

MEET THE CANDIDATES

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates – Municipal Election 2022



Shervin Shahriari

Councillor Candidate – City of North Vancouver

I have lived in North Vancouver for 38 years and now live in Central Lonsdale. I am a Lecturer of Business Management at Langara School of Management, and was previously, a Sr. Planning Manager of TransLink Business Technologies. As a former Chair of both North Vancouver City Library Board, and Museums & Archives Commission, I worked with city staff and volunteers, and presented strategic plans and budgets to City Council and City Committees. I wrote a local history book, “North Vancouver’s Lonsdale Neighbourhood (Arcadia, 2009),” which through vintage photographs, illustrates how people lived, played, and worked during the first half of the twentieth century.

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 former Sr. Planning Manager of TransLink Business Technology Services, I will be an effective and strong advocate for transit funding for North Vancouver. Compared to our regional neighbours, North Vancouver has not received its fair share of Transit funding while we have been having a densification surge (North Vancouver has had a 9.9% surge in population growth in 5 years, while district grew by 2.9% and metro average was 7.3%). Current plans are to provide North Vancouver with a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), which I support. However, I will relentlessly push for a fast implementation of the BRT and will advocate for wait and journey time metrics that our community needs. This will push other levels of government to make the right Infrastructure investments for the needs of our community. I will also push for more frequent SeaBus and Bus services throughout North Vancouver. I will also advocate for a plan beyond the BRT for a link to the SkyTrain network.

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 been discussing this issue with many in the healthcare community and even though this is mostly a provincial matter, there are things we can and must do to address it. We have been hearing announcements from the provincial government in terms of plans to increase the number of graduating physicians in B.C. However, even though most BC trained physicians choose to stay in BC, North Vancouver is becoming less attractive from both an affordability and liveability perspective for them to settle down here. Short term, I will establish targets to make sure we monitor how many primary care professionals we are attracting to North Vancouver, and take actions to address gaps. Through zoning

measures, I will work to increase more service capacity for walk-in clinics, doctors' offices, childcare, mental health care and senior care facilities. This would ensure that we have competitive zoning in place for young doctors and other health practitioners to come and work here. I would also work to ensure health services are more accessible for the disabled.

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 initiate a review to ensure we are and remain competitive in this regard, and to ensure fairness across the business community in North Vancouver. With zoning changes, land values escalate quickly, and then taxes rise, and these are passed on to businesses. A lot of good paying jobs reside in light industrial zoning areas, and we need to limit zoning changes for these areas. I will work to ensure businesses that are locally owned and operated are supported. We need to look at how many chain businesses we want in our small City. I will ensure that we have affordable housing for people who work here. This will improve the recruitment and retention situation and will reduce the overall cost of doing business.

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?

North Vancouver City has been leading the region in densification. Instead of development that is primarily geared towards market housing, I will increase and prioritize affordable housing for people who work here. This will mean people who work here will be able to live here and will not commute. Trades people will also have more opportunities to live here, and this will bring development costs down. Some trades people who have been here for a long time, are being displaced because of development, and cannot afford to stay in the community. My plan will help them stay here by ensuring affordable rents for these individuals and families. I will also support a variety of options for housing (including co-op housing) and will ensure these are prioritized for the people who live and work here.

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?

With 30 years of experience in operations and project management, I will work to streamline and increase the efficiency of City transactions and permitting processes. When it comes to development projects, I will reduce the number of late surprises in development processes and will advocate starting Council involvement earlier in the process. I will advance plans to ensure small businesses are consulted and supported during and after major construction projects. I will initiate a review of the small business taxation system, with input from the business community.

