

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

Jessica McIlroy

1. It's important for the city to address mobility in two separate ways, the movement of people and goods within the city, and the movement of people and goods on and off the North Shore. The existing mobility strategy has created actions that address safe and accessible transportation options for residents within the city, prioritizing active transportation, transit, and mode share. We need to continue implementing these actions to support a greater diversity of mobility options, improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, and decrease emissions while improving health outcomes.

The major transportation issues and frustrations faced by North Vancouver residents relate mostly to movement on and off the North Shore. High traffic volumes and accidents cause bridge delays, leading to rat running through residential neighbourhoods and inefficient movement in the region. To address this larger issue, all North Shore governments must work together to ensure bus rapid transit is implemented while advocating to the province for a plan to replace the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge.

2. The most important things within the city's control to support local businesses are to streamline and simplify permitting processes, find ways to ease tax burdens such as through a development potential relief program or permitted tax exemptions, invest in regional improvements through plans such as the Great Street Project. The city can also create policies that define retail and commercial unit sizes in new buildings, to encourage smaller units for local retail and support medical and industrial spaces where needed. A more defined policy is needed on what type of businesses are preferred for streetscape spaces vs off-street and second or third floor spaces.

The city can also advocate to the province for changes to property assessments, triple net leases, and to fund and reopen Small Business BC. There has been a long standing challenge with the assessment process using "highest and best use" calculations, which affects property taxes and how those costs are passed on to tenants. Given that over 90% of businesses in BC are small businesses, an organization that provides support services is needed.