

Burnaby Civic Election 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Shakila Jeyachandran

Running for: Councillor

Biography:

Shakila has lived in North Burnaby since 2000. She and her husband Eric have three sons now in their 20s.

She was born in Sri Lanka to a politically active family, and taught school and music in her homeland and in Pakistan. On arriving in Canada, she worked as a cook and became a shop steward and organizer with Service Employees International Union. Later she ran a Chevron franchise and a convenience store.

Currently she is a residential builder-developer. She founded the Tamil Youth Organization and raised \$35,000 for the 2004 tsunami. She has been an active member of the Tamil Cultural Association and the West Coast Tamil Cricket Club, playing with the women's team. She enjoys sharing her piano accompaniment talents with numerous fundraising and school events. Shakila's eldest son is severely autistic and required special education.

Her experience as a mother supporting him and addressing bullying as new immigrant inspire and inform her candidacy.

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

- book keeping
- negotiations - unions, property, developers, various city planning department Surrey, Tsawwassen, Vancouver, Burnaby
- business development - insurance, zoning, and legal concerns, etc

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

- freezing taxes for 3 years
- consultations for development
- support for small business development
- retention of existing businesses
- planning for transportation and transit

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

- bring business taxes down
- facilitate and encourage development of micro/small business

- provide advertising in city brochures and website for businesses offering services in leisure, recreation, education, catering, food, or event rental facilities that compete with the city
- reduce competition between business and city services

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

emphasize the need for local jobs.

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

Public consultation so the residents 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?

Respondent skipped this question

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, I would support the program

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

Respondent skipped this question