



## PLATFORM: Meet the Candidates

North Vancouver Chamber Questions for Candidates  
BC Election 2024



### SAM CHANDOLA

Candidate – North Vancouver-Seymour  
BC CONSERVATIVES

For years, Sam has been committed to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in British Columbia. As the founder of multiple technology startups, Sam has not only created hundreds of jobs in B.C. but also achieved three successful exits. Recognized for his contributions, Sam was a recipient of the 2014 BC Business Top 30 under 30 award and the 2017 TMX Canada's Next 150 Award. In 2021, he was named one of the Top 24 people of Asian Descent to Watch by the Vancouver Economic Commission. During COVID-19, Sam founded CovidHelper.org, a non-commercial initiative that assisted thousands of seniors and families.

In 2020, Sam founded First Fund to support BC startups as a first investor, backing over 30 tech companies and 80+ first-time entrepreneurs. He is also an ardent supporter of a number of non-profit organizations, including Athletics for Kids, KidSafe Project Society, Variety B.C., Children's Wish Foundation, and Covenant House, raising over \$3 Million for their initiatives.

Becoming a father in 2023 further fueled Sam's dedication to his community, inspiring him to leverage his extensive experience in technology, innovation, and business to influence policy positively. He is focused on addressing key issues such as housing affordability, a stagnating economy, and a broken healthcare system.

Sam is committed to advocating for the needs of North Vancouver-Seymour. Proud to call the North Shore his home for over half-a-decade, he is dedicated to raising his family in this community. By championing common-sense change and leveraging technology, Sam aims to bring practical solutions to the challenges faced by British Columbians today.



**1. Reducing Property & Business Tax Costs on Business. Many small businesses are struggling and feeling the increasing burden of costs that government can control, such as provincial taxes, property tax assessments, and the Employee Health Tax. What would you do to help keep the costs for business down so they can survive and maintain the jobs and services they provide to our community?**

Just as families are the building blocks of our society, small businesses are the building blocks of our economy. We believe that the people who work, operate, or own a small business are heroes – they are the cab drivers, bakers, landscapers, store owners, trades contractors, and daycare operators who keep our province running. Under the NDP, small business owners across BC are being squeezed by rising crime, unaffordable costs, red tape, and reduced consumer spending power.

That is why a BC Conservative government will cut the Small Business Tax to just 1% to help small businesses thrive. We will cut approval times for building permits and work with cities to reduce business permit wait times. We will also reduce barriers to arbitration for faster and more efficient commercial dispute resolutions.

We will reduce the provincial regulatory burden by at least 25% over our first term, and eliminate the NDP's historic deficit within 2 terms of government to restore fiscal sanity back to BC. Mr. Eby's catch and release policy threatens the safety of workers and customers, while adding major costs to small businesses. We are proposing investments in our police and prosecution services to bring back safety to our streets.

Our comprehensive plans to Energize Small Businesses, Get BC Building more homes, and Get BC Moving through much-needed infrastructure upgrades will create a vibrant economy with good jobs and purchasing power. That is exactly why I hope small businesses and the incredible people behind them vote Conservative in these elections.

**2. Funding Commitment to Rapid Transit. Many employees working in North Vancouver are not able to find reasonable transportation options to get them to work in North Vancouver or get across the community. Metro Vancouver mayors have agreed upon the rapid transportation priorities for the region, including the Metrotown-Park Royal connection. North Shore Connects also demonstrates the local unity on this issue. What will you commit to do to ensure these North Shore and regional transportation priorities receive sustainable provincial funding?**

Our "Get BC Moving" policy addresses the North Shore's regional transportation priorities comprehensively in 3 parts - we will build a new IronWorkers Memorial Bridge with expanded capacity for both cars **and** public transit, invest to make TransLink sustainable, and fund key projects in the Transport 2050 plan which could include expanding regional transit service in the North Shore and into the Sea-to-Sky corridor.

We will work with local governments to add and expand more lanes dedicated to local traffic, to shorten commute times in both East-West and the North-South corridors. By building a new Ironworkers Memorial Bridge with better ramps and capacity for both cars and public transit services we will fix this transportation bottleneck. Almost every North



Shore resident has experienced the pain of being stuck in traffic or on over-crowded and circuitous public transit, unable to get to work or back to their families.

We will fully fund TransLink for two years to ensure reliable service without disruptions while conducting an audit and reform of TransLink's financial model to identify sustainable long-term funding. This stop-gap funding will ensure that projects such as the Metrotown - Park Royal connection move forward. We will stabilize TransLink's financial situation, from its current pattern of lurching from crisis to crisis under the BC NDPs mismanagement.

By committing to fund key projects in the Transport 2050 plan, we will explore expansion of SkyTrain, Bus Rapid Transit, Rapid Bus, and express and local bus services. This will ensure sustainable long-term funding support for transportation infrastructure in our region to keep pace with growing demand.

**3. Primary Health Care. Many owners and staff of smaller businesses in North Vancouver are calling for improved access and availability of primary health care in their community. This issue is impacting the viability of their business as workers and employers lose time and money due to the delays and stress of attending to real personal or family primary medical needs. What will you do to improve primary health care access and availability in North Vancouver?**

The stress of watching a loved one endure illness or pain while waiting to access care is real – I know this all too well as I waited at the ER for hours for my mother to receive care just a few weeks ago. This hurts the productivity of businesses and staff in North Vancouver and across BC.

Our healthcare system is in crisis and failing to provide British Columbians with timely access to primary care. That is why a BC Conservative government will implement a "Patients First" approach that focuses on delivering better results for British Columbians. It guarantees universal healthcare for everyone under a single-payer system that increases spending each year and delivers care through both public and non-governmental facilities.

A BC Conservative government would implement European-style activity-based funding model - which is proven to reduce wait times and incentivize healthcare providers invest in doctors instead of administrators. We will also implement a Patients First Wait Time Guarantee. If you are unable to receive a diagnostic or medical procedure within medically recommended wait times, a BC Conservative government will enable you to access that care at a pre-approved facility outside of BC.

The BC NDP have refused to partner with non-government health care facilities. BC Conservatives will partner with these facilities to deliver services, reduce wait times, and get British Columbians the care they need faster - all under our current universal healthcare system, without anyone having to pay anything extra.

I am committed to putting patients first and ensuring that everyone has access to the quality healthcare they deserve.



**4. Affordable Housing for staff. Employees working in North Vancouver businesses and service organizations are not able to find affordable local housing options. Businesses are suffering as a result, with many choosing to move their business closer to where their employees can afford to live, or simply closing as a result. What would you do to ensure affordable housing investments are made quickly to support the needs of the community and the future of our local employers?**

The lack of affordable housing in North Vancouver is a critical issue that is impacting both our people and businesses. We recognize that housing affordability is directly tied to housing supply, but also directly tied to the labour market and the purchasing power of our people to consume the products and services you provide.

Supply - Our plan to solve the housing affordability crisis, "Get BC Building," aims to address the supply crunch by making it easier to build homes in BC, which would help make housing more affordable. We will work with the federal government to bring in a modern version of the Multi-Unit Residential Building (MURB) plan from the 70s to provide real tax incentives for true affordable rental construction.

Permitting - We will aggressively cut red tape at the municipal level by requiring cities to approve new homes within six months for rezoning and development permits and three months for building permits. If a city does not approve or deny a permit application within the required timeframe, the provincial government would step in and issue the permits directly. This measure aims to reduce bureaucratic delays that can stall projects and increase housing costs.

Immediate relief - We also propose to exempt from BC income taxes up to \$3,000 per month of housing costs - applicable to both renters and mortgage holders. This tax cut provides immediate financial relief for renters and homeowners.

**5. Finding Skilled Staff. North Vancouver employers are still challenged to find skilled workers to fill many good jobs. Many talented residents in our community don't have the resources or training to pivot and fill good local jobs in health care, senior care, the trades, tech, engineering, and more. What would you do to ensure North Vancouver can train and connect skilled staff to local employers who need them?**

Solving this issue and helping our residents reskill to take on new roles in high-demand industries is how we revitalize our local economy. Our plan to address this issue is made up of 3 broad pillars - funding for upskilling & training, creating quality training programs, and providing an easier pathway for international credentials to be recognized in BC.

Our plan will involve collaboration with local educational institutions and trade schools to develop targeted training programs that align with the specific needs of employers in sectors like healthcare, trades, and technology. This could include short courses, apprenticeships, and certification programs.

We will foster partnerships between local businesses and these training institutions to create internship and apprenticeship opportunities. These programs would provide hands-on experience while allowing employers to train potential future employees.

Finally, we need to accept that professional qualifications from other parts of the world carry merit. It can take Doctors, Engineers, and Lawyers trained in other parts of the world 4 to 5 years to get their credentials accepted in BC. We will provide a 12-month pathway to recognize international accreditation, and get qualified workers under the mentorship of senior BC professionals so they can quickly join the workforce.

We will simultaneously invest in counseling for local residents to help match the industries and skills that best fit their interests and past experience with demand and growth forecasts. This will help residents understand the opportunities available to them and the steps needed to attain them.

To fund these initiatives one option we will explore involves a review of Worksafe BC's \$2.1 Billion surplus. If workers are getting all the support they need, part or all of the surplus should be returned to the employers who paid the premiums in the first place. This return could be in the form of funding for training and upskilling of potential employees, with hiring requirements that make it a win-win for both our businesses and people.