

Robert Corlett Candidate for Area E Response to the GCIA questions

1. There is a reason why we have dropping enrolments in our schools, while there is an ever increasing growth in population. Business is finding the Gibsons and Area unwelcoming. The lack of thought and consultation with business (and how they would be affected) by the SCR D Directors when instituting the Noise bylaw is an example. Howe Sound Pulp and Paper is always under attack, yet HSPP has spent millions upon millions in technology to improve their environmental standards. HSPP deserves our respect.

2. Ladner is an example of two industry's that are intertwined. The tourism industry and the fishing industry. They have found a way to complement each other. We need to work as one rather than be at each others throats. Conversations with respect would go a long way in improving the financial health of our community. GCIA does this, look at the make-up of its Board.

We have some of the best undeveloped large tracts of land with deep water access that would fit into the definition of "container pod" for the Pacific Gateway plan. We should not allow residential subdivisions in this area.

Hillside Industrial Park has land that is owned by the SCR D. Instead of selling the land we could use it as a tool to invite companies to set up here. Lignol Innovations Corporation (produce ethanol from wood fibre) is one that comes to mind.

Tourism takes on many forms. Our industry could complement tourism just as the wine industry has for other community's. Developing our ALR lands following the principle of "Cuba;s Green Revolution" could be a huge draw for tourists.

3. The key economic challenge for Gibsons and Area is quite simple. We need to quit pointing the finger at business. We need to apply the same set of rules on business as we want applied on ourselves.

4. Government has to understand that a diverse community is a healthy community that has the ability to address social and environmental needs through a robust local economy.

5. The GCIA provides an important voice for business in our community. The financial contribution made by local governments to the GCIA is important as for no other reason than showing respect for the role that business plays in the health of our community. It is difficult for an EDO to be effective in a political climate where business believes they are unwelcome.

6. This is answered above.

7. Education and dump the rhetoric. To many decisions are based on emotion (fear) that have no basis in fact. We need to earn the trust of the community. We need to have conversations with respect from all sides of an issue.