

## District 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?	Kevin Macauley, Council		Richard Walton, Mayor  Alan Nixon, Council Wendy Qureshi, Council Lisa Muri, Council Austin Park, Council John Gilmour, Council Doug MacKay-Dunn, 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?	Kevin Macauley, Council		Richard Walton, Mayor  Alan Nixon, Council Wendy Qureshi, Council Lisa Muri, Council Austin Park, Council John Gilmour, Council Doug MacKay-Dunn, Council
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?	Alan Nixon, Council Lisa Muri, Council	Kevin Macauley, Council John Gilmour, Council	Richard Walton, Mayor  Wendy Qureshi, Council Austin Park, Council Doug MacKay-Dunn, Council
4. The Union of BC Municipalities (UMBC) has supported a resolution that encourages	Richard Walton, Mayor Lisa Muri, Council	Kevin Macauley, Council	Alan Nixon, Council Wendy Qureshi, Council

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?			Austin Park, Council John Gilmour, Council Doug MacKay-Dunn, Council
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?	Richard Walton, Mayor	Kevin Macauley, Council John Gilmour, Council	Alan Nixon, Council Wendy Qureshi, Council Lisa Muri, Council Austin Park, Council Doug MacKay-Dunn, Council

Candidate Responses:

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.
Richard Walton	Mayor	Very real long term threat to our region is the limited food supply in the area and it will take years to bring it into public realization - need to take small steps and our OCP is one of the first in Canada to recognize it.	
Alan Nixon	Council	Food Security is something very few of us lucky enough to live in Canada BC and DNV ever stop to think about. And yet we continue	Vancouver Coastal Health and the Province of BC need to be more engaged in addressing the problem identified in question 5 - as an elected Municipal

		<p>to import more and more food from all over the world as we attempt to keep costs down. We need to support our local agricultural industries and be prepared to pay the real costs of putting food on our plates or the local agricultural sector will wither and die. Few young people are prepared to carry on the Family Farms that produce so much of our food. Urban agriculture in small, personal plots and backyard gardens may well be the answer to ensuring a high quality, reasonably priced food supply.</p>	<p>Councilor I will advocate at the highest levels for this engagement to be productive and meaningful.</p>
Wendy Qureshi	Council	<p>Because we all eat food and why shouldn't it be fresh? And safe? And why should it be trucked in from miles and miles away?</p>	<p>The NS project that promotes the picking of fruit from residents' trees and bushes and distributing it is excellent.</p>
Lisa Muri	Council	<p>Sustainability, to educate, to create independence, to create supply.</p>	<p>Council is always open to discussion and education, I encourage you to continue to communicate with as well as educate!</p>
Austin Park	Council	<p>Without viable food resources and efficient agriculture, societies like our municipality will not survive a sudden food shortage due to energy shortage throughout the world.</p>	<p>Food like any other necessities must be protected by all means possible and access to food through local means should be high priority. Furthermore, I envision for North Van a flourishing community that supports and thrives through food sustainability.</p>
Kevin Macauley	Council	<p>The art of gardening and growing for ourselves and our neighbours helps develop communities into neighbourhoods. I haven't given a lot of thought to food security other than health issues related to tainted food. I guess I am guilty of taking it for granted.</p>	<p>I believe that issues like this need proper consideration for the benefit of all the residents of the district.</p>
John Gilmour	Council	<p>We have a growing population in the world and it is important to be less reliant as possible on imported food. I grow food in my back yard and we love to eat that food as it</p>	<p>I will pledge to do whatever I can to help with this issue. It is very important as we all have to eat. There may be a time future where we have to grow food on every patch of land available.</p>

		also tastes better.	
Doug MacKay-Dunn	Council	Yes! We must control our food, Depending on other countries to provide for us is folly! Urban agriculture is a hedge against disaster.	
Margi Goodman	Mayor	No Response	No Response
Roger Bassam	Council	No Response	No Response
Howard Dahl	Council	No Response	No Response
Robin Hicks	Council	No Response	No Response
Mike Little	Council	No Response	No Response
Holly Back	Council	No Response	No Response

<b>SCHOOL TRUSTEES: Please respond to the following questions by ranking your interest in or support of each initiative.</b>			
	<b>An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in</b>	<b>An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials</b>	<b>A high priority issue that I will personally take action on</b>
1. If elected, what priority would you place on ensuring children's access to healthy, fresh, and local food in school?		Mike McGraw, School Trustee Barry Forward, School Trustee Norm BINION, School Trustee	Franci Stratton, School Trustee Cyndi Gerlach, 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		Mike McGraw, School Trustee Barry Forward, School Trustee Franci Stratton, School Trustee Norm BINION, School Trustee	Cyndi Gerlach, School Trustee

exploring and developing these projects (i.e. inventory of appropriate land, pilot project)?			
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?		Barry Forward, School Trustee Norm BINION, School Trustee	Mike McGraw, School Trustee Franci Stratton, School Trustee Cyndi Gerlach, School Trustee

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.
Mike McGraw	School Trustee	-	As a member of the Outdoor School Advisory Committee, I am a strong supporter of innovative programs that provide our students with experiential learning opportunities for environmental education and sustainable living practices. In my view, supporting urban garden projects really fits well within two of our school district's strategic goals - "provide leadership in environmental education and sustainability practices ", and "develop and promote innovative and sustainable programs". The Queen Mary Community Garden project is a great example of how

			community partnerships can provide opportunities for hands-on student learning and appreciation for local food sources.
Barry Forward	School Trustee	Our young people are increasingly aware of their impact on the global economy, and want to make sure their actions locally are part of the solution. One of those areas is food security and supporting urban agriculture.	-
Franci Stratton	School Trustee	food security and urban agriculture support the Ministry of education's healthy student's initiatives as well as addressing sustainability and environmental issues that we need to address for the benefit of the next generation.	Areas that the School District is currently working on or could work on; 1. As a member of the Outdoor School Advisory Committee we are looking at developing new programming and currently experimenting with farm to table initiatives. 2. Our culinary arts program will be back at Carson Graham next Fall and we should look at ways to grow local produce as part of the course curriculum 3.Community gardens on our sites to be used for variety of subjects in both elementary and secondary courses and in particular our foods electives. 4. Incorporate school or edible gardens into our existing Sustainability policy. 5.Establish a board authorized course that focuses on food safety and urban agriculture and is a credit course for graduation.
Norm BINION	School Trustee	Urban agriculture contributes to food security and food safety in two ways: first, it increases the amount of food available to people living in cities, and, second, it allows fresh vegetables and fruits and meat products to be made available to urban consumers. Urban agriculture also promotes energy-saving local food production and is a sustainable agriculture. Plus it is a form of recreation and	I have a great interest in health, both through exercise, nutrition and healthy lifestyle. My reservations about making this a high priority item is that we are faced with tight budgets and tough budget choices. I have prioritized a reduction in classroom size and improved class composition, followed by the support in the development of teachers to continuously improve the delivery of quality education. Apart from my great interest in health,

		relaxation.	expressed above, I do see the potential for the development of school gardens as a potential course offering through the development of personalized learning programs.
Cyndi Gerlach	School Trustee	Providing opportunities for our students to understand where food comes from is key to sustainability. Growing fruits & vegetables at home and on school grounds will go a long way in providing our students with fresh items that they not get at home.	I have been speaking with district officials about creating a program whereby students can grow food on school grounds. I also would like this to be a fully inclusive environment whereby students with special needs work along side other students to gain valuable employable skills as well as growing their own food.