

## **Burnaby Civic Election 2014 Candidate Questionnaire**

**Name:** Daren Hancott

**Running for:** Mayor

**Biography:**

Dr. Hancott has worked across Canada in industries ranging from transportation & logistics, to education & training, to seafood export. His non-profit experience includes the BC Chamber of Commerce, where he has served as an executive, Director, Chair of the Board, and Chair of the Board of Governors. He has also served as Director of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Daren currently serves on the BC Chamber of Commerce Policy Review Committee.

Dr. Hancott has experience doing business in over 22 countries as the senior executive for Seafood Products Ltd., a division of Maple Leaf Foods (with over 500 employees & \$50 million in annual revenues). He also spent 11 years as the senior executive for the University of Phoenix in Canada. His roles at University Canada West included senior advisor to the Board of Eminata Group, Acting Dean, Acting Senior Academic Officer, and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Dr. Hancott received his Bachelor of Commerce from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1989, his MBA from Saint Mary's University in 1998, and his Ph.D. (in Organization & Management) from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2005.

Dr. Hancott is an avid marathon runner, martial artist, triathlete, and "Top 40 under 40" award winner. He runs for Mayor in the November 15, 2014 election with other members of his Burnaby First Coalition team. Daren works and lives in Burnaby, BC where he lives with his wife Linda and his two sons, Dyllan and Garrett.

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

25 years of business experience, over 20 years of senior executive leadership and cross-Canadian as well as international experience in over 22 countries in industries ranging from logistics to production to education. I have experience with some of Canada's largest and smallest as well as SMEs and can use my experiences to help grow them and create a pro-business culture at city hall which is not currently the case.

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

- hold taxes at 0% increases in the tax levy for 3 years
- create a Business Development office at City Hall
- eliminate waste at city hall
- work to create a small business incubator hub in Burnaby
- strengthen relationships with the provincial and federal governments to help businesses and citizens of Burnaby get better results

-encourage more businesses to set up in Burnaby by offering tax incentives and the hiring of youth, seniors and vulnerable people

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

See above

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

Being more engaged with the BBOT, BC Chamber of Commerce, provincial and federal governments to ensure we all work together to reduce red tape, barriers to growth, and taxes that make it difficult for small businesses to start, grow and create better products and services and more employment opportunities.

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

-providing for more citizen input and consultation including the businesses that are impacted by rapid growth and issues related to traffic and construction. More focus on what the community needs and less focus on the densification dollars that have become a Burnaby addiction. Nice to have for sure but the price will be paid later when interest rates rise and we do not have a diversified tax base for the future. Business taxes are too high and residential taxes make Burnaby unaffordable for many young families who we need as future workers and business owners.

**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?**

I think it is expansion that is too rapid with lack of long-term planning and lack of public consultation all combined. a myopic view of industry and 1970s plans that look like a high school project for a grade 9 class that we do not even follow. We need to look abroad like in Hong Kong, Rotterdam, and Singapore for better solutions. Very small places, very dense populations and very high standards of living and good transportation systems. Best practices would be something I would begin to develop and integrate as we consult more before moving forward as quickly as we have been moving.

**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, I was instrumental in working on this as a member of the BC Chamber of Commerce Policy Review Committee when many municipalities were opposed because they thought it would erode their tax sources. Municipalities need to be more open to business and generally more inclusive in their approach which I will bring if elected mayor of Burnaby.

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

A very senior leadership role with the province and federal government which I have good relationships with and will work hard to secure as partners for Burnaby's key sector and industries as well as developing new ones to create a more reasonable tax climate and broader, more sustainable tax base with more long-term jobs. Construction jobs are shorter in term though necessary.