



Burnaby Council Candidate: Deborah Skerry - independent

I am an artist. I paint, listen to music, read, think, do sports, bake/cook, garden, and fix things. I am hard-working, dedicated, and honest. I was raised by a businessman/accountant and mentored by men who built towns. I worked many precarious low-paying jobs; including the one I spent thirty years at. I am semi-retired from security work, but I remain a self-employed businessperson, mother, grandmother, aunt, grandaunt, and empath. I am well educated, engaged, inquisitive, and a bit of a loner. I am running as an Independent because it allows me to decide my position on an issue-by-issue basis.

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

I have many skills to bring to the Burnaby City Councillor's position. First, I am a good listener. I can ask good questions. I have research skills. I am a fast-learner and quick study. I am decisive. I am coming into the political arena without preconceived ideas; ready to learn about the issues that are most concerning to the public. Then, I would apply the knowledge, I gain through research, into a report, to help the business community review their concerns by detailing solutions for comprehensive problems. I aim to act in a reasonable and rational manner to facilitate discussion among the stakeholders in adversarial setting. I will aid the business community, as far as allowable, to promote small business, and a self-sufficient City of Burnaby, when I advocate for reform and change.

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

The City of Burnaby should adopt strategies to restart a return of small business. I find it difficult and unpleasant, in these modern times, to be forced into big box stores because all the businesses, I frequented in the past, have been put out of business by these conglomerates. It is unfair competition. I seek remedies. Today, I find it very difficult to obtain help from a knowledgeable caring staff person. I wonder if it is because they are not invested in their companies. I watched businesses that stood for generations unable to compete. I am not for offshore work. I think we need to bring offshore work back to our local communities. Conglomerates need to be held accountability for their waste, carbon footprints, and supply chain shortages. We need to fuel our economy. We need to distribute our wealth better to support small businesses however that can be facilitated.

Covid has changed our social landscape, so much so, that I find the world around me rather unrecognizable at times. There is very little freedom of choice. I do not understand why we have the most expensive internet and wireless fees in the world. I do not understand who decides to "okay," or deny, a mortgage or loan. Perhaps, lenders can help "B" rate clients, in future, so that they do not end up in the shark tank. Our prosperous City of Burnaby is doing well. We can afford to do better in the future. We can be less dependent on the cyberworld and external worlds and foster the growth and success of our local businesses right here at home.

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

First, I think it would be presumptuous of me to assume that any recommendation I proposed would be enacted in and of itself. I believe the point of City Council is to debate proposals and come to a consensus and to the best steps forward on any given issue. I want to be a team player. I want to have an effective Council and see things get done. Getting things done requires Councillors working together.

Second, I am not sure if the weight of the City's influence on businesses is enough to manage the continued densification and the development of its town centers. The City of Burnaby does work with planners, create zoning, and enact bylaws to steer these builders, but they remain private businesses. I would need to learn much more about the weight of our City's influence on these builders as they continue to expand. I do know young people and many newcomers like living near transit.

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

My top goals, if elected, are to be effective, and to thank those persons, who voted for me, by making them glad they did. I want to be involved in the solutions to housing concerns. I want to promote accessible living for all. I am a senior; and therefore, I hope to champion causes, such as: easy to access to, available, and convenient transit solutions.

As a City Councillor I would like to propose cost solutions for animal care, such as: x-rays, urine tests, and bloodwork, so that the economic status of an owner does not presage their pet's care; maybe government assisted Petacare. If I win a term in office as a Burnaby City Councillor, I would put my best foot forward and do an excellent job. Thank-you. Please vote.