

Meet the Candidates

North Vancouver Chamber Questions for Candidates
Federal Election 2025



STEPHEN CURRAN

North Vancouver-Capilano
Conservative Party of Canada

BIO:

Stephen Curran is a lawyer and the Conservative candidate for North Vancouver-Capilano. Stephen holds a BA from the University of Alberta, an LLB from McGill Law School, and an MSc from the London School of Economics. He has spent the last 20 years as a lawyer, spending five years in New York before returning to Canada to join McCarthy Tetrault in 2011. At McCarthy, Stephen specialized in infrastructure law, advising on some of Canada's largest public-private partnerships. In 2021, Stephen joined local firm Lakes, Whyte, where his practice focused on small businesses on the North Shore and in Greater Vancouver.

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 Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) have given the Liberals the worst ever federal government grade for their inaction on reducing red tape. The CFIB also found that red tape accounts for nearly \$18 billion of total annual cost to Canadian businesses, with a disproportionately negative effect on small businesses. After 10 years of Liberal government, Canadian businesses are overwhelmed by needless regulations, endless paperwork, and confusing jargon. A Conservative government will cut 25% of all federal red tape within two years of taking office, saving Canadian businesses \$4.5 Billion annually.

To address this, a Conservative government would: pass a Plain Language Law, to simplify regulations applying to businesses; work to standardize accreditation across provinces, so that a professional in B.C. can easily work in Nova Scotia; and we will enact a Two-for-One Law requiring \$2 in administrative cost savings for every \$1 added.

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: Creating a thriving and resilient Canadian economy is the best way to stand up to the United States' threats to our sovereignty. The Liberals have spent 10 years increasing red tape, raising taxes, and ignoring Canada's internal trade barriers. It's time for a new approach. Pierre Poilievre and the Conservative Party have pledged to take down all federally-imposed barriers to interprovincial trade immediately upon taking office. We will also convene a meeting with the provinces to remove provincial barriers to internal trade. To stimulate our economy, the Conservative Party will cut through the red tape that the Liberal government has imposed on businesses. We will create a single government agency to coordinate all regulatory approvals across all levels of government, so businesses don't waste years navigating bureaucratic chaos. There will be one application and one environmental review per project, ensuring efficiency without sacrificing environmental standards. Instead of multiple overlapping studies that stall projects, governments will work together to deliver a single, effective review. There will also be a target goal of decisions on applications in six months, with an upper time limit of one year, giving businesses certainty, cutting delays, and getting shovels in the ground faster. This is the type of national response that Canadians have undertaken before, and that Canadians demand now.

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: Working as a lawyer on the North Shore, I understand how weak infrastructure investment costs businesses skilled staff. For years, I have watched exceptional staff make multi-hour commutes from Burnaby, Surrey, and Delta, by public transit everyday. These staff eventually left my firm for jobs closer to home, and I can't blame them. Improved public transit infrastructure could have prevented this. With the growth of both our population and our businesses on the North Shore, it is imperative that we have a locally-focussed Member of Parliament who can be a strong advocate for our region's infrastructure needs. As your MP, I will fight both to secure federal funding for mass transit to and on the North Shore, and to add capacity to our road network to help get local and regional traffic moving. For far too long, North Vancouver-Capilano has lacked a strong local voice in Ottawa, to advocate for the issues that matter to our residents and businesses alike. Our incumbent MP, Jonathan Wilkinson, was the first federal politician to "caution Metro Vancouver [against] looking for additional contributions from the federal government" once the additional costs of the wastewater sewage treatment plant were revealed, passing off the additional \$725 in taxes annually to North Shore residents, all while funding the Iona wastewater plant in Richmond. I will be a strong advocate for the North Shore in our next Parliament.