



Sunshine Coast
Conservation
Association

PO Box 1969 Sechelt, British Columbia VON 3A0

www.thescca.ca

Environmental Issues All Candidates Forum 2017

- 1. Global Climate Change.** There is now an all but universal world-wide scientific understanding that the earth's climate is changing radically due to human use of fossil fuels and the resulting rise in carbon emissions.

What are your priorities for improving provincial policies related to climate change adaptation and mitigation?

- 2. Forests and the Environment.** Eleven years ago, the Province implemented the *Forest and Range Practice Act (FRPA)* which has a "results based" code that is applied by registered resource professionals. This is called "professional reliance". The *Act* features Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs) in which forestry professionals, usually employees of logging companies, describe how forest management plans will achieve the environmental "goals and objectives of government".

Are you satisfied that the forested environments of the Province are being adequately managed and conserved by the FRPA and its required Forest Stewardship Plans? Also, what role do you see for the forests in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation?

- 3. Fisheries and the Environment.** The SCCA has completed a review of salmon returns (dating back to 1947) in all major spawning systems of the SC Natural Resources District. The results show nearly catastrophic declines in almost every major system and the complete loss of many discreet runs. The survey also found severe declines in steelhead and sea run cutthroat trout populations. With the exception of systems that have hydroelectric dams without fish ladders, the decline in spawning returns parallels historic increases in logging activity.

Considering the enormous environmental, cultural, social and economic value of the fisheries, what improvements in Provincial policy are needed to bring about restoration of this resource?



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4. Species-At-Risk and the Environment. British Columbia does not have specific legislation obligating protection for at-risk species. Most of BC's at-risk species are federally recognized by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and have completed or draft recovery plans. BC is also a signatory to several federal/provincial agreements to implement the *Species-At-Risk Act* (SARA). Two of the high profile at-risk species in our region are the Marbled Murrelet and the Northern Goshawk. Nothing much seems to be happening for these and many other at-risk species.

In your view, how should the Province move forward on its obligations to protect at-risk species?