



PLATFORM: Meet the Candidates

North Vancouver Chamber Questions for Candidates
BC Election 2024



ARCHIE KAARIO

Candidate – West Vancouver-Capilano
BC Green Party

I was born in Vancouver and am the second child of 4 boys in a family that was engaged in the commercial fishing industry. I finished grade 12 at North Vancouver Senior Secondary in 1967. In January 1968 I entered University at SFU and completed a degree in geography in 1972. I completed a PDP certificate in 1975 and taught school for a year.

My early adult work history from 1967 to 1979 involved a variety of jobs that included the fishing industry, and employment with Little Mountain Neighbourhood House, West Coast Environmental Law, , working at a ski school in Italy and as an information officer with the Solar Energy Society of Canada.

I began law school at UBC September 1979, graduated in April 1983, and finished my articles in September 1984. Since completing my articles in 1984 I have been a self-employed lawyer practicing mainly family and criminal law even though my main interest in going to law school was to practice environmental law. However, with marriage to Barbara in 1978 and the arrival of two sons born in 1982 and 1987, the need to support a family superseded my interest in environmental law and I have had a fairly broad based Barristers practice.

My wife has recently completed her PhD at SFU in the department of Gender, Sexuality and Women Studies. My oldest son is living in Paris France and teaches at Sorbonne University where he completed a PhD. My youngest son completed a Criminology degree at SFU and although forever present in our memory, after a long and courageous battle with childhood cancer he passed away in 2011.

I have been interested in being a candidate for the Green Party for more than 20 years but I was always too busy to reasonably consider it. Now that I am semi-retired, I am able to put my name forward and seek an opportunity to represent the riding I have lived in for the last 34 years in Victoria.

For over 40 years I have worked as a lawyer in my own practice where I had as many as 5 employees from time to time. My practice varied but was primarily as a court room Barrister dealing with a wide variety of issues primarily to do with Family Law, Insurance Claims, Criminal Law and Debt claims. My working with people in a variety of stressful and often complicated situations has left me with a skill set focused on efficient and effective problem solving.



Chamber of Commerce October 7th, 2024

Answers to 5 questions by Archie Kaario, West Vancouver Capilano : Green Party of BC

- 1) The West Vancouver - Capilano riding is largely a bedroom community with stores and offices largely along Capilano road, in Edgemont Village and along Marine Drive in West Vancouver. Retail outlets and Services like restaurants and offices are the primary employers. Corporate taxes should be reduced such that the income tax rate does not move up so quickly after the first \$499,000.00 level. There ought to be a more graduated approach to income taxation. Property tax relief for business is essential and a review of how to reduce that burden should be undertaken by the Provincial Government. That said the Government does need funds to operate and any change must be from a balanced approach.
- 2) Electrification of our transportation system is essential. There ought to be put in place an assessment on a form of LRT from the North Vancouver Sea Bus terminal to 15th street in West Vancouver. The assessment should be seen from the perspective of it will only cost substantially more if it is not built now. Feeder buses would go uphill as well as east and west from the stops along the line.
- 3) A decentralization of health care may help the community by way of having a clinic in West Vancouver funded by the Provincial Government that is open 24 hours a day that First Responders could deliver to once an assessment was made on the condition of a patient being picked up. Major issues such heart, stroke and severe accidents would still go to Lions Gate Hospital. The outreach clinic system would hopefully decrease the demands on the Emergency Ward thereby increasing its efficiency and timeliness of services being delivered.
- 4) Housing is an issue that is not easily dealt with quickly . There would be a need for government incentives to have housing provided for those with mid to low incomes who work now or need to be employed on the North Shore. Such housing could be by way of housing cooperatives of which there are a few on the North Shore or government developer partnerships where the zoning for apartments would only be granted on condition that below market cost of housing was built into the project. The concept of “quickly” needs to be qualified given what appears to be a shortage of building trades. Sponsoring of apprenticeships by the Provincial Government needs to be increased.
- 5) Our education system ought to have courses in economics and politics in grades 11 and 12 so that graduating students have a better understanding of how their society functions in terms of financial well being, Programs such as available at BCIT need to be expanded so that there are fewer or no wait times for students. A review of what is needed by way of education should be developed between community groups, government and the business community. The focus should be on employment in the new economy and how employees can meet the needs of employers.