



BURNABY COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

ABOUT THE BURNABY COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

The Burnaby Community Assembly is a broadly representative group of 42 residents selected by civic lottery to create recommendations for Burnaby's Official Community Plan under the guiding question:

How should Burnaby grow and change by 2050 to create a city where everyone can thrive?

The Assembly will present its recommendations to City Council, who is responsible for final approval of the Official Community Plan. The City of Burnaby has committed to receive and respond to the Assembly's recommendations, ensuring the process is transparent and accountable.

Funding partners include the City of Burnaby, Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue and Vancity, as well as a generous contribution from an anonymous donor. The Assembly is also supported by the Civic Innovation Lab and a financial contribution from the Renovate the Public Hearing Initiative. For this project, the Centre for Dialogue has full editorial autonomy from its partners and funders in running the Burnaby Community Assembly.

To learn more about the Assembly, visit burnabyassembly.ca

FEEDBACK FROM APRIL 9 BIG IDEAS WORKSHOP



At the April 9 **Big Ideas Public Workshop**, we asked Burnaby residents: *“What’s your 1 Big Idea for the Burnaby Community Assembly to consider? (Big Ideas are actions Burnaby can take on growth, livability and housing).”*

Below are listed all the Big Ideas collected at this workshop, sorted into themes.

1. Neighbourhood Forms

- Mixed zoning - in neighbourhood convenience/grocery stores (not currently permitted bc of zoning) this would minimize the need for people to drive to a major grocery store, add a level of convenience for residents & increase sense of community.
- Neighbourhood pub/restaurants/cafe (again not permitted under current zoning).
- Encourage access to local, small-scale businesses + shops within neighbourhoods to create individual character + identities + to support local economies + access.
- Develop more amenities (e.g. childcare / daycare / community centres) in high-density areas in Burnaby (Brentwood, Lougheed, etc.).
- Build: Diverse community hubs based around amenities such as community centres and shopping that encourages people to walk, sit, meet, play in their neighbourhoods.
- Ensure people have access to safe, walkable amenities, so we can reduce reliance on cars. I.e. Access to affordable daycare / childcare within walking distance.
- Distribute different types of housing wisely across Burnaby with proper amenities (parks, community centre, school) and infrastructure.
- Develop a more balanced density plan. Create & implement intergenerational activities & spaces.
- Design spaces just to hang out and socialize, with an open space like a "plaza" for entertainment too. The city does not provide some fun after 9:00p.m. Social time saves time going to the psychologist.
- Preserve community-centred neighbourhoods.

2. Street Experiences

- Create pedestrian-only streets.
- Have a Pedestrian Only Zone in Metrotown between Wilson Ave and Royal Oak Ave. Develop some character streets. Coffee / restaurant, diversity specific, themed shopping. More art displays.
- Create elevated pedestrian walkways especially at the mall.
- Close off Halifax Street to cars - between Madison & Willingdon to make a pedestrian walkway parkway.
- Build more coverings (roofs, trees etc.) for supporting walkability in rain season.
- At all crossing signals, crosswalks, have modernized pedestrian push buttons with audible feedback. Install tactical walking surface indicators at crossings.
- Implement a new warning signal system to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety. The system is expected to be school-kids friendly and disabled people accessible.
- Accessible sidewalks - I complained about this a few years back and at the (then) current rate of replacement/upgrade, it will take something like 25 years for our neighbourhoods to become accessible. This is shameful. We need to do better to keep aging people in their homes and enable people with mobility devices or limitations to remain or become active. This was also super annoying as a mom pushing a stroller down Nelson for example where it's a long street with many feeder streets and virtually no curb cuts.
- Increase the width of sidewalks for both pedestrians + cyclists & keep road traffic separate.
- Invest in a safe, robust active transportation network where pedestrians + cyclists are separated from traffic. Wide pathways, proper lighting, etc.
- Designated bike lanes (with barrier!!!) I bike with 2 kids in tow and we almost get hit at least a few times a week. People are bad drivers and biking in BC is not safe. More bike lanes and not just painted bikes on main roads in shared lanes. It's terrifying riding on Kingsway, 22nd, 29th or Boundary - there's no real path across town (E W).
- Build bike escalator in hilly area.
- Multi-modal transport other than car. Over the highways. Avoid traffic.

- Council to implement a meaningful Vision Zero Plan as per the 2021 Enacted Transport Plan to reduce road crashes.
- Reduce / remove all street parking over 5-10 years. Extra lane for active transit.
- More free parking by SkyTrain & city streets. Seniors like to take public transit but parking have limits in time.
- Invest in cheap parking or free parking near Skytrain stations, thus encouraging more people using rapid transit.
- Develop multi-story parking space in central station area.
- Allow ample parking with extra rental suites for residential zoned homes.

3. Community Amenities, Facilities and Services

- More daycare.
- Provide more hospitals, fire depts., police.
- Build / develop / improve community centres with park / playing field, children playground, integrate park / green space with new housing communities.
- More natural playscapes in playground/parks - upgrade dinky parks that don't entertain kids past age 4 for more elaborate and multi-age play structures (think Mundy park) and basketball courts etc. where feasible.
- Leverage existing community assets.
- Build a Burnaby National Exhibition, Wonderland / Disneyland.
- Support independent businesses. Keep public spaces. Support and invest in seniors. Services. Housing. Medical.
- Upgrade main roadways / public transit connecting busy hubs within Burnaby and elsewhere. Kingsway near Metrotown.
- Build a bridge from Burnaby <-> Richmond.
- Develop better transit planning for existing and new town zoning. More Handy Dart.
- Building a new SkyTrain line from SFU to Royal Oak station and south to Richmond / Delta.

- SkyTrain connector between Metrotown and Brentwood - Willingdon is a nightmare and only going to get worse but there's no convenient way to travel between the 2 "downtowns".
- I have an idea that can increase bus (at rush hour) service by about 17% and it would take 5 days to get up and running, but apparently I'm at the wrong place. So, turn on all the water fountains.

4. Housing Types

- Reduce construction of high rises.
- Build truly an affordable mix of housing types with some character! (not just concrete towers!)
- RECONSIDER re-development of old building / apartments.
- Burnaby should require developers to build local, comparable replacement housing for existing residents to move into before their rental home is demolished.
- Build the "missing middle" mid-rise developments.
- Allow Multiplex / Rowhouses throughout the City. Speed & volume at the same time. Affordability.
- Request design submissions of inter / national origin for much increased (but not high rise) density for healthier communities.
- Develop a more uniform and fair approach to residential house design, single family and multi-family.
- Plan more variety & types of housing / infrastructure to increasing housing affordability and better community freedom to choose not force.
- Implement provincial guidelines for density (4 to 6 units / single family residential lot) in a phased manner such that infrastructure can be developed in an efficient manner i.e. in specific focused areas rather than scattered throughout.
- Build affordable housing, small units, 4, 6 story mandatory.
- Develop city-owned high density, affordable and/or rent controlled housing.
- Increase the number of affordable housing focusing on low income areas like Edmonds; our needs might be different than other areas.

- Increase purpose-built rental, non-market + market housing near transit hubs.
- Ensure affordable housing is accessible to all.
- To build affordable houses for young generation.
- Support and make the rent of houses more reasonable and affordable.
- Reduce the time & cost of permits & development of housing in BBY. Too much red tape & time! It's not a new idea.
- Allow option for natural gas rough-in not just all electric systems. This is a monopoly for one utility provider. Can charge whatever they want.

5. Resilience to Climate Change Impacts and Growth

- Designate a mall as a "Resiliency Hub" with flex space to gather in extreme weather, spaces for dialogue, cooling centres, food bank drop-off.
- Re-design our malls to be refuges from heat dome, snowstorms etc. for everyday folks.
- Build infrastructure that will keep up with the growth of our city (like schools, sewer, hospitals).
- "Innovation" - Take action on the rise or growing population that cause housing issues.
- Climate-centred approaches.
- Adopt a '7 generation lens' for all plans & decisions: expand possibility through imagination - how will this impact people, children, nature 7 generations from now? What throughline connects us now + 7 generations as people before + after?
- Please consider creating a "Futures Commissioner" like they have in Wales. All big initiatives would have to be submitted to the Futures Commissioner for their feedback + recommendations on whether the initiative will be good for 50 years in the future / is it the best option for future generations? (it is like the 7 generations concept)

6. Green Spaces and Urban Agriculture

- Strengthen our parks, conservation and green spaces.
- Preserve existing green spaces + parks.
- Improve existing green spaces that are currently overrun with invasive species especially areas that are unlikely to be developed (e.g. large patches of blackberries along Southridge Dr).
- IMPROVE access to green spaces.
- Create more green spaces that are accessible for all users.
- Burnaby government can plan more space for constructing the park because the density of population is big and there are more and more babies born in Burnaby, so they need suitable place to play.
- Increase & improve quality & number of green spaces in this city: ✓ climate resilience. ✓ urban cooling. ✓ biodiversity. ✓ connectivity. ✓ ecosystem services.
- Implement programs / bylaws to plant more trees / greenery with NEW developments -> similar to law with public art in Vancouver.
- Incentivize & support the inclusion of green space on property, such as trees, plants, green walls, etc.
- Invest more money to ensure SkyTrain stations and malls have tree canopy & green space as central focus.
- Plant diversity for tree planting - yes we all love cherry blossoms but ornamental cherry trees don't grow very large and don't have the most robust canopy.
- Create community gardens in public spaces. Also have development projects implement community gardens for those that live there.
- Planting of edible trees/plants in public landscapes and encouragement of urban gardens both community and private (food security).

7. Community Engagement and Supports

- Make people of Burnaby more aware of ways they can be more engaged in the community: newsletters to homes, community notice boards, email subscribe, community events.



- Empower citizens to act as leaders to create community space to discuss, love and collide.
- Develop + plan micro meeting micro (OCP). i.e. Burnaby Heights, Lougheed Town Ctr, Brentwood Town Ctr, Metrotown Ctr, Edmonds Town Ctr.
- Data to understand which community wants what. Data to present results.
- Encourage people work in health care, architecture, semi-skilled area.
- Implement a Universal Basic Income Program. Even a small monthly amount has been shown to vastly improve quality of life and revitalize communities + local economies.
- Strengthen the support of immigration.
- More landlord support.
- Reciprocal partnerships.

PHOTOS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKSHOP

