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October 21, 2014

**Questionnaire for North Saanich Council Candidates from PROW**

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the candidates who are running for Council in the forthcoming election. You have offered to take on a very important task on behalf of your fellow citizens.

PROW is a non-profit society incorporated in BC with 150 +/- households currently signed up as members in North Saanich. As you may know, approximately 19 % of the residential properties in the District are waterfront. This represents about 725 homes.

Our mission is to inform the community about issues affecting waterfront properties. To this end we have prepared the following questionnaire relating to waterfront issues which we would appreciate having you complete and return to us. All we are looking for is a Yes/No answer to each question. You may amplify on your response if you wish.

- 1) Currently Development Permit Area 1 (DPA1) extends 15 metres or 50 feet landward from the marine boundary. In Sidney the equivalent permit area extends only 7.5 m or 25 ft. Would you support reducing the setback for DPA1 in North Saanich from 15 m to 7.5 m, the same as Sidney?
- 2) Currently almost all the residential properties on the waterfront in North Saanich are blanket zoned to a very restrictive M6, which we feel is unwarranted for certain properties in view of recent studies and mapping. Would you consider rezoning from M6 to a less restrictive M5 for those waterfront properties which have moderate, low, or very low overall ecological rating as identified by the Saanich Inlet and Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines (SIPAS) Technical Report, 2011?
- 3) Currently seawalls are restricted to “stacked boulder” construction which may be aesthetically pleasing but not very durable, as the Scoter Trail has demonstrated. In view of the threat of rising sea levels, would you support a broader range of options for seawall construction such as reinforced concrete, or lock blocks, perhaps faced with mortared rock?
- 4) Recent applicants for seawall repairs, stairs to the beach, etc. have been required to provide a “beach spawning foraging fish” study, and a “sea level rising” study. These studies, of dubious value, have to be prepared by “qualified environmental professionals” at great cost to the applicant. Would you consider removing the requirement for such studies?

We realize that the above questions are quite technical and may require some research into District bylaws, however, these are issues that waterfront property owners believe are unfair and onerous. On behalf of these citizens, PROW will be bringing these issues to Council during the coming term so your research will not be wasted.

We plan to distribute the questionnaire, with a compilation of your answers, to our membership for their review. Based on your answers and the response of the membership, the PROW executive will be making a recommendation to our membership as to which candidates we support in the election.

Please send your responses to **PROW**

at

[propertyrightsonwaterfront@gmail.com](mailto:propertyrightsonwaterfront@gmail.com)

by

6:00 p.m. Monday, November 3, 2014

Thank you on behalf of PROW