

Green Party members nominate Dana Taylor as their Sea to Sky candidate

Two nomination candidates went head-to-head, June 18

[Keili Bartlett](#) / Squamish Chief

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On June 18, Squamish became the site for the Green Party members to choose their candidate for the 2019 federal election: Dana Taylor or Lars Guignard.

By the end of the evening, the party announced Taylor as the official Green Party West Vancouver – Sunshine Coast – Sea to Sky candidate.

“We’re ready to go. It’s pretty exciting, there’s lots ahead of us,” Taylor said.

When he was nominated, Taylor said he felt “certainly gratitude, but also some relief. I had this in my sights for some time.”

At first, Taylor appeared to be the only person interested in running as the Green Party candidate in the 2019 federal election.

Then Lars Guignard, a new face in politics, came forward and there had to be a contest.

“I think it was a learning experience. I think [Guignard] brought something different to the table. He’s certainly younger than I am and he brought a different kind of energy, and outlined some areas that are clearly sticking points for some members. That’s good. I can take from that, learn from that and bring it to the big table, as it were,” Taylor said.

Dana Taylor has been a resident of the West Vancouver – Sunshine Coast – Sea to Sky riding for more than 30 years. He has a background in the construction industry.

As a former North Vancouver city councilor and a member of the Save Howe Sound Society, he worked with the provincial government to change the environmental standards and put scrubbers on smoke stacks.

“I’ve been involved in environmental issues in the area for a long time,” he said with a laugh.

In 2017, Taylor also ran in the provincial election for this riding and came in second. He said he decided to run upon reading the proposal for Woodfibre LNG.

“I was active in the original clean up of Howe Sound many years ago. I felt that, as I looked into the proposal for the LNG plant itself, this was something that seemed to be counter to the

interests of the evolution of the sound, which has been more towards other types of industry, particularly around recreation, ecotourism possibly. Frankly, the proposal for the sound was not conducive to that,” Taylor said.

The experience of running in a provincial election was a learning opportunity, Taylor added.

He now feels that he knows his riding more thoroughly, having become familiar with the issues it faces in each community during his previous campaign.

“Issues have, to me, remained the same for the corridor: their transportation, access to transportation, both public and roadways. Housing continues to be a concern that’s voiced universally everywhere, but specifically in areas like Squamish, further north too in the Whistler area. Those kind of linger as things the federal government may or may not be able to address depending on how those are approached,” he said, adding fishery conservation is also an issue.

Now that he’s the official candidate for the Green Party in the riding, next Taylor will be visiting the communities across the area.

“I’m going to be a roadie for a while,” Taylor said with a laugh, adding that he’s looking forward to it.

As of press deadline for this story, Taylor is the second confirmed candidate for the West Vancouver — Sunshine Coast – Sea to Sky riding.

The first was the Conservative Party’s Gabrielle Loren.

Dana Taylor

<http://www.danataylor.ca>

Originally from Toronto, Dana Taylor’s migration to British Columbia began with a family vacation to Victoria at age 13, two years at Notre Dame University in Nelson at 19, and a permanent move to the coast in 1974. A decision 30 years ago to move his family to West Vancouver, and to not seek a third term re-election to North Vancouver City Council, has made this riding his home ever since.

After over a decade of community service in North Vancouver, Dana slowed the pace to raise his two sons, limiting his community involvement to the West Vancouver Otters Swim Club Board and the BC Gifted Children Association. His attention quickly turned to joining the Save Howe Sound Society Board to press for and achieve regulation to require the Sound’s two pulp mills to stop polluting the water and air, also convincing the province to conduct and implement the Howe Sound Watershed Study.

An early career in construction as field engineer and superintendent, combined with political science studies at Simon Fraser University, has led to a nearly 36 year career as a trade association executive. He currently works with the Mechanical Contractors Association of BC, an experience that has required the employment of advocacy and labour relations skills to represent those constituents.

At an industry conference presentation in 2008, Dana met a mechanical contractor who founded North America's first Green Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco. Dana brought the model to BC, and with the organizational support of his neighbours, he created the first and only Green Chamber of Commerce in Canada in 2012. The realization that the principles of sustainability were compatible and shared with other business groups led to collaboration and eventual amalgamation with the Board of Change, on which he currently serves.

In November 2014, Dana led a private business delegation to Chaozhou, China and signed an initiation agreement with that city to develop a China-Canada Environmental Protection Equipment Industrial Park, planned to be designed on an eco-city model.

Over the past few years, Dana has vacationed by bicycle in the Himalayas of Bhutan and the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, and enjoyed urban explorations in Bangkok, Saigon and Shikoku.

In the 2017 provincial election, Dana represented the BC Green Party winning nearly 30% of the vote in his riding, and securing the highest percentage green votes in any riding in Mainland British Columbia.

Dana lives in West Vancouver's Gleneagles area with his wife Ramona Wu.