

**Yukon Climate Action Network**  
**Questions for Whitehorse Mayor and Council Candidates**  
October 2024

**Answers from Dan Bushnell**

**Question 0:** What is your name and what position are you running for in this municipal election?

**Dan Bushnell, mayor**

**Question 1:** Please provide your level of agreement with the following statement:

"Municipalities should consider costs to the climate for all budget items being considered. This would mean inclusion of the following considerations for each budget item: Will it help reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Will it increase greenhouse gas emissions? If yes, efforts must be made to minimize GHG impacts."

**Strongly agree**

**Question 2:** The Council of Canadians Yukon Chapter has released a Climate Emergency Declaration, which has been endorsed by a number of businesses, organizations and individual residents. It can be found here: <https://www.cofcyukon.org/declaration> Would you commit to acting in alignment with the Declaration if you are elected?

**Yes**

**Question 3:** Is there a role for regional or municipal food policy to play in addressing the climate crisis and if so, what does it look like?

**Yes. I have been looking into the cost of a municipal canning facility to eliminate waste of food grown in the Yukon. If we are able to preserve the food produced in the Yukon we can offset the need to ship food up on trucks. I would also like to speak to loblaws about filling their trucks with recycling to be taken to recycling depots on our behalf on their return trips.**

**Question 4:** Please provide your level of agreement with the following statement: "As Whitehorse, "The Wilderness City", faces more wildfires, landslides, erosion and flooding, due to climate change, subsequently forcing hungry bears into urban areas, we must act. By becoming a Bear Smart Community, as in 18 other Bear Smart communities in BC and Alberta,

which includes adopting better waste management practices and educating residents in affected communities, we can reduce human-bear conflicts, keep residents safe, and prevent the killing of bears drawn to our city center neighborhoods and the city's wilderness edges."

**Strongly agree**

**Question 5:** The City of Whitehorse is in the process of developing its Climate Action Plan. What work would you do as part of Whitehorse City Council to ensure its success? What actions related to climate mitigation or adaptation do you think deserve the highest priority?

**What I can do is speak with council and cast my vote in favor of adopting best practices. I personally would like to develop park and ride scenarios using mini buses to shuttle people to work. Cutting down on traffic in the downtown core, reducing the amount of cars idling at peak times. This would also allow folks to leave their cars at home.**

**Question 6:** The City's draft climate action plan (see <https://www.engagewhitehorse.ca/climate-action-plan>, page 7) shows that Whitehorse emissions have only kept rising since the City declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. Furthermore, the science behind climate change indicates that change is happening faster than previously predicted. Do you believe that the Whitehorse Climate Action plan should commit to aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals with clear timelines that reflect the increasing urgency of the climate crisis?

**Yes.**