

Port Moody-Burquitlam Riding

Samantha Agtarap, BC Green Party

1. Environmental Leadership

What qualifications or experiences make you a strong candidate for voters who prioritize environmental issues in British Columbia?

I am a city councillor and an engineer that has spent almost 20 years working on climate action, energy efficiency in buildings and renewable energy.

2. Environmental Challenges

a) In your view, what is the most pressing environmental challenge facing British Columbia, and how would you address it?

Climate change - we need to continue and accelerate adaptation while not forgetting about mitigation. It is an "all hands on deck" moment, and the government needs to enable action and encourage innovation.

b) What do you see as the most significant environmental challenge in your local riding, and what steps would you take to address it?

Sea level rise as time goes on, but also hotter summers mean greater stress on our trees which provide much needed temperature regulation in our urban environment.

3. Tree Canopy and Housing Legislation

Recent provincial housing legislation (Bills 44 and 47) permits increased density and larger building footprints without tree protections or minimum planting requirements, potentially reducing tree canopy. Metro Vancouver aims for a 40% tree canopy cover to enhance human health and environmental resilience. What role do you believe the Provincial Government should play in achieving this climate-ready target?

While the NDP government says that municipalities still retain control over tree protection, the reality is that it will become challenging in many

situations and depends on the configuration of the lot, existing tree placements and the unit entitlement. The legislation is too rigid and does not account for individual differences. Port Moody, Belcarra and Anmore all exceed the Metro Vancouver tree canopy target currently, and the TOAs have potential to increase tree canopy but we still must be conscious of other areas as infill development occurs, and encourage greater replacement with appropriate species. Paris, France is a good example of increasing canopy in an urban environment with some lofty tree planting goals.

4. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework

The Provincial Government has introduced a draft Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework. If you support this Framework, what steps would you advocate for its implementation? If you do not support it, what alternative policies would you propose?

Our goal is clear: to halt and reverse biodiversity loss while building resilience for both ecosystems and communities. We have the roadmap, the tools and the vision to shape a better future—one where ecosystem health and biodiversity are central to every decision we make.

We know that a sustainable future begins with protecting and restoring the natural areas that make our province so ecologically diverse. We will create a sustainable economy that provides good, well-paid jobs without compromising the environment.

5. Nature-Based Solutions

"Nature-based solutions," such as the restoration, conservation, and management of wetlands, grasslands, coastlines, and forests, are essential tools in mitigating and adapting to climate change while supporting biodiversity. How do you envision the Province promoting nature-based solutions to develop climate-resilient communities?

The Green Party will:

- Invest \$50 million in a Youth Climate Corps to provide good-paying jobs for youth in restoring and protecting natural systems.
- Invest in a Watershed Security Fund to protect BC's watersheds (see Watershed Security section).

- Invest in Indigenous-led conservation and Indigenous Guardians programs.
- Shift to long-term, stable funding for nature-based solutions.
- Support long-term employment and governance in line with community goals and priorities.

At the recent Union of BC Municipalities' annual conference, Port Moody (sponsored by myself and Cllr Amy Lubik) introduced a resolution support expansion of Youth Climate Corps. It was successfully endorsed by members and this will be conveyed to the next provincial government.

6. Climate Change Acknowledgment and Responsibility

Do you agree that climate change, including increased temperature variability, droughts, floods, wildfires, and biodiversity loss, is primarily driven by human activity? What responsibilities do you believe all levels of government have in helping communities mitigate and adapt to these changes, and what specific role should the Provincial Government play?

Yes! All levels of governments must be working towards addressing impacts and causes. The Province can help through programs like CleanBC and the BC Net Zero Innovation Network but it also must provide funding to municipalities to ensure work can continue and accelerate.

Rick Glumac (NDP)

1. Environmental Leadership

What qualifications or experiences make you a strong candidate for voters who prioritize environmental issues in British Columbia?

Before entering politics, I volunteered extensively with the Wilderness Committee and I have a track record of championing many environmental issues and have been endorsed by environmental organizations. In fact, I stood side by side with Dr. Elaine Golds in raising environmental (and financial) concerns about some private power

projects that the previous BC Liberal government was considering. As a city councillor I was a champion of environmental protection and introduced a motion for the city of Port Moody to officially oppose the expansion of the trans mountain pipeline. As President of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region I set the theme of our yearly summit to be "Advancing a Sustainable Regional Economy through Clean Energy and Innovation" and helped to initiate a groundbreaking cross-border study on the future of green hydrogen in our region. Locally I have championed the repurposing of Burrard Thermal to help tackle climate change (<https://www.straight.com/news/1359236/rick-glumac-using-burrard-thermal-lands-tackle-climate-change>). I also spoke many times about the need for action on climate change in the legislature (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=basAljegyBs>).

2. Environmental Challenges

a) In your view, what is the most pressing environmental challenge facing British Columbia, and how would you address it?

One of the most pressing environmental challenges facing BC is climate change. But an even greater challenge is the division that John Rustad and the BC Conservatives are trying to create around environmental issues and climate change. He has called the protection of critical lands and waters "nonsense" and has questioned climate science. We don't believe a healthy environment and a sustainable economy are at odds. Our Clean BC plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 has also been a key economic driver for our province and helped us become one of the strongest and greenest economies in Canada. We will build on this effort, and we also plan to preserve at-risk lands, protect watersheds, strengthen partnerships with First Nations, and work together with young people on actions to preserve ecosystems for future generations. These are actions that bring people together that we can all be a part of.

b) What do you see as the most significant environmental challenge in your local riding, and what steps would you take to address it?

In my riding there is a tremendous opportunity to repurpose Burrard Thermal to help tackle climate change. In order to facilitate a new use for this facility I worked closely with the Minister of Energy to bring

forward changes to the Clean Energy Act to allow clean energy uses at Burrard Thermal. Our government has been working closely with first nations and has already begun to dismantle the facility in preparation for its exciting new clean energy future.

3. Tree Canopy and Housing Legislation

Recent provincial housing legislation (Bills 44 and 47) permits increased density and larger building footprints without tree protections or minimum planting requirements, potentially reducing tree canopy. Metro Vancouver aims for a 40% tree canopy cover to enhance human health and environmental resilience. What role do you believe the Provincial Government should play in achieving this climate-ready target?

The BC NDP supports municipal efforts to protect trees and tree canopies. Bills 44 and 47 do not supersede any local bylaws that are in place to achieve these goals and in fact some municipalities such as Coquitlam have developed robust plans for maintaining residential tree canopies - surely due to advocacy from environmental groups like the Burke Mountain Naturalists, RHCS, the Tree Fellowship, and others.

Recently I wrote an editorial about how provincial legislation provides more bylaw tools for local governments.

(<https://tricitydispatch.com/housing-legislation-complete-communities/>).

4. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework

The Provincial Government has introduced a draft Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework. If you support this Framework, what steps would you advocate for its implementation? If you do not support it, what alternative policies would you propose?

The BC NDP government developed the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework, in partnership with First Nations, community organizations, local governments, scientists, and others. We support this Framework and look forward to further work on it in the upcoming years, if elected. We would seek to implement it the same way it was created – collaboratively, encouraging customized solutions that meet the needs of local ecosystems.

5. Nature-Based Solutions

"Nature-based solutions," such as the restoration, conservation, and management of wetlands, grasslands, coastlines, and forests, are essential tools in mitigating and adapting to climate change while supporting biodiversity. How do you envision the Province promoting nature-based solutions to develop climate-resilient communities?

David Eby and the BC NDP are excited about nature-based solutions to climate change. The principles within the draft Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework align well with nature-based solutions. These principles prioritize strong relationships; recognize that people, land, and water are interconnected; encourage flexible and targeted solutions to local matters rather than a one-size-fits-all approach; and highlight long-term solutions that are sustainable over generations.

We have plans to protect critical, at-risk ecosystems, take a more sustainable and innovative approach to natural resource sectors, and support more people to choose careers in sustainability and environmental stewardship.

6. Climate Change Acknowledgment and Responsibility

Do you agree that climate change, including increased temperature variability, droughts, floods, wildfires, and biodiversity loss, is primarily driven by human activity? What responsibilities do you believe all levels of government have in helping communities mitigate and adapt to these changes, and what specific role should the Provincial Government play?

David Eby, and the BC NDP take climate change very seriously. Unlike John Rustad, who believes humans have no influence on climate change – past, present, or future – we know that climate change is a global crisis fueled by human activity; it's something that all government jurisdictions are responsible and accountable for - local, provincial, federal, and First Nations. The Province should play a role in preserving biodiversity and habitats, facilitating education, spurring innovation and growing clean energy, and strengthening partnerships with First Nations and other governments so that we learn collectively and take action together. We also have two cabinet positions with a mandate to prevent,

mitigate, and respond to the impacts of climate change – the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Change Readiness.

John Rustad and the BC Conservatives seem to take cues on climate change and science more generally from the dark corners of the internet. That means our sensitive ecosystems, precious watersheds, and all the diverse communities and cultures that depend on them are at risk if they were to form a government.

Additional Comments

Please spend some time looking through our platform when it is released in the coming days to see some of the great climate and environmental initiatives that we are proposing in the coming term.