

## Candidate: Suzanne Senger

Riding: Gibsons

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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?**

Yes. I have included the WCEL strategy in my campaign platform and I am committed to advancing Climate Accountability measures as a councillor in Gibsons.

- 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 have included the WCEL strategy in my campaign platform and I am committed to advancing a Climate change Adaptation Plan at the Gibsons Council table.

- 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.

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

Global Climate Change is the most significant threat facing humanity.

Locally we are already seeing impacts of drastic weather changes with sea level rise and shoreline erosion; diminishing drinking water supply and smoke filled skies in the summertime. If we are going to curb the threats to our ability to survive on this planet, we need to take immediate action. Recognizing the limits to what local government can do, I have committed in my campaign platform, to undertake two key steps to address climate change, as a councillor in Gibsons.

I will spearhead a comprehensive Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Town of Gibsons. An adaptation plan would build on existing town work re: eco-asset management, foreshore planning, aquifer mapping and sea level rise research. It would consider likely impacts and scenarios to deal with infrastructure located on the foreshore which will be impacted by sea level rise and flooding. The plan will need to consider protection of the Gibsons Aquifer recharge area, naturalization vs hardscaping of the foreshore in the town of Gibsons as well as the real costs of adaptation. This gives rise to the question of climate accountability and my second commitment. I have read, discussed and considered the Climate Accountability measures proposed by West Coast Environmental Law in its brief "Climate Law in our hands – A resource for Local Government Candidates BC Municipal Election 2018." In my view, WCEL has defined an innovative strategy, which could bring local governments across BC together to recover a fair share of costs to address impacts of climate change on local infrastructure from fossil fuel companies - so taxpayers don't bare these rising costs over the long term.

I have worked with West Coast Environmental Law for many years on a number of legal strategies to protect the environment. I support WCEL's strategy and I am committed to championing this with Gibsons Council and advocating for the town's participation in it.