

Candidate: John Roston

Riding: Richmond

- 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 if it can be done with reasonable accuracy at reasonable cost.

- 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?**

Richmond is already working on climate adaptation plans using tax revenue. This should be expanded if possible.

- 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. It may be most efficient to have the Province of BC negotiate climate change cost compensation with the fossil fuel companies and then distribute that revenue to municipalities to fund climate adaptation costs. This is tied up with a carbon tax so the two types of compensation have to be coordinated. Giving municipalities and other groups the right to sue will likely tie up the courts for many years before any compensation materializes and then most of it will go to lawyers.

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

It's clear that the true cost of using fossil fuels is far greater than the price consumers pay for them. However this is partly reflected in a carbon tax so there needs to be a calculation of actual climate change cost, the compensation that can be recovered and a method of allocating that revenue to those who must pay the cost of climate change adaptation.