

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

Answers from Ken Schick

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

Ken Schick Council

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."

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?

This is a very complex declaration involving a number of items that take more than a mere glance over to consider. On the surface I believe that I would be able to commit to the Declaration but would like to review it along with the City's OCP before fully committing.

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?

I believe there definitely could be a role by setting a policy for this. Setting a policy like this on my own is not currently within my realm of expertise. I would definitely welcome the opportunity to work with others in the development of such a policy.

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."

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?

As an elected councilor I would continue to review current measures being adopted by the City of Whitehorse as well as investigate what new and innovative ideas are being utilized in other similar cities. The City's OCP acknowledges the need and has developed their own draft Climate Action Plan. There are a number of areas that need to be addressed and from time to time the priority of these items may change. At present the Greenhouse Emission issue would likely be my top priority.

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?

As I mentioned earlier, areas of concern can change from time to time. Goals with timelines are valuable in most cases but if the goal is not met that may be deemed a failure even though it may just have been reprioritized and not a failure at all. As we ARE in a climate crisis we certainly need to work at succeeding in all areas.