

Open storefronts and local enterprise

I will make it easier to open a useful business and harder to leave a viable storefront idle indefinitely. Business renewal should create jobs and improve the street around it.

WHAT I WILL BRING FORWARD

- Create one business front door for permits, inspections and problem resolution, with published timelines and a case owner.
- Establish Open Vancouver Storefronts and a voluntary Vacant Space Activation Bank linking owners with pop-ups, artists, social enterprises and long-term tenants.
- Run a Vancouver Business and Innovation Forum and a Vancouver Challenge for practical City problems. Publish selection criteria and use competitive, lawful procurement.
- Design targeted Hastings and Chinatown incentives for fit-outs, accessibility, safety and hiring. Seek provincial authority for a persistent commercial-vacancy levy after three years, with exemptions and appeal rights.

Delivery. Within four years, assess every identified persistently vacant storefront and publish an activation, repair, redevelopment or enforcement pathway. An assessed pathway is not a guarantee that every premises will be occupied.

Public measures. Report vacancy duration, openings, business survival, approval time, jobs, public subsidy and whether incentives displace existing local operators.

Conditions. A commercial vacancy levy needs a confirmed legal route; it is not the residential Empty Homes Tax. Do not punish genuine reconstruction, environmental remediation or a demonstrably unlettable space without review.

Connects to: 02, 05, 07, 14, 21, 22

Evidence notes: S01 in the full policy package.