

WHY NORTH COWICHAN SHOULD JOIN OTHER BC COMMUNITIES & SUE BIG OIL?

Presentation to Council
Jane Kilthei & Valerie Russell,
Cowichan Climate Hub

Wednesday
August 21, 2023

Paying the Costs of Climate Damage

**SUE
BIG OIL**

The logo for 'SUE BIG OIL' features the words 'SUE' and 'BIG OIL' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'O' in 'OIL' is replaced by a red silhouette of an oil rig with a plume of smoke or steam rising from it.

Campaign Support:



WCEL lawyer Andrew Gage, here to answer
your questions

Rain finally subsides, but flood damage extensive in Cowichan

Still no direct access to Chemainus from the south due to road closures



[Don Bodger](#)

Nov 15, 2021 2:10 PM

Updated Nov 17, 2021 8:28 AM



Russell Farm Market is under water again. (Photo submitted)

2 roads still closed, but Cowichan Valley recovering from floods

But heavy rain is expected again by week's end

[Black Press Media Staff](#)

Nov 24, 2021 5:45 AM



Recovery efforts continue in the Cowichan Valley after last weeks flooding. Pictured are people being rescued along Canada Ave. during the heavy rains on Nov. 15. (File photo)

Climate Adaptation Strategy Process

Ph 1 What We Heard Report – understanding local context & concerns

Ph 2 Climate Vulnerability & Risk Assessment Report

Ph3 Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy

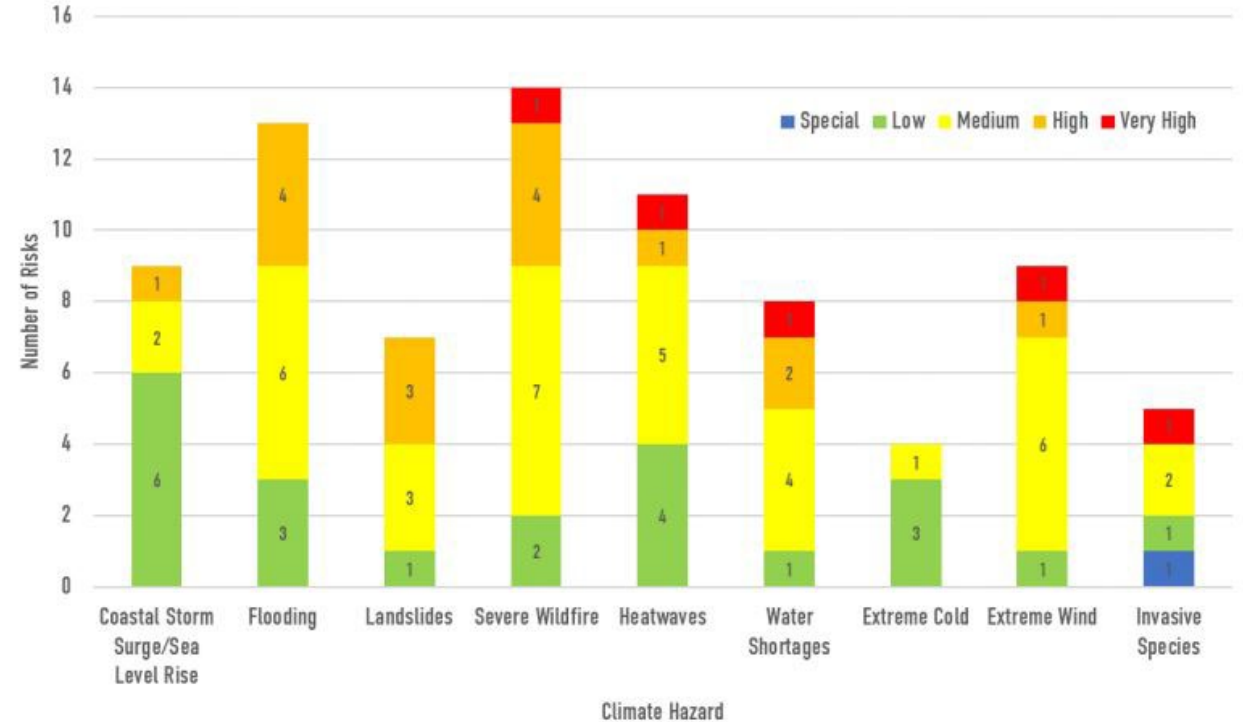


Figure 3: Risk Assessment Results by Climate Hazard

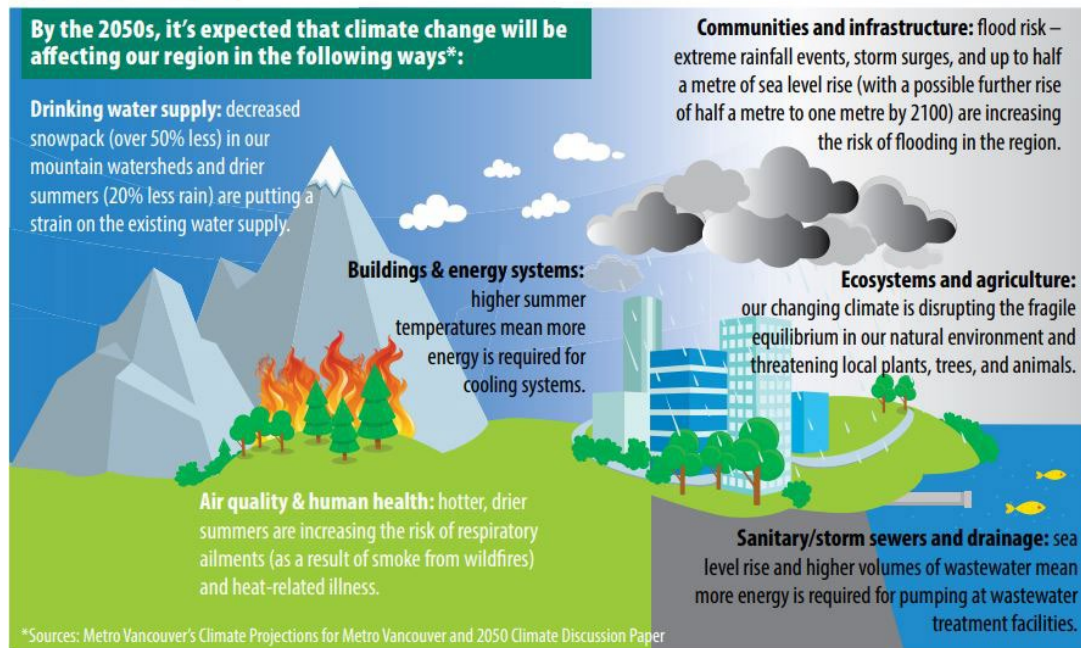
Some key observations emerged from Figure 3:

- The climate hazards with the highest number of risk statements were Severe Wildfire (14), Flooding (13), and Heatwaves (11).
- The climate hazards with the highest number of risks rated Very High or High were Severe Wildfire (5) and Flooding (4).

Port Moody - a community with a similar population size, climate risks & vulnerabilities, as North Cowichan

There are many similarities between our two coastal communities in our assessment of climate risks & recommended responses.

Figure 4: Future Climate Impacts



Port Moody's similar assessment of high climate risks & vulnerabilities

Figure 12: Risk and Vulnerability High Risks

Impact Statement	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Total
Increased interface fire risk: could damage infrastructure, disrupt service, displace people	5.5	4	22
Insurance challenges due to prolonged recovery	5	4	20
Shoreline habitat squeezed out by rising waters and hardened shorelines	5.5	3.5	19.25
Increase in shoreline erosion negatively impacts both the aquatic environment and shoreline public amenities	5.5	3.5	19.25
Increased strain on emergency services	6	3	18
Increased demand on resources during times of response/recovery from events	6	3	18
Increase in impacts to urban trees and green space resulting in increased resource needs and decreased public amenity	6	3	17.5
Increased landslide risk due to changing rainfall patterns: could damage infrastructure, disrupt service, displace people	5	3.5	17.5
Increasing health impacts and shelter needs for the homeless population during long stretches of inclement weather	5.5	3	16.5
Sanitary pump station function impacted due to rising water levels, site flooding and saltwater intrusion	5.5	3	16.5
1 Flooding in low lying areas could displace people and disrupt service	5	3	15
2 Decreased durability of infrastructure will shorten lifespans and require increased maintenance	5	3	15
3 Increased stress on native species resulting in shifting species ranges and potential loss of biodiversity	5	3	15
4 Overwhelmed drainage infrastructure due to heavy rainfall increases urban flood risk	5	3	15
5 Gradual inundation of low lying land along the coast over time due to sea level rise	5	2	10

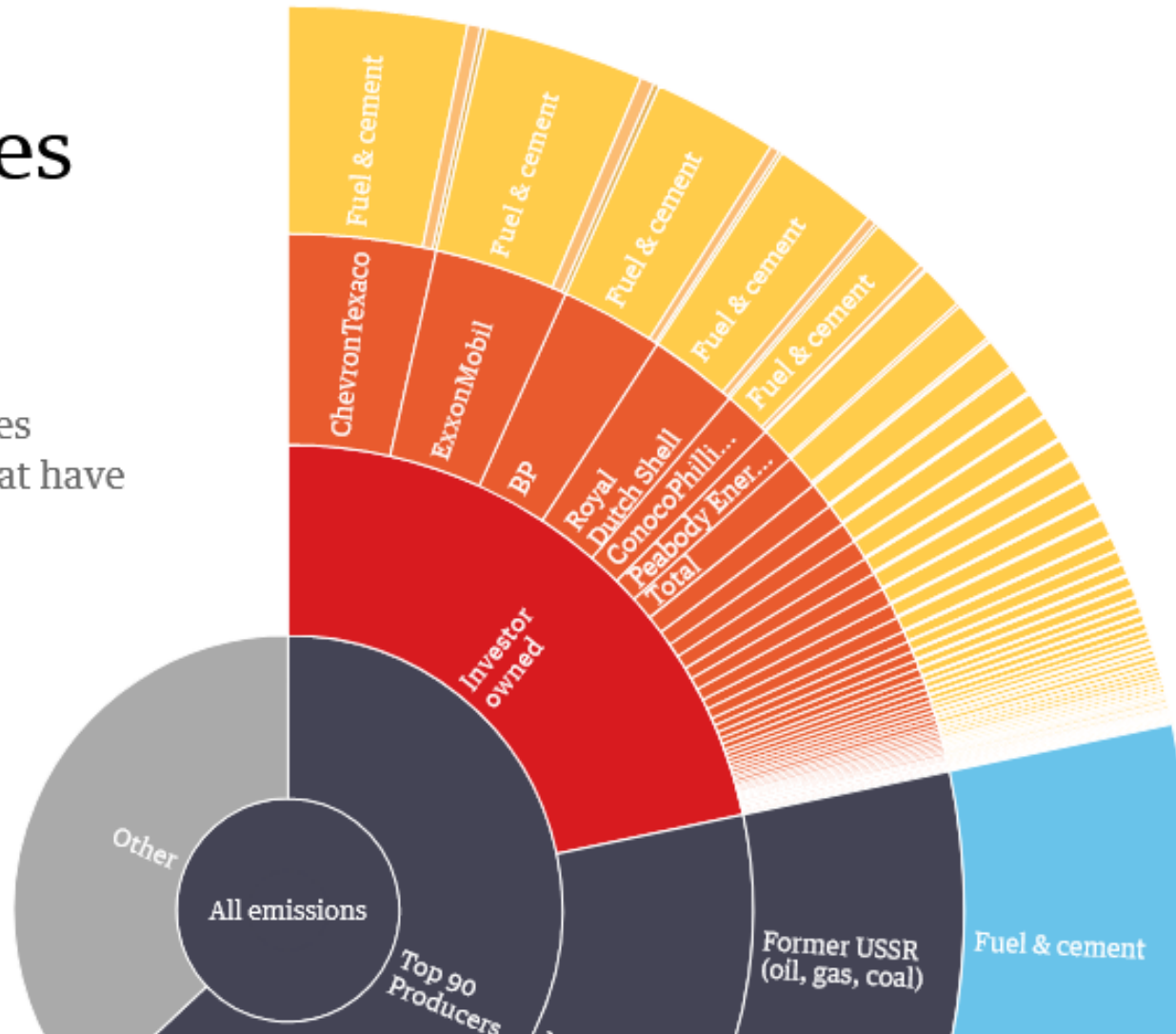
Why Fossil Fuel companies?

Which companies caused global warming?

A new paper shows which companies extracted the carbon-based fuels that have caused climate change.

👉 Hover and click to explore

📄 [Read the news story](#)

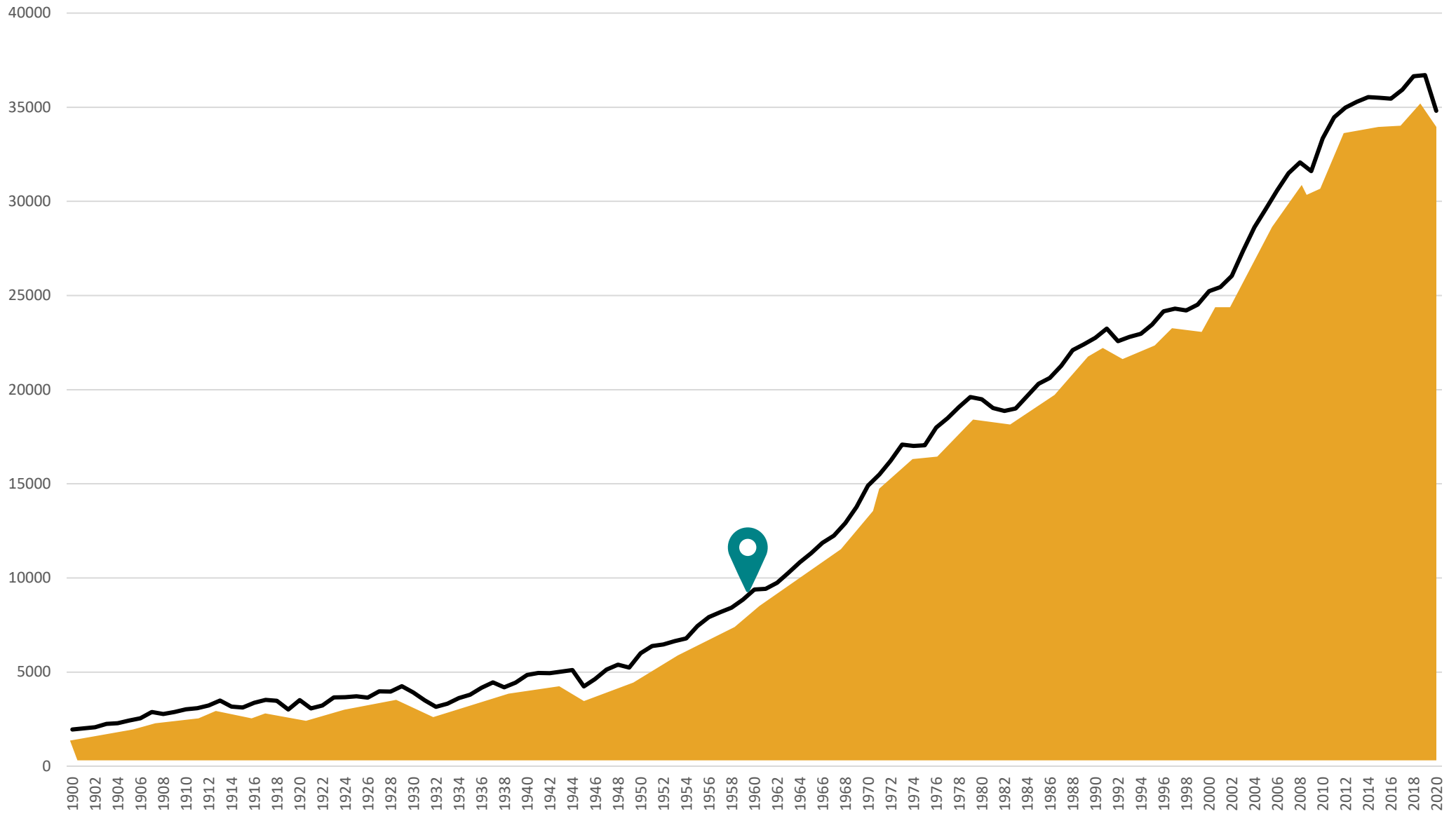


“Whenever you burn conventional fuel, you create carbon dioxide... [contributing to] a greenhouse effect ... [A] temperature rise corresponding to a 10 per cent increase in carbon dioxide will be sufficient to melt the icecap and submerge New York. All the coastal cities would be covered”

– Dr. Edward Teller, 1959, Speaking to the American Petroleum Institute



Human-CO2 emissions by year



How a Handful of
Obscured the
Issues from
Snake to
Warm

Merchants of DOUBT

Naomi
& Erik

The Climate Deception Dossiers

Internal Fossil Fuel Industry Memos Reveal
Decades of Corporate Disinformation

NOT SCIENCE

[Union of
Concerned Scientists]

JAMES H.
Co-Author of
with RICHARD

Geoff Dembicki

"A truly needed
compendium of
Big Oil's endless lies."
Bill McKibben

THE Petroleum Papers

Inside the
Far-Right Conspiracy
to
Cover Up
Climate Change



BP [redacted] as profits more than double to £23bn

Energy company faces calls for toughened windfall tax as it reaps rewards from high gas prices

● [UK business live - latest updates](#)



📷 The Labour party last week asked for Britain's energy profits levy to be revamped to capture more of the exceptional earnings made by oil and gas firms. Photograph: Kacper Pempel/Reuters

Shell Hits the Brakes on Growing Renewables Unit After Record 2022 Profit

- Company aims to focus investments to boost shareholder value
- Low-carbon energy spending has grown as Shell aims to cut CO2



Photographer: Dimas Ardian/Bloomberg

SUE BIG OIL is legally possible

Photo from MillieuDefensie



SUE
BIG OIL



**SUE
BIG OIL** is financially
manageable



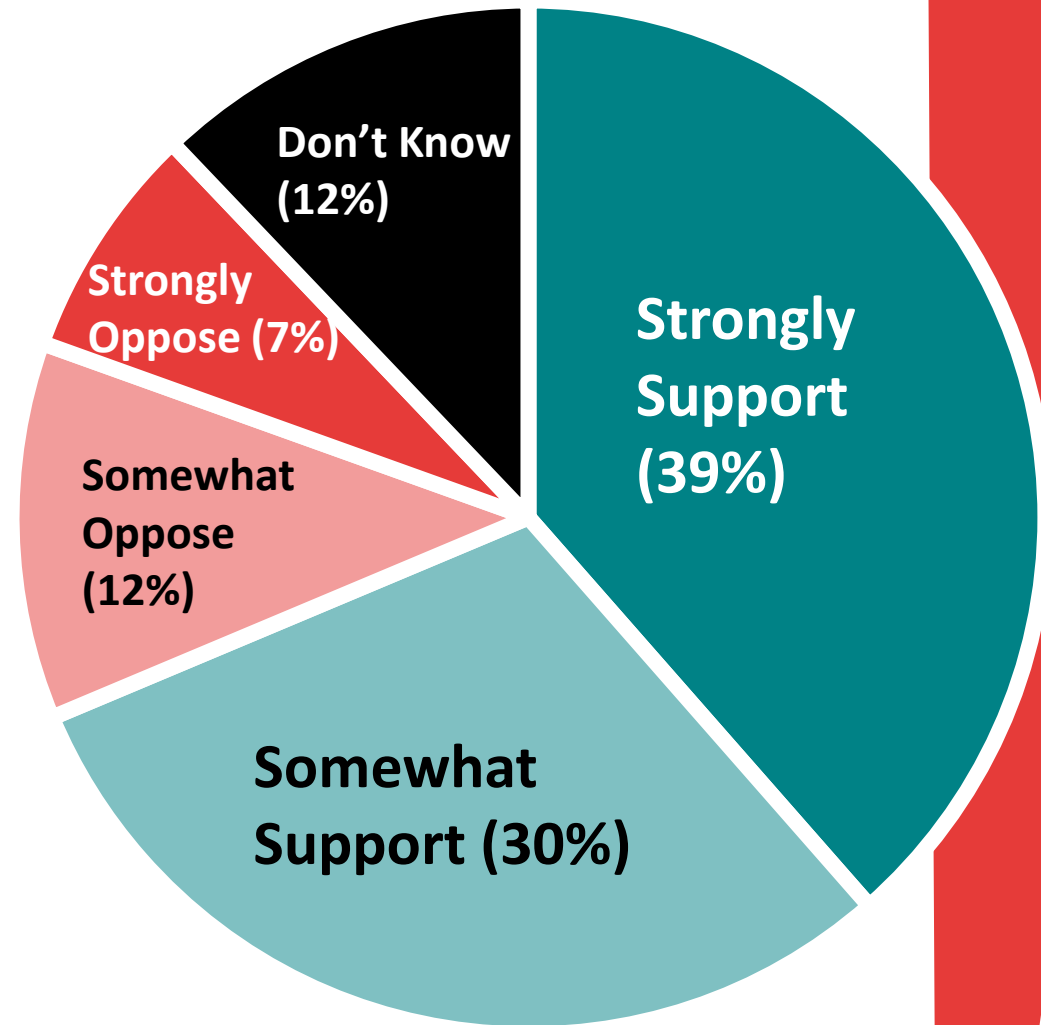
**SUE
BIG OIL**



SUE BIG OIL is Popular

“Some people say that instead of local communities and taxpayers paying all of the increasing costs of climate change, local governments in BC should work together to sue the world’s most polluting oil companies to make them pay for a share of these costs. Do you support or oppose this idea?”

(Stratcom, 2022)



benefits our communities

- Early on a judge confirms that there is a winnable case.
- Changes in investor, fossil fuel company behaviour.
- Needed resource for our communities.
- Fossil fuel companies, investors and governments record climate costs as a liability, making better business decisions.



Burnaby joins Sue Big Oil campaign, would commit \$1 for every resident

"I think it's very prudent; it makes sense," said a local Burnaby mom advocating for the campaign.



Environmentalists from various local advocacy groups in Burnaby joining the Sue Big Oil campaign. | Lauren Vai



Gibsons commits to the Sue Big Oil campaign

Town to work with other local governments in B.C. to file a class action lawsuit to recover costs from global fossil fuel companies.

Connie Jordison

Mar 10, 2023 12:50 PM



aries | Connect | A-L

Squamish council votes to support class action lawsuit against fossil fuel companies

The district will set aside funds— \$1 per resident or about \$25,000— in the 2025 budget for this proposed suit.

Tiffany Crawford

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QUESTIONS?

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WEST COAST
Environmental Law