

## **Burnaby Civic Election 2014 Candidate Questionnaire**

**Name:** Charter Lau

**Running for:** Councillor

**Biography:**

Charter Lau fell in love with Burnaby when he came to Canada 23 years ago from Hong Kong. He studied design at Hong Kong Polytechnic University and runs his own video production business today while raising his two daughters - whom he has seen grow in tandem with his tax bill. While the girls have completed their growth, taxes continue to expand despite roads, hospital service and policing appearing stagnant.

Because of this disparity in Burnaby between taxation and services provided by the city, and the desire to work to improve housing options, solutions to traffic congestion and better policing - motivates Charter to work as a councillor where a business-friendly and transparent City Hall works to improve the lives of its citizens and not merely to collect revenue.

In his spare time Charter volunteers serving meals to the less fortunate, and works with groups aimed at protecting children and families.

**What skills would you bring to the office if you are elected and how would those be of use in your role?**

I grew up in the Eastern Asian tradition and I enjoy the Western culture here for the second half of my life. This put me in a better position to handle civic issues, especially when cultural difference are at play. I can use my background from two different cultures to provide insightful solutions.

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

The top 3 issues that need to be addressed with highest priority are property tax, town centre development and transportation accessibility. I have plans and I am confident that we can offer creative solutions to ease off the traffic jams at Lougheed Hwy and Willingdon Ave in my first term if elected. I will also make every other Tuesday as "City-Council-catch-a-bus" day, so politicians understand firsthand how Burnaby citizens feel in public transit.

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

A good transportation system is vital to foster the growth and success of our local businesses. Easier parking at store locations means that it is easier to do business. I would offer one-stop help to train small/micro business owners to start business in the city of Burnaby.

**If elected, what will you do to ensure the City of Burnaby is seen as being "open for business?"**

I will team up with BBOT to organize the localized trade show/meetings for different profession and industries to promote the concept to buy locally.

**How would you propose the City of Burnaby manage its continued densification and the development of its 4 town centres?**

We absolutely need to slow down a bit. Do more "real" public consultation so local residents really understand the impact on their living environment.

**The efficient movement of goods and services is important to local businesses. What do you see as the major transportation issues facing Burnaby and what do you think are some solutions?**

Traffic jam happens every weekdays during rush hours and around town, because our road systems did not evolve to match population growth for decades. North Road, Willingdon Ave, and Boundary Road should be widened with HOV/bus lanes to address our North/South transportation needs. For East/West traffic we need to advocate funding from the province for a new highway running from Burnaby's Northern shoreline to ease off traffic on Hastings and Lougheed Hwy. I will form discussion groups for practical bike lane solutions. As I have said earlier, I am confident that we can offer creative solutions to ease off the traffic jams at Lougheed Hwy and Willingdon Ave in my first term if elected.

**The Inter-Municipal Business License (IMBL) Pilot Project is currently underway with an end date of December 2015. Do you support making Inter-Municipal Business Licenses permanently available for the construction industry? Do you support expanding the Inter-Municipal Business License program to include other sectors?**

I support all measures to foster the growth and success of our local businesses.

**What do you see as the role of the City of Burnaby in supporting the development of Burnaby's key sectors and industries?**

22% of Burnaby's labour force by occupation is in the health sector. A new hospital is severely needed to serve Burnaby and we need to provide the training similar to the curriculum in University of British Columbia. I believe we also need to provide better education in the healthcare areas of Simon Fraser University so that the graduates of the healthcare degrees can find a job close to their home in Burnaby.