

MEET THE CANDIDATES

North Vancouver Chamber – Questions for Candidates – Municipal Election 2022



Trey Bell

Councillor Candidate – District of North Vancouver

I have lived in North Vancouver most of my life, and have worked with families, children, and youth of North Vancouver for over 20 years. I am employed as Director of School Age Care Programs for a large private childcare provider called Bee Haven. I also serve as Vice President of the non-profit Parkgate Society in a voluntary role.

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?

If elected, I will fight for more community shuttle buses in the short term, and in the long-term getting a SkyTrain or rail link to North Vancouver. The upcoming Phibbs Exchange upgrades are a good starting point for improving the flow of traffic, and transportation infrastructure, but more needs to be done. I would fight for a bridged SkyTrain link to Phibbs Exchange, which would connect North Vancouver to the broader SkyTrain network. This could potentially be done in conjunction with a newly built rail bridge beside the Second Narrows or a newly built Second Narrows Bridge itself. As we have seen in other outlying communities, giving people a realistic, fast transportation option is what really gets people out of their cars when commuting. I would advocate for Provincial and Federal money for transit infrastructure, as there are Provincial priorities like increasing regional tourism, and Federal priorities such as making sure port workers can get to work and keep the Port running.

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?

The challenge for the district and all municipalities is that health care is largely a Provincial and Federal issue based on complex funding interactions. Municipalities are also limited by the Community Charter in providing financial assistance to private businesses, which most family doctors are considered to be. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs has said this year that, “municipalities can grant an exemption to the municipal portion of property tax if it is to increase economic, social or environmental revitalization in the municipality”. I would be in favour of granting this exemption to family health care providers, to encourage more family doctors, dentists and mental health care providers set up in the district of 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?

As a councillor I would want to meet with business owners to discuss challenges they face and find workable solutions. I am in favour of examining the tax rate in comparison to other similar sized municipalities and make sure North Vancouver businesses are not paying more than in other jurisdictions. I am in favour of the BC Chamber of Commerce recommendation that the Province amend the Community Charter to allow municipalities to assist small businesses financially in times of crisis.

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?

I believe that we can work with developers to gain community benefits such as rent to own programs, affordable rental units, and more housing diversity. The Federal government has recently announced a 2-billion-dollar program to support communities building rent to own units. I am in favour of putting people who work in North Vancouver to the top of the line when it comes to getting into housing in the district (i.e., for affordable rental or rent to own projects). I believe that the district should be approving diverse housing options, including buildings that are all rental, laneway homes, and increased townhomes with social housing components.

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 district should streamline the permitting process for businesses, and work with them to achieve beneficial outcomes for the community. Having a representative at the district that business leaders can easily connect with is key, as I have witnessed the often arduous process that businesses have to go through when seeking to expand, or start up.