

Environment North Minutes
Tues. May 24th, 2016

Federal Town Hall Meeting @ Waverley Library 1- 2:30 pm
Presented by: Honourable MP Patti Hadju & MP Don Rusnuk

A short presentation was followed by community feedback on climate change issues. Statistics show that the greatest number of GHG are 30% from oil and gas production, 27% from transportation, 12% residential needs and the remaining 31% due to agriculture and other sources. Mitigation, cleaner technologies, carbon prices, adaptation and resiliency projects will lower our GHG emissions.

The following questions were asked at the meeting, as an introduction for discussion:

1. What has been your own experience with impacts of climate change?
2. What are the solutions to reducing greenhouse gases that you would like to see governments, businesses and communities implement?
3. What are your ideas to both grow the economy and jobs while reducing emissions?
4. What are some ideas to promote innovation and new technologies in the effort to reduce GHG emissions?
5. What can Canada do to better adapt to impacts of climate change and support affected communities, including indigenous communities?

During the Federal Town Hall Meeting a lot was discussed, such as, the correctness in this type of information gathering that is a basis of democracy and far superior than surveys. It was requested that the Federal Town Hall should be an annual event.

There was a general disagreement with pipelines and a fossil fuel economy that is opposite to our climate change plans. The current NAFTA and possible TPP trade deals were mentioned as against our best interests for resource management, international CC Policy and promotion of local businesses and community ownership. It was suggested that the Energy Board change their strategies and begin to approve green energy technologies faster. Carbon taxes and CO2 labelling were mentioned.

There were many great ideas on how to adapt: re-tooling factories to build wind generators, solar panels, run of river generators, geo-thermal heating and affordable electric cars. Some remote communities would benefit from community owned power generation, building greenhouses to extend the growing season, lower food costs and ensure food security. A continuous, permanent retro-fit program for homes and businesses was requested and all new construction to meet at least a basic LEEDS architectural design. Solar cities were suggested to access new government funding and help create new manufacturing and maintenance jobs, as part of the green economy.

A short EN meeting took place at Calico's Coffeeshouse from 3:30 – 4:30 pm. We talked about our observations and anything that we may wish to add to the repeat Town Hall Meeting from 5 – 7 pm. We all agreed that the Town Hall should be an annual report of projects underway and their impacts as well as future plans. Everyone was in agreement that the style of information gathering was refreshing and hopeful of quick actions on the many ideas.

The agenda was approved. Moved by: Lea 2nd by: Karen carried

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The executive was appointed.

President – Graham VP – Karen Secretary – Susan Treasurer – Lea

The AGM was reviewed. We took in \$540 from our 52 attendees. Cheques were sent to our guest speaker, Gordon Laxer, to Porter Air and the Prince Arthur Hotel. Our costs were not too high; we can save by checking out the free venues, such as schools and libraries. Our EN logo needs to be mentioned and visible during our press conferences. Lea will send the membership list to Susan for updating.

For part of our discussion on the Federal Town Hall Meeting see above.

CJ articles in the future will be on the Town Hall review, the current status of caribou and moose, biomass usage and the Fort McMurray fire.

Adjourned.