

July 22, 2019

Cheryl Chen

Burnaby, BC

Dear Mayor Hurley and councillors,

My name is Cheryl and I'll be a Grade 10 student this coming September. Recently, I've started volunteering at Belcarra Regional Park in Port Moody with the Belcarra Beachkeepers program. We have 2 main operations going on; a) an info tent where we talk to park visitors and educate them on all the wonderful marine life at Belcarra (crabs, starfish, barnacles, sea snails, etc.). b) a crab study monitoring the health and information of the crab population at Belcarra. Through the course of my volunteering shifts, I've really fallen in love with all the organisms there. Yes, even the ugly Dungeness and Red Rock crabs that, I admit, I was much too scared to pick up in the beginning. I found out that the reason this Beachkeepers program was founded was because regular visitors discovered that the crab population was dying out, and were adamant on saving them. It got me thinking that our cities should be doing this on a larger scale, because our ecosystems are diminishing, too, and we should be adamant on saving them. Port Moody (and a whole host of other cities) have put legal infrastructure in place to protect our environment and have declared climate emergency - and yet, Burnaby hasn't. I grew up here and I love it, but the fact that we aren't pulling our own weight in the race to save our planet, is discouraging and disappointing. I ask Burnaby city council to adopt the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) target [or higher :-)] for community-wide greenhouse gas reduction, measure/report our emissions with clear interim targets, and set an immediate timeline for reaching those targets. Thank you for everything you've done for Burnaby so far, I'm grateful for all the change you're already implementing!

Referred to:
Environment and Social Planning Committee
(2019.09.03)

Copied to:
City Manager, Dir. Corporate Services, Dir. Engineering

Sincerely,

Cheryl Chen

JULY 23rd, 2019

Cheryl Chen

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Burnaby, BC

[REDACTED]

Referred to:

Environment and Social Planning
Committee (2019.09.03)

Copied to:

City Manager
Dir. Corporate Services
Dir. Engineering

Dear Mayor Hurley + councillors,
What did you want to be when you were younger? Did you always plan to pursue politics? If not, what changed that spurred you in that direction?

My name's Cheryl and I've been, for the past who-knows-how-long...I've had my eyes set on attending Stanford University for their infamous computer science undergraduate degree. Let's just say that. I know, I know, it's a pretty prestigious school that has an acceptance rate of about 4%. So, with my grades and motivation, the prospects don't look all too bright. But that's just it... For the longest time, the only hurdle between me and my dream university was my reasons. Until about last year, I thought that my grades and my lack of accolades were what would ultimately impede on my acceptance to Stanford. What changed, you may be asking yourself?

The environment. Up until last October, nothing had wavered my ambition. That is, until the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report that essentially outlined how the current rate of climate change would bring catastrophic detriment that would hugely destroy aspects of humanity — all within the span of 12 years. If governors and politicians like yourselves, who I know are good people, choose not to act, I may not be able to celebrate my 50th birthday, let alone anything after that. It may seem like an exaggeration, but consider the resources that we're depleting (fresh water, rich soil, coal, oil, etc.), or consider the jobs that will be lost as a result of this, or consider the natural disasters that would occur relentlessly, or consider all the millions of dollars needed to fix it. My prospects of being a Stanford graduate suddenly seem much brighter in comparison. I ask that you research into the IPCC's report and make haste in adopting city-wide targets in accordance with the IPCC's targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Let the reason I don't get into Stanford be my grades, not this.

Sincerely, Cheryl Chen [REDACTED]

July 25, 2019

Cheryl Chen

[REDACTED]

Burnaby, BC

[REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Hurley and councilors,

My name is Cheryl and I'm really interested in protecting the environment. I've written to you in the past, so I'll try and be more concise.

I care a lot for the environment because its downfall would mean a) the end of humanity, b) the end of my life, and c) the end of a lot of my aspirations. But it isn't just me.

Last June, I participated in the Youth Climate Strike and I discovered that it isn't just me. So many people care about this and not taking action affects so many people.

I kindly ask you to adopt higher climate targets in accordance with the October 2018 report issued by the IPCC to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Please consider following the lead of cities like North Vancouver, Richmond, etc., in doing so and declaring climate emergency.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Cheryl Chen

[REDACTED]

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Environment and Social Planning Committee
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