



Burnaby Council Candidate: Sav Dhaliwal - Burnaby Citizens Association

Sav Dhaliwal has been honoured to serve Burnaby since 2002, when he was first elected as a councillor. Sav's work centres people, listening to their ideas and finding solutions to their challenges. Sav brings with him 20 years of governance experience, including serving as the chair of several policy committees (Parks Recreation and Culture, Environment, and Finance) and chairing the Metro Vancouver Board, UBCM, Lower Mainland Local Government Association and FCM standing committees. Sav is ready to work hard to tackle homelessness, climate change, affordability and reconciliation, and making Burnaby a better place for you and your family.

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

I have been honoured to have served Burnaby for 20 years now. In that time, I have listened and learned from residents and representatives of different communities, including the business community, and done my best to balance those interests in decisions at City Council. I have extensive experience representing Burnaby at the regional, provincial and federal level, and I pay close attention to innovative solutions that other municipalities are trying out, to see whether they might work in Burnaby. But I feel Burnaby has done well in supporting businesses to succeed, through our planning processes, our (relatively) low tax rates, and the liveability of our city.

As chair of the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors I worked hard to launch Invest Vancouver – Metro Vancouver regions' economic development leadership service representing 21 municipalities, one treaty First Nation and one Electoral Area. Invest Vancouver acts as a regional convener and facilitates one voice on regional priorities with key objectives to advance initiatives supporting strategic investment into the Metro Vancouver region, including Burnaby; to promote the region to a global audience; and to communicate research and policy recommendations to decision-makers to influence economic development.

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

I believe that we need to continue working with the Burnaby Board of Trade, to ensure that they have the required infrastructure to continue bringing in businesses to the city and supporting them when they are here. We must also continue to address the housing needs of our residents, as this affects business success as well. Our BCA-led council has been implementing the recommendations from the Housing Task Force, and there is more to do. In the next term, we will accelerate the permitting and licensing approval process so that building homes and starting business in Burnaby is quicker and more efficient. We will remove the permitting and licensing backlog and provide support for business and builders throughout the process. I will continue to press hard to keep property taxes and utilities fee increases to be among the lowest in the region.

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

We need to continue working with the many residents, community organizations, BIAs, and the BBOT to manage growth and densification successfully. I am proud of Burnaby's work to create Town Centres along transit lines. This has enabled people to live and work in close proximity, and for the City to provide services to those residents and businesses in an effective manner. We still have more work to do in addressing housing needs throughout the city, especially in expanding "missing middle" housing options. I will continue to promote mixed-use zoning in our town centres so we are creating employment opportunities while we are adding new residential units to our housing stock.

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

Making sure that Burnaby makes a full recovery from the past couple years is one of my biggest goals for the coming term. We've seen so many residents, businesses, and families struggling to keep up with inflation, the high cost of housing, the doctor shortage - all on top of COVID19. It's vital for us to get back to a less chaotic place, where we can rebuild a sustainable economy to ensure that Burnaby residents are able to access the services that they need, when they need them. I strongly believe that ongoing investment into critical infrastructure is essential to support new growth and resilience.