



POWELL RIVER

Voices

PRVOICES.org

POWELL RIVER VOTES 2014

Candidate Report

Powell River Voices engages local citizens in creative conversations and action on issues affecting our community. We have a long-term vision of Powell River as a resilient community where the values of transparency, sustainability, and broad citizen participation prevail in civic governance.

The issues addressed in the new candidates questionnaire were chosen based on P.R. Voices Community Values Survey and critical issues voted on by city council. We conducted [550 surveys](#) over four months. The survey itself was based on values identified in the city's Sustainability Charter and sample interviews with citizens.

These values direct our work:

- Genuine public engagement reflected in local government decisions.
- Fair taxes based on the principle of ability to pay.
- Public support of local agriculture aimed at food security.
- Keeping local services firmly in public hands and public control.
- Community commitment to culture and the arts.
- Diversification of the economy to achieve long term resiliency and youth retention.
- Economic development that protects health and the environment.
- A high priority on conservation, waste reduction and addressing climate change.

	ANITA ADAMS AA	WILLIAM ASHWORTH WA	JIM BARON JB	DAVID DICKSON DD	CAROLEANN LEISHMAN CL	RON OSTENSEN RO	KAREN SKADSHIM KS	ROB SOUTHCOTT RS
Outsource Sewage to Catalyst – dismantle public treatment system	?	N	Y	N	N	?	N	N
Support \$2 Million Tax Break for Catalyst	?	N	N	N	N	?	N	N
Support Broad Use of In-Camera Meetings Closed to the Public	?	N	N	?	N	?	N	N
Reject Blue Planet Project to Protect Water Resources	?	Y	N	N	N	?	N	N
Maintain Residential Flat Tax	?	Y	N	?	N	?	N	N
Oppose Incinerator in Powell River to Burn Solid Waste	?	N	N	?	Y	?	Y	Y
Retain Section 21 Special Catalyst Zoning With No City Control	?	N	N	?	N	?	N	N
Give Incentives to Attract Large Industry over Small Business	?	N	N	N	N	?	N	N
Promote Arts as Economic Driver	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	Y
Disregard Public Consultations	?	N	N	N	N	?	N	N
	?	No response.		?	Unanswered.			

See below for the actual questionnaire completed by the candidates.

- I support current council's policy of pursuing "phased consolidation" of Powell River's wastewater (sewage) treatment, which would involve dismantling our current system and paying Catalyst Paper to treat our wastewater for up to 20 years.
- I support current council's policy of providing Catalyst with a \$2 million a year tax break (recently reduced from \$2.5 million).
- I support the current council's broad interpretation of the community charter's guidelines on in-camera (closed to the public) meetings to include policy discussions such as strategic planning and budget development.
- I support the current council's rejection of Powell River's joining the Blue Planet Project, which recognizes water as a human right, promotes publicly financed, owned and operated water and wastewater services and disapproves of the sale of bottled water in public facilities and at municipal events.
- I support the current council's maintenance of the residential flat tax, currently \$387.00 for each parcel in addition to the tax based upon the assessed value, which places an unequal tax burden on lower priced homes.
- I support current council's policy of opposing the establishment of a solid waste incineration facility in Powell River.
- I support the current council's policy of retaining Section 21 of the Powell River Incorporation Act, which provides a zoning exemption for Catalyst Paper lands and states that "No by-law or other law or regulation of the Council shall operate to restrict the construction, maintenance and operation..." of any "industrial works..." undertaken by Catalyst. [Section 21 can only be removed by the provincial government but a Council majority voted against asking the province to act.]
- I support the current council's economic development focus on attracting large industry to Powell River with financial incentives, rather than a policy focused on creating a resilient economy through support of existing small businesses and agriculture, and promoting Powell River's natural advantages to attract new businesses.
- I support the notion that cultivation of arts and culture through promotion and financial support can make arts and culture a viable economic driver in Powell River.
- I support the current council's position of disregarding the results of public consultations on important issues, such as the library and sewage treatment.