

City of North Vancouver Candidate Survey Responses - November 2014

In the last year, all North Shore municipalities and School Districts formally endorsed the North Shore Food Charter . If elected, Candidate for: what will you do to support implementation of the Charter?		Urban farming includes activities such as backyard gardening, sale of produce and seedlings, keeping of small livestock (i.e. chickens), edible landscaping, and farming of leased/ <i>borrowed</i> urban land. Most of these activities are currently not permitted under City/District bylaws and policies. Do you support urban agriculture initiatives, and if so how will you support urban farming initiatives in your community?	Many cities have food policy councils established to bring municipal staff, local experts and community members together to research and develop policies related to local food security issues. If elected, what priority would you place on forming a food policy council for the North Shore?	The demand for locally-grown food on the North Shore is growing. If elected, what priority will you place on increasing access to locally produced, fresh healthy food for North Shore residents?	What is your level of interest in supporting new food businesses (eg. small scale food processors, producers, markets, etc.) in your community?	Food waste is a growing issue in our region, and food recovery is emerging as an innovative method to ensure that fresh food avoids disposal and makes it onto the table. If elected, what priority would you place on supporting food recovery initiatives on the North Shore?	Please use this space to elaborate on any of your responses to the "ranked" questions above.	
Kerry Morris	Mayor	1. I will help the Food Rescue project get off the ground by voting in support of a City owned amenity space. 2. I will support development of a food supply initiative designed to generate a larger quantity of donor food in excess of that contemplated in the 'Food Rescue' initiative. 3. I will support more and better community gardens in a broader number of locations throughout the City.	I am prepared to support the vast majority of these initiatives, with the exception of the 'In Yard Livestock'. I believe the yard livestock may create a rodent and wild animal problem, not to mention an odor and noise problem. I am prepared to examine this issue to determine if the proliferation of live-stock would create a problem or a health risk. If the community supported this initiative, and there was no health risk, then I could support this initiative.	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	I have been approached by Mr. Scott Rowe in respect of Food Rescue and I have agreed to support the Table Matters Plan H project, no matter whether I succeed or otherwise. I believe the initiative is worth while. I am currently involved in helping Mr. Rowe develop and refine the financial models for the plan.
Darrell Mussatto	Mayor	As one of the creators and key supporters of the North Shore Food Charter I plan on continuing my work in this regard to ensure its policies and principles are carried out and that additional projects are undertaken in this regard. I am very proud of my work in this area.	Well the City Of North Vancouver does allow urban farming, backyard gardening, backyard chickens, edible landscaping and farming of lease (at minimal cost) of city land for farming. I am very proud to be one of the supporters of Loulet farm and under my leadership it came into existence. As well community gardens were established at Queen Mary school and at City Hall. I am very proud to be one of the leaders not only on the North Shore but in Metro Vancouver generally for urban agriculture and farming in general.	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	I will continue to be a leader both here on the north shore and in Metro Vancouver if I am given the opportunity to serve for another 4 years. It has been an honour to serve the people of the city and I list in my top 5 accomplishments the work I have done around urban agriculture. I will continue to work with local non-profits, NGO's, volunteers, community groups and those simply interested in local agriculture and food production. I am proud of my work up to now and plan on continuing my efforts in this regard.
George Pringle	Mayor		No, first I see such activity out of place in an urban environment and in an area that bears frequent we shouldn't be doing anything to attract them into our neighborhoods.	An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in	An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in	An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in	An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in	
Holly Back	Council	To support the charter I believe we need to encourage the City of North Vancouver to continue working with all levels of government in many areas. Education for our children is imperative to promote healthy life styles. People need to know how important healthy food is for their mental and physical well being. Community Healthy Lifestyles is very important to me.	I very much support urban agriculture it is so important for our future. I love all the community gardens that you see everywhere in the City of North Vancouver. The farmers markets you find around the City all summer and fall are amazing. I encourage the City Council to keep the produce growing as well as the markets.	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	I believe the food waste is a growing issue in North Vancouver and I would like to see some initiatives taken to being able to use these foods. Look at the homeless shelter and how much of this food waste they are receiving and using.
Dorothy Bell	Council	Promote apartment gardening. It is in my upcoming pamphlet with my co-candidate Bill Bell. There is much to be done. Here is an article I wrote: Urban Field Waiting to be Planted Dorothy Bell I look outside my window on the 14th floor and have a view that stretches to Stanley Park. It is an inspirational vista that I cherish. I am an author, a writer and app creator and this view of my city and of the water inspires me as I summon my creativity every morning. I am a lifelong environmentalist. I have specialized in recycling and waste management having been the Executive Director of the Recycling Council of BC and the Provinces Hazardous Waste Reduction Commissioner. I am also a gardener and both Bill and I enjoy planting and harvesting both flowers and food whenever we have had a patch of earth at our disposal. It is a peaceful activity and one that connects somehow to the earth and community, history and present. When I look out over my city I am excited at the possibilities. There is little vacant land for community gardens and what is available is likely going to be on the auction block by this Developer-hungry council. But my friend there are rooftops. There are urban field waiting to be planted. I am not sure how I would do it as a city councilor, but I would try every which way to get apartment blocks to buy in to the idea. I would make it easier. Besides providing a peaceful productive activity for residents, rooftop gardens are also beneficial to our air quality. Canada's National Energy Council writes "If widely adopted, rooftop gardens could reduce the urban heat island, which would decrease smog episodes, problems associated with heat stress and further lower energy consumption." Can you imagine if every apartment block in the city had a rooftop garden? Can you imagine tomatoes, lettuce and a salad bowl of other plants grown and harvested by city dwellers? We can make an incredible reduction to our to the carbon footprint. Rooftop agriculture. Better air. More food. Connected Community. Just a simple idea from a candidate.	I will continue to be a strong advocate for environmental issues. I support composting as part of recycling for example. (I was the Exec director of the Recycling Council of BC) There is a wonderful connectivity between working the earth and living. We need to do more and I will be strong advocate. We need more fresh markets for our food. We need to work towards sharing our extra foods (from gardens orchards etc) with the disadvantaged.	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	I need to learn more to advocate for better agriculture and gardens. I am very keen on developing rooftop agriculture. I want to "encourage" coops, condos etc to develop a we can do it attitude. I remember decades ago when I went to city councils and regional districts promoting the concept of Blue Box recycling. People thought I was crazy. I didn't give up. I didn't give in and now recycling is taken for granted and part of our habits. I want to do this with urban gardening. Give me a chance. Please Vote Dorothy Bell. Then vote Bell again. Bill Bell.
Bill Bell	Council	I endorse Urban Agriculture and have advocated it in my election material.	Not only have endorsed such initiatives I have sent bylaws to friends and readers of my blog giving them encouragement that North Vancouver City initiatives can be done in their communities.	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	The time has come to move forward on these programs. I applaud the action that NVan City has taken to date and if elected would continue the actively support improvements.

Pam Bookham	Council	It was very evident at the Table Matters Dialogue & Dinner, that the leadership, energy and passion comes from individuals in the community. Council's role is to support groups like Table Works and the Edible Garden by facilitating the community dialogue, by providing space for gathering and meetings, by creating the legislative frame work (by-laws) and fund these groups through City grants and private sector donations such as Neptune. If re-elected I will support additional community gardens, promote community partnerships, support funding for educational initiatives, ensure that the City continues to lead by example, support small business initiatives that support the F.C.	CNV has been very supportive of urban farming. We allow chickens and bees in back yards. We provided land for two very successful community gardens at NSNH and Queen Mary and for the only urban farm on the NS. Loutet Farm has become the go to place for fresh produce. I think its time to review the costs/benefits/challenges/needs of LUF to determine the next steps. I think we should look at Cloverley and the Lucas Centre as potential sites for community gardens/urban farms if we are successful in retaining these schools sites for community use.	An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in	An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	Do we need a food policy council with Table Matters, the Edible Garden, City Council and Staff working so well together? Would this committee be an Advisory Body or Task Force? These are the kinds of questions that come to mind, but I am open to further discussion.
Linda Buchanan	Council	The City of North Vancouver has been a leader in urban agriculture, food security and food recovery. I will continue to ensure that we remain as a leader by building on the success that we have already had. I will want to see an increase in the amount of community gardens made available and look to see how we can encourage home owners to use their yards for gardens, fruit trees etc and donate to the broader community. I will want to ensure that we move forward on food recovery and that Quest becomes part of the City.	Yes, I support urban agriculture. The City is home to Loutet Farm and the Edible Garden Project is currently working with Sutherland School, which is in the City, to lease land on the school site to create a second farm. This project will directly benefit students (children) in our community to learn about urban agriculture and gardening. The food they produce will be available to the larger community. I voted in favour of allowing chickens in the City for single family residences. I would love to see more farmer's markets on the North Shore and, as above, see how we can encourage home owners to use their private yards for urban agriculture that is available to the larger community.	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	I put forth the following motion on Feb. 24, 2014 to City Council which carried unanimously: That staff work with Table Matters, New Hope Cuisine, Vancouver Coastal Health, local businesses and non-profit organizations to explore ways of increasing the amount of food available from the institutional, commercial and industrial sectors, for food recovery and to reduce waste; and Further that staff be requested to make recommendations to Council that would improve current policies to reduce waste and improve food security in the City of North Vancouver.
Matt Clark	Council	I fully support the North Shore Food Charter. I will always take the time to listen to the voices of your community and will try to accommodate your main principals at every opportunity. -Health/access -Environmental Responsibility -Gov leadership and collaboration**** -Economic Vitality -Community Culture	I do support urban farming where it makes sense. I believe the newly elected officials can come to the table with more creative collaborations on this topic. If elected I commit to you I will come to the table with an open mind, ready to make changes that work for everyone. A win win solution is just around the corner.	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions. I am 100% behind your group.
Joe Heilman	Council	Review in detail and help where required.	I'm working to implement a garden at Larson Elementary. I am a vegetable gardener at my home and grew up on a farm.	An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	Thanks for the opportunity to work with you! -Joe Heilman
Craig Keating	Council	As a 15 year incumbent on Council, I am proud of the actions we have taken on issues of urban agriculture and food security. We need to continue to build on the actions already undertaken. In particular we can undertake and I will support actions to: - provide greater access to land for agricultural purposes - both public land (such as that at Loutet Farm and the proposed garden at Sutherland School, as well as lands for community gardens) and private land (by amending the Standards of Maintenance bylaws to allow grass turf and decorative gardens on boulevards and elsewhere to be turned into edible gardens; by excluding green houses from lot coverage calculations) - amending bylaws to permit sale of locally grown agricultural products (in keeping with public health standards) - supporting food recovery programs (such as the North Shore Fruit Tree project and recovery programs from local food retailers) - supporting the intergenerational transfer of knowledge of food handling and preservation through community centre programs - working with social service agencies to ensure locally grown healthy food can be accessed by those with limited incomes or other barriers	I support - and have supported - urban agriculture initiatives in the City. Details of what actions I think we can take to build on that support are outlined in my answer above	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	
Kathy McGrenera	Council	I would be happy to work in collaboration with the other municipalities, the EGP, the Table Matters group and any others on ways to implement the charter. I'd also be happy to pass on any ideas that come from other jurisdictions around successful ideas dealing with food security issues.	I support urban agriculture. I live at Quayside Village at 510 Chesterfield where we got permission from the City to remove all our grass and convert all areas of our outdoor footprint to food growing. It has been very successful and I would be very supportive of all efforts to grow food wherever possible, and changing policies and bylaws to support this.	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	An issue I would support if put forward by other elected officials	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	I have a lot of energy to devote to food issues on the North Shore as there is so much possibility to expand current successful initiatives. I would be willing to do whatever I can to support groups currently working in these areas.
Amanda Nichol	Council	Anything I can! I was involved in the process to develop it and am looking forward to the opportunity to be involved in further development of policies and strategies to address the issues identified.	This incorporates many different issues, with climate change and increasing population and concerns of sustainability of our community, I think it is integral that initiatives be taken to ensure that we are opening up discussion to the possibilities of urban agriculture and urban farming. There are a number of community gardens and Loutet is becoming more well known. I would like to work with a number of partner groups who are knowledgeable in this area to ensure that we are identifying key locations that would be most successful and supported in our community.	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	An issue I would need to learn more about before taking an interest in	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A number of these issues are currently being discussed and do have support in the City of North Vancouver. I would like to see continued support and initiative taken to further these. I also think that most of these issues require continued cooperation between all the North Shore municipalities and more (Lions Bay for one). A food policy council strikes me as a good way to do that and start the more formal adoption of implementing these sorts of initiatives.
Tony Valente	Council	I am keen to advance the education and culture component of the food charter, as well as the health and equity component. Providing access to community gardens and their produce can help make good food available to all members of our community. I would also like to continue to advance educational opportunities and workshops currently offered by the Edible Garden Project so that children and adults can learn where our food comes from and how to grow their own.	I support and practice urban gardening and composting at my own home. I understand that in the City of North Vancouver chickens, and edible landscaping is permitted, and I am proud of this fact. I would like to promote other initiatives like these because I believe that urban gardens and agricultural initiatives help create community in the City of North Vancouver. I support the creation of additional community garden spaces as space and also promoting education related to gardening. I am keen to see how produce sales could be implemented, and believe this would be a benefit. In an age of an obesity epidemic we have lost our knowledge and connection to what we eat. These initiatives can help us get it back.	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	A high priority issue that I will personally take action on	I am particularly keen on food recovery initiatives. I have recently started worm composting, while I recognize this is a "last resort" for food rescue it is diverting waste from the garbage. I like it because I don't have to go to the trash out more than once a week, and my garden is stronger than ever from the resulting compost. Agricultural initiatives like those above help restore the connection to what we eat and are critical for furthering a healthy community.