

Burnaby Civic Election 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Anne Kang

Running for: Councillor

Biography:

I was first elected as a Burnaby City Councillor in 2008 and re-elected for a second term in 2008. I live and work in Burnaby and my husband and I are busy parents of two young children who attend school in the Burnaby school system.

I grew up in the South Slope, Cascade Heights, and Inman neighbourhoods. I studied at UBC where I obtained a Bachelor of Music, a Bachelor of Education – Elementary, a Diploma in Special Education – Learning Disability, a Master of Special Education – Gifted and Creative Learners, and Montessori Certification. I currently teach music in the Burnaby School District where I have gained further insight into the important connection between great public services and healthy, growing communities.

My passion for working with people is reflected in my strong record of dedication to enhancing my community by taking on leadership roles with a number of organizations.

I have an ongoing commitment to the environment and one of my proudest accomplishments as a City Councillor was my involvement in Burnaby's Food Scraps Recycling Program that aims to separate food scraps and organic materials from household waste. This valuable initiative has resulted in reducing household waste by half, helping to create a more sustainable community.

With the recent developments of Burnaby's city centres, I want to continue to maintain the high quality of life by implementing actions as suggested by the Environmental, Social, and Economic Sustainability Strategies as developed by council.

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

My enthusiasm for public involvement includes a special interest in ethnic outreach. I have focused a great deal of my energy on helping newcomers connect to City services and understand their rights as citizens. I help newcomers to develop a deeper understanding of their city by becoming more involved in civic activities and community volunteerism.

I believe that my assistance and guidance with smooth integration into their new homes in Burnaby has been a significant asset to the City.

I live by the motto "Turning Passion into Action". Through my role as a mother, teacher, and a city councillor, I continue to look for creative and exciting ways to contribute and make a difference in the community. I endeavor to work together with council and citizens to build a city that is inclusive, sustainable, and

progressive.

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

My top goal will be to continue to work on liveability issues in our city. My vision of a great city is a welcome, livable, healthy city for all citizens. A healthy environment helps create a healthy, livable city. Burnaby is a beautiful city and many people come here to live, work and play. However, traffic is becoming more and more of a challenge. We need to deal with traffic issues because the safety of citizens is a priority.

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

As a city councillor, I would continue to build and strengthen the strong relationship that the City and the Board of Trade has. I recognize the important and supportive role that the Burnaby Board of Trade plays in supporting businesses in Burnaby and in helping to maintain a high standard of service among the business community. I would work together with the City and other councillors to regulate equitable business tax rates and continue to support the development of our business industry in Burnaby.

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

In the most recent term, BCA Mayor Derek Corrigan initiated a new committee called The International Relations and Friendship Cities because he values the development of our city beyond the border of the city. We would welcome delegations from other parts of our country, continent, and world to consider Burnaby as an excellent place to develop and expand their business. I will continue to support the vision of the committee to reach out beyond the borders of Burnaby to attract new businesses to our city. The City's Economic Development Strategy, along with our most recent two strategies -- Social Sustainable Strategy (SSS) and Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS)-- will be instrumental in developing an "Open for Business" city.

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

The City of Burnaby, with the input of its citizens, has created innovative and progressive plans, such as Livable Region Plan and Official Community Plan, which I will continue to support. We value the uniqueness of our neighbourhoods, hence supporting our single and double family dwelling neighbourhoods with community parks and green spaces. Closer to the borders of our Town Centres, developments of a more densified neighbourhood, such as low rises and town homes can be considered. In our Town Centres, we will see more densification around major recreation centres, community infrastructures, transportation hubs and skytrain

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?

BCA council recognizes the growth of our city in recent years and plan to review the City's Transportation plan after the completion of the freeway expansion project. I value a green community where people are encouraged and feel safe to walk and bike to their destination. I hope to continue to work with council, staff, and citizens to develop better traffic systems, pedestrian walkways and bicycle routes so that goods and services can be transported, delivered, and acquired in an efficient and safe manner.

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, we would be open to discussing with you and other parties relevant to this project the feasibility of expanding the program to include other sectors in addition to the existing construction industry participants. This review would include a review of the business case of program expansion, together with other aspects of the pilot program performance.

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

The role of the City would be to work collaboratively and in a supportive manner to help development of all key sectors and industries. With supportive documents such as our three major strategies, Economic, Social Sustainability, and Environmental Sustainability Strategies, citizens and business alike have a clear understanding the direction, development, and growth of our city. These documents include major community leaders such as members from the Burnaby Board of Trade. I value the specialization that each sector brings to our business community and will continue to work with businesses to highlight their contributions to the city and to our economy.