

Candidate: Bob Fearnley

Riding: City of North Vancouver

- 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?**

Do I accept the notion that climate change is already impacting the City of North Vancouver? Yes, it is hard not see how climate change is affecting us. Forest fires and the extremely dry conditions now exist during most summers.

I am running for a Council seat in a small city with limited resources and I think taking actions such as going towards being carbon neutral and protecting the biodiversity on our streams and seashore is like a better use of those finite resources.

- 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?**

We already have a robust program in place to protect the environment including measures to reducing greenhouse gas production, eradicate invasive species, protect our streams from sediment and other harmful substances, maintain our urban forests, control erosion and other numerous measures. These measures have always been a priority come budget time and we have won awards for our actions.

- 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?**

No answer.

- 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?**

Lawyers are really really expensive and I think taking actions, such as reducing our production of CO₂, is a better use of our finite resources. We believe in climate change science and we are acting. The point at which I could envision us suing fossil fuel companies for damages is a long way off, if ever.

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

No answer.

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

Yes, it is important but that responsibility more naturally belongs at the provincial and federal level. Local governments just don't have the resources to take on companies with millions of dollars to spend on lawyers. We must prioritize our spending to obtain the most benefit for our scarce dollars.