



PLATFORM: Meet the Candidates

North Vancouver Chamber Questions for Candidates
BC Election 2024



SUSIE CHANT

Candidate – North Vancouver-Seymour
BC NDP

Susie Chant was raised on the North Shore, and has called the Lynn Valley home since 1988. She has spent her career caring for and protecting people: as a Registered Nurse, a member of the Royal Canadian Navy Reserves, and now as an MLA.

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?

We know that businesses are facing increasing costs - and we're taking action to support them. We've cut small business taxes, and they are now 25% lower than when Rustad was in government. We've doubled the exemption threshold for the Employer Health Tax, such that 90% of businesses don't pay it. And we've given municipalities tools that they can use to provide relief to small businesses. We will also be conducting an "ease of doing business" review to assess and remove barriers to growing business in British Columbia.



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 North Shore communities are growing, and our transportation infrastructure must grow with it. I was proud to announce, with my North Shore colleagues, that the BC NDP is committed to a new rapid transit line between Park Royal and Metrotown.

This new rapid transit would begin with Bus Rapid Transit, while we also move forward on work for the future expansion of rapid transit to either light rail or Skytrain, in consultation with the Mayors Council and communities.

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?

In BC, we're taking action to hire more family doctors, and connect more and more people to primary care. We've hired over 800 family doctors in the last year alone. On average, 588 people per day are connected to a family doctor in this province, and at this rate, everyone on the registry will have a family doctor by the end of 2025. We have also expanded the scope of practice for pharmacists, so they can prescribe for 21 minor ailments, and renew prescriptions without the need for a physician visit. Many more Nurse Practitioners are working in a variety of settings to provide comprehensive care as well.

We're breaking down barriers to internationally trained healthcare workers, with over 900 internationally trained doctors - both family doctors and specialists licensed to work here in the last year. We have registered over 8000 more nurses in the past two years, both locally and internationally trained

Too many people are still unattached to a family doctor. We have much more to do. But we won't stop until the job is done.



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?

BC is a great place to live, but housing is still too expensive - and it makes it difficult for businesses to find the workers they need to grow and thrive. We're tackling housing costs with David Eby's Housing Action Plan: a plan that experts say will create 300,000 additional homes for middle-income people.

That's on top of all the other actions we've taken. Our Speculation and Vacancy Tax has turned over 20,000 empty condos into long-term homes. Our restrictions on short-term rentals has brought thousands more rentals into the rental market. We've put in place a Rental Protection Fund to protect existing affordable rentals, and are using public land to build more middle-class housing. A perfect example of that fund at work is a building right here on 6th Street that has been purchased in partnership with a nonprofit organization to maintain the building and keep rents manageable. We have also committed to purchase the existing ICBC headquarters site to build an affordable housing community, rather than let that property be sold to speculators.

We are starting to turn the corner on housing. But John Rustad has promised to axe our housing plan, cancelling those 300,000 homes before they're even built. That would send housing costs soaring. We can't afford the risk.

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?

We're building an economy that works for everyone - and that means equipping people with the skills they need to succeed in in-demand jobs. We're doubling construction apprenticeship training, we're helping people with tuition through the BC Access Grant and the Future Skills Grant, and we're creating thousands more training seats in careers like emergency responder, firefighter and education worker. We have an active WorkBC program on the North Shore that seeks to match people and jobs.