

BC greens

For immediate release

BC GREENS' VALERIOTE APPLAUDS SQUAMISH COUNCIL'S REJECTION OF FORTIS BC 'MAN CAMP'

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Today Jeremy Valeriote, environmental engineer and BC Green Party candidate for West Vancouver - Sea to Sky, welcomed the rejection of a Fortis BC work camp by Squamish Council.

Yesterday the District of Squamish's elected council made the right decision to turn down a permit application from Fortis BC for a work camp to house at least 576 employees.

Squamish Council is the last line of defence for a community that is seeing a fossil fuel project imposed on it, without adequate consideration of the community's interests. This provincial government has shown it will do whatever it takes to push this project through, and I am grateful to the Council for pushing back on their top-down approach.

Dozens of community members came out to express their concerns about the facility, not only because of the negative impact that it would have on the popular recreational area where it was to be located, but also because it would undermine the town's longstanding efforts to transition from dependency on the resource extraction economy, and instead rebrand Squamish as a mecca for outdoor recreation, and hub for the new, Green economy.

Last night we saw one act from Fortis BC that epitomized their total lack of respect for the process and the community. As soon as the company representatives completed their statement in support of the camp, they left the public hearing. In doing so they demonstrated that they don't care at all about the community's views. Why not show that they *are* listening to concerns and *are* willing to learn about how to do things better?

At the public hearing last night Jeremy, and several others, spoke about the Squamish Canyon project, an important local tourism initiative that has been under development for years. The workcamp would severely undermine this entrepreneurial venture, backed by the District, which is symbolic of a thriving local economy in Squamish. The Canyon stands in stark contrast to the polluting, sunset industry trying to squeeze every last drop of profit out of the planet on its way out the door.

There are many other things wrong with Fortis BC's proposal:

- They had more than 10 years to develop permanent worker housing solutions, in partnership with the District, which could have been a positive legacy for a town that has endured housing shortages for years;
- They have consistently misled the District about the numbers of local workers that would be hired and the numbers that would need to be housed;
- They have not presented a full or credible traffic management plan;
- Pollution from the project would threaten the main aquifer supplying drinking water to the community.

One final comment on a very strange submission from Capilano University on the work camp, which states that it "does not pose additional risk to the University and Student Residences." Given the extensively documented connection between industrial work camps and gender-based violence, it is remarkable that CapU is so unconcerned about risks to its students.

Is it because the university's chancellor Yuri Fulmer is also the Conservative candidate in the provincial election, and not only supports the Woodfibre and Fortis BC projects, but is also an enthusiastic champion of the fossil fuel industry?"

Note for Editors:

Jeremy Valeriotte is the only candidate in the West Van-Sea to Sky riding standing on a platform opposing Woodfibre LNG, LNG exports and further fossil fuel infrastructure development.

Jeremy Valeriotte is available for interview.

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