

Candidate Responses 2026 Municipal Election

Questions

1. If elected, what is your vision for improved transportation in North Vancouver?
2. Costs are rising and small business is feeling the squeeze. What will you do to support small businesses and foster business and job growth in North Vancouver?

District of North Vancouver

Councillor

Catherine Pope

1. We need strong voices advocating to the Province and federal government for the infrastructure North Vancouver needs — including a new crossing with rapid transit - SkyTrain or LRT- and active transportation. Realistically, that will cost billions and take years.

In the meantime, we need practical solutions. I will explore an east-west connector for local trips that bypasses Highway 1, push for more frequent and reliable transit, and safe, protected routes for walking, cycling, and scooters.

This is also a business issue. Congestion makes it harder for employers to recruit and retain workers and for employees to get to work reliably. We need more workforce and missing-middle housing so people who work here can afford to live here, reducing daily commuting.

I would also work with local businesses to explore employee transportation solutions, including east-west shuttles and incentives for employees who use transit or active transportation.

Better transportation means a more connected community — and a stronger local economy.

2. We need to cut red tape and make government a facilitator, not a barrier to business.

That means faster, more predictable permitting, flexible zoning. A restaurant that successfully operated a patio during COVID should not have to start from scratch, pay for traffic studies and wait months for approval while losing summer customers. A doctor providing specialized therapy for neurodivergent children should be able to operate in an appropriate light-industrial space. And daycare regulations should recognize that a public park or playground next door can provide safe outdoor space.

We also need to create places where people want to shop, stay and spend time. Walkable communities, town-centre plazas, farmers' markets, music and community events can bring people together and support local businesses.

Finally, protecting employment land is critical to economic growth. I would explore pre-zoning appropriate areas for high-tech, clean-tech and green businesses, making it easier to attract investment and create good local jobs.

The District should be working with small businesses — not making it harder to do business here.