

Emily Wong

Burnaby, BC

Referred to:
Environment and Social Planning
Committee (2019.09.03)

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

Dear Mayor Hurley and Councillors,

Recently six cities within the Lower Mainland have declared a climate emergency, and more have adopted higher targets for community-wide greenhouse gas reductions. But, Burnaby was not one of them, and we can not stress how needed it is.

The IPCC report gives us around 10 years to drastically reduce our global emissions, to avoid the worst case of a 2 degree warming increase from pre-industrial times. As we have a limit of 1.5 degrees, yet we are on track for 3-5. This uninhabitable increase will knock out the human race. That news terrifies me, as it should to you too.

As a student resident and the future of Burnaby I am terrified at what the future will withhold. I grew up always being amazed and in awe of the world around us. As a young child I remember rolling down hills of bright green grass and tossing the fallen orange leaves at Deer Lake. I am sadened to think that my future children and grandchildren won't get to experience ^{burnaby}. I remember being a child and picturing what my life will be like, three children, 2 dogs and being neighbours to all of my best friends. I thought that there was an endless amount of possibilities. But to have to imagine what my children and my grandchildren's futures will be like, brings me to tears.

Mike, were a firefighter, and have done amazing things for Burnaby. But think about the future of your children and grandchildren. Think about explaining to them why more and more people are dying every year because of inhospitable land, and why it snowed in February. Because it terrifies me that I am going to have to explain to my future family, that I will die of old age, but they will die of climate change.

Now we are not asking you to become a Greta Thunberg or Leonardo DiCaprio and dedicate your life to saving the Earth. We are simply asking you to increase your climate goals and not let Burnaby fall behind the other cities in the Lower Mainland. As Burnaby and Coquitlam are the only 2 cities that need to take climate action. So please think for what's best for the future of Burnaby and the future of its people.

Sincerely,
Emily Wong.

