care related resolutions this year. Local governments are very clearly asking for action from the Province. As a City, we can also continue to look at the tools we have to attract health care workers to our community. There needs to be accessible housing options to allow health care industry members to move here, transportation options that support quality of life, and office spaces available.



As with all sectors, we must continue to make sure the City of North Vancouver is an ideal place to live, work, and play.

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 City has maintained a tax policy for many years that ensures the City is competitive in the region and supports business growth and long-term economic sustainability. While the City needs to continue ensuring competitive and fair tax rates, provincial advocacy needs to also continue to address the property assessment process. Business associations and local governments have continually asked for assessments that aren't based on highest and best use, and allow for the split of the unused airspace from the commercial property. Ensuring that the City of North Van is an attractive place to work, and improving access to housing and transportation options, will also support the attraction and retention of employees, supporting 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?

As we know, the City has limited direct ability to deliver below market housing that fits the definition of affordable. In order to build more affordable housing, we must work with non-profit and government partners, and be prepared to advance the required zoning and construction approvals. As a local government, the City can look at policy, planning, and zoning tools that can prioritize below market housing. For example, the 10-10-perpetuity policy has allowed for the construction of a number of mid-market rental apartments. These tools also include prezoning, changing what is allowable in different zones, fast tracking applications, workforce housing, and different ownership models like rent-to-own. The provincial government is looking to introduce a number of different measures that will impact the real estate and housing markets, as well as new housing developments. As a City, we must do our part and work with them in partnership to advocate for measures that work for the community.

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?

The City has begun the process of developing an Economic Investment Strategy, which needs to be completed and adopted by Council. The strategy is focusing on key areas of municipal influence, including: land use; business licences and permits; SME services; community assets; placemaking and the public realm; and business models. Some of the key actions that need to be considered around timelines and approvals are the streamlining of business licencing, single-point access to resources and information, strong City relationships, and the support of economic neighbourhoods and clusters through zoning.

