



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

## The Board of the Cycling Coalition for 2016—2017

\*Marg Harris  
President

\*Chris Bowman  
Vice President

\*Lauren Sipone  
Secretary

\*Julia Painchaud  
Treasurer

### And Directors:

\*Steve Allen  
Membership

\*Terry Bourque  
Newsletter Editor

\*Brian Schoneberg  
Webmaster

\*Angela Dawson  
Chair of the Education Committee

\*Lawrence Veal

\*Ruby Berry

\*Angela Holmes

It was another enthusiastic turn-out to the Comox Valley Cycling Coalition's Annual General Meeting, held this year on Tuesday February 28th. President Marg Harris opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to Paul Ives, Mayor of Comox, Leslie Baird, Mayor of Cumberland and Ronna-Rae Leonard, BC NDP candidate for Courtenay-Comox. After the annual report, the guest speaker for the evening, Gord Johns, the MP for Courtenay-Alberni and the NDP critic for small business and tourism since 2014, spoke to the audience. Johns gave a dynamic presentation about Bill C 312, the private Member's bill that he introduced on the 4th October 2016 to establish a National cycling strategy. Johns, a committed cyclist who has ridden his bicycle all winter in Ottawa, explained that while various groups and municipalities have worked to increase cycling across the country, a national strategy will bring all levels of governments together with cyclists and industry to build a plan that will encourage and facilitate more Canadians on bicycles and increase commuter, recreational and tourism cycling across Canada. Johns highlighted the fact that many other countries have already adopted cycling strategies and have seen a significant increase in cycling as a result. Canada lags behind in many cycling indicators, including the number of children who cycle to school which remains at 2%. Whereas in Germany, 15% of children cycle to school, and in the Netherlands 50% of children cycle to school.

To this end, his bill will:

- Commit the federal government to set clear targets for the expansion of cycling friendly infrastructure;
- Encourage more Canadians to choose cycling as their mode of transportation;
- Improve national safety standard measures, such as side guard rails for trucks;
- Support the cycling industry in Canada; and
- Increase education for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists.

To learn more go to <http://gordjohns.ndp.ca/cycling>

To view Gord Johns talk at the CVCCo AGM go to

<https://www.youtube.com/user/cyclecv/videos?flow=grid&view=0&sort=p>

as well as the CVCCo Facebook page.

## The last word...

*A Metro News reporter snapped this photo of me on my morning commute to work this morning in Ottawa.*

*25 centimetres of snow wasn't going to impact my cycling streak! However, I did have to throw on a few extra layers for my ride to Parliament Hill this morning. After a year in Ottawa, I am still proud to say that I have ridden my bike every single day that I have sat in the House of Commons. — Gord Johns*



Gord Johns in Ottawa

