

North Vancouver News/Bill Bell, Aug 16, 2026 : BRAEDEN CALEY ANSWERS MY QUESTIONS

I recently sent Liberal candidate Braeden Caley a series of questions about why he is running in North Vancouver–Capilano and why he would leave a very influential position in the Prime Minister's Office to become one of 343 Members of Parliament.

Before anyone says it, yes, some of the questions are softballs.

That is intentional.

I am not trying to manufacture gotcha moments. I want answers, but I also want to give candidates the opportunity to explain who they are, why they are running and why they believe they are the right person for the job.

All candidates will have the same opportunity.

There will be time for tougher questions as the campaign develops. For now, here are Braeden Caley's answers, substantially as they were provided to me.

1. You were Deputy Chief of Staff to Prime Minister Mark Carney, putting you very close to the centre of federal decision-making. Why give up that kind of influence and access to run to become one of 343 Members of Parliament?

This is a decisive moment for Canada's future, and I want to put the experience I've gained alongside Mark Carney in government to work directly for the people of the North Shore.

I want B.C.'s strength and potential built into the core of a stronger, more sustainable, and more independent Canadian economy, and I want the North Shore to always be at the heart of it.

At our doorstep is the Port of Vancouver, larger than Canada's next five ports combined. The ships our Navy and Coast Guard need so urgently can be built right here at Seaspan, by North Shore workers and apprentices. And the people who make this community work need to be able to afford to live here. That means bringing costs down, cutting taxes for the middle class, building more affordable homes faster, and investing in the transportation and infrastructure needed to keep pace with growth.

As we build, we also protect what makes this place special – our mountains, forests, and coast.

There are few places in Canada with more potential to build a strong, sustainable economy than this one. I want to work with Mark Carney as our MP for North Vancouver–Capilano to make that potential real.

2. Was there a particular moment or reason that convinced you that you could accomplish more as an elected representative than you could working inside the Prime Minister's Office?

Not one moment, more a realization that built up over recent months.

The Prime Minister's Office was an extraordinary place to help shape national decisions at an important time for our country, including the new Canada–B.C. Cooperative Prosperity Agreement, which will expand our port, diversify our exports and invest in major infrastructure across this province. I'm proud of that work, and I saw what government can accomplish when you have the right plan and the determination to deliver.

I also saw the limits of working behind the scenes. You can help make a decision, but you're not the person who ultimately stands in front of a community and says: this is what I'm fighting for, and this is what I'm going to deliver for you.

I wanted to take that responsibility on for the North Shore. This is a crucial moment for this community and for the province and country we love, and that's part of what makes this a crucial by-election.

3. What does being an MP give you that working within the PMO did not — particularly when it comes to representing the people of North Vancouver–Capilano?

A direct mandate from the people you represent.

In the Prime Minister's Office, I was helping shape decisions for Canada as an advisor to our new government. I travelled around the world with Prime Minister Carney and his team, working to protect Canadian workers, open new markets and build more at home so our economy is less dependent on any single foreign country.

As MP for North Vancouver–Capilano, my job would be to make sure the North Shore's priorities are always at the heart of those decisions, and that we share fully in the results.

That means more affordable homes built faster, better transportation and infrastructure that gets built faster, good Canadian jobs, new markets for local businesses, and investment in our port and made-in-Canada shipbuilding right here on the North Shore.

Most importantly, it means being accountable to the people who make this community work – the young family trying to afford a home, the worker sitting in bridge traffic, the small business looking for new markets, and the senior waiting for an appointment with their family doctor.

In Ottawa, you help make a decision. Here, you help shape it, answer for it, and make sure it actually gets done.

4. Some people might look at your background in the PMO and describe you as an "Ottawa insider." Why should voters see that experience as an advantage rather than a disadvantage?

I didn't start in Ottawa. I started in the constituency offices of two different MPs on the ground here in B.C., helping people who couldn't get a straight answer about their housing, pension or benefits, and then spent half a decade at Vancouver City Hall. That kind of work is still at the core of what I care about most.

I'm a born-and-raised British Columbian who has spent more than 20 years getting things done for people in this province, both locally and across Canada. Along the way, I learned how a good idea becomes policy, how decisions actually move through government, and where they can get stuck.

Getting something done isn't just having the right idea. It's knowing who needs to be at the table, building the right partnerships, and pushing hard until the job is finished.

My hope is that this combination of local and national experience can be an important asset for everyone right here in North Vancouver–Capilano.

5. Does your previous position mean that, if elected, North Vancouver–Capilano would have an MP who already understands how decisions are made, knows where the doors are in Ottawa, and knows how to get those doors opened?

I believe so – while always being willing to learn, listen to new perspectives, and work with people from all parties, not only those I've already worked with in the past.

I have been in the room with Prime Minister Carney and President Trump at a moment when Canada was being tested, and seen the importance of the work our negotiating team is doing to protect our workers and businesses. I've worked directly with ministers, premiers, senior public service officials, Indigenous leaders, businesses, and communities pushing for new investment. I understand who needs to be involved, how good decisions get made, and how to build the relationships that move an idea from a conversation to a result.

That's the difference between raising an issue and getting something done.

For the North Shore, the plan is clear: homes people can actually afford, built faster; transportation and infrastructure that keep pace with growth; good Canadian jobs at our port and shipyards; new markets for local businesses; and real relief on the cost of living.

I won't have to spend my time in Ottawa learning how Ottawa works – or sometimes doesn't work! I'll be spending it delivering for North Vancouver–Capilano and helping build Canada strong.

6. And perhaps most importantly, what made you decide that North Vancouver–Capilano was the community you wanted to represent personally rather than continuing what was already a very influential career behind the scenes?

In my family, nobody had a title. My mom was a teacher, like my grandmother before her. My dad fuelled planes at YVR and then drove BC Transit buses, including over the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge to and from Phibbs Exchange. Our family knew the value of every dollar: what it meant when groceries or school activities cost more, or when the systems people count on simply didn't work the way they should.

I was born and raised on this coast, hiking, biking, sailing, swimming and boarding – and falling! – around the North Shore mountains, Howe Sound and Indian Arm. Some of my first work as a teenager was at the Port of Vancouver. Today, I live in Central Lonsdale.

So after a career that has already covered more than 20 years, the question became: where do I want to put the experience I've gained to work for the people and the place I care deeply about?

The answer was right here.

This is a demanding moment for the North Shore and British Columbia. Housing, infrastructure, jobs and the cost of living – meeting these challenges takes representation that understands this community and our coast, and will work closely with Mark Carney's new team to get real results here.

B.C. has given me everything, and I'm ready to give back with everything I've got.

I want to take the North Shore's priorities to Ottawa and deliver directly for the people in this community who sent me – one person, one problem, and one promise kept at a time.

Those are his answers.

You can agree with them, disagree with them, challenge them, or compare them with what the other candidates are saying.

That is exactly what an election should be about.

I will continue to give candidates an opportunity to speak directly to voters, and as the campaign moves along, I will also be asking some tougher questions about housing, infrastructure, transportation, federal spending, the environment and what they would actually do when the interests of this riding do not line up neatly with the position of their party.

For now, Braeden Caley has made his case.

The voters get to decide what they think of it. @everyone

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