

‘Hopes and Fears’: How do our residents feel about the future?

At one interactive station at the June 9th “Our Future” launch event, members of the public were asked two important questions: “What are your greatest hopes for the District?” and “What needs to change?” Their handwritten comments were posted up on two display boards for other members of the public to read and respond to.



Dozens of comments were received. A full transcript of the public’s input is provided overleaf.

What are your greatest hopes?

- Inclusive multi-cultural focus
- More affordable housing
- Truly bike and pedestrian friendly
- Full spectrum of care for seniors' in one facility
- Climate change sustainability
- Affordable housing for everyone
- Housing for young people so they can stay here
- Ability to walk around my community comfortably day or night
- Stewardship of the land
- More open/friendly programs/access to programs and services for ALL cultures
- To be able to afford to live in N Van after retirement or have my children live here
- My kids will have the opportunity to experience the thrill of living in a community that supports and protects natural ecosystems
- More active transportation – walking – cycling
- We will still have lots of natural spaces
- Zero growth in population
- Provide ways to 'age in place' e.g. home care
- Maintain/retain/recreate walkable/bikeable communities. Keep us connected
- Protect natural spaces and increase housing through higher density
- A job! (locally)
- Governance/decision making – all elements of our community (government, business, industry) incorporate triple-bottom line decision-making to ensure decisions that affect our community are made with social, environmental and economic values in mind.
- Parks and fields for community use
- Citizens will engage
- Stabilization and/or reduction of population number – to give real meaning to the concept of sustainability
- Affordable, full care seniors' facility
- Opportunities for a diverse population (widest range)
- A more efficient way to move from Lower Lynn to Seymour – bridge traffic can jam it up quickly
- More self-sufficient community
- Maintain values and respect to community old-fashioned values for 22nd Century
- Innovation of transportation for those with limited mobility and money
- Encourage our youth to be involved

- Ways to live, work and age on the North Shore
- More affordable rental housing for all income groups
- To be able, as a senior, to age in NV for next 20 years
- That we become more sustainable, with improved public transit – Deep Cove to Horseshoe Bay route
- Protect our parks
- Make sure we have enough green space
- Support of neighbourhood densification and more services surrounding Edgemont, Lynn Valley, to promote walking to services
- One integrated NS community – inclusive
- A sustainable population – all age groups – all stripes
- Keep open spaces
- Carbon neutral
- Carbon reduction
- For my kids to one day be able to afford to live here
- Maintain natural setting
- Affordable housing for my children
- More funding of health care (non-profits) by municipalities
- That we no longer need fossil fuel powered cars
- Pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Truly friendly
- For my kids to one day be able to afford to live here
- God help us if we try to please everyone! Dump the menu approach and focus! Courage
- A completely sustainable community. Ability to live and work in my neighbourhood
- Maintain swimming pools – very suitable for all generations, including older residents (don't stress the joints)
- We must maintain our connection to the outdoors – important for raising children, recreation, and for newcomers

What needs to change?

- For density yes it is inevitable but no high towers en masse
- It RAINS here. Why don't we have more places with shelter (like Delany's in Edgemont) where we can congregate. It is often not cold, but very often wet. We can't have a vibrant cafe culture in the rain
- Emphasis on other modes of transportation other than cars

- An improved governance structure that allows us to respond quicker to meet the unknown future
- Seniors' housing
- Good basic cost effective amenities – water – sewer, etc.
- Too much development without community facilities close by. Don't want to have to get in my car to get a loaf of bread
- More money and manpower to protect natural ecosystems and restore and reclaim those that require \$ to get back to their original splendour
- Need to be more sensitive to our diverse cultures
- I am concerned for the future of our watershed areas. No balance with recreation and conservation
- My adult children if they choose could come back to the North Shore
- Health care for seniors will we have enough?
- Stronger sense of collective interests and threats
- Less wasteful practise in terms of water use and garbage production
- Emphasis on single family dwellings – more retail/commercial and residential mix
- Engage youth in civic affairs, especially planning for their future
- Yearly 4-5% tax increases are unsustainable in the long run. This, more than high house prices, will prevent young families from living in the DNV
- Appropriate housing for all – more diversity in housing
- Need more neighbourhood parks with play equipment
- Ban single use grocery bags
- Well designed low rises and duplexes in areas of single family homes
- Need more creative, 'dense' housing for all \$\$ levels
- If population is declining, stop building giant houses for 2/3 people!
- Please do not develop any higher up the mountain sides!
- Adaptability from youth to seniors' with mobility issues – accessibility
- 'Will' to change – follow through and commit to sustainable actions that support community
- What must change? The broken housing model. Our ability to sustain a job base. The frightening demographics of community stagnation
- We can't sustain more population growth. We're already beyond our real carrying capacity.
- Actively engage youth in community planning
- Avoid too many 'rules'
- Engage youth in community – arts, plans, sports on a neighbourhood basis
- Integration of seniors into the community – less segregation/ghettoizing

- Better transit service – more frequency on many routes. Use of smaller buses where possible
- Housing for addicted/mental health clients funded in part by DNV
- Stop proliferation of big box houses that destroy the character of our neighbourhood and are the antithesis of sustainable building practices
- Agreed – higher density doesn't mean towers. Density can mean tighter community bonds, safer spaces, less transit;, cheaper services and amenities, more people connections and fun!
- Getting more shared use of community buildings like schools and churches
- Density needn't be towers! Talk to Michael Geller
- We have to let go of the unsustainable dream of large – lots, single detached homes, with 2 car garages – higher density
- Move forward with OCP asap!
- Need more affordable housing
- Relevant but realistic goals (time and resources)
- Fear of exclusion – too pricey – monolithic community
- OCP amendment process is too complicated
- I'll have to move my old age because no affordable housing
- Mixed use – single family – multifamily – high rises – seniors – singles, etc.
- More trails and bike routes
- Gradual increases in density preferred to mitigate concerns by residents (pilot projects?)
- More affordable housing
- Make sure we have clean water – high cost of energy
- More wheelchair accessible parks
- Housing on top of stores, village style
- Bike routes – better buses
- Respect to wildlife, they're here first. Examine other regions' protection acts
- I need a mansion
- High municipal taxes, overcrowded services with waitlists, lack of affordable daycare and few public schools (some with 'lotteries') are the real obstacles for families
- Control litter and graffiti– community pride, property values and taxes are effected

