

## Meet the Candidates

North Vancouver Chamber Questions for Candidates  
Federal Election 2025



### Jesse Fulton

Burnaby North-Seymour  
People's Party of Canada

#### 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: Cut business taxes. The PPC advocates significant tax reductions. Deep cuts to federal corporate income taxes and proportional municipal property tax reductions would save small and medium-sized enterprises thousands annually, boosting reinvestment and hiring. For example, lowering the federal small business tax rate from 9% to 5% could provide substantial relief.

Eliminate regulatory burdens. Consistent with the PPC's push to reduce red tape, streamline or abolish non-essential regulations. A one-stop regulatory portal to fast-track permits and licenses would cut compliance costs, which can consume 3-5% of small business revenue. The PPC's 2021 platform aimed to reduce regulatory costs by 25%, a goal that could apply to local bylaws.

Abolish the carbon tax. The PPC opposes the federal carbon tax, which raises energy and transportation costs. Eliminating it would lower operational expenses for North Vancouver's retail and logistics sectors, potentially saving 2-4% on fuel-related costs based on industry estimates.

Oppose tariff retaliation. The PPC favors free trade and minimizing barriers. Instead of retaliatory tariffs, advocate for diplomatic negotiations to mitigate US tariff impacts. Support businesses with export diversification grants to tap markets like Asia or Europe, aligning with the PPC's pro-trade stance.

Cut government spending. Reflecting the PPC's call for leaner government, audit municipal and federal budgets to eliminate subsidies to non-essential programs or industries. Redirect savings to infrastructure like roads and ports, reducing logistics costs without raising taxes.

Reduce payroll taxes. Push for lower Employment Insurance and Canada Pension Plan contributions for employers, as the PPC seeks to minimize payroll tax burdens. A 1% reduction could save a mid-sized North Vancouver business \$5,000-\$10,000 yearly, encouraging job creation.

Privatize non-essential services. The PPC supports reducing government's economic role. Privatizing municipal services like certain waste management or recreational facilities could cut operating costs, allowing lower property taxes. Similar Canadian municipal models suggest 10-15% savings.

Eliminate corporate welfare. The PPC opposes subsidies to favored industries. Ending local and federal grants or tax breaks to large corporations would free up funds for broad-based tax cuts, leveling the playing field. Scrapping \$7 billion in annual federal subsidies could fund a 2% corporate tax cut.

Simplify tax compliance. The PPC emphasizes reducing bureaucratic complexity. A simplified tax filing system, like a flat tax rate or streamlined GST/HST reporting, would cut accounting costs for small businesses. A federal flat tax could inspire local reforms.

Promote free trade alternatives. With US tariffs looming, fund programs to help businesses explore CETA and CPTPP markets, reducing US reliance. A small municipal grant for export training could save millions in tariff-related losses.

Reduce public sector overhead. The PPC calls for smaller government. Freezing municipal hiring and salaries could cap budget growth at inflation (2%), saving \$2-3 million yearly for business tax relief without service cuts.

Encourage local competition. Reduce barriers to entry by eliminating restrictive zoning or licensing rules, fostering competition and lowering prices, which eases cost pressures on businesses.

## **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 PPC prioritizes free markets and minimal government interference while maintaining national sovereignty. To cut regulatory and trade barriers for North Vancouver businesses, the following steps align with PPC principles: Simplify federal and provincial regulations. The PPC's 2021 platform targeted a 25% reduction in regulatory costs. Create a single digital portal for business licensing and compliance, streamlining processes across jurisdictions. This could save small businesses 3-5% of revenue spent on red tape.

Eliminate interprovincial trade barriers. The PPC supports free trade within Canada. Abolish restrictive provincial standards, like differing product certifications, that hinder goods movement. For example, harmonizing regulations for food and beverage industries could cut logistics costs by 2%, benefiting North Vancouver's retail sector, without compromising federal oversight.

Reduce compliance costs. Replace complex regulatory frameworks with clear, performance-based standards. For instance, environmental assessments could focus on outcomes rather than prescriptive rules, saving businesses time and money while maintaining Canada's environmental sovereignty.

Protect sovereignty through bilateral negotiations. The PPC opposes globalist trade deals that erode national control. Strengthen Canada's position in international trade by negotiating agreements that prioritize Canadian interests, ensuring regulatory reforms don't cede authority to foreign entities.

Audit regulatory agencies. The PPC calls for leaner government. Review agencies like the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for overlapping mandates, consolidating functions to reduce business compliance burdens. Savings could fund tax cuts, reinforcing economic sovereignty.

### 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: The PPC's platform focuses on market-driven solutions, reduced government spending, and economic freedom. Here's how these principles address North Vancouver's regional challenges for employers.

**Affordable Housing:** The PPC recognizes housing shortages stem from overregulation and government interference. Eliminate restrictive municipal zoning laws to allow higher-density development, increasing housing supply. Streamline permitting processes to reduce construction costs, which can account for 20% of home prices. Encourage private investment in rental housing by cutting property taxes for developers, addressing the shortage without public subsidies.

**Skilled Staff:** The PPC supports a competitive labor market. Reduce payroll taxes, like Employment Insurance contributions, by 1-2% to lower hiring costs, enabling businesses to offer competitive wages. Simplify credential recognition for interprovincial and immigrant workers to address skill shortages, as the PPC advocates reducing bureaucratic barriers. Promote private training programs through tax credits, allowing employers to upskill staff without government-run programs.

**Public Transit:** The PPC favors efficient infrastructure over bloated public projects. Privatize certain transit operations, like bus services, to reduce operating costs, which consume 60% of Metro Vancouver's transit budget. Redirect savings to targeted capital investments, such as expanding SeaBus capacity, improving access for North Vancouver workers. Encourage private ridesharing or shuttle services for last-mile connectivity, minimizing public spending while enhancing transit options.

**Innovation:** The PPC opposes government picking winners in R&D. Eliminate targeted subsidies for specific industries, redirecting funds to broad-based corporate tax cuts. A 2% federal corporate tax reduction could free up \$500 million annually for private R&D investment. Simplify patent processes to encourage innovation by small firms, which account for 40% of Canada's R&D. Foster public-private partnerships for tech hubs in North Vancouver, leveraging local universities without direct government funding.