

City of North Vancouver - All Candidates Responses to Urban Agriculture & Food Security Survey

MAYOR & COUNCIL CANDIDATES: Please respond to the following questions by ranking your interest in or support of each initiative.			
	An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on
1. There is a high demand for community garden space across the North Shore. If elected, what priority would you place on addressing this demand for community garden space within your jurisdiction?		Amanda Nichol, Council	Chris J Nichols, Mayor Darrell Mussatto, Mayor George Pringle, Mayor Michael Charrois, Council Glen Miller, Council Linda Buchanan, Council Bob Fearnley, Council Rod Clark, Council Elizabeth Fodor, Council Cheryl Leia, Council Juliana Buitenhuis, Council Craig Keating, Council Don Bell, Council
2. Economic opportunities related to local food and urban agriculture sector are increasing. If elected, what priority would you place on increasing/supporting farmers market, local food enterprises, and other community programs addressing 'local food sector' economic opportunities?		Michael Charrois, Council Cheryl Leia, Council Amanda Nichol, Council Juliana Buitenhuis, Council Don Bell, Council	Chris J Nichols, Mayor Darrell Mussatto, Mayor George Pringle, Mayor Glen Miller, Council Linda Buchanan, Council Bob Fearnley, Council Rod Clark, Council Elizabeth Fodor, Council Craig Keating, Council

<p>3. Many cities have food policy councils established to bring municipal staff, local experts, and community members together to research and develop policies related to local food security issues. If elected, what priority would you place on forming a food policy council for the North Shore?</p>	<p>George Pringle, Mayor Don Bell, Council</p>	<p>Michael Charrois, Council Bob Fearnley, Council Cheryl Leia, Council Amanda Nichol, Council</p>	<p>Chris J Nichols, Mayor Darrell Mussatto, Mayor Glen Miller, Council Linda Buchanan, Council Rod Clark, Council Elizabeth Fodor, Council Juliana Buitenhuis, Council Craig Keating, Council</p>
<p>4. The Union of BC Municipalities (UMBC) has supported a resolution that encourages municipalities to undertake a public land inventory for urban agriculture activities, and to develop related policies in support of these activities. If elected, what priority would you place on this initiative?</p>	<p>Michael Charrois, Council</p>	<p>Chris J Nichols, Mayor Glen Miller, Council Bob Fearnley, Council Cheryl Leia, Council Amanda Nichol, Council Juliana Buitenhuis, Council</p>	<p>Darrell Mussatto, Mayor George Pringle, Mayor Linda Buchanan, Council Rod Clark, Council Elizabeth Fodor, Council Craig Keating, Council Don Bell, Council</p>
<p>5. There are many people on the North Shore that do not have secure access to food. There are opportunities to better support vulnerable populations including; programs that reduce food in the waste stream by processing recovered food and making it accessible to vulnerable communities, programs to develop improved food skills or the development of an inventory that identifies accessible foods. If elected, what priority would you place on supporting these initiatives?</p>	<p>George Pringle, Mayor</p>	<p>Chris J Nichols, Mayor Bob Fearnley, Council Don Bell, Council</p>	<p>Darrell Mussatto, Mayor Michael Charrois, Council Glen Miller, Council Linda Buchanan, Council Rod Clark, Council Elizabeth Fodor, Council Cheryl Leia, Council Amanda Nichol, Council Juliana Buitenhuis, Council Craig Keating, Council</p>

Name:	Position Running For:	Why do you think that food security and urban agriculture are important issues for the municipality?	5. Please use this space to elaborate on any of your responses to the "ranked" questions above.
Chris J Nichols	Mayor	Food is essential to our well being, security of that food and in the assurance that there will be enough of it for us to continue to be healthy is a no-brainer. We are striving to develop plans and implement policies that all of us can work within that do not hinder our simplest of needs - to feed ourselves. The key to governing this movement is the need for all levels of government to LISTEN to what the people have to say, develop a strategy that works for as many people as possible and develop policy that doesn't hold back the intended progress that strategy creates.	Fitness, Health, Education go hand in hand and one of my priorities in developing a vision of this administration would be in the re-vitalization of Upper Lonsdale, minimize but traffic flow 13th through 17th to increase the pedestrian levels, more encouragement of base level business development in this area, and create more fresh produce night market activity along the strip, all of this anchored off a new Recreation Facility at 23rd built with a community area and activity centre, an education centre for horticulture and a youth and seniors based approach to the big 3 - Fitness, Healthy Living, and the Know-how to get there!
Darrell Mussatto	Mayor	The issue of food security and local food production is of critical importance to our City. While we have been blessed with an abundance of food over the years, much of this food is imported and not produced locally. In many other places of the world food security is a very significant issue. And our vulnerability to events that occur in other parts of the world necessitates a local food economy. We can and must become more food secure. As well, with the worlds ability to	I will continue to be a local champion at the municipal level and work in partnership with other extremely valuable organizations such as Table Manners, The Edible Garden Network and Eco-urbia. These groups and others are the real leaders!

		<p>feed its people becoming the issue in the years ahead we have a moral and ethical responsibility to become more reliant on locally produced food. While as a City we will most likely never be able to feed all our residents from locally grown food, we can become less reliant on other sources and raise the awareness of the vulnerability of our food systems.</p>	
George Pringle	Mayor	<p>Some are in a rush to fill every green space in town with high rises while I like urban agriculture as it helps thin out the dreary urbanization. In a City of North Van context I don't think we would be able to even come close to real self sustainability but ever little bit helps.</p>	<p>The big picture has to be looked and growth should be a big part of that. No one lives on the Safeway site right now but if three large towers as planned as put up there will be over a 1000 more people needing food in our City which has no agricultural land. There are many examples of this.</p>
Michael Charrois	Council	<p>The GVRD is blessed with a mild climate with some of the best farm land in the country. A big part of Sustainability is the ability to feed our people as the population grows. The Agricultural Land Reserve is brilliant policy; we have to keep Surrey, Delta and communities south of the Fraser from expanding into that fertile farm land and expect growth here on the mountains where the land is less than ideal for growing crops. As a member of the Lower Lonsdale Community Garden I believe we must increase food growing opportunities in our communities; more community gardens, growing food for the Edible Garden Project in</p>	<p>In regards to secure access to food: both food stores on the Lonsdale plateau are being redeveloped. Loblaws has demolished the Extra foods location and construction has begun. Approval for Safeway to close for demolition should wait until Loblaws/Extra Foods have reopened to provide access to groceries for Central Lonsdale residents.</p>

		<p>parks and boulevards. Community gardens also offer condo and apartment dwellers a place to compost, diverting food scraps from the waste stream to create great soil for the garden. Another part of Sustainability is the recognition and use of waste as a resource; heat and carbon dioxide may be waste from some industrial or household processes but they are resources for year-round tomato green houses.</p>	
Glen Miller	Council	<p>Both these issues are critical to all Lower Mainland residents. We're too reliant on imported food - often produced on an industrial scale - with negative health and access consequences. Locally produced food is hugely important and should be given far greater priority.</p>	<p>There is clearly a large, unfulfilled demand for more community gardening space. Whilst I would like to see more 'traditional' gardens made available where possible, I would also seek to find additional ways to provide such access to residents. Specifically, I would encourage the building of roof-top gardens on new multi-family/condo developments, limit the densification of single family home lots so garden space is retained and look to find ways of developing smaller tracts of municipal land such as boulevards.</p>
Linda Buchanan	Council	<p>As a Public Health Nurse I know that many within our community are affected by a number of social determinants such as poverty, unemployment, homelessness and lack of social support that impacts their ability to be as healthy and productive as they would like to be. Many are children, often living with lone parents or seniors. For children this greatly impacts their ability to learn at school. UA allows us to raise the awareness of, and address some of these local</p>	<p>As a school trustee and public health nurse, I know that UA is not only popular it is a priority. As a municipality we need to be part of, and work with, the Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Strategy. Looking at our jurisdictional responsibilities, if elected to council I will work to have a UA and Food Security Policy for the City of North Vancouver. In addition, we need to ensure we govern land use through the OCP, create zoning bylaws on how business'/homeowners can use their properties and how to use municipally owned land. As a municipality we must continue to</p>

		<p>issues and at the same time address some of the larger global issues around sustainability ie/fuel costs, global warming. The importance of local food production goes beyond the basics of providing food. It provides education about the importance of, and the preparation of healthy food, it provides greater community pride and it connects people from across the generations. It provides the opportunity for people to connect socially, form relationships and partnerships that make healthy and resilient communities.</p>	<p>support such programs as the EGP, Community Gardens and Loutet Farm, and the many other initiatives, as well as their partnerships with our local schools and businesses.</p>
Bob Fearnley	Council	<p>Sever weather events such as drought, flooding, and sever storms are increasing at a time when the worlds population is increasing. This is putting our food supply at risk and is leading to much higher prices. We use to produce almost all of our own food and to buffer us from an increasing uncertain food future we need to increase our local food production.</p>	-
Rod Clark	Council	<p>We need to educate our kids on just where food comes from & how it grows. Local food production enhances food security.</p>	<p>These are all great initiatives which build on our successes to date.</p>
Elizabeth Fodor	Council	<p>Food security and urban agriculture will become a necessity as gas and oil prices increase due to natural resources depleted. Municipalities must take affirmative steps to provide land for urban agriculture. I would support all types of programs. Urban</p>	<p>I would very interested in seeing agricultural programs for our homeless. For people who already love gardening, this type of program could help build confidence and other essential skills. I am in full support of the work you are doing.</p>

		agriculture, school gardens or garden programs for homeless because they teach so many valuable life skills.	
Cheryl Leia	Council	Access to affordable, healthy and local food makes a difference to our personal health, the resilience of our community and the integrity of our environment. Food resources such as community gardens and farmers markets increase access to local food, create opportunities for people to connect with one another and facilitate a better understanding between residents and their food sources. Healthy and affordable food is an issue for everyone but this is a significant challenge for people on fixed or low incomes. Urban agriculture should be a high priority for our city.	-
Amanda Nichol	Council	It is a multidimensional issue, as it directly relates to the sustainability of a community, nutrition, health and education. It has far too many benefits to possibly mention them all. Increasing the wellness, or fitness of a community, through the social and educational components are often overlooked benefits to such issues.	I appreciate the opportunity to get involved with this discussion and am pleased to see what a great relationship there already is between these groups and the City Council. I would like the opportunity to continue to foster these relationships.
Juliana Buitenhuis	Council	These are important issues because the is all main arteries to the lower mainland are cut off, we have but a 3 day food supply. As fuel costs rise and the monitoring of food quality imported from other countries is next to	Due to my daily work at North Shore Crisis Services, I see how many NS families are in fact struggling to put food on the table, markedly fresh food. There is so much food wastage from stores, restaurants, and some gardens that could re-distributed if there was a

		impossible to monitor, producing local food becomes safer and cheaper.	municipality-wide collaboration between various stake-holders. I assure you I will bring these matters to the table to reduce hunger in the City of North Vancouver.
Craig Keating	Council	We live in a global society that faces increasing inequality and a climate crisis that, like or not, is here now and to which we must adapt. We are already beginning to feel the impact in our community of both of these issues (as well as peak oil) insofar as food is concerned. Increasing food prices are compounding problems of growing inequality in our own community and we are also finding that possible climate-related interruptions in the global and regional food supply are making urban agriculture both more attractive and more necessary. While we will probably not be able to feed ourselves with food grown only on the North Shore, locally grown food - made available to those who need it - might help to meet the needs of those made food insecure by a lack of financial resources. It will also reduce reliance on a food supply whose production and distribution only serves to compound the global climate crisis. We also have the opportunity by making locally grown urban food viable to improve the health of local residents through their diets and by using the growth, harvesting, processing and distribution of locally grown food the occasion for new forms of social interaction and community building.	-

Don Bell	Council	Safe, healthy food is essential for a healthy community. My recent experiences during a trip to China really helped me appreciate the importance of food safety issues. Urban agriculture also addresses many environmentally-related issues.	
Ron Polly	Mayor	No Response	No Response
D.W. (Bill) Duncan	Council	No Response	No Response
Pam Bookham	Council	No Response	No Response
Joe Heilman	Council	No Response	No Response
Guy Heywood	Council	No Response	No Response
John Hutchinson	Council	No Response	No Response
Yashar Khalighi	Council	No Response	No Response
Carson Reed Polly	Council	No Response	No Response
Behgman Rabbani	Council	No Response	No Response
Ron Sostad	Council	No Response	No Response

SCHOOL TRUSTEES: Please respond to the following questions by ranking your interest in or support of each initiative.

	An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on
1. If elected, what priority would you place on ensuring children's access to healthy, fresh, and local food in school?	Christie Sacre, School Trustee	Lisa Bayne, School Trustee Chris Dorais, School Trustee	Mary Tasi, School Trustee
2. There are under-utilized schools grounds that could be developed into educational, community based, and economically viable urban agriculture sites. If elected, what priority would you place on exploring and developing these projects (i.e. inventory of appropriate land, pilot project)?		Lisa Bayne, School Trustee Christie Sacre, School Trustee	Mary Tasi, School Trustee Chris Dorais, School Trustee
3. School gardens are increasing in popularity as teachers strive to connect children with experiential learning opportunities and sustainability issues. If elected, what priority would you place on developing a school garden policy and supporting programming to enable schools to develop and maintain school gardens easily?		Lisa Bayne, School Trustee	Christie Sacre, School Trustee Mary Tasi, School Trustee Chris Dorais, School Trustee

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Lisa Bayne	School Trustee	In this increasing world of high fat diets and processed foods it is imperative that we look locally to sustainable, nutritious foods for our children.	The physical health of our children is something that each elected official, parent, and community member must view as a priority.
Christie Sacre	School Trustee	Because the food we eat needs to be safe, children need to know where their food comes from, and as a society, we need to become more sustainable.	My children attend Ridgeway Elementary. The school has a garden called "The Refuge" which has always been a big part of school life - planting bulbs for spring, growing perennials and planting a harvest garden from which the vegetables are donated to the harvest project. Although "the refuge" is having to be created from scratch after the Ridgeway renovation, staff and students are excited by the prospect. Teaching children where food comes from is important. I support the idea of providing students with local fruits and vegetables, but, at this point, I am not sure how this would look. I need more information. Ridgeway does already participate in a fresh fruit and vegetable program.
Mary Tasi	School Trustee	There are many people in this municipality that have food security concerns. Local community gardens, local farmer's markets, front yard/ commercial alleyway gardens and urban farms can help address these concerns. It is also important for students to learn about urban gardens and farming and being self sufficient and sustainable.	I would personally approach one or more of my liaison schools to see who may be interested in a pilot project, and the supports and collaborative processes they would need to proceed. I would also work with senior admin and other trustees to establish the inventory and develop a school garden policy. This could be an exciting endeavor, and I would encourage your group to bring a proposal forward to the Towards the Future of Schools Committee

Chris Dorais	School Trustee	They are important for the community for several reasons but primarily because they support sustainable communities and they also support people in the community coming together.	
John Harvey	School Trustee	No Response	No Response
Susan Skinner	School Trustee	No Response	No Response
Ian T Young	School Trustee	No Response	No Response