

From: Julie Northey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 1:37 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:The FUTURE of the ISLANDS TRUST & CLIMATE CHANGE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Thank you for your desire to create perceptual and real changes towards climate change for the gulf islands.

From experience, I know that this point of view, that I am about to share with you, also shared by several thousands, (completely backed by science and physicians) is not a popular stance, but it is, like Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" very much a problem on Salt Spring Island, (and in rural areas in general).

Perceptions towards what is considered climate change problems, need real leadership, and action. I truly hope that Island's Trust will seriously support this new paradigm.

Unfortunately cognitive dissonance takes place of the scientific facts regarding the (out dated) "culture of burning wood."

This addiction needs serious addressing, as there is no "safe, or clean" way to burn wood.

Remember how horrible we all felt during the wild fires? This is often my state of being living on my street on Salt Spring Island.

People who appear educated, actually deny the science and the statistics regarding this carbon producing activity and are misinformed that because wood (as is lead, asbestos, etc.) is

"natural", it is not harming one's neighbour's health, our songbirds, wild life, and the air quality, which we all share and breathe.

The largest source of air pollution in many rural Canadian communities is biomass burning.

Too many people still (ignorantly) heat their homes with wood stoves and fireplaces, and still have back yard burns in the summer on Salt Spring Island and other Gulf Islands. Air-pollution measurements (PM2.5) are significantly worse than in the province's urban centres.

Many days of the winter we exceed the BC Air Quality Objectives for 24 hour exposure and hit "high" on the Air Quality Health Index. People living in smoky neighbourhoods are exposed to extremely harmful fine particulates PM2.5 inside and outside of their homes, and, are tragically, unable to defend themselves against this unconscionable and unhealthy practice.

All of this is avoidable. Switching people to cleaner, non-solid fuel heat is so important. Taxing/fining them if they do not make the mandatory switch in a few years, would also help.

Moving homes to newer stoves and doing 'better' burning education have been shown to be ineffective. Improvement is tiny and patchy. It is akin to implementing non-smoking sections in restaurants -- it doesn't work.

I have had conversations with Adam Olsen, our Green MLA and he (as a wood burner, and former cigarette smoker!) was made aware of this issue, through my communications. He claimed he did not know, or better stated, understand, the actual implications to others nearby who are forced to breathe other people's smoke.

He also had shared with me, that he is going to bring to parliament, a program similar to PACE in other parts of Canada, where there are actual, real, affordable incentives to home owners to improve their homes' insulation with cleaner fuel solutions, like heat pumps.

Salt Spring Island could truly be the Green Jewel of The Salish Sea: A Nature Rich, progressive thinking /acting island I had thought it was. Not, what it actually is: garbage dumped on road

sides, wood smoke pollution, road dust pollution, 24 hour 365 days a week noise pollution from Sable Fish Plant, and too many unsafe roads for bicycles, (to name a few things).

Because of overpopulation, we are all living too close to each other now; so wood burning actions seriously impact each other's health, and our planet's health.

Now that we know better, we should do better. (ie smoking in cars with kids, smoking in the public schools, buses planes, throwing virgins into volcanoes ;) bonking women on the head and dragging them into one's cave, while declaring, "she's mine!" ... most of these things we no longer do.)

I would also like to share some sad and alarming statistics, that, everyone on my street has "something" of a smoke related PM2.5 disease, from dementia, low cognition, (plenty of that) heart, stroke ,breast cancer and extreme breathing challenges/asthma - this all costs the govt. money, too.

Thank you.

I have tons of resources, here's a few below, to get you started.

Sincerely,

Julie Northey Salt Spring Island artist, gardener, grandmother and resident.

<https://woodsmokepollution.org/>

“even short-term exposures to wood smoke have a profound impact on the number of protective white blood cells that populate our lungs, damaging their DNA and causing their death before they can signal to the rest of the immune system for back up.”

<https://lizaselley.co.uk/blog-2/>

https://breathecleanair.ca/resources/?fbclid=IwAR1SQJn_OnjXhL3YImelGs3RkvU4dWsy3ThgyITXuY1wOEF2Fer-Qccon5c

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7LWX_jL1yI&fbclid=IwAR27oAGmsRuLmhcxFgKnYrR3TVdTp-XURTUkIOw4xd25qs5DmcEt6jg0Aw8



Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Cuts Energy Costs by Going Ductless - YouTube

More northwest residents are saving money on their utility bills with a ductless a heat pump. And the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe is leading the way as nearly 30 percent of the tribe is now heating ...

www.youtube.com

What we are forced to breathe:



SUNNY DAY BUT
TO BREATHE.



