

2023 North Saanich By-election Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Raymon Farmere

1. Do you support waterfront owners having the legal right to protect their properties from erosion, as long as the requirements of Development Permit Area (DPA1) are met?

Yes No

Comments:

Yes, as long as the areas do not adversely affect North Saanich shorelines, surrounding wildlife and protected plant species.

2. During the OCP process, there has been discussion of the “Green Shores” approach to prevent erosion of the waterfront. While Green Shores may have value in certain favourable conditions, it is not technically or economically feasible on most waterfront properties in North Saanich. If Green Shores is included in the new OCP, will you commit to seeing it is presented as an option, rather than a requirement?

Yes No

Comments:

Yes, it is important to reduce our carbon footprint and our environmental impact in North Saanich District.

3. 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 waterfront properties which have moderate, low, or very low overall ecological rating as identified by up-to-date mapping?

Yes No

Comments:

Preserving the existing docks would prevent the disruption of ecological systems, and marine life. Removing or changing them could cause negative environmental affects, on the North Saanich coastline and disrupt the overall aquatic health of the shoreline.

4. Waterfront owners feel the current OCP contains language that discourages development of any kind within the DPA1 15-meter setback. In keeping with the 2008 Marine Task Force Report recommendations, would you support more flexible language in the new OCP to allow for structures such as decks, docks, and seawalls, as long as such development would not cause environmental harm?

Yes No

Comments:

I fully support OCP Recommendation 30 listed below;

Recommendation 30: Ensure alignment between applicable Marine Task Force recommendations and other shoreline-related policy directions across OCP themes.

5. Waterfront owners are concerned that DPA1 contains restrictions that are not only unfair but result in unintended consequences. For example, restrictions in the 15-meter setback lead to neglect and a buildup of combustible material creating a “wildfire fuse” along the waterfront. Would you support a change in OCP, zoning and bylaw language which allows for flexibility and supports the waterfront owner as wanting to be part of the solution of waterfront protection and not treated as part of the problem?

Yes No

Comments:

I agree because land owners have the right to be heard, and they have the right protect their property from wildfires. Landowners also have a knowledge of the area and ecological climate.

6. For nearly a decade, waterfront owners have been acutely aware of the potential impacts of sea level rise. Studies conducted by the District of North Saanich led to the development of two draft bylaws that would have negatively affected waterfront properties. Would you support having a higher order of government take the lead on this issue?

Yes No

Comments:

Getting the help of the federal government through the ministry of fisheries and oceans Canada, would take the lead on this issue. It is up to the federal ministry of fisheries and oceans Canada to manage sustainable aquaculture.

7. If over the course of your term, Council considers adopting bylaws or changing any regulations or zoning requirements affecting waterfront properties, will you commit to ensuring that every waterfront owner is notified – individually – with a letter outlining the proposed changes and inviting participation in a true consultation process?

Yes No

Comments:

Yes I would address this through the invitation of waterfront property owners to city council meetings, after the council has had a chance to discuss the implications of bylaw changes affecting the environment with the PROW organization and the federal ministry fisheries and oceans.