

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the Regular meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, March 25, 2019.

ON TABLE ITEM

Date: MARCH 25 2019
Meeting: COUNCIL (OPEN)
Item: #9

CityClerk

From: De Whalen <de_whalen@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 25 March 2019 10:53
To: MayorandCouncillors; CityClerk
Subject: City of Richmond Motion on Climate Emergency
Attachments: Motion on Climate Emergency by Richmond Council.docx

Greetings Mayor and Councillors and City Clerk's Office:

Would you kindly add this letter of support, below and attached, from Fraser Voices to Council's package for tonight's Council meeting? I will be there this evening to speak to it if needed. Thank you,

*Fraser Voices
c/o 1028 51A Street, Delta, B.C V4M 2X8
Richmond Council,
City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1*

March 24, 2019

Re: Motion by Richmond Council on Climate Emergency

Fraser Voices supports the motion by Richmond Council to declare a state of climate emergency as major climate changes could seriously impact the globally significant ecosystems of the Fraser River, a Canadian Heritage River which supports the largest salmon runs in the world.

As Richmond, Vancouver, and Delta are located in the lower Fraser delta, we have a responsibility to recognize and advocate protection of the largest estuary on North America's Pacific Coast. The estuary and surrounding watershed support Canada's largest populations of wintering waterfowl, shorebirds and birds of prey with global and local recognition:

- the most significant Important Bird Area (IBA) in Canada*
- the highest designation site under the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network*
- designations of four provincial Wildlife Management Areas*
- an international RAMSAR site under the International Convention on Wetlands*

The Fraser River habitats are at risk from numerous stressors. Increased water temperatures will affect the hydrology and cause mortalities of salmon. Scientists who made submissions to the 2012 Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River, raised concerns about the effects of warmer air and water temperatures. They addressed concerns about early melting snowpack and increased water runoff impacting the life cycle of salmon.

Southern Resident Killer Whales are listed as endangered under the Species at Risk Act and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans includes climate change under the list of threats to their survival:

"Exposure to toxic spills, interactions with fisheries and aquaculture, and climate change are other human-related threats that may negatively impact the Southern Resident Killer Whale population."⁽¹⁾

Under the Climate Change Emergency strategy, hopefully measures can be taken to protect the interactive, interdependent ecosystems of the Fraser River and Salish Sea.

Sincerely,





Susan Jones, Director and Secretary of Fraser Voices

Note: Fraser Voices was formed in January, 2016, and incorporated as a registered society on September 9, 2017. Members and supporters from Fraser Voices and other groups work together, locally, nationally and internationally, to secure protection of the globally-significant natural resources of the Fraser River in British Columbia.

ⁱⁱ⁽¹⁾ *Killer Whale (Northeast Pacific Southern Resident Population), Department of Fisheries and Oceans*
<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especies/profiles-profils/killerWhalesouth-PAC-NE-epaulardsud-eng.html>

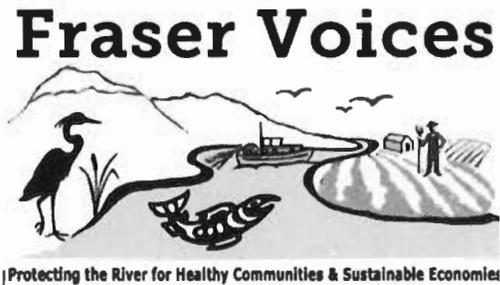
De Whalen
604.230.3158

"Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can quietly become a power no government can suppress, a power that can transform the world." Howard Zinn

"You can't undo the past. You don't have to feel guilty about the past. You don't even have to apologize for the past. All you have to do is say YES. Yes, this happened. We can start there." Richard Wagamese on Reconciliation.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" being more prominent than the last name "Jones".

Susan Jones, Director and Secretary of Fraser Voices

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