

**DELEGATION APPLICATION Virtual or In-Person**

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Date: July 9, 2024  
 Name of Applicant: Jane Kilthei and Valerie Russell On behalf of: The Cowichan Climate Hub  
 Address: Valerie: FFIPA s. 22(1); Jane: FFIPA s. 22(1)  
 Email: cowichan@climatehub.ca Phone: FFIPA s. 22(1)

I/We request to appear as a delegation before:

Council       Committee of the Whole       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the purpose for your presentation and a brief overview, below, and attach a one-page (maximum) outline of your presentation (if more room is needed). Please be specific.

As extreme weather events increase here on Vancouver Island, across our province, and all over the world, the rising costs of repairing damaged public infrastructure, as well as building the necessary more climate-resilient infrastructure, falls heavily on our local governments. Elected leaders and staff shoulder major responsibility for trying to anticipate and for responding to the escalating storms, floods and droughts which threaten our local ecosystems, water supply and food security, in addition to seriously damaging public infrastructure. At the same time taxpayers shoulder the major financial burden, which will be reflected in steadily rising taxes.

Our presentation will speak to the rapidly rising costs of climate change damage to our communities. We invite Council to join other BC local governments (nine thus far) in a fiscally responsible solution. While one can argue we all have some responsibility for the damage fossil fuels do to our climate, we are not all equally responsible. The major fossil fuel companies, that have profited and continue to profit from the extraction and burning of fossil fuels, knew about the disastrous impacts of their products on our lives and our world. Their own scientist told them in the 1960s and 70s. Then these fossil fuel companies (Exxon, BP, Shell, etc) lied to us for decades about these escalating impacts. The best available evidence confirms those impacts are directly connected to fossil fuel emissions. Big Oil, much like Big Tobacco, knew about the damage and deaths their products caused, yet they continue to expand fossil fuel extraction and burning for profit with this full knowledge.

In 2019, 28 legal scholars from across Canada wrote and encouraged BC local governments to sue fossil fuel companies, saying a court will likely accept the link between current costs and climate change, giving the municipalities the right to sue to recover the costs. This could alleviate the burden on both citizens and local government of the accelerating costs of responding to fossil-fuel driven climate damage. As we talk with residents from North Cowichan and across the Cowichan Valley, they are vocal in their support. Our delegation will be asking Municipality of North Cowichan Mayor Douglas and Council to vote to join other BC local governments in supporting and participating in the province-wide Sue Big Oil campaign ([www.suebigoil.ca](http://www.suebigoil.ca))

More information can be found at: [https://suebigoil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Local-Government-Guide\\_updated.pdf](https://suebigoil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Local-Government-Guide_updated.pdf) Slides to follow.

Will you be requesting a grant or financial assistance?      Yes       No

Will you be providing supporting documents to include in the agenda package?      Yes       No

How will you be presenting?       PowerPoint       Video       Verbal

I affirm that I/we own the rights to the media I/we are providing and hereby grant the Corporation of the District of North Cowichan (Municipality) the irrevocable right and license to use, edit, alter, copy and distribute all materials provided as the Municipality sees fit in its absolute discretion, and that I have obtained appropriate personal information releases from all identifiable individuals appearing in these materials for such use.      Yes       No

I confirm that I want to participate:       In-Person       Virtually

If participating virtually, I confirm that I have tested my ability to participate in a Webex meeting:      Yes       No

I would like a member of the North Cowichan IT team to connect with me to confirm my configuration:      Yes       No

To test your ability to participate in a Webex meeting, start a meeting at this site: <https://www.webex.com/test-meeting.html>  
 Once you join the test meeting, use these instructions to test your webcam, speakers, and microphone:  
<https://help.webex.com/en-us/bzq2s7/Test-Your-Speaker-and-Microphone-in-Webex-Meetings>

Council welcomes public comments, but as a courtesy to Council who deal with lengthy agendas, we request that you present your information clearly and concisely in **ten minutes** or less. If the delegation consists of more than one person, please appoint one person to speak on behalf of your group.

**For Internal use only**

Funding request (if any) reviewed by Director Financial Services       Yes

Request approved (date) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Meeting \_\_\_\_\_