

Burnaby Civic Election 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Sav Dhaliwal

Running for: Councillor

Biography:

I was first elected to Burnaby City Council in 2002 and re-elected in 2005, 2008 and 2011. I currently serve as Chair of the Burnaby Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission, a position I have held for the past three years. My wife Cheryl and I have lived in Burnaby for 35 years. I've been actively involved in youth sports including hockey, soccer and baseball. My volunteer activities with the Burnaby Minor Hockey Association, where I also served as President, were rewarded with a Life Membership in 1997. My efforts in leading initiatives to support the development of the Bill Copeland Arena eventually led to my involvement with the Burnaby Parks Commission.

My volunteer activities led me to become interested in municipal politics, as I witnessed the success of the BCA majority City Council in meeting the needs of the community through a balance of available resources and service requirements.

Since becoming a Burnaby Councillor, I have taken on leadership roles at the local, regional and national level. I was appointed to the Board of Metro Vancouver Regional District in 2008, served as President of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association, Committee Member at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and was recently elected President of the Union of BC Municipalities. I have also served as a Director, Table Officer and Trustee with the New Vista Society and is a founding member of the Burnaby Edmonds Lions Club. I retired from a career in Information Technology at TELUS in 2005.

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

My 12 years as a Councillor along with my service to bodies such as the Boards of Metro Vancouver, the Lower Mainland Local Government Association, the Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has given me a wealth of experience and in-depth understanding of civic issues.

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

- Transit & transportation - The City's BCA council has developed a comprehensive transportation strategy and will continue to work with citizens to further develop that strategy to ensure that transportation in the city is efficient and safe.
- Environment -Building on the City's local- and national award-winning environmental leadership, Burnaby will finalize the Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) this fall. As with the development of the Economic and Social sustainability strategies, the ESS is a key part of Burnaby's comprehensive focus on sustainability in all areas of City operations. BCA leadership has ensured the ongoing protection of thousands of acres of land to complement high-density town-centre development

- Prompt and efficient service to citizens – in 2009 MacLean's magazine named Burnaby the best run city in Canada. I believe that our prompt and efficient services to citizens played an important role in our achieving that designation and I am committed to ensuring that the City continues to ensuring that we continue to provide prompt and efficient service

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

The City should continue to work with the Burnaby Business community to build an environment where Burnaby Businesses are valued as an integral part of the City's economy and community. This means keeping regulation to a minimum while protecting the public interest, ensuring equitable rates of taxation and an open door policy between members of the Business Community and the City of Burnaby Mayor and Council.

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

The Burnaby Citizens Association Council will continue to work with the Board of Trade to identify opportunities for Burnaby businesses both within the City and beyond. This means welcoming delegations from outside the city and participating in events beyond the City's borders, with the intent of welcoming new investors and convincing them that they will love operating in Burnaby as much as we do.

We will also continue to implement the City's recent Economic Development plan, our Social Sustainability plan and our soon to be finalized Environmental Sustainability plan. Together the three documents offer great possibilities for new and existing investors within Burnaby.

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

We are committed to upholding the Regional Growth Plan and our City of Burnaby Official Community plans. These plans, which have had input from citizens and businesses in Burnaby, set out where and how Burnaby can densify. They restrict the bulk of the City's density to the City's four town centres, thereby preserving our single family neighbourhoods. Our official community plans also address the infrastructure and amenities (recreational, social etc) which are necessary within our town centres to achieve a balance, so that Burnaby is a great place to work, live and play.

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?

The impact of recent and future growth does impact the efficiency of transportation in the City. The fact that we are a conduit between the suburbs to the east and downtown Vancouver, means that we get more than our share of commuter traffic. We have initiated a city wide review of our Transportation plan during the coming year. We recognize that we need to update how businesses and residents get around the city. We also are also making improvements in our pedestrian and bicycle networks. Throughout this process we plan to seek input from residents and business.

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?

Yes, we would be open to discussing with you and other parties relevant to this project the feasibility of expanding the program to include other sectors in addition to the existing construction industry participants. This review would include a review of the business case of program expansion, together with other aspects of the pilot program performance.

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

The role of the City of Burnaby should be to work collectively with the business community, labour and other organizations such as the Burnaby Board of Trade to foster a business climate which is welcoming, politically stable and which operates within a triple bottom line of Economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability. We need to recognize the unique differences and similarities of our key sectors and industries and work to accentuate our advantages in order to maximize Burnaby's leadership position. We are particularly targeting growth in the high tech and green industry sector along with other knowledge-based businesses.