

- I'm Jacqueline Gillon. I've held several leadership roles throughout my career: elected, working in leadership development and now with two groups that I'm very excited about in the environmental and conservation world
- For decades, for people who look like me, our lived experience has been "I can't breathe" whether it's pollution, or literally being choked to death by violence or oppression
- But now, opportunity is in our grasp, a chance to work toward a sustainable future built on mutual trust, respect and community building. Addressing systemic, racial, and environmental injustices of the past (all of these are intertwined)
- Communities exposed to pollution from power plants and fossil fuel are trapped in enclaves that are isolated and suffer from long-term health effects
 - There needs to be just policies put in place that cares for and takes into account the most vulnerable, that transitions from the old way of doing things/energy economy to one where the people and communities are placed first
 - New green economy which uplifts communities, rather than exploits, that generates community wealth rather than siphons local resources
- Black community is suffering through a triple crisis
 - Pandemic
 - Economic hardship
 - Racial injustice

Opportunity for change is within our grasp!

Thank you!