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HOLIDAY EDITION 2024

North Vancouver Constituent Update

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## Report card on our accomplishments

The key reason most elected officials will tell you they ran for office is to make a difference. I've learned, as Member of Parliament for North Vancouver, that there is no shortage of opportunities – at multiple levels – to do just that.

**I reflect at this time of year on my impact, and how I am helping constituents to live well and contribute to a better Canada. That is my holiday wish for all of you.**

Over the past nine years, I have had the privilege of serving in several Cabinet roles that have enabled me to have an impact on pressing provincial, national and international issues.

My first priority has always been here in North Vancouver, advocating on behalf of the people who 'hired' me in the first place. As we move into the last year of the current Parliament, I want to provide a sort of 'report card' on what has been achieved during our mandate.

### MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS

There are, of course, a number of ways to measure impact. Perhaps the most gratifying type of impact lies within the realm of direct advocacy for constituents.

My constituency case files bear witness to the stories of thousands of individuals and families I and my staff have helped in dealing with bureaucracy, immigration issues, access to government services, housing and more. We've also gone to bat for many North Shore not-for-profits seeking help with federal funding. **I am convinced that my constituency office staff constitute perhaps the strongest team in all of Canada.**

### DIRECT BENEFITS

Another way to measure impact is to look at the direct benefits an MP brings to the riding. In this regard, I have worked very hard to solicit federal supports that respond to the priorities of North Vancouverites. A few examples of this local impact would include:

**Major economic investments** » \$21.9B in Coast Guard contracts to Seaspan Shipyards for vessels to renew our Coast Guard fleet, plus \$6B for two Royal Canadian Navy support ships. Seaspan is now the largest employer in North Vancouver.

**Housing** » \$135M for initiatives across the North Shore since 2020 plus \$18M to the City of North Vancouver this year through the Housing Accelerator Fund.

**Environment** » \$212.3M to the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant; nearly \$1M to the Seymour Salmonid Society for the Seymour River slide mitigation project; \$3M for local stewardship initiatives.



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**Transportation »** \$66.6M for the Lynn Valley Bridge replacement; \$21.9M for Lower Lynn Highway 1 improvements; \$16.1M for a third Seabus; \$20.5M for bus facilities and exchanges; \$200K contributed to the feasibility study for Rapid Transit to the North Shore.

**Reconciliation »** \$19M to the Squamish Nation for wastewater, housing, education, and infrastructure projects; \$413K to the Indian Residential School Survivors Society for commemoration and reconciliation projects.



Local impact is obviously critically important. But there are many issues of importance to North Vancouverites that lie beyond strictly local needs. Our relationship with the BC government and local Indigenous nations has remained fruitful and collaborative. I have been able to move many projects forward and contribute our fair share to an extensive list of projects.



Nationally and internationally, I have been involved in an enormous number of initiatives – too numerous to list here. We have been significantly involved in drafting and creating policy and practice in the critical minerals, nuclear and sustainable energy sectors, as well as guiding Canada’s response to international emergencies such as the invasion of Ukraine and the interruption of energy supply to many European countries.

There is no denying that our government has been working hard over the past nine years. I am undeniably proud of what we have accomplished, while navigating international crises, a pandemic, and affordability challenges closer to home.

As a nation, our economy is healthy, our culture is strong, and our future is bright. That is a very good footing on which to see out the old and ring in the New Year.

**WISHING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A  
SAFE AND PROSPEROUS HOLIDAY SEASON.**

## A friendly reminder: Electoral boundary changes come the next election

Every decade, the BC Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission undertakes a review of riding boundaries to ensure they reflect the evolving demographics of our communities. With the 2021 census revealing BC’s population has now exceeded five million, changes to these boundaries are essential to provide fair, effective representation for all residents.

Under the new map, the North Shore’s three ridings will see significant shifts to balance population density across the region. In North Vancouver, our riding will adjust westward, extending to 21st Street in West Vancouver (previously defined by the Capilano River) while parts of Lynn Valley will move into the Burnaby North-Seymour riding.

The eastern boundary will now align closely with North Vancouver City’s municipal line, running up Mountain Highway.

**When the next federal election is called, these adjustments will take effect, and our riding will take on a new name: North Vancouver-Capilano.**

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Until then, my office remains committed to representing all North Vancouver residents within the current boundaries. As our community grows, so too does our responsibility to adapt, ensuring we reflect the voices and values of everyone who calls North Vancouver home.

[Click here to view the map of the amended boundaries](#)



## Neighbours and friends

The United States is our largest trading partner and closest ally. We know each other reasonably well, but there are, at times, opportunities to get to know each other just a bit better. Over my years with the federal government, I have come to know the American Ambassador to Canada quite well – and this relationship has indeed enhanced my understanding of both our similarities and differences.

Similarly, folks in my constituency office recently became acquainted with Sung Choi, a member of the American consular staff here in Vancouver. Sung lived in North Vancouver for the past three years while he served as Foreign Service Officer with the US Department of State.

His team focused on political and economic developments within their jurisdiction, which includes BC and Yukon. One of the primary tasks during his time here has been supporting negotiations to modernize the Columbia River Treaty, crucial to the economies of the entire Pacific Northwest region. They also focused on growing the already strong cross-border trade and investment relationships between BC and neighbouring states.

Asked why North Vancouver, he responded, “There is an understanding that as a U.S. diplomat, I could serve

anywhere across the world; my family could join me depending on the circumstances. Luckily, most positions in Canada are for three years. Most of us assigned here would be happy to serve in Canada longer.”

**“My wife, our two daughters, and I have loved living in Canada. We felt at home the moment we arrived.”**

Sung emphasized that thoughtfulness characterizes most Canadians and their institutions. They were very grateful for the careful protocols in place and the availability of vaccine when they arrived during the height of the pandemic.

**“We benefited from living in a fantastic city and having great neighbours – sharing sidewalk snow removal, raking leaves together – I sensed a spirit of cohesiveness and responsibility from Day 1.”**

The family expressed their appreciation for local libraries; accessibility to recreational facilities such as Delbrook, Harry Jerome and Karen Magnussen, where the family swam and skated; great restaurants where he found the best sangak bread in North America; and a lively cultural life with theatre, music and art all within easy distance.



Like so many of us, he expressed his love of the outdoors and how easy it is to step into a green and quiet forest. “Norvan Falls, Bigfoot the Tree, Rice Lake, Fisherman’s Trail, the Grouse Grind – the list [of favourites] goes on.” Sung ran the Green Necklace regularly, as well as Mosquito Creek and other urban trails.

Sung and his family are now in Greece on their next assignment, but he says that it likely won’t hold a candle to their experience in North Vancouver. He promised he’d be back; the family want to see the new Harry Jerome Rec Centre, and visit friends, teachers, and coaches they came to really love during their assignment here.

Sung’s perception of North Vancouver – and Vancouver more generally – **brings home once again how fortunate we are to live in this beautiful, vibrant, community-oriented place.**



# Rising to the challenge of a changing environment

Having weathered heavy rains and flooding already this season, we are all more aware of the greater frequency with which extreme weather events impact us here, as well as in so many places across the country and around the world. The dramatic images from beautiful Jasper this summer were heart-wrenching reminders of the devastating impact that increasingly hot, dry summers can have on communities – from Fort MacMurray in 2016, to Lytton in 2021, to the many communities impacted by the record-breaking 2023 wildfire season.

For the remainder of the 2024 wildfire season, we managed reasonably well and despite what was a long, beautiful fall, we had enough precipitation to dampen down what was predicted to potentially be a challenging fire season. In this regard, we were fortunate.

**Wildfires have always occurred in Canada. What is new is their frequency and their intensity. And the science is clear – a root cause of this is our changing climate.**

## AN URGENCY TO ACT

Canadians expect their governments to act to address what is now and will be an increasing set of challenges due to climate change. At the federal level, my colleagues and I have been working urgently on proactive measures to reduce the risks of wildfires as well as reactive measures that will enable us to fight fires and protect lives and livelihoods. Wildfire management falls squarely in my ministerial mandate, and I take that challenge very seriously.

Recognizing that we'll have more intense wildfire seasons into the future, some of our proactive measures have included the development of a National Wildland Fire and Prevention Strategy, which includes broadening the implementation of programs like Firesmart.

Other measures include the federal government providing \$256M in funding to provinces and territories to acquire equipment needed to fight wildland fires and investing \$28M to train additional wildland firefighters. And we have initiated a program with the International Association of Fire Fighters to train municipal fire fighters to better manage threats in wildland-municipal interfaces.

**Climate change is a science issue.  
It truly should not be a partisan issue.**

## ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES

Beyond measures to address immediate threats, we must also address the root causes of increasing fire activity and other disastrous impacts of extreme weather events.

In 2023, lightning-related fires represented 90% of the total area burned across Canada (even though they represented only 59% of all fires initiated). This fact underlines how weather events – combined with climate impacts such as increased temperatures, increasingly dry year-round conditions and reduced snowpack - are elevating the threat, risks and costs associated with forest fire activity.

Canada presently has one of the most comprehensive climate plans in the world and is on track to reduce carbon emissions by 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030. And we are doing this in a manner that will allow us to seize the economic opportunities that can come through the transition to a low carbon future. In this regard, we are doing our part to mitigate climate change, but given the impacts we are seeing from fires, floods and storms, we must act with enhanced urgency.

**Climate change is a science issue. It truly should not be a partisan issue.** For the sake of our environment, our communities and, indeed, the long-term competitiveness of Canada's economy, we must take bold action on climate change – which means proactive measures in the face of extreme weather and the conditions that erupt as a result.

Canadians should be demanding a grown-up, thoughtful conversation as to how our governments can effectively respond to the increasing challenges we face. As the effects of climate change are felt ever closer to home – flooding in Deep Cove and washouts in Lynn Valley in October and November during atmospheric rivers – **we must act with decisiveness and data to both protect our communities and to mitigate the impacts of climate change.**



# A young Canadian’s pledge to preserve the stories of North Shore seniors

**Meet Bonnie Li – a remarkable 16-year-old member of my Constituency Youth Council and a Grade 11 student at Mulgrave School.** With a passion for singing, theatre, basketball, and nature, Bonnie embodies a love for the arts and her community. Having immigrated from Beijing in Grade 5 with her family, Bonnie also recently celebrated a major milestone –becoming a Canadian citizen this past summer.

Years ago, during a piano lesson with teacher Annabelle Paetsch, she was encouraged to connect with some local seniors. This advice led Bonnie to begin playing piano for residents at Westerleigh Retirement Home. What started as a musical engagement quickly turned into something much deeper.

While volunteering, Bonnie was fascinated by the life stories of Westerleigh’s residents. Their experiences reflected the richness of Canadian heritage, and she felt inspired to document their stories to share with the wider community.

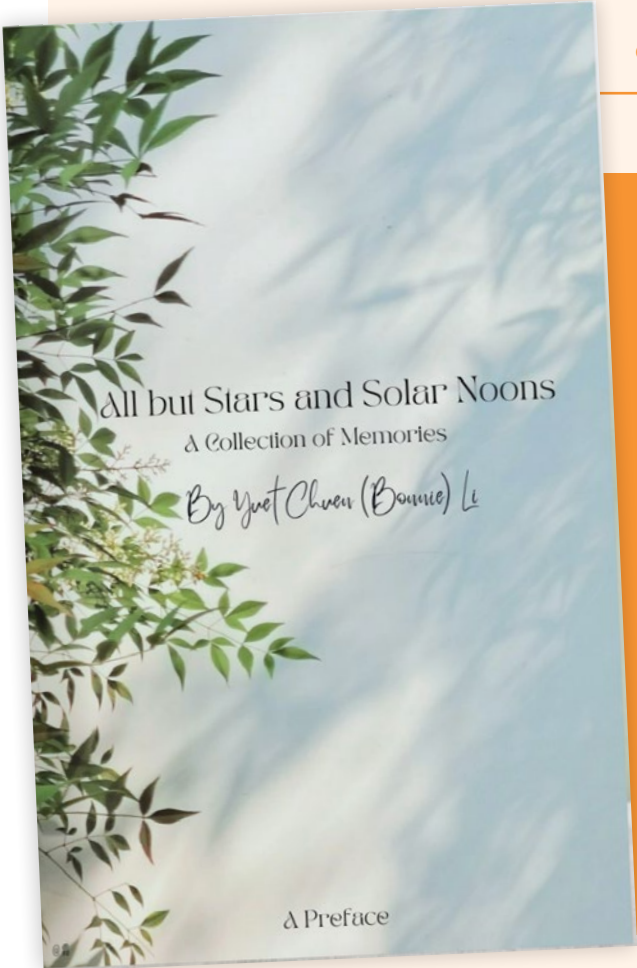
Over time, Bonnie interviewed 20+ residents, listening to their extraordinary lives and how they found their way to the North Shore. From surviving the Holocaust to navigating the early days of the oil industry, their stories captured a broad range of Canada’s history and resilience.

**[Click here to read the stories of residents like Nora Coates, Mary McLeod, Nevis Maric, Eva Solt, Mary Leathley, and David McDonald as documented by Bonnie.](#)**



Driven by her desire to preserve these valuable stories, Bonnie compiled them into a document that allows others to appreciate the lives of our senior citizens, “All but Stars and Solar Noons.” Bonnie feels it’s crucial to reflect on the histories of those who came before us, to remember the roots that shaped Canada into the diverse and vibrant country it is today. Her dream is to one day turn these stories into a film, immersing audiences in the remarkable lives of the past.

Bonnie Li’s commitment to preserving the legacy of Canada’s elders not only connects her with her community but inspires us all to remember, reflect, and honor the incredible journeys that form the fabric of our country.



“Stars and solar noons are essences so elusive yet eternal. It gives the sense of a journey chasing something: stars, which are distant and mysterious, and solar noons, representing the brief moment when the sun is at its highest point. I felt a deep connection between that and the stories of these elders in the community. These people were chasing the fleeting "stars and solar noons", which symbolize the course of their life and their future. However, from a retrospective perspective now, they may no longer be able to or have the time to keep on "chasing" these new life adventures. Still, just like the stars and solar noons in a day's cycle, their stories will remain eternal and remembered and pursued by readers through the documentation.”

– Bonnie Li, on why she chose the title All but Stars and Solar Noons for the project.

# In the spirit



It's giving season and we want to be generous, thoughtful and green as we gather gifts for loved ones. Metro Vancouver has a great campaign called "Create memories, not garbage" that I recommend for creative ideas to make lasting impressions without breaking the bank or adding more waste.

Best of the season to everyone!

- **Shared time is a gift.**  
Cook with your kids, teach a friend to knit, play board games, do a scavenger hunt or share listening to some favourite music.
- **Try making your own cards with recycled materials –**  
you'd be surprised how simple it can be with some coloured paper, old book cut-outs, pictures from magazines and a bit of glue.
- **Locally sourced, small craft items** help the makers and the local economy, as well as being unique. Create a gift from a family heirloom, frame a favourite photo, or a make what will be a treasured playlist.
- **Consider how you wrap your gifts, too.**  
Use flyers, newspapers, or fabric like table napkins.



## In The Community



Welcoming back the COHO Festival at Ambleside

### Impressive tour of the Arnold Waller SAR Base



Growth and sustainability at Capilano University

### Canada Dental Care Plan visit to Lonsdale Place Dental Centre



### Passing the torch – Nanette Taylor & Mark Friesen at Hollyburn Community Services



Good health, good food, good friends –  
Happy Holidays from all of us here to you and yours.



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