

2024 AGM Co-chairs Report

Submitted by Margaret Holm and Khati Hendry

We have been delighted to discover that our group, First Things First Okanagan is becoming a well-known organization across the province. We now get invited to attend meetings by local and provincial elected officials, we get recognized and complimented on the breadth of our activities when we meet with other organization, and we notice that our online Deep Dive seminars attract people from near and far.

Forming an organization to discuss climate change was the brainchild of Fred Ritchie and other Naramata residents meeting around a kitchen table in 2015. A year later First Things First Okanagan was organized as a Society.

Our mandate is simple yet powerful: to promote awareness of climate change and work to find solutions for a better future. We are named First Things First Okanagan because above all, we value preserving life on this planet through a respectful relationship with the natural world.

We have a responsibility to find local climate solutions that promote social and economic justice and stewardship of the environment, and we seek to advance climate action by working in a productive, cooperative and non-partisan manner.

If we are becoming well-known as an established climate organization, it is because of the hard work of many individuals who have stepped forward to be on our board, to work on a committee, or to volunteer, march, write letters and chat with people at our many events and community display.

We thank you all and invite you to join us in deepening your involvement with First Things First Okanagan. We are all on a learning journey as we work together and find new ways to reach out to the community. You'll hear about our activities in the committee reports. We

work hard, have fun, and enjoy food and conversation at each meeting. Please consider joining a committee and joining our board.