



Burnaby Council Candidate: Mona Grewal - One Burnaby

Mona emigrated to Canada thirty years ago, received her diploma at BCIT in Interior Design, and runs her own business.

Mona is a mother of three, and brings her experience of the challenges faced by women trying to advance their education and career while raising a family. She is a champion for education as a means of economic empowerment for women.

If elected, Mona will make sure that City Hall focuses on building a city that works to provide services that are accessible for all, and build a city that is affordable for families.

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

As an Interior Designer, my core skill is listening to and realizing the dreams of my clients, and I want to bring those skills to the Council table.

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

The One Burnaby team has knocked more than 11,000 doors and made more than 23,000 phone calls over the past six months to build out a robust policy platform.

The most critical policy to support our business community is a plan to implement a 3x3x3 Permitting Mandate:

- 3 Days for simple retrofits & business permits
- 3 Weeks for pre-approved builds with plans by accredited professionals
- 3 Months for consultations and initial approvals on major works

We've included a plan to launch a City of Burnaby Business Office, that will support businesses as a one stop shop for all of their needs, and act as a liaison for new businesses as they invest in Burnaby.

We're also working hard to tackle the most critical issues facing our society, the housing supply shortage, the climate crisis, and Reconciliation with First Nations.

In order to do that, we'll introduce flexible zoning city wide to allow families to decide how much housing they need, purpose built rental along arterials to get more people homes near transit, and launch a Burnaby Civic Housing Authority to support the construction of public housing for teachers, healthcare workers and first responders close to where they serve our community.

We're committed to doubling treeplanting across the city and along arterials to improve quality of life, combat pollution, and manage heat in the summer.

And we'll be launching an office of Reconciliation & Nation to Nation Partnership that will provide a path to engagement between the City of Burnaby and First Nations, but also for members of our community, civil society, and our businesses to work in partnership going forward.

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

The single biggest cost for families' bottom lines is the out of control cost of housing.

To address that, we're going to:

- Build housing for all, by introducing flexible zoning and gentle density to neighbourhoods within a 15 minute walk of rapid transit — below four stories in residential neighbourhoods, and up to six stories on main arterials for purpose built rentals
- Make rules that make sense, cutting through red tape, and making it easier for a family to choose what they want to do with their own property
- Build affordable housing at every opportunity, including using City capital spending on fire halls, libraries, and community centres to build housing for teachers, social workers, health care professionals and first responders so that they can afford to live in the city they serve
- Review and reform our consultation process, so that it better reflects our neighbourhoods
- Manage fees & cost downloading, so that we aren't passing on unnecessary additional costs to households looking to invest in their own community
- Four Floors & Corner Stores in every neighbourhood, with flexible zoning for ground and second floor commercial use, so that corner stores, coffee shops, childcare spaces, and other community amenities can be introduced within walking distance of your front door on every corner in your neighbourhood
- Purpose Built Secured Rentals Along Arterials to ensure that we continue to increase the rental housing supply near transportation corridors
- Providing a template for pre-approved and streamlined building plans, in order to provide a suite of options for families to build the housing they need without exorbitant design and consultation fees, we'll make this program work by using certified professionals for sign off with a robust auditing process to maintain accountability

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

One Burnaby is guiding its commitments to the voters with three key ideas:

- That we should be building a city that's affordable for families
- That Burnaby should be safe & welcoming for everyone
- And that it's our responsibility to plan for and invest in our shared future

But we know that the people of Burnaby are busy, and that you deserve to know up front what we want to deliver for you, so here are our Five Key Commitments:

1. Freezing Property Taxes in 2023 to Keep Money In Your Pocket
2. Building Housing for All to Make it More Affordable While Keeping Families Together
3. Making Burnaby Safe Through Expanded Community Policing, More Bylaw Officers & Building Safer Streets through a Vision Zero Policy that will cut traffic fatalities in half by 2030
4. Introducing a City Report Card & Ombudsperson's Office to Make City Hall More Accountable
5. Expediting Permitting for Businesses with our 3x3x3 Mandate While Reviewing City Policies & Finances