

- What is your current view of the economic environment in the Gibsons area?

Considering the implications of the overall world financial crises I think that we are well positioned to weather the storm. Pulp sales may be intermittent but HSPP is a top quality organization and will be competitive when opportunities arise. Also we have a well educated and adaptable population that will seek opportunities through the internet and will pursue other high tech opportunities.

- What do you believe are the key economic opportunities in the Gibsons area and what would you do to maximize these opportunities?

Our clean environment and access to the lower mainland are big attractions to a large number of aging baby boomers who look forward to living here. It's important to maintain and improve those things that attract people here. Sustainable development planning, providing a variety of healthy recreational pursuits, and improving our high tech infrastructure are very important to that part of the demographic group that is attracted to live here. They will be self supporting and require little industrial infrastructure and will make positive contributions to the community.

- What do you believe are the key economic challenges in the Gibsons area and what would you do to overcome these challenges?

The short term challenge will be to maintain softwood lumber workers. The downturn in the housing market is going to mean lower demand for lumber. It is important to recognize the need to have a workforce that has the skills to call on when the demand increases and production needs to increase. Stopping raw log exports would help to keep some of those jobs here. Lobbying for that is a necessity for millworkers here and all the province.

- How should government support the economic development function?

I believe in the importance of having a central agency to look toward for economic advice and I believe in supporting it through our taxes.

- How would you support the GCIA financially and philosophically?

as above.....

- What role do you believe business should play in economic development in the Gibsons area?

They should support the economic development officer

- It appears taxpayers are not agreed on how to develop the Gibsons area. How would you manage this issue?

It is time for a Regional Growth strategy. The entire Sunshine Coast needs to engage in a self evaluation process.