

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Kerry Morris Announces Candidacy For Mayor - City of North Vancouver**

NORTH VANCOUVER – Kerry Morris today announced his intention to run as a candidate for Mayor in the City of North Vancouver in the upcoming November 2014 municipal elections.

*“My goal is to begin a process of cost containment designed to lower taxes, improve the competitive standing of our business community; and return the City to a more affordable family environment, which is both safe and attainable for all those City residents who live here, or wish to,”* said Morris.

When questioned about his position on the current pace of densification, Morris replied:

*“We seem to be fixated on growing the City to absorb people who don’t live here, at the expense and quality of life of those who do. We need to refocus our concerns and efforts on making North Vancouver a better and more cost effective place to live for our existing residents. They are our primary concern. They vote us into public office. We answer to them, not Metro Vancouver!”*

Asked to comment on the challenges facing the City’s commercial businesses, Morris said:

*“As a result of the rapid pace of re-development, many of the City’s long standing businesses have been driven from the community or have folded. They simply don’t have the ability to pay rent increases as high as 400 per cent and survive.”*

He went on to say:

*“The opportunities available to entrepreneurs, whose activities are the life blood of our City, are quickly shrinking. The capacity of the market to pay the prices that businesses require in order to remain viable is not limitless. People only have so much disposable income. After that they have to cut back, and re-focus their spending on essentials.”*

When asked to provide examples of the kinds of costs that cut into the disposable spending power of North Vancouver City residents, Morris answered:

*“The City has increased municipal utility fees by 9 per cent this year. My own 2014 annual utility bill is \$682. As approved, the plan will cause everyone’s utility bill to increase by 9 per cent each year for the next nine years. Single-family homeowners will go from paying \$682 to paying \$1,482 in 2023. The City’s utility bill is going up by \$4,107 over the next 10 years. I can think of a lot of better ways to spend \$4,107, can’t you?”*

The marketing plan of U.S. consultant Roger Brooks is rumoured to include another attempt at establishing a Business Improvement Area (or “BIA”) tax, which is proposed to be in addition to the current municipal tax payable by each property owner. Mayor Mussatto’s ‘candidate-slate’ has made it clear they intend to download more City costs, through a BIA taxation structure, onto the backs of local businesses, making their survival even more challenging.

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*"Look around, what you see are more and more vacancies and "For Lease" signs. Well-known real estate agent Terry Thies recently told council; "...the City has enough commercial space sitting idle right now to meet its needs for the next 10 years, ..based on current absorption rates..." . If that's true, why are we developing more commercial space and forcing long-standing businesses out of affordably priced units?"* Morris asked.

Morris has pledged on his website to slow down the pace of re-development by reining in density bonusing and forcing developers to make provisions for displaced businesses and residential tenants.

*"If developers are forced to treat businesses and residents fairly by covering their moving costs out and back and by providing each with a first right of refusal to return to the new space in the re-developed buildings at rent levels which take the rate-shock out of the equation, perhaps they will be better corporate citizens and more responsive to our community's residents,"* Morris said.

Morris stated that in his opinion, Mayor Darrell Mussatto and councillors Keating and Buchanan have become obligated to say yes to every development proposal, because they have taken money from so many of those same developers during the last election cycle. Morris went on to say:

*"Mayor Mussatto takes money from these people, then sits in judgment of their rezoning application and, no matter how much the community opposes these developments, he votes in favour of the campaign donor's application. Yet he says he is not in a conflict of interest! Well I disagree. It's as if council votes have been sold for campaign donations,"* Morris said.

For more information on Kerry Morris' platform, go to his website at: <http://kerrymorris.ca> .

To contact the Campaign to Elect Kerry Morris Mayor, email: [kerry.morris@shaw.ca](mailto:kerry.morris@shaw.ca) or write:

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Or call: Kerry Morris (778) 847-1249.

**Get Out And Vote !**  
**Election, November 2014**

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