

Response from Norine Shim Green Party Candidate 2020 for Burnaby North

1) If elected, what resources would your party allocate to increase the supply of affordable and core need housing stock in Burnaby?

The BC Green Party supports allowing multi-family homes in amenity-rich areas as a broad and basic principle of housing equity. I will advocate for more funding for Burnaby from BC Housing, faster approvals for residential projects representing "missing middle" walk up housing, more accessible funding for nonprofit organizations to build, and partner with nonprofit organizations to build more affordable housing on underutilized provincially owned lands.

2) If elected, what resources would your party allocate to support people who are homeless and people at risk of homelessness access the health and support services they may need to gain or maintain their housing and quality of life?

In this time of unprecedented change, I believe it is imperative that everyone have a place to call home. We all need the stability, safety, and support that comes with knowing we have a place to rest our heads at night. Housing is a top priority for me, not only for the purpose of housing itself, but I also believe the "Housing First" model to be of significant value when addressing mental health and addictions. In saying that, the intersection between homelessness and mental health is a critical area of focus for the Green Party as well. Not only would the Green Party commit to ensuring that mental health supports are included in MSP for all, we would also commit to launching a new Rental Support Program which would be available to anyone subjected to paying more than 30% of their income on rent.

3) If elected what strategies and resources would your party commit to the prevention of homelessness amongst those at risk such as low income earners and people facing racial or cultural barriers?

This is a complex issue that deserves a complex response. However, in brief, some areas I would focus on are advocating for low-income housing to be built in amenity-rich and community-friendly locations. Often, the transit time and cost to/from work and other essential amenities creates unnecessary barriers for low-income earners to get to work, access mental health, education or employment supports, and other essential amenities (e.g., grocery stores, clinics, banks). In addition, isolation and loneliness

caused by living in an area with little to no community support can increase the risk of “falling through the cracks”. Many low-income earners rely on community support to maintain employment/education and even, to simply make trips to the grocery stores and clinics that so many of us take for granted. These are just some of the areas that I think would need to be addressed with further consultation being had with those impacted by such decisions.

4) What strategies and resources would your party commit to assist low income earners and people living in poverty overcome barriers such as to improve employment, better health and resource access?

The BC Greens have committed to a needs based subsidy for those who are spending more than 30% of their income on rent. We also recognize the ways in which mental health and homelessness are interlinked, and have proposed a \$1.0 billion dollar investment in the provincial mental health system, these mental health supports need to be in accessible locations near low-income housing. Furthermore, we recognize the impact that costly childcare options have on the poverty cycle, it is imperative that we look at ways to make childcare more accessible so people can afford to work.

5) If elected, what will your party do to ensure that Winter Shelters and warming centres are established this winter in Burnaby for local people who are experiencing homelessness?

When the NDP called the election they prevented local housing initiatives access to funding from BC housing until after the election was finalized in mid November. This is too late for many people living rough in Burnaby. As such, if elected, I will make this a priority and advocate for local organizations to immediately access funding for Winter Shelters.