

MEET THE CANDIDATES

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates – Municipal Election 2022



Linda Buchanan

Mayor Candidate – City of North Vancouver

I was born and raised in the City of North Vancouver, and raised my family here as well. For 30 years I was a Public Health Nurse working directly with the community. I was first elected as a School Trustee and then City Councillor. In 2018 I was elected Mayor.

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?

We all want to move efficiently and safely. More and more, people are asking for alternatives that are more affordable, accessible, and healthier. That's why I will continue to deliver solutions that work for everyone. As your Mayor I have:

- Delivered commitment for Rapid Transit to and from the NS from Mayor's Council
- Delivered RapidBus across the North Shore
- Increased SeaBus and handydart service
- Piloted 30km speed limit
- Delivered cycling and sidewalk infrastructure
- Moved forward with Casano-Loutet Overpass
- Implemented the first ever Electric Bike Share Program in BC.

Over the next term I am focused on continuing this work and delivering Burrard Inlet Rapid Transit. I will continue to work with my North Shore colleagues, provincial and federal representatives, Mayor's Council, Translink, the business community and others to advance this project forward.

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?

There is great untapped economic opportunity for our community when we look at health and allied health industries. That is why I've championed creating an Economic Health Cluster in the City, specifically around Lions Gate Hospital as it is a major employer and regional facility. I have had promising conversations with the health authority, Life Sciences BC, the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery, and Innovation, and others. This will open the door to new investment. Health is increasingly becoming an economic driver. The creation of an Economic Health Cluster could transform the Central Lonsdale area into a collection of health and technology businesses, service providers, non-profit

organizations, and more. By responding to the anticipated growth in healthcare and technology, we can play a critical role in both the delivery of improved care and in creating new economic opportunities. As a public health nurse I have seen the difference access to health services can make in the working lives of people.

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 have championed split assessment with the provincial government. This means moving away from 'highest and best use' to reduce the tax burden on small businesses. After years of advocacy from myself and other Mayors in the region, this appears to be moving forward for the 2023 tax year. Since being elected Mayor the City has jumped into the top 10 most economically resilient cities in the province. This is because we are increasing housing options for people, advancing transportation alternatives, enabling strong job growth, creating new child care spaces, and growing an array of businesses, services, and amenities including a dynamic Shipyards and Brewery District. We are well on our way to making the City *the* place to live, work, and play. But there is more to do. The City must continue attracting young people to the community. Our partnerships with institutions such as Capilano University have never been more valuable as students through internships and apprenticeships are the future of our local workforce. As Mayor I am committed to ensuring that our tax rate is extremely competitive in the region. I am also committed to helping local businesses scale up and attracting new investment.

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?

Access to affordable, adequate housing is a right we all share. But not everyone in our community is well housed and there is more work to do. Strong job growth in the City without a healthy vacancy rate is making it difficult for employers to find employees and it also contributes to our congestion when employees have to travel. That's why I will continue to partner with stakeholders, senior levels of government, and others to deliver the range of housing we need as well as rapid transit. When we provide options for all people it makes it easier for everyone to be housed and move around. Over the next term, as Mayor, I will continue to focus on:

- New rent-to-own home financing programs for first time buyers
- Purpose built rental for people of all income levels with first rights to City residents or those working in the City
- Pet-friendly housing
- Options that work for seniors
- Deeply affordable housing as part of the NS Neighbourhood House rebuild
- Accessible and supportive housing
- Coach houses and future stratification of lots
- Townhomes and row housing

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 am focused on streamlining the process of doing business, retaining, attracting businesses and protecting industrial lands. Since I’ve become Mayor we’ve implemented Gateway, our new client services centre. Gateway is your one-stop shop to quickly and easily access information and services related to licenses, permits, and more. It’s a new virtual service centre for residents, contractors, business owners, tradespeople, and developers. The City is looking to make regulations simpler and more effective, reduce processing times, and deliver a wider range of services online and in-person. This initiative is getting the attention it deserves. Other municipalities across the province are looking to our new model to learn how they too can streamline services. We are a leader in the region on economic development and investment. In the City we are uniquely poised to create a more prosperous community for all. At the start of the pandemic I convened the Mayor’s Business Advisory Round Table with leaders across industries. We made several key recommendations to support businesses through to the end of the pandemic, create business resiliency and create a more inclusive economy for the future.

