

MEET THE CANDIDATES

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates – Municipal Election 2022



Kathy McGrenera

Councillor Candidate – City of North Vancouver

Fortunate to be born and raised in North Vancouver, Kathy has been small business owner, operating a successful community based licensed daycare for more than a decade. As a recent project manager with the creation and construction of two local owner developed cohousing projects, which were able to work with the City to achieve ¼-1/3 of affordable units in the projects. Kathy has a Masters degree in Education, and is a trained facilitator & bookkeeper. She has been treasurer of her strata for 20 years and is regularly called on by groups to help resolve conflicts.

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 would work together with council to use our relations with MLA Bowinn Ma, MP Jonathan Wilkinson, and our partnership with the other municipalities and First Nations through North Shore Connects to continue to pressure Translink about the gravity of the traffic congestion situation on the North Shore and to push for the fastest implementation possible of rapid transit to, from and across North Vancouver. We could work with the NV Chamber and any other local organizations who have knowledge of direct experience with impacts of the current traffic congestion to build a case for our advocacy.

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 would work quickly with council to initiate a process to try to survey as many local health care providers as possible, through existing umbrella organizations or directly with providers, to understand the biggest challenges facing providers on the North Shore. We could then understand what we can do to ensure retention of existing providers, and best move forward to ensure we are able to attract new providers to our region. We already know that council needs to ensure there is commercial office space available, ideally near to Lions Gate Hospital, and throughout the community. I am also aware of the lack of a system of affordable and reliable office management for health care professionals so they are not forced to turn to unsuitable large non-medical providers like Telus to provide medical services support. I know Whistler is trying to establish such a medical office support system, as likely are other regions, and these systems could be learned from and hopefully replicated in North Vancouver.



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 advocate to change the business taxation structure so businesses are no longer taxed based on the highest and best use of land, which puts too much tax burden on small local businesses. I would seek guidance from the NVChamber and local businesses on ways the council can reduce costs in other ways. I would advocate for a council commitment to focus on building workforce housing immediately which would also contribute to increasing the retention of skilled workers.

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 above, I would advocate that council makes a commitment to focus on building affordable workforce housing as a priority for new development. Council can work with not for profit housing providers, the federal government (CMHC) and the provincial government (BC Housing) to partner together for the provision of this much need housing form, as was done with the recently approved housing agreement for affordable housing on the North Shore Neighbourhood House site.

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?

I understand from local businesses that permitting timelines and stipulations can result in longer periods of lost revenue, especially in these times of high lease costs and supply chain issues for needed materials. I would seek to understand the intricacies of the permitting approvals process in the city to know how and where the timeline gets extended unduly. I was recently a project manager for a construction process in the City of North Vancouver and am aware of several issues from that experience-shortage of building inspectors, non-practical application of code interpretation, etc, that resulted in huge delays. I would use that experience to investigate the experience of business owners, and city processes to and seek to find ways to speed up these processes.