

Oct 25, 2020

Jeremy Valeriote is a geological and environmental engineer. "I am running as a B.C. Green Party candidate for my twin 6-year-old daughters," said Valeriote. "I am prepared to work as hard as I ever have to make sure that both the public health, and the planet's health are strong, safe and stable for my daughters to bring up their own kids and grandkids. Now more than ever, **we need to do politics in a kinder, more collaborative and inclusive way.**" He makes the Sea to Sky his home to enjoy and pursue recreation in nature, for opportunities for his twin daughters, and in support of his spouse's career. He has been studying natural systems thinking at Royal Roads, and recently submitted his final thesis for a master's degree in Leadership. He was worked and researched the need to accurately value natural assets and ecosystem services in addressing climate action and a green pandemic recovery plan.



106/107 polls reported 17,743 total votes

 **Jeremy Valeriote** **39.6%**
7,019 total votes
GRN

 **Jordan Sturdivant** **36.2%**
6,415 total votes

Jeremy **served as a municipal councillor in Gibsons for four years**, and on the boards of several non-profits, currently including the Whistler environmental organization AWARE. He is an avid outdoorsperson and volunteer ski patroller. His goal, for the future of this province, is to facilitate inclusive, collaborative discussions, visions and strategies for a transition to a sustainable economy that values

ecological health and Indigenous knowledge, diverse cultural perspectives, and public health and safety.

 **Jeremy Valeriote**
Monitor off ?

PHONE NUMBERS

 (604) 886-0542
Fixed Voip

CURRENT ADDRESS

 **901 Marine Dr**
Gibsons BC V0N 1V1

Last Name	Given Name	Designation	Company	Industry	Status	City
Valeriote	Jeremy	P.Eng.	Town of Gibsons	Environmental	Practising	Gibsons

Former Gibsons councillor to run as Green Party candidate for Squamish's riding

Whistler resident Jeremy Valeriote seeks the West Vancouver-Sea to Sky seat Steven Chua / Squamish Chief

September 29, 2020



Jeremy Valeriote announcing his candidacy in downtown Squamish on Tuesday.

The Green Party of B.C. has nominated a former councillor from Gibsons to be its candidate for the West Vancouver-Sea to Sky riding.

On Sept. 29, at O'Siyam Pavilion in downtown Squamish, party leader Sonia Furstenau announced Whistler resident Jeremy Valeriote will be seeking to unseat current incumbent BC Liberal MLA Jordan Sturdy.

The NDP have yet to make a formal announcement, but a recent press release listed Keith Murdoch as the nominated candidate for this riding.

"I am delighted to have Jeremy on our team in West Vancouver-Sea-to-Sky," said Sonia Furstenau, Leader of the B.C. Greens in a news release. "Jeremy's experience as an engineer and in local government will make him an excellent MLA. We need more thoughtful, solutions-oriented leaders like Jeremy in our Legislature as we implement our economic recovery from COVID-19 and build a stronger, more sustainable province."

During the press conference, Valeriote said that he had followed the issues surrounding liquefied natural gas.

Green Party leader Sonia Furstenau in Squamish Tuesday. - Steven Chua

Last provincial election, the Woodfibre LNG project served as a rallying cry for Green supporters, and provided probably the most relevant talking point for the environmentalist party in the corridor.

However, more than three years later, the project is almost entirely greenlit and, realistically, it would be incredibly hard or impossible for the government to strip the project of the many approvals it has obtained.

Taking this into account, Valeriote said: "I believe the biggest opening is the leadership that Sonia [Furstenau] and Adam [Olsen] have shown in being the party that collaborates with others, that wants to hear other ideas."

He did not have much else to say with regard to other issues facing the town, such as regional transit, the opioid crisis and the racial justice demonstration that occurred a few months ago.

"I'm going to get fully up to speed before I make specific comments on those," said Valeriote.

"I know that regional transit has been a longer discussion without a lot of progress to date. It's very important, obviously, for climate action to have regional transit in the corridor. The other issues you will hear from me in the coming days."

Valeriotte is a professional geological and environmental engineer, but, in the public eye, he is probably best known as a former municipal councillor in Gibsons. He sat in office from 2014 to 2018. He did not seek re-election in 2018.

In an [article from that year published by The Coast Reporter](#), Valeriotte wrote that he wouldn't be going back in office, because he would be leaving the Sunshine Coast.

He noted that there were other challenges that faced him while he was sitting in council.

"There are the constantly shifting hours and exceedingly low pay, below minimum wage by most accounting. And then there's the complaining, the mistrust, and the personal attacks. It takes a creeping emotional toll: you try to shake it off, but people say some horrible things to each other, and it sinks down deep and disturbs you. I've had profanities shouted at me outside town hall, and had to sit on my hands on the receiving end of hateful, uninformed and sometimes racist diatribes at public hearings," he wrote in 2018.

On Tuesday he said he was running for the provincial seat for his daughters.

"I'm standing for election as the B.C. Green Party candidate for West Vancouver-Sea to Sky, and I'm doing it for my kids," said Valeriotte at the press conference. "My six-year-old twin daughters, Rose and Nina, who are at school in Whistler today. **I'll work as hard as I can for public health**, for climate health, for a safe and stable environment for my daughters to bring up their own kids and grandkids."

[Why I'm not running for re-election in October](#)

Jeremy Valeriotte / Coast Reporter
September 5, 2018

Local elected politics is a tough gig, not for the faint of heart or the thin of skin. There are the constantly shifting hours and exceedingly low pay, below minimum wage by most accounting. And then there's the complaining, the mistrust, and the personal attacks. It takes a creeping emotional toll: you try to shake it off, but people say some horrible things to each other, and it sinks down deep and disturbs you. I've had profanities shouted at me outside town hall, and had to sit on my hands on the receiving end of hateful, uninformed and sometimes racist diatribes at public hearings.

Three years on, I still struggle with the trauma of my young daughter's cancer diagnosis and successful treatment. At times, anxiety and depression have compromised my ability to function at my best. I don't know how much this disorder is related to my personal circumstances and how much is the effect of the pressures of a public role. As a society we're still learning that we can't be cavalier about mental health; that just "getting over it" is not strong or sustainable; and that we are slowly evolving into more sensitive, less violent human beings. So, I'm not taking any chances with my mental health and my commitment to meeting my family's needs.

There are so many wonderful, informed, compassionate people who care about this community and take a view of society beyond their backyards, and I will miss you the most. I hope we are entering a period of greater peace in Gibsons where respectful dialogue will take root. Our "us versus them" mentality is too simplistic; we are fully capable of making collective decisions based on reason and evidence, instead of individualistic partisanship and ideology.

I believe this Council has shown it is possible to listen to one another, and work together to find solutions, even in the midst of deep disagreements. **Residents need to lead as well**: energy used fighting one another on a personal level inhibits the community from moving forward

together, and stops us from living up to our potential. A bigger vision will be critical to stabilizing our climate, the greatest existential challenge and responsibility to our children we have seen for generations.

Sadly for me, I may not be around to see this transformation. My family and I have made the difficult decision to leave the Coast, at least temporarily. I know what you might be thinking: in the 10 years I've lived here, I have felt personally betrayed by each and every person who has gone away. For us, it's about maintaining balance and family cohesion. My spouse loves her job in the city, and increasing demands and responsibilities have made the commute unsustainable. Even with recent positive steps, our ferry and bus systems are still woefully inadequate to meet modern demands.

So I won't be putting my name forward for re-election to Council this fall. I hope that Gibsons and the Coast will continue to move toward the vibrant, healthy community it has the potential to be. This will only happen if we remember that our neighbours, and the people we elect to make key decisions, are regular people who care. We need to go about the business of the community with common courtesy, civility and dialogue, and greet the darker sides of human nature with humility, respect and compassion. This community deserves nothing less.