

Burnaby Civic Election 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Derek Corrigan

Running for: Mayor

Biography:

I was born in Vancouver and graduated from UBC Law. I was called to the B.C. Bar in 1978. My wife Kathy and I have been married since 1976 and have four grown children. Kathy and I have been very engaged in community activities since we moved to Burnaby in 1978. I was elected to Burnaby City Council in 1987.

I was elected Mayor in 2002 and re-elected in 2005, 2008 and 2011. This year marks my 27th consecutive year as a member of Burnaby Council.

In 1991, I became Burnaby's GVRD Representative and was soon appointed to the Executive Committee. In 1994 I was appointed Chair of BC Transit, during my tenure, BC Transit was named as the Best System in Canada (1995) and the Best System in North America (1996). After leaving BC Transit, I joined the law firm of Lindsay, Kenney and practised labour law for the next five years. I returned to the GVRD in 2000 and served as Chair of the Water Committee and as Chair of the Regional Planning and Agriculture Committee.

I have also served for four years as an elected director of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and currently serve as a Trustee of the Municipal Finance Authority of BC. I have been an active supporter of the Mayors for Peace movement and have served as the Canadian Secretary for the 3,793 member cities. I have also received a special recognition award for my participation in the United Nations Nuclear Non-Proliferation Conference.

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

I have 27 consecutive years serving on Burnaby Council, the past 12 as Mayor. I bring the history and heritage of more than a quarter century of public service to every important decision. In my roles as Mayor and Councillor, I have led the economic, social and environmental development of our city. As Mayor I help our Council to work together to bring creativity and innovation to city business.

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

- Dealing with the transportation challenges facing our city
- Economic development
- Opposing the Kinder Morgan expansion

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

The City should continue to work with the Burnaby Business community to build an environment where Burnaby Businesses are valued as an integral part of the City's economy and community. This means keeping regulation to a minimum while protecting the public interest, ensuring equitable rates of taxation and an open door policy between members of the Business Community and the City of Burnaby Mayor and Council.

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

The Burnaby Citizens Council will continue to work with the Board of Trade to identify opportunities for Burnaby businesses both within the City and beyond. This means welcoming delegations from outside the city and participating in events beyond the City's borders, with the intent of welcoming new investors and convincing them that they will love operating in Burnaby as much as we do.

We will also continue to implement the City's recent Economic Development plan, our Social Sustainability plan and our soon to be finalized Environmental Sustainability plan. Together the three documents offer great possibilities for new and existing investors within Burnaby.

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

We are committed to upholding the Regional Growth Plan and our City of Burnaby Official Community plans. These plans, which have had input from citizens and businesses in Burnaby, set out where and how Burnaby can densify. They restrict the bulk of the City's density to the City's four town centres, thereby preserving our single family neighbourhoods. Our official community plans also address the infrastructure and amenities (recreational, social etc) which are necessary within our town centres to achieve a balance, so that Burnaby is a great place to work, live and play.

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?

The impact of recent and future growth does impact the efficiency of transportation in the City. The fact that we are a conduit between the suburbs to the east and downtown Vancouver, means that we get more than our share of commuter traffic. We have initiated a city wide review of our Transportation plan during the coming year. We recognize that we need to update how businesses and residents get around the city. We also are also making improvements in our pedestrian and bicycle networks. Throughout this process we plan to seek input from residents and business.

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 of Burnaby should be to work collectively with the business community, labour and other organizations such as the Burnaby Board of Trade to foster a business climate which is welcoming, politically stable and which operates within a triple bottom line of Economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability. We need to recognize the unique differences and similarities of our key sectors and industries and work to accentuate our advantages in order to maximize Burnaby's leadership position. We are particularly targeting growth in the high tech and green industry sector along with other knowledge-based businesses.