

Tara shushtarian <bgp.tara@gmail.com>

To:

- Burnaby Homeless

Cc:

- Carol-Ann Flanagan;
- teresa.rossiello@outlook.com

Tue 10/11/2022 12:26 PM

Dear Carol and Teresa,

Thank you for your patience. We have been exhausted from running this campaign.

warm regards

Tara

1) If elected to Burnaby City Council, how will you ensure the increase of affordable housing for seniors, low-income residents, persons experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable members of our community?

Having been so closely associated with the BC Poverty reduction Coalition and knowing the value of what lived experience brings to the table, I would fast-track the creation of a **Burnaby Housing Authority** to work full-time on housing solutions for Burnaby. This Housing Authority would not only have housing advocates at the table, have a renter's advisory committee but also people living in transitional homes who are able to advocate for themselves. The Authority would be responsible for:

- Ensuring targets and timelines for projects to be completed.
- Maintaining support for Progressive Housing society's emergency shelter and the Dixon transition Home. Make provisions for setting up more shelters and transition homes as the need arises.
- Build more Co-ops. The federal government stopped building non-market housing in 1993 and the BC government in 2002. Burnaby has to rezone parcels of land for this type of development.
- All new multi-unit buildings regardless if they are rentals, condominiums, co-ops or low cost housing should be required to include a small percentage of

units that are accessible to seniors with mobility issues and people with physical disabilities.

- Create more subsidized housing in partnership with Federal and Provincial Funding
- Providing essential support for Working with City staff/city planners to help speed up development permits for all rental projects especially affordable purpose built rental units where you don't spend more than one third of the median household income on rent.
- Working closely with non-profits, the City, and other levels of government to build accessible and true "below market" rentals (not just decreasing the rent by \$200) on City land by way of 99 year leases.
- Considering whether it would be helpful to set up a Land Trust, reporting to City Council, that would provide assistance to the co-op and social housing sectors and some oversight of non-profit social housing societies.

1. Once the need for affordable housing is addressed, what is your plan to ensure this housing is sustainable and that resources are available to maintain an adequate quality of life for our most vulnerable .

- Make the Mayor and Council sign the Housing pledge to honor their commitment to end homelessness and reiterate housing as a human right.
- Direct staff to review recommendations from the BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) and organizations such as yours to find solutions to Burnaby's housing needs.
- Make sure organizations such as yours are given the opportunity to be regularly invited to give input to the Social Planning Committee of Burnaby Council.
- Ensure the housing authority which has advisory committees of people with diverse lived housing experience—renters, Co-op residents and subsidized housing residents are accommodated in an inclusive space to provide

continuous advice on policy and actions.

- BC needs to reintroduce *vacancy control*, which existed from 1974 to 1983. Vacancy control ties rent to the unit and means landlords can't hike the rent when a renter moves out and the tenancy turns over.
- Ensure rent supplement from BC Housing with the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) and the availability and services of the Rent bank.
- Provide access to the Poverty Law Advocacy Program
- Provides free legal information, advocacy, and representation to low-income people. The areas of law this program covers include welfare, CPP, OAS, GIS, tenancy issues, and debt. This can be done by way of providing services in city spaces like what ISS does with their tax clinics.
- Have more primary Care Networks (PCNs), find potential spaces and expand their presence and bring them closer to residents in need.
- Have regular wellness checks by social workers and medical practitioners for people facing addictions and mental illness.
- Work on food security and access to healthy food - such as creating more community garden spaces that donate produce to the food banks. Work with agricultural groups for community supported agriculture to help create a healthy food source. Access to community commercial kitchens in centers or other accessible sites to provide nutritious meals and a feeling of community.
- Free, clean public washrooms where you are not judged before entering a public facility.
- Increase and promote access for community social groups and interactions for those who are feeling alone. Healing circles to be able to provide support for grief addictions, violence and intergenerational trauma.

- After Housing, Transportation is another barrier to poverty. Provide free transit or subsidized bus passes to low income and under housed individuals.

b) Do you support Vacancy control? Why or Why not?

- Yes because without this a landlord can increase the rent between tenants without limit. Vacancy control would not only constrain rent increases overall, it would also cut out the possibility of renovations since rents cannot increase when a new tenant moves in. This has been done in Vancouver
- Housing affordability combined with the Low vacancy rate creates a situation where owners can displace low paying tenants and significantly increase the rents (Tyee). SRA Vacancy Control Policy in Vancouver slowed speculative investment, slowed rapidly rising rents in SRO buildings, and prevented tenant displacement.

2. What City Resources would you dedicate to the Extreme Weather Response programs

- More cooling centers in community centers and in public spaces. Allow under-utilized storage facilities to be hired from vendors.
- Any private buildings that are empty should be set up to serve as temporary cooling centers.
- There should be a lending library of fans and portable air conditioners for those who cannot access these. And for those with mobility issues a delivery service to set them up with a cooling device.
- Create some Mobile cooling centers to reach out to our most vulnerable –and those with mobility issues. Old buses can be used for this purpose.
- Free Transportation and Handy dart services to cooling centers.

- Heat management workshops before the onset of summer. Bringing portable air conditioning and fans to seniors in old rental buildings.
- There are some financial incentives from the federal and B.C government for installation of heat pumps but only for homeowners. There needs to be more rigorous steps taken to provide financial incentives for co-ops, townhomes, and rental units to develop a permitting process for installing heat pumps. This is an equity issue on who gets to remain cool or warm in the comfort of their own personal space.

3. If elected to Burnaby City Council, what city resources would you commit to ensure that Burnaby citizens who are food insecure are able to access the nutrition they need?

- More community gardens to grow one's own food and encourage large gardens to donate a portion of their healthy produce to food banks –to ensure people are getting the right nutrients.
- In our new community centers create commercial sized kitchens that can be used to create nutritious wholesome prepared meals for our most vulnerable, seniors, low income families, and children.
- Breakfast and lunch programs in schools that do not stigmatize. Being inclusive and welcoming to all and at the same time making sure our most vulnerable children have the nutrition they need.
- To ensure those who are food insecure are able to access the nutrition they need, we will increase outreach of the Meals on Wheels program and Better Meals for Nutritious and Affordable Food.
- Help Coordinate with the food banks and commercial grocers like Save On, Safeway etc to donate products that are reaching their best before date. Curtail the food wastage.
- Wherever there are vacant lots in the Big Bend Area, it needs to be preserved for agriculture. Small plots and farms can grow produce for vulnerable citizens at a low cost.
- Burnaby's big bend area is our agricultural area despite the small amount of farmland, it has the 3rd highest number of field vegetable farms in the GVRD

following Surrey and Delta.

- Increase the productivity of ALR Community Supported Agriculture “which directly connects consumers and producers to help create a more profitable and transparent local food system. This way we can develop a system to provide food security on an ongoing basis.”