

Meet the Candidates

North Vancouver Chamber Questions for Candidates
Federal Election 2025



TAMMY BENTZ

North Vancouver-Capilano
New Democratic Party

BIO:

Tammy Bentz comes from the world of the arts where she co-founded her Canadian made theatre company and travelled all over the world performing to critical acclaim with the troupe's social justice comedies. She then moved into the film industry, writing/producing and directing short films as well as documentaries. Currently she is an Instructor at BCIT and works as a Script Supervisor in the Film Industry. Tammy is dedicated to growing our own Canadian made content with Canadian technicians and artists. She is happy to live on the beautiful North Shore with her wife where she has raised her son over the past 25 years.

1. GOVERNMENT COSTS

High taxes and the threat and uncertainty of US Tariffs are the number one issue for the business community in North Vancouver.

Q: How would you reduce government costs to businesses?

A: High taxes and the threat and uncertainty of US Tariffs are the number one issue for the business community in North Vancouver. Q: How would you reduce government costs to businesses? The New Democrats believe that Small Businesses have always been and will always be a major engine of job creation in Canada and the lifeblood of every community across our country. We must do our best to continually serve, protect, and help them, especially during times of great uncertainty. New Democrats have always been consistent in advocating for lowering small business taxes, such as in 2019 where New Democrats were successful in pressuring the government to reduce the tax from 11% to 9%.

Currently the New Democrats want to cap high credit card merchant fees at a maximum of 1%. NDP has consistently been on the side of small businesses for loan forgiveness and flexibility, calling for extensions to the repayment and forgiveness for the CEBA loans and also proposing to expand the eligibility for the CEBA loans to include entrepreneurs and startups. The NDP Plan is built on a stronger, fairer, and more resilient Canadian economy that elevates our local businesses and does not just focus on helping wealthy corporations and billionaire CEOs. This means making a long-term economy that is consistent and persistent in helping our small businesses and not making short-term policy just to weather the storm of the next economic uncertainty.

2. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY BARRIER

Q: How would you cut government imposed regulatory and trade barriers, such as reducing interprovincial trade barriers and regulatory reform (reducing red tape), while also protecting Canadian sovereignty?

A: Reducing and eliminating federal rules found to be outdated, unnecessary or duplicated or overlapping with provincial rules as well as streamlining administration and regulatory decisions are first and foremost of the NDP platform. New Democrats would help by improving labour and environmental standards to the highest level as well as expanding and deepening trade relations with countries other than the U.S. Our economy can no longer rely on a singular ally, regardless of history, as we are learning in the current tariff chaos. To strengthen the economy during the trade war, an NDP government would issue five and ten year "Victory bonds" that Canadians could buy through a payroll deduction. Those bonds would pay an interest rate that is 0.25 per cent higher than an average five-year bank-issued guaranteed investment certificate (GIC). New Democrats will look to ban U.S. companies from all federal government procurement contracts and projects when Canadian workers are available, thus creating more opportunities for Canadian & local small businesses. The NDP will also exempt Canadian-made cars and trucks from the GST.

3. FUNDAMENTAL REGIONAL ISSUES IMPACTING ECONOMY

Many regional issues are severely impacting our local North Vancouver economy.

Q: What would be your specific local response to tackle the following interrelated challenges for employers in North Vancouver:

- Affordable housing – the housing shortage
- Skilled staff - difficulty attracting and retaining
- Public Transit - the need for significant capital and operating
- Innovation - Investment in Research & Development.

A: The NDP would put in place a \$16-billion strategy to support building affordable homes. They would replace the housing accelerator fund with permanent funding for two new programs: the Canadian homes transfer and the communities first fund. The party is aiming to build three million affordable homes in the next five years. They would redesign and double the Public Land Acquisition Fund, investing \$1 billion over five years to build more rent-controlled homes. They would set aside all suitable federal Crown land in order to build more than 100,000 rent-controlled homes by 2035. They say they would ban corporate landlords from buying existing affordable rental properties and stop providing them with low-interest federal loans and mortgage loan insurance if they gouge tenants. They would "rescue at-risk home-building projects impacted by tariffs," with the aim of stabilizing housing markets and creating jobs in construction.

- **Skilled staff - difficulty attracting and retaining** New Democrats want to create more affordable housing/renting immediately here on the North Shore to be completed in the next 5 years. They would speed up approvals on lands owned by the federal government to build homes sooner. NDP will require the CMHC to offer low-interest, public-backed mortgages. The New Democrats are promising more money for the Rental Protection Fund — a federal program that supports community housing projects. This will also provide opportunities for the smaller contractor companies in North Van.

- Public Transit - the need for significant capital and operating investment This issue is all about Political Will from Municipal and Federal Candidates. New Democrats are motivated to increase and upgrade public transit.

- Innovation - Investment in Research & Development • Have the political will to put investment into research & development - Create residencies for qualified, internationally trained doctors already living in Canada to get thousands more licensed family doctors; • Streamline doctors who leave the United States to practice in Canada; • Move forward on the creation of the Clean Jobs Training Centre to support workers retention, redeployment and training. • More Just Transition legislation, guided by the feedback we receive from workers, unions, Indigenous peoples, communities, and provinces and territories. • continue with home energy efficiency programs that both enhance energy affordability for Canadians and reduce emissions, with investments to support multiple streams including low-income and multi-unit residential apartments. We will also ensure that this funding includes support for creating Canadian supply chains for this work to ensure the jobs stay in Canada and that we create the skills to export these valuable energy efficiency products around the world.