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Constituent Update



NV Arts Council
Artist: Marilynn Tebbit

Why North Shore non-profits need us now

Every day, my constituency team and I meet people whose lives are touched by the North Shore’s extraordinary non-profit service organizations.

AN ABUNDANCE OF CARE

Whether it’s a parent finding support at Family Services of the North Shore, a teen in crisis receiving housing through Hollyburn Community Services, a senior connecting with Silver Harbour, or a newcomer learning English at Impact North Shore – these groups, and many more, form an invisible web of care that strengthens our entire community.

But if there’s one thing our office has heard repeatedly, it’s that while never more needed, non-profits have never been more strained. This is backed up by a new report from the BC Non-Profit Network.

Stretched Thin: 2025 State of BC’s Non-profit Sector report confirms what local organizations have been telling us for months: demand for community programs is soaring. On the North Shore, this means more families seeking housing supports, more seniors needing help to stay connected, and more residents turning to food banks and meal programs. Across B.C., nearly nine in ten non-profits say community need now exceeds their capacity to respond – a record high.

While pressures mount, revenues have not kept pace. Organizations face flat or declining donations, rising administrative costs, and escalating wages to keep dedicated staff from burning out.

One in three non-profits in BC now doubts its sustainability beyond the next year. Smaller community-based groups are especially vulnerable. Many have frozen hiring, trimmed services, and are relying on smaller, exhausted teams of workers and volunteers to do more with less.

Our local experience bears this out. We regularly meet non-profit directors juggling grant applications late into the night or diverting program dollars to cover rent, insurance, or staff retention. These organizations are the connective tissue of our community, yet those who hold them together are stretched to the breaking point.

SUSTAINING OUR SOCIAL FABRIC

As we enter the giving season, it’s worth remembering that the strength of our social fabric depends on each of us. Ahead of the holiday season, many non-profits secure the donations that sustain them through the year. If you are able, consider a North Shore organization close to your heart. A small monthly gift, a few volunteer hours, or a contribution to a community drive can make a lasting difference.

The North Shore has always been defined by compassion and engagement. Let’s honour the organizations that hold us together – and ensure that those who care for the most vulnerable have the support they need.

Wishing all our constituents peace and good will this holidays, with strength and compassion to carry forward into a new and promising year.



Congestion relief for the North Shore? Prescribing Bus Rapid Transit

The Metrotown-North Shore Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project is a critical and transformative step for residents of the North Shore to help break free from the chronic congestion that often defines the daily bridge commute and clogs our local streets.

As Member of Parliament for North Vancouver-Capilano, I have heard from countless residents frustrated with the gridlock and yearning for real solutions. The answer is clear: bold, effective investments in rapid transit can truly unlock our region's potential and improve day-to-day quality of life for both those living on the Shore, and people who have to drive to work here each day.

WHY BRT IS THE RIGHT MOVE

Traditional transit options, even with recent upgrades, have not been able to draw enough drivers out of their cars, leaving us stuck in a cycle of congestion. While the prospect of SkyTrain extending to the North Shore remains a goal for the future, it's several years away. BRT, however, gives us a near-term, game-changing upgrade: dedicated transit lanes running between Metrotown and Park Royal, bypassing bottlenecks and offering fast, frequent service every five minutes at peak – rain or shine.

This isn't just another bus.

International best practice will guide this line's design: larger, comfortable, fully accessible buses every five minutes at peak times, sheltered and secure stations with next-bus digital info, and transit signal priority that lets vehicles glide through intersections. These features put BRT nearly on par with rail for convenience, reliability, and ride experience – raising the bar for what public transit can and should deliver on the North Shore.



TURNING AMBITION INTO REALITY

Scheduled for a 2027 launch, the project still faces its most daunting test: funding. With an estimated construction cost of \$400 million, and just a portion of that in place, we can't afford to let this project stall for lack of federal, provincial and municipal support.

All three North Shore MPs are committed to press the federal government to make Metro Vancouver's unique transportation needs a funding priority. This means not only securing investment in Ottawa but also making a compelling case nationally that North Shore congestion isn't just our headache – it's an economic and environmental bottleneck for the entire region.

POLITICAL PARTNERSHIP VITAL

Delivering BRT on time will demand every level of government working together – TransLink, municipal councils, provincial partners, and, yes, Ottawa. For elected representatives, that means not just championing this project behind closed doors, but being out in the community, listening, and communicating the environmental, economic, and quality-of-life benefits that BRT will bring.

Recent public consultations show strong momentum, but North Shore residents must continue to make their voices heard to build a rock-solid mandate for this project.

BRT is not a distant "nice to have" but an urgent necessity – one within our grasp, if we insist that governments work together and get it done. Let's seize this opportunity.



A Federal budget for a rapidly changing, uncertain world

The first budget of the Carney Liberal government – introduced on November 4th – is not just a set of numbers or distant policies. It is a coherent strategy for navigating turbulent times and building the kind of resilient, ambitious Canada we can all believe in.

Its introduction speaks succinctly to our challenges:

“The world is changing, profoundly and in real time; we are no longer living in an era of calm, but of significant change. The nexus between energy security, economic security and national security is clearer than before.”

The systems that long underpinned our prosperity and enabled decades of economic growth – stable global trade alliances, predictable supply chains, a cooperative international order, and reliable partnerships – are being redrawn and constantly changed.

What we are contending with is not a transition, it is a generational shift. One that challenges our assumptions, tests our institutions and demands a fundamentally different response – not one of caution, but courage. Not one of passive stewardship, but of active, ambitious nation-building.”

It should not, therefore, come as a surprise that this budget is largely economically focused. It is an investment budget taking account of challenging geopolitics and building a more resilient Canada over the medium term – while looking to address pressing near-term domestic issues such as housing.

From my perspective, the budget is a reasonable economic response to what is an enormous set of economic challenges. Since it was introduced, its economic elements have been seen as positive by most observers – including the bond markets.

The larger deficit figure is indeed a concern; it will be important that the government deliver on commitments regarding fiscal anchors over the coming few years.

The climate-related portions of the budget may be disappointing for those who feel strongly about these issues. While overall reaffirming a commitment to address climate change, some adjustments to existing climate policy threaten to take Canada further away from achievement of its 2030 emissions goals. However, folks should recognize that the section in the budget that deals with climate is not our climate plan; it is intended to speak to how addressing climate change can enhance economic competitiveness.

Those for whom the climate issue is important – very much including me – will be looking for a more fulsome update and potentially new initiatives by year-end when the government brings forward the report required of it under the Net Zero Accountability Act.

Key areas of focus in this Budget are:

Building Economic Strength and Resilience

The US tariffs imposed by President Trump will cost our economy approximately 1.8% of GDP – \$50B over the next few years. We cannot control what the President does, but we can shape our own path; this budget is designed to do just that.

It includes a Strategic Response Fund and targeted support for sectors uniquely exposed to trade disruptions. Producers – including small and medium-sized businesses – will get help realigning for domestic and global markets; the forest sector will receive funding for stabilization and market diversification; and there’s a focused plan to reskill up to 50,000 workers across the country.

Tax changes contained in the budget that enable rapid write-offs of capital investment are meant to jumpstart productivity and investment in machinery and innovation. The new Critical Minerals Sovereign Fund and expanded clean energy tax credits promise fresh growth for high-potential industries.

Representing North Vancouver-Capilano, I see particular value in the commitment to double non-US exports over the next decade – and the \$5B earmarked for transportation infrastructure can directly help local rail and port projects.

There is also a clear federal Buy Canadian policy that will steer project and infrastructure spending to Canadian suppliers – good news for businesses here in BC.

Canada’s defence and security commitments – \$30B over five years – will enable us to meet NATO requirements and strengthen domestic capabilities, and our economy.



Addressing Housing and Infrastructure

Affordable housing is a priority for folks who live on the North Shore, including me. The budget funds a new Build Canada Homes agency that aims to double the rate of home construction, restore affordability, and take meaningful steps to end homelessness.

Cutting the GST entirely for first-time buyers purchasing homes under \$1M, and reducing it for homes up to \$1.5M, as this budget does, responds directly to rising costs in our region.

The investments in housing are paired with a \$51B commitment, spread over a decade, for local infrastructure: transit, water treatment and healthcare - foundational services our growing communities need that help enable accelerated housing construction. Many of you have spoken to me about transit and hospital upgrades, investments that make a real difference.

Making Life More Affordable

The budget also targets other aspects of affordability beyond housing. The tax cut that came into effect on July 1 will save a typical two-income household up to \$840 a year. The National School Food Program is being made permanent to ensure we provide essential support for families. And henceforth, there will be automatic tax filing and delivery of federal benefits to ensure these reach millions of lower-income Canadians. These are practical steps that help real people, week in and week out.

Responsible Fiscal Management

Many Canadians will have questions about the deficit – and this year’s \$78B figure is significant. But this deficit is the result of deliberate investment in the reorienting of the Canadian economy. It is not unchecked spending on government programming.

The budget introduces a new capital budgeting framework that separates day-to-day government costs from long-term investment – a modern approach that’s overdue. Across government, we’ve found \$60B in operating efficiencies over five years, and there’s a clear plan to balance operational spending within three years. That means future deficits will be tied exclusively to major capital investments—choices that build Canada’s future.

Folks should also be reassured by the fact that Canada’s net debt-to-GDP ratio is the best in the G7, and by our continued AAA credit rating – which is something only we and Germany possess. These metrics show that, even as we invest, we remain on solid fiscal ground – enabling us to act in challenging times.



Climate Action—Steady, but Not Central

As a former Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I am acutely aware of the importance of climate policy. While the budget reaffirms the government’s ongoing commitment to clean energy tax credits and methane emissions regulations, I acknowledge that the economic urgency of this moment has taken centre stage. I will be watching for more robust action in the upcoming Net Zero Accountability report. Climate is an area where I believe we will need to do more moving forward.



The Bottom Line

In the end, I see this budget as a thoughtful and necessary response to unprecedented economic challenges. It is about investing in people, communities, and the future to build a more resilient and ultimately a stronger Canada.

It’s not just me who sees merit in this direction. The International Monetary Fund’s managing director, Kristalina Georgieva, recently described Canada’s decisive actions and investments in housing, infrastructure, and energy as “the right choices.”

Such recognition, from important voices outside our borders, should provide confidence that we are indeed on the right path.

Farewell, not goodbye, to Judith Hardcastle – another kind of minister

For more than 14 years, Reverend Judith Hardcastle has been a steady and compassionate presence at St. Andrew's United Church in North Vancouver. Since stepping into her role as minister in January 2012, Judith has helped shape St. Andrew's into a vibrant community hub grounded in service, connection, and care – celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Judith is soon retiring from her role as leader of the St. Andrew's congregation.



POWERFUL COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

Throughout her ministry in North Vancouver, Judith immersed herself in outreach initiatives extending far beyond the church walls, including the North Shore Homelessness Task Force and the North Shore Community Resources' North Shore Volunteer. Under her leadership, the church expanded its outreach to support individuals completing community service hours and strengthened its partnership with local agencies.

One of the most pressing challenges Judith has witnessed is the growing need for affordable housing. St. Andrew's works closely with Lookout Housing Society to provide shelter from October to April—an effort supported wholeheartedly by the congregation. For Judith, these acts of care reflect the church's calling: supporting people where they are, with compassion and dignity.

St. Andrew's is known for its lively and innovative community activities. The annual Teddy Bear Picnic has brought together people of all ages (and their teddy bears) to St. Andrew's Park for fun, food and entertainment. In July, North Shore kids from ages 6–11, gather at the church each day to experience the amazing Camp Spirit. On Christmas Eve, parents and little ones gather in the Sanctuary for an afternoon party to celebrate the birth of the Christ child with lively carols and a birthday cake!

St. Andrew's also introduced a very popular beehive project a few years ago, hosting 30,000 bees located at one side of the church, expanding its community gardens from four plots to nineteen, and hosting alternative music events year-round—initiatives that earned St. Andrew's community recognition.

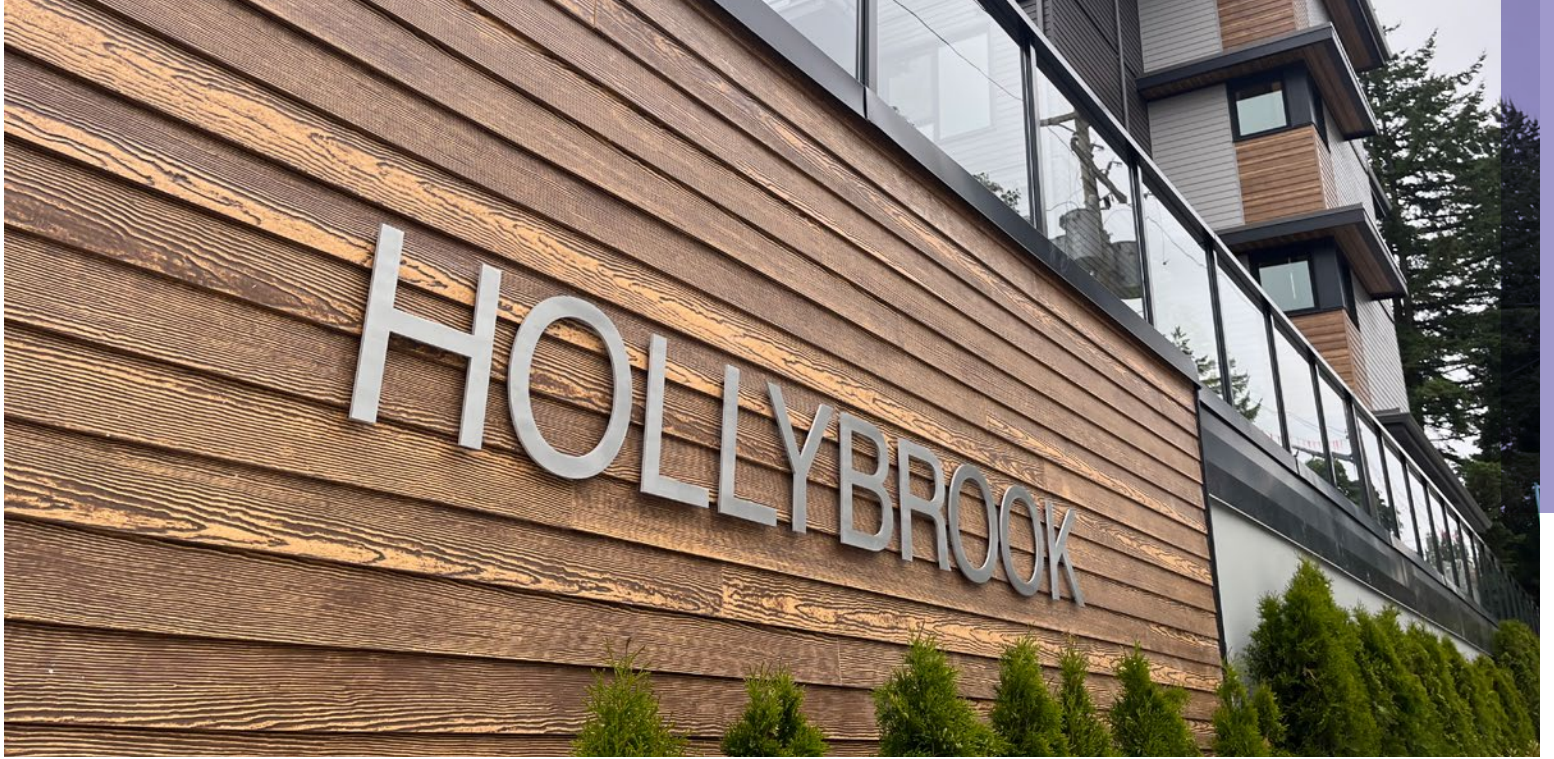


MESSAGE OF CARE AND CONNECTION

Judith speaks fondly of the moments of connection that have shaped her years at St. Andrew's. After retiring in March, she'll continue living and volunteering in North Vancouver. We thank Judith for her care and service.

In return, she asks that we respect all religions and faith communities at Christmas, and throughout the year.

“Ultimately, we are all called to love, to forgive, and to care for each other...”



Some good news for housing on the North Shore

In recent months, Hollyburn Community Services Society and North Shore Neighbourhood House have helped move the needle on affordable housing.

Morningstar House, a new seniors' safe house, provides eight vulnerable elders with stable shelter and wraparound supports as they transition to permanent housing. Through the federal government's Reaching Home program, Hollyburn has received \$400,000 to support Morningstar and other seniors' services – helping more than 200 at-risk seniors every year.

A further upcoming major milestone is the 120 St. Georges Avenue development in the City of North Vancouver. Supported by \$84.7M from the federal Affordable Housing Fund, this 18-storey mixed-use project, managed by North Shore Neighbourhood House, will deliver 179 new homes, with 54 units rented below 80% of market rates.

With onsite childcare, community services, and a neighbourhood hub, this building will strengthen the community far beyond its housing impact. Completion is expected in November 2028.

These types of projects are consistent with the federal government's efforts to accelerate housing development and enhance affordability. Federal measures, including several announced in the recent Budget will help communities like ours build more housing, more quickly, with the services needed to support growing neighbourhoods.

The North Shore is fortunate to have organizations like Hollyburn Community Services Society and North Shore Neighbourhood House – partners who understand local needs and deliver programs with compassion and vision.



Hollyburn has also delivered Hollybrook, an 86-unit affordable housing project that grew from a decade of leadership, advocacy, and collaboration. From early CMHC seed funding to major provincial contributions and district partnership, Hollybrook stands as a powerful example of what can be achieved when all levels of government work hand-in-hand with committed community leaders.

By working collaboratively across all levels of government, we can continue making real progress and ensure that everyone in our community has a safe, affordable place to call home.

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!

Congratulations to NV Chamber award winners



Sharing the bounty of the season

In The Community

Visiting Hydron Energy's assembly operation



Celebrating the Launch Pad at Bodwell High School

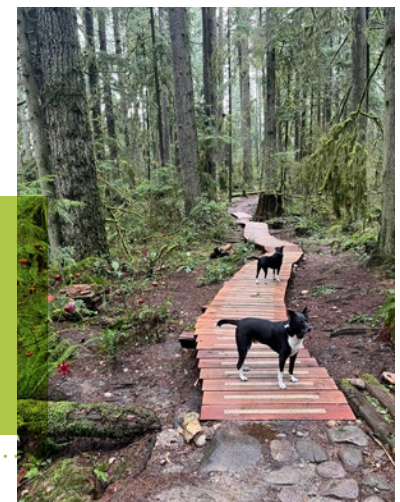


Catching up with Hyfluence Systems' Angela Das

Launching the Offshore Oceanographic Science Vessel at Seaspan





Enjoying the tranquility of North Shore trails



May calm and peace fill your holidays this year.
Health and happiness to all.



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