



Bowinn Ma MLA
North Vancouver-Lonsdale

January 8, 2020

Sustainabiliteens: North Shore Chapter on Climate Justice

The pursuit of climate justice has emerged as one of the most important and urgent global issues of our time, and the voices of youth have risen as a powerful force in organizing for change.

In 2019, our **North Vancouver-Lonsdale MLA's Youth Leadership Council on Climate Action** demonstrated the initiative that high school students are capable of taking to bring people together on the issues that matter to them when given the platform to do so.

In the interest of further lifting up the voices of young people and enabling their efforts to create community around an issue that fundamentally impacts their futures, I will be supporting the **Sustainabiliteens** in establishing a North Shore Chapter of their School Collective Program in lieu of creating a 2020 cohort of the North Vancouver-Lonsdale MLA's Youth Leadership Council.

Through this letter, we are inviting Grade 10, 11, and 12 high school students to join the *Sustainabiliteens: North Shore Chapter*, which will be hosted at my MLA's Office at 50-221 Esplanade W in the Shipyards District (Lower Lonsdale) of North Vancouver.

As the local MLA, I will offer these youth basic administrative resources, a place to meet, connect them to resources in the community, and offer guidance and advice upon request. Otherwise, *Sustainabiliteens: North Shore Chapter* is intended to be **an independent youth-led community group with full autonomy over their organizing activities and structure**.

This youth-led community group aims to *"create systemic change from a foundation of a strong community"*. Members will collaborate with students from different schools across the North Shore to coordinate climate justice efforts being undertaken within each school.

Students will benefit through regular involvement in political action on the issue of *climate justice* in a non-partisan, youth-led environment alongside other passionate and committed young leaders. Youth interested in this opportunity should review the attached 2-page document from *Sustainabiliteens* in detail, which offers an outline of the expected role and time-commitment of youth who join this effort.

Please submit your three-part email applications by **4pm on Wednesday, January 29, 2020** and share this opportunity with as many interested youth as possible.

In your service,



Bowinn Ma, MLA
North Vancouver-Lonsdale

Sustainabiliteens School Collectives

Who We Are

The Sustainabiliteens are the Vancouver chapter of Climate Strike Canada, a group of youth dedicated to climate action and positive change! We are known for organizing actions such as the September 27th, 2019 Climate Strike and the November 29th, 2019 Future Fest.

Mission Statement

We, as teenagers, are forcibly isolated by our high school environment, one that devalues our voices and removes our autonomy. Yet, at the same time we are facing urgent imminent climate catastrophe. We desperately need the structure and community to create the change we see possible in the world. We are committed to creating a positive and empathetic environment in high schools, where students can find revolutionary community; a community with a culture of youth power in high schools, where youth have the structures to create our own change.

Vision

We are trying to set up school clubs, called collectives, in every high school in Metro Vancouver. This will be our North Shore Chapter, where leads from each collective come together to organize the revolution together! The teams will create systemic change from a foundation of a strong community.

Values

We are intersectional. Climate justice is really social justice, and any action taken to make our society more just, joyful and sustainable falls under this. Each collective has the liberty to define what a central issue for their community is, and explore how this connects to climate justice.

Structure

Until now, most school “Green Teams” are largely focused on small scale eco-friendly actions in the school. Our goal is more systemic actions. Each school involved will run a collective within their school. This can be in collaboration with a green team or environmental club, or you can start something new! To create as much as an impact as we can, we will be meeting regularly every week.

Your Role as a School Lead with Sustainabiliteens

Organizational Responsibilities:

- Schedule meetings with whole team and team of school leads
- Liaise with school (establish relationships with teachers and admin)
- Run instagram account and respond to messages

Leadership Responsibilities:

- Connect with each member of the collective
- Based on the input of the team, create and implement a vision for the collective
- Facilitate lunch time meetings

Time Commitment:

- Run a weekly lunch meeting within your school with fellow school leads at your school (~1 hour)
- Create social media content and respond to messages (~1-3 hours)
- Work on projects (1-4+ hours)
- Bi-weekly school lead circle meetings (2 hours)
- Weekly check-in calls (~15 min) with our circle facilitators

Sustainabiliteens North Shore Applicant Profile

- Grade 10, 11, or 12 student for the 2019-2020 school year;
- Strong leadership, communication, and collaboration skills (or a desire to develop them);
- Committed to school and community involvement;
- Open-minded to a variety of views and perspectives;
- Enthusiastic about organizing for climate and social justice; and
- Inspired by the vision of just world.

Application Process

Complete applications consist of three emails:

1. One from the student;
2. One from their parent/guardian; and
3. One from an adult sponsor who is not a relative.

Emails can be sent to Bowinn.Ma.MLA@leg.bc.ca and completed applications (set of three emails) will be sent to Sustainabiliteens for processing.

The application deadline for this intake will be **4pm on Wednesday, January 29, 2020** and all applicants must be able to attend a 5-hour orientation.

Part 1: Email from Student

- Subject Line: North Shore Sustainabiliteens
- Content:
 - Your full name, school, grade, contact information;
 - 1-5 sentences about why you want to be involved in organizing for climate justice; and
 - Confirmation that you can attend the orientation.

Part 2: Email from a parent or guardian:

- Subject Line: <Name of Student>
- Content:
 - Emergency contact information for you as the parent/guardian; and
 - Confirmation that the student has your permission to participate in this independent youth-led community group.

Part 3: Email from a Sponsor (guidance counsellor, teacher, school administrator or other non-related adult):

- Subject Line: <Name of Student>
- Content:
 - How you know the applicant; and
 - 1-3 sentences about the applicant's ability to work well with others.

Important Dates:

Mandatory Orientation:

12-5pm on Saturday, February 1, 2020
MLA Bowinn Ma's office

Bi-weekly school lead circle meetings:

Sundays, bi-weekly from 4-6pm (starting Sunday, February 9, 2020)
MLA Bowinn Ma's office