



Meet the Candidates

North Vancouver Chamber Questions for Candidates
Federal Election 2025



ANDREW ROBINSON

North Vancouver – Capilano
Green Party of Canada

Bio:

Andrew Robinson is a small business owner with an MSc in *Environmental Change and Management* from the University of Oxford. I have over 25 years experience living and working in 7 countries on 4 continents within corporate, inter-governmental and distinct agency contexts on business and sustainability issues and practices. I've spent the last 15+ years in BC consulting to corporate and natural resource clients on sustainability, social performance, and environmental impact management. My work has led to reductions of environmental impacts while also reducing costs, creating a healthier work environment, aligning with business strategy and increasing contributions to local communities.

1. GOVERNMENT COSTS

High taxes and the threat and uncertainty of US Tariffs are the number one issue for the business community in North Vancouver.

Q: How would you reduce government costs to businesses?

A: The Green Party of Canada aims to reduce government costs to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) by implementing tax reforms, streamlining regulation, and localizing economic development—all while promoting environmental and social responsibility. Key initiatives include:

1. *Tax Relief for Local Economies*

The Green Party's tax reform plan eliminates federal income tax on earnings under \$40,000, returning \$50 billion directly to working Canadians and their communities. This boosts consumer spending at local businesses, helping SMEs thrive without needing direct subsidies.

2. *Targeted Tax Reform*

The Green Party proposes shifting the tax burden from small enterprises and individuals to large corporations and ultra-wealthy individuals. This levels the playing field, allowing small businesses to grow and compete without being overburdened by fees and compliance costs.

3. *Reduced Regulatory Burden (Smart Red Tape Reduction)*

The Greens support simplifying federal regulations—particularly for SMEs—without compromising environmental, labor, or safety standards. By streamlining processes and digitizing compliance systems, the party aims to cut administrative overhead for businesses while maintaining transparency.

4. *Support for Local Procurement and Value-Added Industries*

The Green Party's economic sovereignty plan prioritizes domestic processing and local supply chains, encouraging government procurement from Canadian SMEs. This creates stable, long-term demand for local businesses and reduces dependence on volatile international markets.

In short, the Green Party's approach lowers costs for SMEs through fair taxation, practical regulation, and local economic empowerment.

2. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY BARRIER

Q: How would you cut government imposed regulatory and trade barriers, such as reducing interprovincial trade barriers and regulatory reform (reducing red tape), while also protecting Canadian sovereignty?

A: The Green Party of Canada proposes reducing regulatory and trade barriers while protecting Canadian sovereignty by promoting economic self-reliance and simplifying governance structures without compromising environmental or social standards. Instead of imposing complex new regulatory systems, the Greens advocate using Crown corporations to create Strategic Reserves of key Canadian resources. This market-based approach—purchasing exports at current prices and holding them for domestic use or trusted trade partners—avoids trade disruptions and removes the need for unnecessary red tape.

It ensures Canada's natural wealth supports domestic industries, like value-added manufacturing and housing, rather than being exported raw to foreign markets. While other countries like Sweden and Germany develop manufacturing and processing industries, Canada continues to lose economic opportunities by shipping out unprocessed resources. This plan reduces dependency on volatile global supply chains while enhancing interprovincial trade by keeping resources and processing within Canada. It respects provincial jurisdiction while supporting national goals, aligning with broader sovereignty and sustainability principles. Importantly, the Green approach avoids trade retaliation tactics or deregulation that might compromise standards. Instead, it uses existing structures to build resilience and local economic capacity without adding debt or bureaucracy. The focus remains on real economic transformation—supporting Canadian workers, protecting resources, and strengthening Canada's ability to chart its own course in a global economy.

3. FUNDAMENTAL REGIONAL ISSUES IMPACTING ECONOMY

Many regional issues are severely impacting our local North Vancouver economy.

Q: What would be your specific local response to tackle the following interrelated challenges for employers in North Vancouver:

- Affordable housing – the housing shortage
- Skilled staff – difficulty attracting and retaining
- Public Transit – the need for significant capital and operating
- Innovation – Investment in Research & Development.

A: **Affordable Housing:** The GPC aims to build 20,000 new and rehabilitate 10,000 affordable units per year for ten years, supported by capital grants. We propose several regulatory measures that would impact North Vancouver:

- Eliminating unfair tax advantages for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) to reduce the incentive for REITs to inflate housing costs.
- Stop corporations from buying up homes, thereby making more homes available for families.
- Implementing regulations such as caps on rent and land ownership, targeted taxation to combat speculation, and inclusionary zoning.

Public transit: Investing in improved public transit on Vancouver's North Shore is a more sustainable, efficient, and forward-thinking use of public funds than expanding road infrastructure. The Canada Line, built ahead of the 2010 Olympics, is a clear example. Since its launch, it has exceeded ridership expectations, significantly reducing car dependency, easing congestion on key routes, and connecting people across the region faster and more reliably. It shows that when fast, frequent, and convenient transit is available, people choose it. In a geographically constrained area like the North Shore, transit is the only scalable, sustainable way forward.

Innovation: The GPC would promote domestic processing and production of Canadian resources. This includes investing in R&D that helps turn raw materials into high-value products, such as critical minerals for batteries, housing materials, or climate-resilient infrastructure. Instead of subsidizing polluting industries, the Greens would redirect federal funds to support local innovation, helping create stable demand for domestic R&D outcomes for small and medium enterprises and bring their research to market.