



## **Burnaby Council Candidate: Jasmine Nicholsfigueiredo - Burnaby Green Party**

I have lived in Burnaby for over twenty years with my husband Morgan, and our daughter Shirley. I am currently a Union President and the Vice-President of the 10,000-member Federation of Post-Secondary Educators.

I was raised by a strong mother who taught me to work hard, embrace education, and value family and community. I worked at Canadian Airlines in the Accounting division and taught ESL students to pay for my education which includes a Master's and PhD. I have spent a decade working as an educator with youth and the community, examining local

economies, inclusive housing, transit etc. I have developed educational field schools which take College students to places like Italy, Wales, and the East Coast of Canada. I enjoy running, live theater and music, and being involved in the many communities throughout Burnaby.

### **What skills would you bring to the Councillor's position and how would those apply to the business community?**

As Union President of the Douglas College Faculty Association, and Vice-President of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators, I manage multiple projects, oversee budgets, and understand long-term planning—each of these is crucial to council work. My work on committees for anti-racism, the status of women, and the Green Party, have me working as a collaborative leader to prioritize the key issues and ensure that work is accomplished.

As a college instructor, who has spent the last decade working with youth and the community, examining local economies, inclusive housing, transit, climate change, food security, development, and other issues, I have a comprehensive understanding of how the city works, what the issues are, and the myriad of ways to address them.

### **What strategies do you think the City of Burnaby should adopt to foster the growth and success of our local businesses?**

Cooperation and communication with local business is the key to sustaining existing businesses and inviting the growth of new businesses.

To support existing businesses, the city must work with them, and the local business improvement associations (BIAS) to understand what their issues are. City council should not download city responsibilities to BIAs as they exist to promote businesses and their communities, not to be the primary graffiti removal, or to manage crime prevention and deal with city social issues.

Where new social support developments are approved that may bring adverse changes to a neighbourhood, tax subsidies to existing businesses should be approved in exchange for those businesses investing in improved security hardware and management to reduce property crimes.

A city mandate of "Dig Once" must be implemented. To do this city scheduling cannot be done in silos: schedule the sewer upgrades, with the road repairs, and the paving in a consecutive order so it does not occur three times in one year. As well coordinate with local businesses to limit the number of days each year the roads in front of businesses are closed to limit revenue loss and customer erosion. Schedule road construction outside of business hours when possible.

To attract new businesses, Burnaby needs a designated individual, or internal advisor, at the City Hall whose sole purpose is to meet with potential businesses to discuss, in clear, easy to understand ways, with available translation services if needed, the process of opening a business.

This internal city advisor (or advisor team) will need to be able to respond to initial inquiries by proposed businesses regarding zoning, existing occupancy, and process, including how much time and cost it may take to get the new business physically open and operating (building permit, change of use permit, zoning, occupancy, business license and time). It is not enough for the city staff to simply "answer the questions being asked." This internal city advisor must offer the information the inquiring business needs. Transparency and full disclosure are needed for a proposed business to make a business plan that will work. Burnaby must be better than it is today.

Improving the permit approval process and speeding up the deliver is imperative to a new business. Applicants should be able to input their application into a web tracker. This web tracker should approximate how much time it will take for each step and allow the applicant to track at what stage the application is at.

Simplification of the document process, using clean, clear language without the jargon is needed. Have sample forms with processes filled in as model examples for references. The City of Burnaby needs to adopt strategies such as these to be better than competing cities.

### **How would you propose the City of Burnaby manage its continued densification and the development of its town centers?**

We need to ensure our Burnaby Official Community Plan (OCP) is comprehensive yet flexible enough to handle the needs of the future.

Our town centers need to be multi-use, designed to include daycares, and essential services, as well as market condos, rentals, and subsidized housing all in the same development: the current model has too much of a focus on high-rises that are 100% market condos. City Council must see partnerships with 3rd party subsidized housing management before permits are issued. It is time to establish a Burnaby Housing Authority to put aside land for long term leases and to manage the availability of below market homes to be built.

To best accommodate our citizens, residential areas should be comprised of mixed-use zoning so we can have that 15-minute city where you can be within 15 minutes of your dentist, grocery store, a park, or a school. Cars should be optional, not a requirement to live in Burnaby. Gentle density needs to occur, complimenting a neighborhood's character- fourplexes, sixplexes, laneway homes, prefab homes, and low-level co-op housing. We need to ensure that the growth in our city comes through careful consultation with Burnaby residents.

### **If elected, what would be your top goals for your coming term in office?**

- Establishing a Burnaby Housing Authority to manage the availability of below market homes is a priority.
- Streamlining permits at City Hall to promote development of the rental building construction.
- Work with city staff and management to enhance and sustain informed and educated individuals to welcome and assist inquiries from the public faster and more efficiently.
- Implement an Internal City Advisor roll (or team) to communicate with proposed new business inquiries, to be transparent and informative about the city process so businesses can make informed decisions.
- Build 30 km of new sidewalks and dedicated bike paths each year.
- Support and encourage environmentally sustainable decisions in all aspects of the city management and proposed developments.
- Promote day care designs into all new developments for present or future use.