

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

**Name:** Pietro Calendino

**Running for:** Councillor

**Biography:**

I moved to Canada from Italy in 1959. I graduated from Britannia High School in Vancouver and went on to achieve two degrees from UBC – Honours Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Arts in Languages – and a teaching certificate from SFU. I worked as a teacher for 30 years.

My wife Cedna and I have called Burnaby home for 41 years. I have been active in Burnaby politics for most of those because I believe in the value of community involvement.

I was elected to the Burnaby School Board in 1987 and served for 9 years, including two years as Chair. In 1996, I was elected as the MLA for Burnaby North. I was elected to Burnaby City Council in 2002 and have been re-elected in 2005, 2008 and 2011.

Working together with Council, City staff and the community, I was instrumental in launching the “Giro di Burnaby” that brings value to Burnaby citizens and awareness to local businesses. With my council colleagues I have brought to Burnaby dozens cultural events throughout the year under the Festivals Burnaby policy.

As Chair of Burnaby’s Community Policing Committee, I have worked closely with Burnaby Council and staff, citizens, business representatives and the RCMP in launching Burnaby’s Crime Reduction Strategy that has resulted in a significant decrease in all monitored crime types. I have also been instrumental in moving forward the successful Business Watch program launched in Northwest Burnaby.

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

My experiences as a School Trustee, MLA and Councillor have provided me with well-rounded perspectives on good governance and how to ensure that Burnaby remains a fiscal, social and environmental leader. I take pride in the City’s accomplishments under a BCA majority Council particularly in its abundant green space and fabulous community centres. As a retired teacher, I have time to be in the community volunteering and interacting with citizens and listening to their ideas. This interaction is fundamental in making decisions that reflect the wish of Burnaby residents.

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

- prevent Kinder Morgan’s expansion
- continue keeping Burnaby safe & secure, with a falling crime rate
- ensure there is more pedestrian friendly urban development
- appropriate recreational and community services in all 4 quadrants of the city

•Contribute to a fiscally responsible city government and to our Economic, Social and Environmental Strategies

**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.