

LETTER: Density brings housing options

North Shore News

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Dear Editor:

Having just read the [letter \(April 20 Mailbox\) \(http://www.nsnews.com/opinion/letters/letter-more-logic-needed-in-development-decisions-1.2234700\)](http://www.nsnews.com/opinion/letters/letter-more-logic-needed-in-development-decisions-1.2234700) from Bob Rasmus, a former local builder who I do know, I felt compelled to respond.

Firstly, there is no moratorium (on development) in the Seymour area, there is a scarcity of viable building land, but this council has been looking for potential developable land in Seymour (including district owned) for ground-oriented family housing, seniors housing and even some forms of affordable homes. In addition, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation are actively developing (land for housing) in partnership with the Aquilini Group.

Secondly, we have three married councillors (for the District of North Vancouver), including myself, who live in Lynn Valley. Our wives, whilst maybe getting frustrated with traffic backups – and sometimes their husbands – certainly appreciate and support this council's direction guided by the OCP in supporting development near transit hubs. We have a choice in either allowing this community to remain as a very high-priced, exclusive residential area affordable only to the very wealthy or building smaller and denser forms of housing, in specific areas as outlined in the OCP, to allow younger people and families to locate here.

The first alternative is frightening – declining growth in families and children, potentially school populations decreasing (school closures), an even greater average age and less vitality. Business land will grow more unaffordable, more retail and service sector employees will add to traffic volumes as they will be forced to commute.

I myself believe this council is working for our children and their children and a sustainable future in this district.

The next election is in November 2018, but my energy now is focused on the benefits for families and children growing up here, and what happens in November 2018 is entirely irrelevant to my philosophy.

Robin Hicks

District of North Vancouver councillor

What are your thoughts? Send us a letter via email by clicking [here \(http://www.nsnews.com/opinion/send-us-a-letter\)](http://www.nsnews.com/opinion/send-us-a-letter) or post a comment below.

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Let's have the record speak to the issue of whether density has reduced our housing costs. Clearly it has not. There is no objective evidence that slow or no growth would have raised our housing costs as much or more than the current building program. To the contrary, the current unsustainable policies have forced our children off the North Shore in order to find affordable accommodations to raise a family. - cjk