

Municipal Candidates' Responses to Candidate Survey Regarding Skeena Wild Salmon

Questions:

1. What do you perceive as the single greatest human-caused threat to Skeena wild salmon?
2. If elected, what will you do to ensure sustainability of our Skeena wild salmon?
3. Do you support or oppose the Enbridge pipeline?
4. What do you think is the single greatest opportunity for non-industrialized community economic development?
5. Do you support protection of the Sacred Headwaters?

SMITHERS

Taylor Bachrach

1. In terms of specific threats to salmon, I believe open-net fish farms are the most worrisome, particularly with the news that a new virus is spreading to wild salmon populations.
2. As mayor, I would speak out in defence of our wild salmon economy, including supporting our in-river commercial fishery and sport-angling sector. I will also make cumulative impacts and the health of wild salmon foremost considerations in all deliberations on resource development.
3. I do not support the Enbridge pipeline.
4. Our diverse economy is our greatest strength, and has protected us from the ups and downs that have hurt other communities. Supporting local small businesses and entrepreneurs in our community is a big opportunity, particularly in the creative and knowledge-based sectors. Tourism is also an underdeveloped sector, and deserves greater emphasis. I believe these provide good complements to our traditional resource industries, which remain essential.
5. I support a long-term solution in the Sacred Headwaters that safeguards the area from coalbed methane drilling and provides economic development opportunities for local communities.

Cress Farrow - Could not reach/Did not respond

Norm Adomeit - Could not reach/Did not respond

Mark Bandstra - Could not reach/Did not respond

Phil Brienesse

1. Currently the largest threat would be open net fish farms but looking forward the Enbridge Gateway Pipeline poses a real threat to wild salmon and the people who depend on them for food and their employment. The benefit to our area is so small and the threat to the environment and peoples financial and personal well being is so great. One study valued the fishery in the Skeena River system at 110 million dollars annually. If we value our streams, rivers and wild salmon, we cannot support Enbridge or open net fish farms
2. I will work with local groups such as FOWS, SWCC, Local Guides, Sport Fisherman, First Nations and others in as open and inclusive a consultation process as possible to work on solutions and use that information to

lobby the provincial and federal governments for the changes that are needed to ensure the sustainability of our wild fish stocks and a quality experience and way of life on the river for everyone.

3. As I stated above I am opposed to the Enbridge Pipeline. In July of 2010 over 819,000 gallons of oil spilled from an Enbridge pipeline in Michigan polluting the Kalamazoo river. Over a year later there is still pockets of submerged oil in the river. This is just one of a number of recent pipeline spills. So many people depend on our river systems here. The consequences of a spill like this in our river system would be devastating.
4. We need to start looking closer to home for economic development. Small business is the backbone of so many communities but they rarely get the support they deserve. Tourism operators, fishing guides and the retail sector that serve the fishing community are important to our local economy. Mining, Industry, and Forestry will always be important components of our communities but we cannot put all of our eggs in one basket or we will be at the mercy of rising and falling commodity prices and the boom bust cycle. We must also ensure that one development does not adversely affect another established industry.
5. The sacred headwaters is the birthplace of our local river system. As I have mentioned in previous questions the fishery aspect of the river alone is worth over 110 million dollars annually. We must be careful that development does not affect established industries and that we protect our natural environment. Ideally the wishes of the Tahltan people who live in the Sacred Headwaters would be respected. They could take a leadership role in partnership with industry to promote development that works for all involved.

Pauline Goertzen

1. The single greatest human threat to Skeena wild salmon in my opinion is climate change. With waters warming, seasons changing, water levels shifting with so many influences of warming this would threaten not only Skeena wild salmon the environment, and many other factors linked to their habitat,
2. Smithers need continue with their carbon plan as a community to lead in methods to reduce carbon emissions, and ensure we support responsible fish management practice, explore research into methods and locations to attract and grow other forms of industry that is sensitive, safe, and enhances this resource, and finally help to create more awareness about the importance of wild salmon to the quality of life and culture of the Bulkley Valley.
3. No.
4. Single greatest opportunity for non-industrialized community economic development in my opinion is local food development and business support; for local consumption and distribution in general (perhaps even exported with specialty products) – through various value added opportunities including fruit, veggies, berries, meat and yes, fish!
5. Yes.

Bill Goodacre

1. The single greatest threat to wild salmon is fish farms and the many attendant problems, most notably diseases.
2. If elected I will ensure that the Town of Smithers is kept up to date on issues related to the rivers and fish and further that the Town gets involved advocating for wild salmon.
3. I am unalterably opposed to the Enbridge pipeline.
4. I personally feel that the knowledge and cultural workers of this community will be our next economic engine.
5. Unequivocally YES!!!!!!

Scott Groves - Could not reach/Did not respond

Dan Mesec - Could not reach/Did not respond

Charles Northrup

1. Human actions are the greatest threat to all environments and we need to “do better” not less about it.
2. I believe an elected official has to concentrate on their specific authority and jurisdiction to govern while encouraging all citizens to engage at all three levels of government; municipal/regional/, provincial, and federal. I have worked hard in the municipal decision making process in favor of doing “what is right” for the communities interest in maintaining and enforcing established policy and regulation. Listening and being afforded the opportunity to hear all sides on every issue is key in the decision making responsibility; as every issue has three sides.
3. Smithers Council was the first Municipal Council to bring the three sides around the “Enbridge pipeline” together in a public forum. I believe that goal to ensure the public obtained the most information possible from all sides was the right action. Personally I feel the initial presentations we received opposing the way the “tar sands are mined” is the best approach. If we are going to continue mining our Canadian tar sands, we have to ensure they are done in a safer and improved manner. I am still undecided “if” oil is to be transported, what is the safest manner; opposed to yes or no. Is it okay in someone else’s backyard but not mine?
4. I believe Tourism with a camera and opportunity to “feel and experience” is our single greatest non-industrialized option.
5. I sat on the Real Estate Foundation selection committee for the “2011 B C Land Champion award” that choose Mark Angelo as the 2011 recipient. Mark is an internationally renowned river conservationist. I have spoken not only about protecting “sacred headwaters” but all our “taking for granted” of our most precious commodity, water, since being elected. Some day Smithers may even have water metres and filtered storm drainage. Mark Angelo received the award November 4, 2011.

Michael Sawyer

1. While I believe that global warming is the single greatest human-caused threat to Skeena wild salmon, I also believe that the ability of Skeena wild salmon to adapt to global climate change is severely exacerbated by the cumulative effects of all human activities on both the terrestrial and fresh and salt water aquatic habitats. These cumulative effects include increased linear disturbance densities throughout the watershed, changes in water quality and quantity, unsustainable recreational and commercial harvests, activities of exploitative industries such as the mining, forestry and oil and gas industries, and more recently, diseases.
2. The Smithers Town Council must speak for the interests of its citizens and while many of the forces affecting Skeena wild salmon are outside of municipal jurisdiction, this will not prevent me from seizing every opportunity to use my position on Council to advocate for the improved management of human activities that could adversely affect wild salmon. This will involve working closely and collaboratively with citizen groups and other regional interests that are concerned about the sustainability of the Skeena wild salmon, along with other municipal, provincial, national, and international governments with interests in conserving on wild salmon.
3. I am clearing on the public record as being opposed to the proposed Enbridge pipeline project.
4. Depending on how "non-industrialized" is defined, I believe that there are many secondary and tertiary opportunities for re-processing and manufacturing of wood products (ie doors, windows, moulding, ect) for regional use and for export to domestic and international markets. Why do we continue to export raw logs to China when that wood could be used to create sustainable, high quality jobs in our communities. Once these industries are up and running I would turn my attention to attracting technology based businesses that are involve in environmentally and socially sustainable industries.

5. I believe that the Sacred Headwaters must be protected if we want long term security that oil and gas industry activities will not adversely harm the regions biological, social and cultural values. In the absence of meaningful protected area status, Shell will doggedly continue with its goal to exploit the regions natural gas resources and given recent developments towards creating a major natural gas pipeline corridor in the southern Skeena watershed, I believe it is imperative that protect status be pursued without delay.

Cheryl Ann Stahel

1. Industry's deliberate disassociation from undeniable impacts of self interested pursuits for money/control/power over the environment – no matter the cost to habitats or the expressed concerns of all peoples. (28)
2. Follow your lead: ‘... ensure the sound stewardship of our natural resources while promoting sustainability ... raising awareness ...’. Participate in events and learning opportunities, move those voices ahead to tables municipal councilors can be heard at. I am a lay-person in this issue but believe in this issue. (50)
3. Oppose.
4. Local governments need to function based on solution focused thinking... diversifying healthy-living amenities is an investment in sustainable economic development. (20)
5. Forever.

Ken White

1. I think the greatest human-caused threat to Skeena wild salmon, as with most wild animals, is irreversible loss of habitat. Salmon have adapted to numerous changes throughout their history on this planet, and have been able to survive these changes. While overfishing is also a threat, this can be regulated to enable depleted stocks to recover. Destruction of their spawning and feeding habitat will not allow for recovery of stocks, and could leave to extirpation.
2. If elected as town councillor, I would advocate for the importance of retaining our wild salmon stocks, and would ensure that any fish-bearing streams within Smithers town boundary not be negatively impacted by any town operations or developments. I think beyond the town limits, town councilors are somewhat limited in the impact they can have. Since salmon habitat crosses many jurisdictions, many decisions are made at a higher level than the municipality. That being said, working collaboratively with these other levels of government and NGOs, I would make sure that wild salmon sustainability has a high profile.
3. I oppose the Enbridge pipeline project for the following reasons: 1) I don't think the risks associated with a pipeline of this size outweigh the benefits. The chances that a pipeline rupture could occur are high, and the increased tanker traffic would also increase the chance of a spill; 2) I don't think a large number of local jobs will be created, and; 3) The shipping of condensate across the Pacific Ocean is encouraging our continued reliance on fossil fuels. I believe we need to start looking at alternatives, in order to wean ourselves off fossil fuels.
4. Increased tourism is the greatest opportunity that northwestern B.C. has for non-industrialized community development. Recreational tourism brings people to the community, and these people spend money that allows for development. Most tourism is low impact to the environment, and allows for the development of businesses to supply goods and services to the tourists. The development of these businesses is also essential in engaging the human resource, and leads to community development and stability. I think more work needs to be done to encourage tourism in our area, and I would definitely be an advocate for tourism if elected.
5. I personally support the protection of this important area. If I am elected to Smithers town council, I will take any opportunity there is to support the protection of the Sacred Headwaters. Unfortunately, I think the ability

of a town councillor to influence decisions like the protection of the Sacred Headwaters is limited by the location of the Headwaters (outside of the town's jurisdiction), and the levels of government that are involved in creating protected areas. Smithers town council could certainly show support at the municipal level, and advocate for protection whenever possible.

Frank Wray

1. I believe that the greatest human-caused threat to the Skeena (and indeed all) wild salmon is the lack of a cohesive management plan for the resource. All stakeholders including sports fisheries, commercial fisheries (both American and Canadian), salmon farmers and Native fisheries need to come together to establish a resource management plan that ensures that we are able to protect Wild Salmon stocks and still utilize the resource to the advantage of all.
2. As a member of Town Council, we have to help in whatever way we can. Mostly, we can help by strongly voicing concerns to the more senior levels of government. At the council level, our most effective tool is to maintain the health of the portion of the Bulkley River and its tributaries that flow through Smithers. We can do this by ensuring that our sewage continues to be treated effectively and that our storm drains are filtered before their outfall into the river and our streams. The South Trunk storm sewer project allows us to use our wetlands to help naturally filter our storm sewer outflow, so Council should continue to pursue funds to connect the trunk to the main lines.
3. At this time, I personally oppose the Enbridge pipeline. As a member of the current council seeking re-election, I stand by our decision to not issue a "yes" or "no" position, based on the fact that such a decision would not have been unanimous, and would have possibly left us in the position of having the newly elected council issuing a contrary position within a month of our council having issued a position, thus diluting any message being sent by the Town of Smithers.
4. If we want to leave "industrialized" out of the equation, then commercial support of the "industrialized" developments should probably be left out as well... In that case, I would have to say tourism continues to be a great area of growth, but we have to be careful to ensure that we keep our area attractive to tourists. For example, it is excellent that we have tourists coming in to fish our waters, but we have to make sure that we don't allow the waters to be overfished, or the "fishing" tourism sector will suffer.
5. Until we fully understand the impacts of development, I support protection of the Skeena Headwaters.