

Candidate: Dr. Marie-Térèse Little

Riding: Metchosin

- 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?**

The rural community of Metchosin is an eclectic, well-educated community and the reality of climate change and the chances for reversal are on the minds of many of our community members. Our community is just over 4700 people and we have a very small tax base and a commitment to balanced budgets; thus, we don't have the funds nor the infrastructure for tracking the cost of climate change. However, as a scientist and researcher, I understand the grave impacts of climate change and the opportunity to extrapolate data from other municipalities of similar size, to provide an estimate of our own impact and the costs associated with climate change. This could easily be communicated to our constituents in a educational seminar, web-page post, or email blitz which could be done free of cost.

The District of Metchosin has committed to a community greenhouse gas emissions strategy to achieve a 33% reduction over 2007 emission levels by 2020 (Item 2.13.1, Metchosin Official Community Plan, OCP). The District has and will continue to policies and actions that will assist the community in reaching its targets. I will support these strategies and initiatives.

- 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?**

One of the most unique aspects of Metchosin is its reliance on a huge swath of volunteers. It is the volunteers in the community that embrace issues and then follow through on implementing solutions to issues and problems. I anticipate that council would support initiatives to adapt to climate change and they would support volunteers in the community who are equally eager to make changes happen. This support could be in the form of free rental of council chambers for the community members to gather and meet. As outlined in Appendix 4 and section 6.2.2 of the Metchosin Official Community Plan (OCP), the Municipality of Metchosin will remain active in seeking out new Provincial or

Federal funding initiatives such as the "Towns for Tomorrow" grant, a program intended for initiatives that address climate, the LiveSmart BC Green Cities Awards program offering funds to leading edge communities for initiatives aimed at making them greener and healthier, the Cycling Infrastructure Partnerships Program (CIPP), a Provincial cost-share program for the construction of new cycling infrastructure, the Building Canada Fund, specifically, the Communities Component, which provides funding for communities with fewer than 100,000 people to develop infrastructure

that meets economic, environmental, and quality of life objectives, and, finally, the Canadian Gas Tax Fund which provides support toward infrastructure that contributes to cleaner air and reduced greenhouse gas emissions (OCP; 6.2.2).

As stated in item 2.13- Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Bylaw 568, 2010) in the Metchosin OCP, the District of Metchosin is committed to becoming carbon neutral and is working to assess and reduce corporate emissions. The District is working towards mitigating the detrimental impacts of climate change, and reducing the community greenhouse gas emissions by 33% over 2007 levels by 2020. (Section 2.2.10, Metchosin OCP, Bylaw 568, 2010).

I will work hard and collaboratively with my community and council to achieve these goals and abide by our commitment.

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. As I explained above, Metchosin is a small community with a small population of >4700 residents and a low tax base. We don't have extra funds for litigation. However, I would advocate and vote to support other cities, municipalities, and grassroots organisations in their endeavors to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for their damage.

- 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?**

No answer

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

As a scientist, beekeeper and Metchosin 4H Honeybee leader, I am concerned about the declining population of our pollinators and the impact this has, and will have on our environment. The pollinators are the "Canaries in the coal mine of Climate Change" and

they are threatened. Our sustainability, our kids' future, and our very existence is linked to the survival of our pollinators such as bees and butterflies. We must hold those polluters who betray our environment accountable and support those who are good stewards of the land and protect the environment and fragile ecosystems. Will work towards these objectives