

Yes, we can make a difference. Together.

Our voting day is November 15
Wendy Booth
Your local candidate for **Director of Area F / Regional District of East Kootenay**

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Smart Growth B.C. distributes election guide

▼ **LINDSAY MCPHERSON**
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Smart Growth B.C. has provided election guides for the past two municipal elections. The non-partisan booklet is meant to help voters understand the land use responsibilities of mayors and councillors.

"As an organization we recognize that the vast majority of decisions made by local governments include land use," said Smart Growth B.C.'s communication coordinator Alice Miro. "Yet municipal elections get a lower turnout than provincial elections."

The guide provides a short background on top growth issues, and suggests important questions which voters should ask their candidates about access to parks, schools, work and shopping; habitat and farmland conservation; transportation; affordable housing; and others.


For example, one of the questions in the guide asks "How will you ensure that all new development occurs in existing developed areas, thereby increasing walkability and proximity to shops and services?"

With municipalities in the Columbia Valley under development pressures, Miro believes the guide will be a tremendous asset to residents and voters.

Smart Growth B.C. is a non-government, charitable organization founded in 2000.

"Our mandate is to create more livable communities," said Miro, noting that working with planning staff, developers and elected officials is key to the process. "When people apply the principles of Smart Growth, you have a community with character."

The guide is being distributed locally and a PDF version is available at www.smartgrowth.bc.ca.



Okay, this isn't Nick Berzins. If I put my picture here the women would vote for me because I'm devilishly handsome and clearly intellectual and compassionate. The men would vote for me because I'm the rugged outdoors type they would go fly-fishing or mountain-biking with. The elders in the community would vote for me because I'm the son they wish they had. Nope, to earn your vote I want you to meet me in person and hear my vision for our community and the energy I have to achieve that vision. Please visit my drop-in Friday November 14th from 4-8PM at the Visitor Centre/Lions Hall on Hwy 93/95 immediately south of the Invermere cross-road or call me at (250) 342-5760 to meet me in person.

Paid for by the **Elect Nick Berzins for Invermere Council** campaign.

Your money, your vote

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This Saturday when you head to the polls to vote on local leaders, those in the Upper Columbia will also be voting on establishing a parcel tax through Bylaw No. 2083, to be used to establish a local conservation fund, for local projects.

At approximately \$20 per parcel, it would generate approximately \$208,000 annually, to fund projects including fish and wildlife habitat conservation and restoration, watershed conservation and open space conservation.

The initiative was undertaken by the East Kootenay Conservation

Program (EKCP), a partnership of over forty conservation, industry and government organizations.

Founded in 2002, the EKCP looked to similar tax-based funding in the U.S., known as Conservation Bond Initiatives.

The EKCP began discussions with the leaders of municipalities and rural areas within the Regional District of East Kootenay.

Only the directors of the three municipalities in the Upper Columbia, and two rural areas were willing to put the question to the voters.

The question on the ballot will read: "Are you in favour of the Regional District of East Kootenay adopting Bylaw No. 2083 to establish the "Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund Service" within Electoral Areas F and G, the District of Invermere, Village of Radium Hot Springs, and Village of Canal Flats; and annually requisition up to a maximum of \$230,000 or the product of \$0.055 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value of land and improvements, whichever is greater, to be collected by an annual parcel tax?"

While wordy, EKCP program manager Nancy Newhouse has reiterated at many open houses and public information booths, that it truly boils down to \$20 per parcel (one title) per year.

Because the Regional District can't set a cap on a parcel tax, only on the amount collected from it, the \$20 rate would only ever fluctuate a minor

amount. In a Catch-22 scenario, Newhouse explained that they are unable to identify specific projects at this time, until the vote passes.

However, if passed, she assures that the decision on how the funds will be spent will be decided by local area representatives.

She also noted if a local conservation fund is established, it puts the Columbia Valley in a position to leverage further funding from private, provincial, national and international sources.

Although conservation fund initiatives are relatively new in British Columbia, they have been a prominent means of ensuring the integrity of open spaces and wilderness in the United States for many years.

This past Tuesday, as American voters turned out at the polls, despite the economic downturn, 62 of 87 conservation finance measures.

That equates into a single day record of \$7.3 billion in new conservation funding.

The most notable vote was for a \$500 million bond measure in East Bay Regional Park District, Calif., which received 71% support.

The local conservation fund would have a term of nine years, collecting in excess of \$1 million for local conservation efforts.

For additional information on the local conservation fund and the bylaw and the EKCP, visit www.ekcp.ca or www.rdek.bc.ca

WORKING TOGETHER



Cast your ballot for District of Invermere Councillor

AL MILLER

- is **Approachable**
- is **Credible**
- has **A Vision**

Phone 250-342-5120

VOTE NOV. 15!



vision, strength & leadership for our community

- Attainable housing
- Regional governance
- Sustainable community
- Public involvement

Let's start the conversation:
(250) 342-5245 b.brownjohn@gmail.com

Vote BARRY BROWN-JOHN FOR MAYOR
on 15 November 2008 in the Community Hall