

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?

City of North Vancouver

Councillor

Jeremy Cato

1. We have two traffic problems: how our own streets work, and a North Shore that still depends on two bridges built in 1938 and 1960.

Locally, much is cheap to fix: a bad signal sequence, a confusing intersection, a Lonsdale traffic lane still taken up by a pandemic-era patio. I'd set up a public mobility task force: residents, business owners and City engineers working through the list together, with every decision explained publicly. Until a transit alternative exists, I'd keep full road capacity on the main routes to the bridges. Your staff, customers and deliveries depend on them.

The bigger fix is rapid transit that doesn't sit in bridge traffic. In 2021, this Chamber and five North Shore governments commissioned a study finding roughly \$600 million in benefits and 1,100 fewer crashes in 2050 alone. Employers told that study they lose job candidates once the commute is explained. Five years later, there's no price tag, no funding and no start date.

In my first 90 days, I'll move a motion asking Ottawa to make North Shore rapid transit a project of national interest, with the City reporting publicly every year on results.

2. Bruce Peters built Zazou from three chairs in 1992 to about 70 employees. He told me plainly: "It is getting more difficult to do business." He's not alone.

The biggest cost increases, like payroll tax, minimum wage and sales tax, are set in Victoria and Ottawa. I'll be honest about that. But City Hall controls property taxes, permits, licences, curb rules and street design. Here's what I'd do with them.

Hold the municipal property-tax increase at or below inflation, with a public explanation for any year it goes higher. Start with a full review of City spending, including sharing services with the District and West Vancouver, before anyone talks about cuts or new fees.

Publish target times for permits and business licences, and report whether we meet them. Time is money.

Set patio, loading and curb rules with the businesses affected, not after the fact.

Grow the customer base. Redeveloping the soon-empty ICBC waterfront site into homes, jobs and a public destination, financed mainly by senior governments and private partners, would bring new residents, workers and visitors to Lower Lonsdale.

And I'll press Victoria to raise the Employer Health Tax threshold for small employers.