

## Candidate: Lynda Hundleby

Riding: Esquimalt

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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?**

Esquimalt is already a signatory to the Climate Action Charter since 2011 ; staff annually provides information that enables the Township to receive a Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) grant; and in 2017 that amount was \$36,642. The Township is "making progress towards becoming carbon neutral in its operations; is annually measuring and reporting on the community's GHG emissions; and is creating a complete, compact, and energy-efficient community".

This information as well as previous reports for comparison purposes is readily available on the Township's website:

<https://www.esquimalt.ca/municipal-hall/sustainability-environment/climate-action>

- 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 was serving as an Esquimalt Councillor at the time and, then as now, if elected, willing to commit to reducing the harm that climate change causes in the Township's Climate adaptation plans. Any actions and activities are funded by CARIP grants as well as in the annual budget for staffing, programs, etc. A member of staff provides the information to the Province.

The Township currently funds two Electric vehicles and the electricity for same; has considered purchasing larger vehicles like trucks but the size needed for a particular purpose was not available .....yet. There was also an experiment to test the use of bio fuels but this did not result in the success that was expected.

I am proud of the fact that Council members this past year relied solely on digital formats for all Council meetings, Committee of the Whole Meetings, and in camera meetings. A few paper copies were provided to the audience but Council and staff went digital for the most part. We saved a lot of paper (and trees!).

- 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?**

No Answer

- 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?**

While I believe that contacting fossil fuel companies might be worthwhile to reduce the harms of climate change, it is not really within the mandate of a local government's jurisdiction - that being to govern the residents of the Township according to the laws of the land. Nor could I commit Esquimalt taxpayer funds and still respect the oath of office respecting my fiduciary duty, regardless of my personal views. The Township of Esquimalt is a small municipality of less than 18,000 people and a revenue of about \$42M. We have, out of necessity, a small staffing component, a tight budget, and do not have the resources to pursue 3(b) above, nor to explore legal actions as identified in 3 (c). And I could not even agree to approve the letter as I could not corroborate the claims made.

When this matter came to the outgoing Council , I don't recall there was a willingness on the part of any Councillor to agree to send the letter.