



## PLATFORM: Meet the Candidates

North Vancouver Chamber Questions for Candidates  
BC Election 2024



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**1. Reducing Property & Business Tax Costs on Business. Many small businesses are struggling and feeling the increasing burden of costs that government can control, such as provincial taxes, property tax assessments, and the Employee Health Tax. What would you do to help keep the costs for business down so they can survive and maintain the jobs and services they provide to our community?**

*Government must play a role in lowering costs for business and creating a healthy climate that encourages business investment. I support:*

- *Raising the EHT threshold for small businesses;*
- *Increasing the small business tax threshold;*
- *Freezing Worksafe BC premiums or, alternatively, offering provincial rebates to offset Worksafe cost increases.*
- *Improving housing affordability and accessibility on the North Shore to enable more employees to both live and work here.*
- *Increasing access to daycare*

**2. Funding Commitment to Rapid Transit. Many employees working in North Vancouver are not able to find reasonable transportation options to get them to work in North Vancouver or get across the community. Metro Vancouver mayors have agreed upon the rapid transportation priorities for the region, including the Metrotown-Park Royal connection. North Shore Connects also demonstrates the local unity on this issue. What will you commit to do to ensure these North Shore and regional transportation priorities receive sustainable provincial funding?**



*We need a stable, sustainable model for funding transit in the region. Service cuts or significant fare hikes are not viable options.*

*The North Shore has the most substantial traffic challenges in the Lower Mainland. I would advocate for the replacement of the Second Narrows Bridge and Skytrain expansion to the North Shore. In the near term, I support increasing bus service frequency and the expansion of BRT along the Metrotown to Park Royal corridor.*

**3. Primary Health Care. Many owners and staff of smaller businesses in North Vancouver are calling for improved access and availability of primary health care in their community. This issue is impacting the viability of their business as workers and employers lose time and money due to the delays and stress of attending to real personal or family primary medical needs. What will you do to improve primary health care access and availability in North Vancouver?**

*The policy focus must be on measures that increase access to primary care and lower wait times. I support:*

- *Recognizing foreign healthcare credentials – particularly for in-demand specialists;*
- *Increasing in-province residency spaces to increase physician numbers;*
- *Expanding capital investment in front-line health infrastructure*
- *Expanding of pharmacist-provided medications without doctor approval*
- *Putting a greater emphasis on the team-based approach to primary care that includes nurse practitioners, psychologists, physiotherapists and other allied health care professionals.*

**4. Affordable Housing for staff. Employees working in North Vancouver businesses and service organizations are not able to find affordable local housing options. Businesses are suffering as a result, with many choosing to move their business closer to where their employees can afford to live, or simply closing as a result. What would you do to ensure affordable housing investments are made quickly to support the needs of the community and the future of our local employers?**

*The province must incent municipalities to approve more units more quickly while providing funding assistance for housing infrastructure like sewers and transportation. I support the elimination of both the property transfer tax for first time buyers and the PST on housing construction costs.*



**5. Finding Skilled Staff.** North Vancouver employers are still challenged to find skilled workers to fill many good jobs. Many talented residents in our community don't have the resources or training to pivot and fill good local jobs in health care, senior care, the trades, tech, engineering, and more. What would you do to ensure North Vancouver can train and connect skilled staff to local employers who need them?

*Any conversation on attracting skilled labour to businesses on the North Shore must begin with a better approach to transportation and housing. Little can be done to connect skilled staff to local employers if people are unable to commute to the North Shore or cannot find a place to live here. See my previous answers on housing and transportation for more details.*

*Long-term solutions to our labour supply issues must be multi-faceted, engaging a diverse set of stakeholders and policies. I would like to see adjustments to our post-secondary and apprenticeship systems, improved foreign credential recognition and immigration policies, greater utilization of mature workers and more.*