



Burnaby Council Candidate: Antara Deb - Burnaby Citizens Association

Antara Deb loves Burnaby's diverse communities and is working to build a vibrant, inclusive, and progressive city that puts the needs of residents first. She brings with her an array of experience, including serving as the Director of New Vista Health Care and Housing, an Executive Councillor at MoveUp, and the Vice-Chair of the Stand with Asians Coalition. She will push to secure affordable housing, protect our environment for future generations, and ensure systemic racism is addressed at every level and institution. Antara will fight for a Burnaby in which everyone thrives.

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

My professional work is in IT but as a community advocate, I have worked with many of the more vulnerable members of our community, including seniors, new immigrants, and women experiencing domestic violence. Their stories inspire me to work towards a world free from barriers or stigma. This is what motivates me to serve as a City Councillor: to provide solutions to the situations residents are experiencing, to help make their lives easier in Burnaby. I bring that same commitment to working with the business community.

I am also a single mother without an extensive network in my chosen community. So I bring skills of resourcefulness, thrift, hard work, and perseverance - all of these skills are ones that business community members need to be successful.

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

One strategy I will use to support the business community is to support more walkable neighbourhoods throughout Burnaby. Creating more walkable neighbourhoods is good for residents, good for businesses, and critical for the planet. A BCA council will support improved transportation options, including encouraging Evo car-sharing to expand their range of service into Burnaby, which will help residents shop locally while having access to a car if they need one.

Another strategy I will use is my voice at the provincial and federal level to support businesses hard hit by the pandemic, the economic downturn, and the labour shortages. Burnaby City Council can advocate for jobs training, stimulus supports, and other measures to help businesses cope with the challenging economic times.

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

We want to do our part in helping with surging land prices to make sure that they don't "price out" many small or local businesses. As land values soar, we want to create opportunities to promote walkable neighbourhoods, and want to look at zoning for multi-level industrial developments to help make it more affordable to have a business in the city.

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

The most pressing issues that I see are ensuring residents have access to affordable housing, and doing what we can to combat the climate emergency - making investments in climate resilience. But overarching our work must be a recognition that we are working in a reconciliation framework with Burnaby's host First Nations. I am committed to putting that at the core of our decision-making by having constructive and reflective government-to-government relationships with host nations and involvement in how Burnaby grows and develops.