

Candidate: Harm Jacob Woldring

Riding: New Westminster

- 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. One of the most serious issues in New Westminster is traffic congestion. Over the past 15 to 20 years this community, in an attempt to make it more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, has used pedestrian bump outs to curtail traffic flows. While this has certainly made New West more pedestrian and cycle friendly, it has resulted in thousands of cars slowly crawling through our city spewing noxious fumes which residents are forced to breathe and which has a decidedly negative consequence for our planet. I believe alternatives like swarm intersections, for example, could achieve the desired pedestrian and cycling outcomes without turning our city into a slow moving parking lot. In addition the secondary benefit would be a further reduction, and hopefully complete elimination, of vehicle/pedestrian accidents. If this plan were to be adopted, where applicable, I would prioritize transit, low and zero emissions vehicles in the newly re-opened traffic lanes as an incentive for drivers to look for alternatives to commuting using an ICE powered vehicle.

- 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?**

New Westminster is the only lower mainland city with its own electrical utility. While it's true we use hydro, which is considered a renewable energy source, the building of dams like Cite C have very negative environmental impacts because of flooding and loss of forest habits which are clean air engines. I would look into offering local residents to explore and install solar panels and very small scale wind generating options at their homes and thereby reduce our dependence on hydro power.

- 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?**

Unfortunately these companies will pay NOTHING since they will simply pass on any new and additional costs to consumers. I would however, look to China, the world leader in electric passenger and transit vehicles, to develop sales channels for their vehicles. We need to pressure all vehicle manufacturers world wide to move way faster to replace the ICE powered vehicle fleets of the world. China is leading and showing the way.
<https://qz.com/1303594/when-it-comes-to-making-electric-cars-theres-china-and-everyone-else/>

- 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?**

At the end of the day, in my opinion, we need to pressure them out of the market completely when it comes to energy production. What we need to do is make them financially responsible for cleaning up the mess, the question is how and I don't believe there is a viable answer. At the moment it is consumers, as always, that are footing the bill, through carbon taxes etc.