

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?

TERRACE

Don Dunster - Could not reach/Did not respond

Jennifer Lewis - Could not reach/Did not respond

Bruce Martindale

1. Industrialization of the Basin. Federal Government Treating Salmon as a commodity, Forestry treating habitat as expendable. Pipeline building arguing short-term damage is reasonable, and long-term pipeline risks are manageable. We need to put the fish first in our consciousness and actions.
2. I will bring the River into every conversation, into every promotion, and into the consciousness of the people. I will develop a stewardship position, first through the Terrace Community Forest Strategic Plan and then through advocacy and promotion of those standards. I welcome insight and participation in this process next spring if I am elected. I have also long advocated for our region to be called the Skeena Region "officially" to remind us why we are here in all our actions.
3. I am absolutely opposed to any Pipeline carrying Crude Oil or Bitumen through our mountains, across our streams and beside our rivers. I oppose any crude tanker, big or small, shipping through our Northern channels and waters. I have been front and centre on this issue since I was elected, challenging our Council to move to an opposition role so we can begin to challenge this project before it is too late.
4. I am particularly interested in the local food movement, and with the right policies and promotion I believe we can approach sustainability in this field and stream, particularly as we begin to respect our resources as lifegiving and not just commodities. For example, our Community Garden has over 50 plots un-used, and I am dedicated to promoting that fact this spring. My Waste Diversion Action Plan also has at its core, entrepreneurial access to the waste streams so that innovative solutions can be found and local industry can be developed around waste as we move toward the Zero Waste goal
5. Yes. In fact in a private meeting with Shell as they were promoting their plans for Kitimat (now public knowledge), I brought up the Sacred Headwaters and asked if they were prepared to include that project into their social contract with our communities as they move to develop a Natural Gas Pipeline. I received no answer, but it the type of question you might expect from me when I get the chance. I realize that this issue is on the horizon and I am prepared to challenge Council to take a stand, as opposed to the Neutral position they have currently.

David Pernarowski

1. At the moment, the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline Project.
2. All decisions we make as a community and in this region relating to economic development should ask that question. Our decisions must respect the environment and not impact wild salmon.
3. I do not support the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline project. I believe that we can't afford to have even one spill into our rivers and streams or into the ocean from the oil tankers.
4. Our greatest opportunity for non-industrialized community economic development is creating bio-energy from wood waste and building large commercial greenhouse operations to grow organic produce year-round.
5. Yes, I support the protection of the Sacred Headwaters. The movie, 'Awakening the Skeena' with Ali Howard provided an excellent visual reason why we need to treasure the Headwaters and our river systems.

Merv Ritchie

1. The lack of unity of the people of the region along with the numerous disparate groups, including environmental groups, to stand as one entity to protect the region is the greatest threat.

Currently no activity is ongoing except the spillage of nuclear waste from Japan into the migration habitat of all salmon stocks. The potential threats include; placement of fish farms on migration routes, proposed coal mining along with coalbed methane drilling in the Klappan region and the potential of a tanker breaking up loaded with raw bitumen releasing hundreds of thousands of litres of carcinogens into the environment.

2. The Skeena River runs through Terrace. The fishing industry provides a significant part of the economic foundation for Terrace. Therefore, any activity, from the headwaters at the Spatzizi Plateau to the waters the migrating salmon pass through, becomes a serious issue of concern. As Mayor I will ensure these habitats are protected to the highest standards such that the waters of the Skeena River will allow the salmon to flourish. This includes monitoring the catch allowances for sport and commercial fishing to provide our council an opportunity to make informed inquiries to, and of, the Federal and Provincial governing authorities.
3. I oppose Enbridge building a pipeline to carry the proposed bitumen product from the Tar Sands of Alberta to Douglas Channel at Kitimat for transport in VLCC and ULCC tankers. I would support, if the shipment of petroleum is necessary, the containerized transport by cargo carriers and rail. I would never support the present day method of bulk carriers with the raw petroleum product uncontained. Nor would I support the proposed tank farms on the shores of Douglas Channel, or anywhere. All transport of this product should be in double skinned, vacuum sealed containers, from the origin to the destination.
4. Without any doubt it is the First Nations Culture. This has been virtually ignored and has the potential to bring ten times the travelling tourist and revenue to the region than the salmon fishing ever will. With very little investment, simply the nurturing of the elders and the youth of the eight Nations of the region; the Nis-ga'a, Haisla, Haida, Tsimshian, Tlingit, Gitksan, Wet'suwet'en and Tahltan, we might be able to become an attraction of international notoriety. The immense revenues derived from this activity could fund infrastructure projects to further enhance the culture working as a perpetual economic engine.
5. Yes. What is referred to as the Sacred headwaters is the Klappan region. This area borders the Spatzizi Wilderness Plateau and has been identified as holding a massive quantity of Coal called the Groundhog deposit, which Fortune Minerals plans to mine. This deposit acts as a water filter for three major rivers of the northwest; the Stikine, the Skeena and the Nass. These rivers provide the lifeblood and nourishment for everything living in the northwest. There is no location in British Columbia that has more significance to such a wide array of habitat. The Sacred Headwaters is just that, sacred.

Tamara Ainscow - Could not reach/Did not respond

Bruce Bidgood - Could not reach/Did not respond

Lynne Christiansen

1. over fishing and mismanagement
2. I am not a biologist and would rely heavily on input from experts in this field.
3. I am opposed to enbridge
4. recreation and eco-tourism
5. yes

James Cordeiro

1. I think the single greatest threat is irresponsible resource extraction. Certainly there are industrial projects that can take place without increasing the risks to our river systems. It is important that as a community we look past quick economic gains and instead focus on projects that will have a lasting benefit to the region without jeopardizing our environment.
2. Municipally, we can work with higher levels of government and agencies on issues outside municipal jurisdiction. An area within the control of the City and Regional District is waste management. With a soon to be recycling drop off centre, I would like to see the city and RD work to prevent dumping in and around our river. I would propose a "Keep it out of the River" campaign encouraging recycling of products, eliminating tipping fees at the dump for items that are not returnable, and increasing fines for illegal dumping. This would help to keep our water system cleaner.
3. I oppose the Enbridge pipeline. Terrace and local businesses earn millions of dollars a year from tourism and fishing. We will see an economic benefit from construction of the pipeline but that benefit will come and then go, whereas proper stewardship of our rivers will provide economic benefit year after year.
4. The most viable non-industrialized development would be First Nations and Ecotourism. That said there would still be environmental impacts associated with increasing tourism such as increased traffic through YXT. We will need to look at some industrialized economic development if we are to promote growth and give tax relief to homeowners as explained in question 1.
5. I am on record from the 2008 election opposing coal bed methane extraction in the Scared Headwaters.

Marilyn Davies - Could not reach/Did not respond

Brian Downie - Could not reach/Did not respond

MaryAnn Freeman - Could not reach/Did not respond

Chris Gee

1. Climate change, Shell, Enbridge, and the hydro power project frenzy currently overtaking our region, all make it near the top of my list but, the single greatest threat comes from finger pointers like myself who lay blame on others for the slow moving catastrophe of biosphere degradation. Almost everyone I know (I include myself in this), over consume resources and are addicted to fossil fuels. Herein lies the systemic source of the single greatest threat to Skeena wild salmon.
2. I will do everything in my power to encourage Terrace City Council to officially oppose Enbridge and Shell's CBM plans.
3. OPPOSE!
4. Expansion of our local food system.
5. Yes, with all my heart.

Tyson Hull - Could not reach/Did not respond

Dan LeFrancois - Could not reach/Did not respond

Michael Ross

1. Fish farming. I am, by no means, an expert. The more I learn, the more they scare me. This was the first thing that came to mind, there are others.
2. Elected officials are attaching a higher priority to sustainability in general as they become more aware of its significance, and certainly have some influence in their respective areas of responsibility. I, as a city Councilor, may advocate the cause of our wild salmon, get resolutions passed, promote education and create awareness but; it will be ineffective unless it is done “up and down the river” so to speak. I used the word “heartened” earlier, with respect to your survey, because it sends the message “people are watching” and may help to motivate the greater co-operation that is required.
3. Tampering with the Sacred Headwaters, the Enbridge pipeline and the associated oil tanker traffic have the potential to destroy our way of life as effectively as any invading army and must be opposed with as much tenacity. I have said this before and there is not enough money to change this stand. I will interject here, a Direct Democracy, where people, (not politicians or committees), are the final authority on any issue, would have the power to stop these actions cold. No appeals, no “ifs ands or buts”.
4. Tourism (and the associated recreational and service industries) Win/win. Maintain the beauty and the ecology while deriving a very prosperous livelihood and preserving tradition. For so long it was “Super Natural BC”. Now, we are on course for supernatural BC – as in “nothing left but ghosts” We must apply our wisdom soon. The “boom/bust” cycles have been cancerous and destructive. Tourism may prove to be slower growth but will be healthy growth, and will immunize us from this cycle.
5. Tampering with the Sacred Headwaters, the Enbridge pipeline and the associated oil tanker traffic have the potential to destroy our way of life as effectively as any invading army and must be opposed with as much tenacity. I have said this before and there is not enough money to change this stand. I will interject here, a Direct Democracy, where people, (not politicians or committees), are the final authority on any issue, would have the power to stop these actions cold. No appeals, no “ifs ands or buts”.

Stacey Tyers

1. Enbridge
2. I will advocate that we take stands. That it is our responsibility as a community and a council to protect and respect our environment. We must also stand by First Nations people who too often are consulted as a token gesture and not truly listened to. This is not an acceptable practice, we must ensure we hear them.
3. Oppose, The potential risks outweigh the potential benefit.
4. Small Business Services. Whether arts, culture, food etc.. We need to support, train and encourage more small business.
5. Yes, we need to protect our communities and maintain their extensive beauty and environmental benefit for the generations to come. Greed should never overpower the desire to ensure stability and sustainability for the generations to follow.