

## Candidate: Anna Boltenko

Riding: City of North Vancouver

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- 1. Many communities don't know how much climate change is costing them at present, and will cost in the future. Will you commit to putting systems in place to identify and track those costs?**

Yes, I will.

Several studies suggest that climate change could cost Canada billions by 2020. Catastrophic and unpredictable climate disasters – like the Fort McMurray fire – could become more regular, leading to billions of dollars of unforeseen property and infrastructure damage.

Cities are particularly vulnerable in that they are immobile.

North Vancouver infrastructure as bridges, buildings, and roads, the historic sense of place, and rootedness of residents are critical attributes of our community. These strengths of place can, however, become liabilities if the local ecosystems that they are based on are unable to adapt to the climate-induced changes. Climate change poses serious threats to urban infrastructure, quality of life, and entire urban systems.

Building resilience in a city of North Vancouver requires a systems, or integrated, approach, these include robust decision making (incorporating broader-based cost and benefit assessments that include societal values, ecosystem services, risks, and longer time horizons); social inclusion; urban risk assessments; emergency preparedness; partnerships with other cities, agencies, and governments and many others.

- 2. Will you work to develop and implement climate adaptation plans to reduce the harm that climate change causes in your community? How will you fund climate adaptation?**

Yes, I will. To respond to climate change challenges the City of North Vancouver already adopted the Climate Change Adaptation Plan in October 2013.

By improving the City's capacity to respond to the effects of climate change we will not only help to avoid the most severe impacts, but also reduce costs and make the City a better place to live.

Because climate change will affect nearly all aspects of life, the City has also made the strategic decision to integrate adaptation throughout all City operations, including the 2014 Official Community Plan (OCP).

But these key documents need to be revised and updated.

As part of the City's climate action commitments and as directed by Council in 2013, the City established a dedicated Carbon Reserve Fund with funds set aside annually for emissions reduction projects.

The City's Carbon Fund includes an annual contribution equivalent to a minimum of \$25 per tonne of the City's corporate GHG emissions from the previous year. For example, based on City corporate emissions of approximately 2500 tonnes per year, this contribution is about \$62,500 annually.

**3. Will you commit to protecting taxpayers by seeking to recover a fair share of climate costs from the fossil fuel companies who profit from selling products that result in greenhouse gases? Specifically, if elected, would you ask your Council to:**

**a. Send Climate Accountability letters from your community to major fossil fuel producers demanding that they pay their fair share of local climate costs caused by their activities and products?**

Yes.

**b. Press the province of BC to enact Liability for Climate-related Harms laws to give municipalities and others greater legal certainty, lower costs and timely resolutions if they sue to recover climate damages from fossil fuel companies?**

Yes.

**c. Explore legal action against fossil fuel companies to recover a share of local climate costs?**

Yes.

**4. In your view, why is it important (or not) to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for your community's climate costs?**

The fossil-fuel industry, like the tobacco industry, needs to pay its fair share of the costs caused by its products. Chevron, Exxon and other oil, gas and coal companies have made hundreds of billions of dollars selling products that they knew would cause climate change. Believing that they wouldn't be required to pay for the harm caused by their products, these companies funded public misinformation about climate science and lobbied against rules that would have reduced our dependence on fossil fuels.

We're told that we are all responsible for climate change. That's fair enough, but right now the fossil-fuel industry isn't paying anything. Solving climate change requires that we all do our part. Why should fossil-fuel companies pocket the profits while taxpayers pay for the costs of global, fossil-fuel pollution?