

BC greens



**2024
PLATFORM**

We can do things differently, we can put people first.



We have everything it takes in BC to build a province where every person feels safe and welcome, where we all have a place to call home, where every child has good, healthy food to eat, and where healthcare is truly accessible to all.

The great news is that this vision isn't out of reach—it's something we can achieve by coming together. Building on what we've already started, we can create the BC that's always been possible by focusing on the people and places that make our province unique and special.

As BC Greens, we know that healthy people and a healthy planet need to be at the heart of everything we do—and wellbeing must be the standard by which we measure our success as a province.

This is our British Columbia—it's yours, it's mine, it's every person's who calls our province home. Together, we can build a future where everyone has what they need to thrive in a healthy, prosperous and sustainable way.

This platform is our detailed approach to achieving our aims as the BC Green Party. Please read more to learn about our plans for getting where we need to go.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SF', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sonia Furstenau
Leader of the BC Greens

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Our vision: Wellbeing

“If the Government cannot create happiness for its people, there is no purpose for the Government to exist.” (Bhutan’s 1729 Legal Code)

For the past century, governments have used GDP as the main gauge for measuring success—but this focus has skewed our understanding of what’s really important. It favours short-term, current wealth creation and consumption over long-term wealth generation and sustainability. It ignores the important, caring work done by so many people—and it assumes all spending is good, regardless of the outcomes of that spending.

GDP improves with an oil spill, the destruction of our last old-growth forests, or when we buy bottled water, but not when we protect our watersheds. This can’t be the standard by which we measure success or choose our leaders.

We need better tools that measure the happiness of our people, the long-term impacts of our decisions and whether our communities are becoming safer and stronger. We need to look beyond short-term politics and focus on building a thriving British Columbia. We must look past turbulent politics to ensure we have a strong province for the next hundred years and beyond—a province in which everyone in all of our communities is able to enjoy gainful employment and live a healthy, fulfilling life.

WELLBEING FRAMEWORKS

Wellbeing frameworks have been used around the world for centuries. Recent examples include the United Nations Human Development Index, Aotearoa New Zealand’s Wellbeing Budget and He Ara Waiora (Māori Wellbeing Framework), and the Swinomish Indigenous Health Indicators.

Wellbeing frameworks generally provide measurement across four broad indicators: people, nature, infrastructure and society. When we evaluate decisions using these broader categories, we make choices that go beyond just economic factors. This approach emphasizes the importance of a healthy natural environment, secure and supported people, strong and thriving communities, and institutions that are both robust and trustworthy.

The best wellbeing frameworks are both wide-ranging and detailed, covering the issues that matter to different groups of people. They include input from experts while also capturing the real-life experiences of individuals from diverse backgrounds. These frameworks hold governments accountable for materially improving the lives of all people in our community, focusing on long-term outcomes, and promoting proactive solutions that distribute wealth fairly and prevent problems before they arise.



NEW POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Establishing a British Columbia Wellbeing Framework that prioritizes the needs and perspectives of all British Columbians, with Indigenous communities at the center of its creation and implementation.

- Commit, in partnership with Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, to the development of a new British Columbia Wellbeing Framework.
- Ensure that First Nations are central to the development and implementation of the Wellbeing Framework, fostering collaboration and respect.
- Create and fund a Centre of Excellence dedicated to developing the Wellbeing Framework, examining best practices and Indigenous wellbeing examples from other jurisdictions.
- Require all Ministers to provide evidence on how their work contributes to increasing wellbeing in British Columbia as part of each budget presentation.
- Transition all performance measures in Ministry and Crown Agency service plans to align with the Wellbeing Framework, ensuring accountability and transparency.

- Legislate a requirement for the Minister of Finance to report annually, as part of each budget, on improvements in wellbeing across 10, 30, and 100-year timescales, assessed by a panel of external experts, including First Nations peoples, ecologists, historians, economists, and sociologists.
- Create a set of indicators to survey the public, establish baseline measures, and track trends in overall wellbeing across British Columbia, with results shared publicly for transparency.
- Embed wellbeing considerations into land use planning and environmental assessments by utilizing a cumulative effects framework, prioritizing, expanding, and funding modern land use planning as well as Indigenous land use plans.

Explore flexible work arrangements to improve productivity and wellbeing with tax credits to the companies that participate

- Support pilot programs for a four-day work week by partnering with interested businesses to collect and track data on productivity, employee wellbeing, and employer satisfaction.





THRIVING PEOPLE

British Columbia can be a place where everyone has what they need to thrive. We envision a province with no homelessness, no poverty, and no preventable deaths. Every person in BC deserves barrier-free access to the services, supports and spaces necessary for their wellbeing.

For too long, our systems have been designed to benefit some, but not all. This has left many behind—Indigenous communities, people with disabilities and those experiencing poverty continue to face systemic barriers. We must recognize that a truly safe and secure province depends on the wellbeing of everyone—and that no one can be left behind as we build a better future.

By addressing Indigenous relations, health, mental health, drug policy, poverty, seniors' issues, and disability and accessibility together, we can see that a thriving province depends on a holistic approach. We must ensure that every person—regardless of age, ability, social condition or identity—has access to the supports they need to live a dignified life.

The groundwork has already been laid by experts and those with lived experience. Their research, position papers and wisdom have helped inform our decision-making. We believe the best policy ideas come from those most impacted. Our commitment is to ensure that health and social services are robust, creating the conditions for all people in BC to thrive.

Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

We recognise Indigenous rights and title in British Columbia. We will uphold Indigenous self-determination, address rights and title and support the customary roles and lives of Indigenous peoples.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

The rights of Indigenous peoples are inherent, existing and cannot be infringed upon. First Nations hold rights and title to the land because it was never legally surrendered or ceded—and historic treaties have not been honoured. Ignoring this reality is not only unjust but also creates uncertainty and leads to costly, protracted litigation for the province.

While economic reconciliation is essential, it is not enough. We must strive for full reconciliation, supporting Indigenous peoples as they heal from the damaging legacies of colonization. Reconciliation should inspire both Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals to transform Canadian society, ensuring that future generations can live together in dignity, peace and prosperity on these shared lands.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Indigenous peoples continue to experience structural and systemic racism in British Columbia.

Indigenous peoples across British Columbia have been stripped of their land, languages and inherent right to self-determination. The residential school system, systemic racism in healthcare, education and employment—along with ongoing land loss—have resulted in lower life expectancies for Indigenous peoples, who face disproportionate rates of homelessness, substance use challenges, drug toxicity deaths, suicide, police violence and imprisonment.

Instead of supporting Indigenous governments and rights, successive governments have chosen to deny or delay rights, governance, and self-determination. The predominant pattern has been for governments to fight about every aspect of rights recognition, requiring Indigenous peoples to focus much of their limited time and resources towards endless fights against the Crown, instead of the vital nation and government-building work needed.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Recognize and empower Indigenous governments, ensuring equitable access to resources and decision-making authority.

- Recognize all Indigenous governments formed in alignment with the principles of Indigenous self-determination, removing limitations related to 'Indian Act' bands and those incorporated under provincial statutes.
- Provide Indigenous governments with stable and reliable funding, comparable to other levels of government, allowing them to carry out their duties and make long-term investment and planning decisions.

Affirm Indigenous language rights and provide the resources needed to preserve and revitalize Indigenous languages.

- We will enact an Indigenous Languages Act, which affirms that Indigenous languages are a fundamental and valued part of British Columbia's heritage. This will guarantee Indigenous language rights and provide communities with the necessary funding and support for language preservation, revitalization, and strengthening.
- We will enable the use of all Indigenous languages on government-issued identification, ensuring that people can reclaim their names in their original language at no cost.

Ensure public servants are educated on the history, rights, and laws of Indigenous peoples.

- We will provide education to all public servants on the history of Indigenous peoples, including the legacy of residential schools, treaties, Indigenous law and Indigenous-Crown relations.

Align land legislation with Indigenous rights and ensure public participation in the process.

- We will review the Land Act to ensure its alignment with the inherent rights of First Nations peoples and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. This process will be conducted transparently, with opportunities for public consultation across British Columbia.

Ensure that provincial legislation and decision-making processes uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples.

- Enact an amendment to the Interpretation Act confirming that all provincial enactments must uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples, ensuring that no laws abrogate or derogate from those rights.

- Establish an expert advisory committee comprising specialists in Indigenous rights, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, and constitutional law. This committee will advise both the Provincial Government and Indigenous governments on legislative developments—and their advice will be made public.
- We will co-develop with Indigenous peoples a clear policy that outlines how Indigenous peoples will be engaged consistently across government during the law-making process, including how the government will provide financial support for their participation.
- We will co-develop a mechanism with Indigenous peoples for resolving Indigenous-Crown disputes proactively, to foster understanding and avoid litigation.



Health

Making British Columbians the healthiest people possible.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Preventing illness isn't just the compassionate thing to do—it's also the fiscally responsible choice. As climate change intensifies and the world becomes an increasingly complex and hazardous environment—whether through pandemics like COVID-19, air pollution or toxic chemicals in our water and clothing—our healthcare system must focus on keeping people well.

At the individual level, this means ensuring that every person has access to essential healthcare services. This includes timely vaccinations, routine screenings and the ability to see a doctor or nurse practitioner when symptoms first appear.

Streamlining the Healthcare System to Reduce Bureaucracy

At all stages of our healthcare system, health professionals are spending too much time on paperwork. The College of Family Physicians states that on average, family physicians will spend one-third of their working time on administrative tasks. Across Canada, physicians are spending 18.5 million hours each year on unnecessary administrative work—the equivalent of 55.6 million patient visits.

While the First Nations Health Authority stands out for its unique role in addressing the needs of Indigenous populations, other authorities have grown unwieldy and costly, with health spending up 72% in the past seven years.

Rejecting Privatization for a Patient-Centered Approach

Profit motivations are not compatible with healthcare. Research from the University of Oxford has demonstrated that “private sector outsourcing corresponded with significantly increased rates of treatable mortality.”

Investing in our health workforce is essential for a sustainable future. Our healthcare system depends on a diverse and highly trained workforce. Nurses,

technologists, and other medical professionals are key to the system's functionality, and more needs to be done to ensure their wellbeing and availability.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

A Shift to Preventive and Primary Care

Currently, one in five people in British Columbia lacks access to a family doctor or nurse practitioner, depriving them of the continuity of care they need. When early intervention is unavailable, conditions worsen, leading to more severe health issues that are costly and resource-intensive to treat.

Urgent Primary Care Centres (UPCCs) were posited as the answer to a lack of family practitioners that could divert people from hospitals. Instead, they are contributing to a staff shortage at hospitals, without providing either the resources that are available at hospitals or the longitudinal care at traditional health centres.

Streamlining the Healthcare System to Reduce Bureaucracy

This issue is compounded within British Columbia's seven health authorities, which have expanded into bloated bureaucracies with 64 vice-presidents and hundreds of managers. Instead of supporting frontline care, these structures duplicate efforts and drive up costs, undermining the efficient delivery of services.

Rejecting Privatization for a Patient-Centered Approach

The BC NDP provides millions of dollars in funding for private care every year. This contributes to workforce shortages in our public hospitals and comes at a steeper price due to profit margins, capital costs, and higher labour costs built into private clinic charges.

In Alberta, the experiment with private care has resulted in reduced surgical capacity and worsening wait times, far exceeding national averages.

Investing in Our Health Workforce for a Sustainable Future

Despite decades of awareness about our aging population, little has been done to ensure we have enough trained professionals to meet growing demands. In medical imaging, for example, the demand for MRI services has surged by 69% in the past five years, but the workforce has only grown by 24%. Two-thirds of radiation technologists report symptoms of burnout.

Nurses are routinely forced to work under unsafe staffing conditions, facing forced overtime and denied time off, leading to high levels of burnout and moral distress, with many leaving the public system altogether. Health workers across the system are grappling with the emotional toll of being unable to provide the level of care their patients deserve.

THE DOGWOOD MODEL

The BC Greens commit to establishing an integrated community health centre in every riding in the province. The 'Dogwood Model' is based on former Minister of Health Hon. Jane Philpott's Periwinkle Model. It focuses on ensuring everyone has a primary care home - a place where they belong, where they feel at home, where they will go for most of their healthcare needs, and where they have a regular provider—a family physician or nurse practitioner.

The Dogwood Model provides several advantages for both practitioners and patients; it has easy referral models, so patients can receive care from the expert that best meets their need, be it a physiotherapist or a dietician. It places the administrative burden on the administrative professionals, rather than the health staff, ensuring they can focus their energies on healthcare, and providing the benefits of being a staff member—including health benefits and paid vacation and parental leave.

The BC Greens will roll out one Dogwood Health Centre in every riding in the province, ensuring the provision of 93 health centres in the first year.



NEW POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

We will ensure access to preventive and primary healthcare services for all citizens.

- Make all vaccines available to all people, at no cost to the consumer.
- Remove sales of tobacco from British Columbia pharmacies, and eliminate all advertising of vaping and nicotine products.
- Commission a comprehensive and independent health impact assessment to evaluate the health effects of LNG and fracking activities in BC

We will streamline healthcare administration to improve service delivery and reduce inefficiencies.

- Review the Health Authority model, with a focus on creating a single health authority for province, alongside the First Nations Health Authority, which will focus on addressing systemic racism and improving Indigenous life expectancy.
- Reduce unnecessary bureaucracy for family physicians, including legislating to remove the requirement for doctors’ notes for short-term illnesses.
- Review and remove barriers for externally-trained health professionals, making it easier for them to become registered in British Columbia.
- Centralize referrals for surgeries and team-based models of non-surgical and pre-surgical care by introducing a single-entry model, reducing wait times and supporting patients more effectively.

We will prioritize not-for-profit public delivery of health care.

- Increase funding for nurses in the public system, and end reliance on agency nurses
- Implement the recommendations of the Senior’s Advocate’s report, “Billions More Reasons to Care” (Contracted Long-Term Care-Funding Review Update).
- Review the Procurement Services Act to ensure contracts are awarded based on expertise and relationships with communities, not just cost.

We will strengthen and support the healthcare workforce through better planning, training, and regulation.

- Require health authorities to collect and share data for workforce planning, ensuring alignment with educational institutes.
- Review loan forgiveness and paid practicums for all healthcare students to incentivize sufficient staffing and support training.
- Regulate radiographers and medical imaging technologists so they can work to the full scope of their practice.
- Reinstate the Provincial Chief Nursing Officer role to advocate for the nursing profession.
- Adopt and implement the “*Nursing Retention Toolkit: Improving the Working Lives of Nurses in Canada.*”



Mental Health

Comprehensive, evidence-based mental health care meets people where they're at and creates the conditions for everyone to be well.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

People struggling with mental health, people in crisis, or those living with mental illness are not “moral failures”—and we must not treat them as such. Mental health needs to be viewed like any other health issue—and must be properly resourced within our public system.

Mental health care in BC needs to be comprehensive, evidence-based and accessible, meeting people where they are. We will prioritize preventive and proactive care to improve mental wellbeing, while ensuring crisis and emergency services are available when needed.

When individuals who are struggling with mental health challenges seek help, they should be provided with the support that meets their specific needs. A well-functioning system must offer evidence-based, trauma-informed care.

It's also crucial that we provide adequate mental health support to frontline workers, including nurses, social workers, first responders, and mental health professionals. Burnout and exhaustion are pushing many out of these vital roles. We must take care of our colleagues on the frontlines, so they can continue delivering critical services to our communities.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

One-third of Canadians will experience a mental illness or substance use disorder in their lifetime—and 37% reported a decline in their mental health since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The toxic drug crisis, the climate emergency, the steady increase to the cost-of-living and the ongoing impacts of colonization, are all compounding trauma and grief, putting immense pressure on both individual and collective wellbeing.

Mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, substance use disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and eating disorders can deeply affect an individual's quality of life. Access to comprehensive, timely and evidence-based mental health care is critical—and early intervention, such as counselling and therapy, can prevent crises before they escalate.

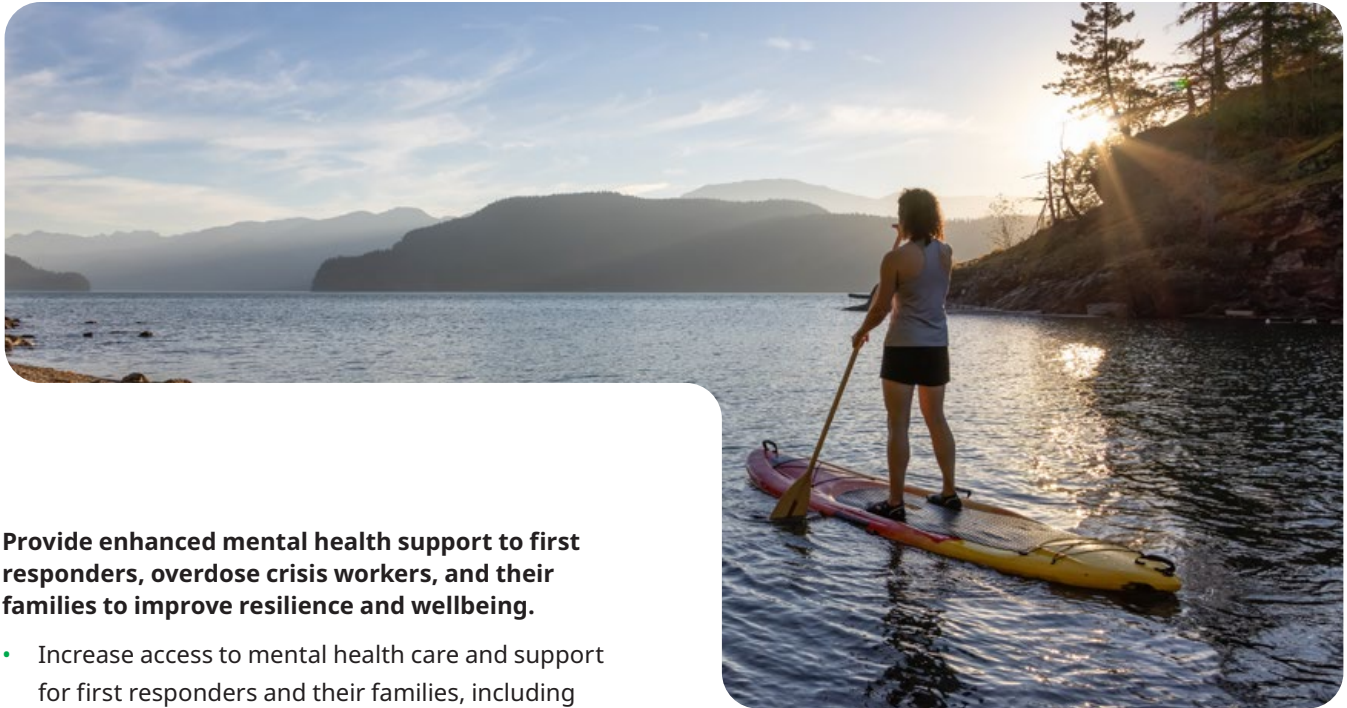
BC has some of the highest rates of self-harm and suicide in Canada, but sadly, stigma still prevents 40% of people with anxiety or depression from seeking help. Our current health and education systems are not adequately designed to promote wellbeing. Instead, it puts the majority of resources toward responding to crises, rather than preventative care.

The Mental Health Act, last updated in 1998, still authorizes coercive health measures and is out of step with modern understandings of mental health and illness. It's time for the act to be overhauled and oriented toward creating the conditions for all people to be well—informed by those who are, or have been, directly impacted by its legislation.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Ensure mental health crises are adequately addressed by emergency services and improve the integration of mental health care into emergency response systems.

- Integrate mental health as the fourth option in 911 emergency services to accommodate mental health crises that do not align with the traditional ambulance, fire or police options.
- Increase crisis line funding from \$2.5 million to \$5 million to enhance their capacity to manage diverted 911 calls, ensuring that mental health crises receive appropriate attention.
- Establish provincial leadership and invest \$500,000 to create consistent protocols for 911 operators, emergency responders, and mobile crisis teams to ensure coordinated and effective mental health crisis responses.
- Expand the PACT (Peer Assisted Care Team) program, which has been highly effective in three communities. Partner with local organizations to introduce PACTs in more communities and extend the service hours of existing teams.



Provide enhanced mental health support to first responders, overdose crisis workers, and their families to improve resilience and wellbeing.

- Increase access to mental health care and support for first responders and their families, including raising awareness about mental health tools and resources and reducing the stigma surrounding their use.
- Extend the Mobile Response Team’s psychosocial support, education, and training to peers working on the frontlines of the toxic drug crisis, ensuring that everyone impacted by critical incidents, such as overdoses, receives necessary support.

Address staffing shortages in the mental health sector by attracting and retaining skilled frontline mental health workers.

- Implement recruitment and retention initiatives, similar to those used by municipalities for primary care practitioners, including rural living allowances, health and wellness benefits, and rental options to attract frontline mental health workers.

Conduct a comprehensive review of the Mental Health Act to ensure it meets modern standards and addresses the needs of individuals with mental health challenges.

- Undertake an All-Party review of the Mental Health Act and create a parliamentary working group that will oversee the implementation of the recommendations.

Strengthen regulation and oversight of mental health care to ensure high-quality, accountable services for British Columbians.

- Create an Independent Office of the Mental Health Advocate—providing individual and systemic advocacy, aimed at improving mental health care systems in BC.
- Commit to the full regulation of psychotherapy professions, including psychologists, counsellors, therapists, and social workers, to increase public protection, provide accountability, and legitimize these essential professions.
- Collaborate with experts, including physicians, clinical psychologists, and psychiatrists, as well as individuals with lived experiences, to develop evidence-based standards of care for all mental health and substance use treatment services in BC.
- Regulate substance use treatment in BC, and ensure that any public funding for treatment comes with a requirement that the service provider gives comprehensive data and robust reporting on outcomes.

Improve the continuity of care in the mental health system and provide comprehensive support for individuals with concurrent conditions.

- Address the abrupt transition between pediatric and adult mental health care by ensuring seamless and effective connections to support services at all stages of life.
- Improve systems of care for individuals with co-occurring mental illness, substance use disorders, and brain injuries, ensuring they receive integrated and comprehensive treatment.
- Increase community-based services for individuals with eating disorders and develop stepped-care models that prioritize autonomy and self-directed recovery, with inpatient care available when necessary.

Promote early intervention in mental health care through expanded access to services and increased public awareness.

- Include six visits to a mental health professional, such as a psychologist, under the Medical Services Plan (MSP), ensuring early access to mental health support for all British Columbians.
- Build on existing anti-stigma campaigns by incorporating feedback from mental health experts, students, and people with lived experiences to promote understanding, respect, and care for people with mental health challenges.

Strengthen community-based mental health services to ensure comprehensive and accessible support for all individuals in need.

- Expand the number of community integration specialists by 50%, helping more people connect to a wide range of community-based supports and services to meet their needs.
- Work with a diverse range of community partners, including Arts and Culture, Indigenous, Health, and Education experts, to develop comprehensive arts-based and land-based therapy programs that promote healing and wellbeing.



Drug Policy

Ending preventable drug deaths through evidence-based policies, and solutions grounded in dignity and care.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Drug use is a health and social issue—not a criminal one. It is clear that punitive measures, such as prohibition, fail to foster a safe and healthy society. Instead, we must recognize that people who use drugs deserve safety, respect and access to compassionate, evidence-based care—and we must create legislation that reflects this need.

To address this crisis effectively, we need to implement a regulated drug supply and support robust harm reduction services, while also investing in evidence-based treatment, prevention and education. Our approach must be grounded in urgency and compassion, aiming to end preventable drug deaths through solutions that meet people where they are and support their journey towards recovery.

No one should be excluded from our communities due to substance use—and no one should be at risk of dying from a poisoned drug supply. People who use drugs deserve the same access to resources, medical care, housing, love, dignity and respect just as much as anyone else does.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

In British Columbia, the toxic drug crisis was declared a public health emergency in April 2016. Since then, over 15,000 people have died from the poisoned, unregulated drug supply. These deaths are not inevitable—they are preventable and reflect systemic policy failures.

The ongoing prohibition and the war on drugs have exacerbated the crisis by increasing the toxicity of street substances. Street drugs have never been so dangerous and toxic. Synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, have dominated the illicit drug market controlled by criminal organizations – leading to enormous profits for distributors and a devastating death toll among users. The rising presence of benzodiazepines in the illicit supply has further complicated overdose reversals, making them more difficult and unpredictable.

Anti-drug user stigma remains a significant barrier to accessing care and support. The decriminalization pilot project was designed to reduce stigma and prevent unnecessary involvement with the criminal justice system, but the province's retreat from this initiative has only intensified negative attitudes towards drug users. This is a humanitarian crisis and policy failure.

After eight years of public health emergency, the situation has only worsened, becoming more deadly, dangerous and unpredictable. We must respond to this crisis effectively by implementing a regulated drug supply and comprehensive harm reduction services. Additionally, investing in evidence-based treatment, prevention and education is crucial to making meaningful progress and improving outcomes for those affected.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Immediately enhance accessibility to supervised consumption services and overdose prevention sites to save lives and connect individuals to care and recovery resources.

- Require all public hospitals to include spaces for safe, supervised consumption of substances, with capacity for inhalation.
- Ensure all shelters that permit substance use have the capacity for safe inhalation spaces.
- Continue the expansion of supervised consumption services and evaluate mobile overdose prevention services to reduce access barriers.
- Work with providers to extend service hours for overdose prevention sites, aiming for 24-hour availability.

Provide critical drug-checking services to empower individuals to make informed decisions about substance use and reduce harm.

- Allocate annual funding for existing drug-checking services to ensure their sustainability.
- Collaborate with local partners to expand drug-checking services in underserved areas.

Ensure children and youth are educated about drug risks and supported by trusted adults to make informed decisions.

- Mandate that all schools provide evidence-based, age-appropriate information on drugs and substance use.
- Ensure schools have sufficient teachers, education assistants, and mental health professionals to meet the diverse needs of all students.

Provide regulated, pharmaceutical alternatives to the illicit drug market to reduce fatalities associated with substance use.

- Collaborate with experts to expand the range of substances available through prescribed safer supply and Opioid Agonist Treatment.
- Begin the expansion of diacetylmorphine prescribing based on evidence from the NAOMI trials.
- Work with health officials and advocacy groups to evaluate a demedicalized model for regulated alternatives to the toxic supply.

Develop innovative, local solutions to address the unregulated toxic drug crisis.

- Partner with health professionals and pharmaceutical companies to create a made-in-BC solution for diacetylmorphine production.
- Provide funding for BC pharmaceutical companies to manufacture intranasal naloxone locally.

Ensure inclusive decision-making in substance use treatment services and establish a standard of care based on evidence and lived experience.

- Create an evidence-based standard of care for all substance use treatment services, informed by experts and community leaders.
- Match investments in bed-based care with a spectrum of community-based outpatient substance use treatment services.
- Ensure that individuals working on the frontlines and those with lived experience of substance use are valued in decision-making processes.

Work towards the decriminalization of substance use while ensuring adequate services are in place.

- Collaborate with local partners and the federal government to pursue decriminalization, ensuring the development of necessary services like safe consumption sites and housing.



Poverty

The Elimination of Poverty in British Columbia.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Poverty is a political choice. There has long been a misguided belief that poverty is the result of an individual's failure. We know it is far more complex than that; the decisions that we have made have created systemic, entrenched, poverty in British Columbia. This is not inevitable—we can make different choices and have different outcomes. Investing well, early and fairly in all people, is the best and most cost-effective way to reduce poverty.

Our once-celebrated social safety net has been described by the Expert Panel on Basic Income as “a house that has had many renovations without an overall plan,” resulting in a system that often fails to treat people with the dignity they deserve, despite the best efforts of those working within it. Clawbacks and spousal caps often force individuals to choose between maintaining relationships or receiving assistance, leaving some to avoid relationships or remain in harmful situations due to financial dependence.

Indigenous poverty continues to be systemic and we must prioritize its elimination. This includes removing barriers for Indigenous people with disabilities, confronting systemic racism in government services, strengthening local Indigenous food systems and affordable housing and expanding Indigenous-specific harm reduction and treatment supports.

A failure to invest in our social systems comes at a significant cost to the province—impacting our health system, child welfare system and carceral system. Estimates put this cost at between 3.4% to 4.7% of GDP, equating to \$13.4 billion to \$18.6 billion annually. Poverty not only strains these systems but can also impair the cognitive development of children, affecting their mental growth and future potential.

Conversely, investing in people yields substantial benefits. It boosts local businesses, improves health and education outcomes, reduces crime, and enhances social cohesion. By prioritizing investment in our communities, we can drive positive economic and social impacts while fostering a healthier, more equitable society.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

In British Columbia, one in seven children lives in poverty—and the situation is even more dire on First Nations reserves, where the child poverty rate reaches 31%. Across Canada, 16.5% of disabled individuals live in poverty, and 41% of those living in poverty are disabled.

The most recent provincial figures from 2021 showed that 8.8% of British Columbians were living in poverty. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that this number has worsened significantly since then.

Current social assistance rates trap people in poverty. The provincial monthly Disability Assistance Payment stands at \$1,483.50, while the poverty line is \$2,322 in Vancouver and \$2,249 in cities like Victoria and Kelowna—leaving a monthly gap of almost \$900.

Moreover, 57.8% of homeless youth in Canada have previously been involved with the child welfare system. A young person leaving youth protection is nearly 200 times more likely to experience homelessness than a young person who did not use these services.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

We will commit to raising social and disability assistance rates to above the poverty line, ensuring that all individuals receive adequate support for their needs.

- Raise social assistance rates to ensure that individuals can meet their basic living expenses and live above the poverty line.
- Increase disability assistance rates to provide adequate support for individuals with disabilities, ensuring they can thrive in their communities.

We will increase assistance rates to the following:

Social assistance

	Current	New
Single person	\$1,060	\$2,400
Person and a spouse and no children	\$1,650	\$3,450
Single parent with one child	\$1,405	\$2,900
Person and a spouse and one child	\$1,845	\$3,450

Disability Assistance

	Current	New
Single person	\$1,483.50	\$2,400
Person and a spouse and no children	\$2,548.50	\$3,450
Single parent with one child	\$1,828.50	\$2,900
Person and a spouse and one child	\$2,268.50	\$3,450

British Columbia currently has 170,200 individuals and families on social or disability assistance. A \$917 per month increase would bring the cost of this to \$1.87billion in the first year.

We will treat individuals on social and disability assistance with dignity and respect, while simplifying access to necessary support.

- Remove clawbacks, including the spousal cap, to ensure individuals receive the full support they need.
- Create low-barrier access to assistance, eliminating intrusive checks that discourage individuals from seeking help.
- Ensure a year of guaranteed assistance upon first receipt, allowing individuals to assess their needs without the burden of constant checks and reporting.
- Reduce regular reporting requirements after the first year to ease the administrative burden on recipients.
- Raise the food crisis grant from \$40 per month to \$200 per month to better support individuals facing food insecurity.

We will develop targeted poverty reduction strategies that address the specific needs of vulnerable populations, particularly Indigenous communities.

- Develop a poverty reduction plan tailored to Indigenous individuals, families, and Nations, addressing the systemic impacts of genocide and dispossession.
- Fund Indigenous-specific services in social service areas, including reintegration programs for incarcerated Indigenous women, addiction support, and childcare.
- Incorporate human rights, Indigenous rights, and gender-based analysis into all poverty reduction strategies, policies, and decision-making processes.
- Invest in programs for specific groups such as youth aging out of care, women fleeing violence, people with disabilities, and those who are long-term unemployed.

We will reduce homelessness by increasing affordable housing availability and providing comprehensive support services.

- Expand the availability of deeply affordable housing to prevent inflows into homelessness and mitigate adverse childhood experiences.
- Offer direct support for individuals leaving hospitals, medical care, and prisons for at least six months to facilitate successful transitions.
- Provide housing and wrap-around support in every township in British Columbia to reduce the risk of newly homeless individuals transitioning to long-term homelessness based on the proven ‘the Village’ model from Duncan.
- Establish second-stage housing for victims of intimate partner violence, residential school survivors, and individuals exiting MCFD care, complete with counseling and legal aid.
- Allocate funds to First Nations to create housing that meets the specific needs of their communities.
- Safeguard affordable rental housing and ensure access to necessary wrap-around supports to help individuals maintain stable living conditions.

We will reduce bureaucratic barriers for non-profit service providers, ensuring they can effectively support vulnerable populations.

- Reduce bureaucratic requirements for trusted non-profit service providers, ensuring their operational efficiency.
- Guarantee annual funding for non-profits, limiting the need to compete for grant funding, thus ensuring stability.
- Offer adequate, multi-year operational funding to non-profits with a proven track record of delivering public good.



Seniors

Seniors are valued, secure, and supported to live the lives they want.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Seniors in British Columbia are a very diverse group. While some are among the wealthiest residents, having greatly benefited from housing wealth, many others are on fixed incomes and struggling with the cost of living crisis. In 2023, 9.7% of food bank clients were over 65 years old.

We must ensure that seniors receive the support they need to live as they choose. Those who wish to remain in their homes should have access to services that assist with daily living. On average, a long-term care bed costs taxpayers \$27,740 more per year than two hours of daily home support. Correcting this imbalance by reimagining how we care for seniors will not only help with spending, it will also promote independence and quality of life for our senior community.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

British Columbia has an aging population and, unfortunately, insufficient consideration has been given to how this will affect our workforce, healthcare system and long-term care services.

Certain groups of seniors require additional support, including Indigenous peoples, racialized individuals, renters, those in long-term care, people lacking transportation and those with complex medical needs. Rural seniors face specific challenges, including limited access to medical assistance, difficulties in finding suitable accommodation and lower average incomes.

The distribution of seniors is uneven across the province, with many choosing to retire in temperate climates and small villages on Vancouver Island.

There is a growing demand for long-term care homes, with an average waiting time of 178 days for a publicly subsidized long-term care bed—a 166% increase over the past five years. Current growth in long-term care capacity is not projected to meet the rising demand in BC. The Seniors Advocate report, “Billions More Reasons to Care,” found that for-profit care homes have doubled their profits in the past six years while failing to provide hundreds of thousands of essential care hours.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Provide greater financial support to low-income seniors who rent, ensuring affordability and housing security.

- We will increase the thresholds for SAFER (Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters) to provide greater monthly rental assistance for low-income seniors. The thresholds will be raised to \$45,000 for single individuals and \$50,000 for couples, ensuring more seniors qualify for support.
- We will apply vacancy control to assisted living, including the additional fees for services, to protect seniors from rent increases and extra charges.

Ensure seniors have access to comprehensive care, both in-home and in care facilities.

- We will improve access to respite care and day programs, ensuring that at-home care services are available for both medical care and assistance with daily tasks to support seniors and their caregivers.
- We will increase the number of publicly funded long-term care beds by 10% each year to meet the growing demand for senior care services.

Improve transparency and accountability in publicly funded care homes to ensure that funds are spent directly on senior care.

- Enact the recommendations of the Seniors Advocate’s report “Billions More Reasons to Care” by ensuring that funding for direct care is spent on direct care and not on operational or administrative costs.
- Enhance the accuracy and transparency of monitoring and reporting for publicly funded care homes, with a focus on compliance and the allocation of resources for non-direct care tasks.
- Define ‘profit’ and adopt a standardized approach to assessing costs like mortgages, head office allocations, management fees, subcontracting, executive compensation, and the financing of other businesses.

- Make the revenues and expenditures for publicly subsidized care homes publicly available, ensuring accountability and transparency in the use of public funds.

Implement strategies to support the unique needs of seniors living in rural areas.

- Develop and implement a Rural Seniors Housing Strategy to address the housing needs of seniors in rural communities.
- Develop and implement a Rural Health Human Resource Strategy to ensure adequate staffing and services for rural seniors.
- Develop and implement a Rural Seniors Home and Community Care Strategy to ensure accessible, high-quality home care for rural seniors.

- Develop and implement a Provincial Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Plan focused on achieving equity in care services across the province.
- Develop and implement a Provincial Rural Transportation Strategy to improve transportation access for rural seniors.
- Improve and promote the Provincial Travel Assistance Program and Hope Air to support rural seniors in traveling to medical appointments and other critical services.

ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA

85,000 

people in British Columbia are currently living with dementia, a number that is expected to grow to almost a quarter-million by 2050.

After the age of 65, the risk of dementia doubles every five years, and almost one-in-four people over the age of 85 have been diagnosed.

Stress from racism and colonization is known to impact brain health and increase the likelihood of dementia; by 2050, there will be an increase in people with dementia who are Indigenous by 273 percent, of Asian ethnicity by 785 percent, and of African ethnicity by 507 percent.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Establish a clear dementia care pathway and support family practitioners to do more early screening for dementia.
- Develop a dementia support strategy, with a focus on cultural safety.
- Fund the Alzheimer's Society to develop and run a campaign to reduce stigma and support early detection.

Disability and Accessibility

Creating a province that enables all people with disabilities to live and thrive with dignity

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Creating a safer and more inclusive province requires a holistic approach that addresses multiple facets of accessibility and support so that those in our province with disabilities can live with dignity and financial security.

We recognize that policies on disability and accessibility must be informed by, and led by, people with disabilities.

Our vision focuses on three key areas:

1. **Accessibility:** We will implement policies that ensure people with disabilities can safely access public spaces and fully participate in society.
2. **Financial Support:** We will provide assistance that ensures individuals and families living with disabilities can achieve a livable income and maintain their dignity.
3. **Awareness and Education:** To truly transform society's understanding of disability, we must shift the perception and eliminate ableism. This requires both cultural and political change—and the government must lead by amplifying the voices of the disability movement.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Ableism continues to persist, both in our province and across Canada. Too often, the design of spaces, events, and structures is centered around the able-bodied. When society and infrastructure are built with able-bodied presumptions like this, it results in large swaths of the population being excluded and left behind. It's essential that we move away from this mindset and work towards a world where all people—regardless of their abilities or disabilities—are able to participate fully in society.

People with disabilities are discriminated against in all areas of society, but this discrimination is particularly dangerous in healthcare settings. Social assistance programs, like Persons With Disabilities assistance, require medical forms from a physician. Due to the lack

of primary healthcare in BC, the process for attaining this is often onerous or nearly impossible. Lack of financial support for people with disabilities can lead to deep poverty and result in devastating outcomes, such as severe harm or death due to a lack of nourishing food, clean water, shelter, or health care.

People can be born with disabilities, become disabled suddenly or develop disabilities slowly over time. The COVID-19 pandemic showed how quickly people can become disabled, at any place and any time. Additionally, Black, Indigenous, People of Colour, Women, LGBTQ+ people, people with lower incomes, and those with other intersecting, marginalized identities can be more at risk of being or becoming disabled. Although progress has been made, the BC government has done an insufficient job of addressing all the barriers that prevent people from accessing support and services. When we discuss improving accessibility and the living conditions for people with disabilities in BC, it is essential to apply an intersectional lens. We must ask the question: who is not being served by our current policies and how can we better meet their needs?

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Enhance workplace accessibility grants and raise awareness about accessibility needs to create inclusive environments for all individuals.

- Increase funding for Small Business BC's Workplace Accessibility Grant from \$450,000 to \$2 million annually. Eligible small businesses will continue to receive up to \$40,000 to make their workplaces more accessible.
- Expand awareness and education campaigns in elementary, secondary and post-secondary institutions. These campaigns will focus on creating safer and more inclusive learning environments for students with disabilities and raising awareness about ableism and its harmful effects.

THRIVING PEOPLE

- In consultation with the Provincial Accessibility Committee, create a comprehensive guidebook for ensuring public events meet all accessibility requirements. Considerations include: sign language interpreters, ramps, automatic doors, scent-free policies, and low-stimulation spaces to ensure events are accessible to all individuals.

Improve home accessibility for seniors and people with disabilities to promote independent living and enhance safety in emergencies.

- Increase the scope of the Home Improvement Assistance Program, which provides eligible seniors, people with disabilities, and landlords with rebates of up to \$20,000 per home for modifications that promote accessible, safe and independent living.
- Implement the recommendations from the Coroner's Inquest into the 2022 Winters SRO fire, particularly funding all necessary assistive devices to eliminate barriers to safety for residents with mobility or hearing disabilities.
- Mandate that all residential buildings have emergency evacuation plans that address the needs of residents with mobility or other access requirements to ensure safe evacuations in emergencies.

Improve the quality and responsiveness of services provided by Community Living BC to ensure that the needs of individuals and caregivers are adequately met.

- We will conduct an audit of Community Living BC (CLBC) to identify gaps in service delivery. Implement all audit recommendations to ensure that CLBC provides excellent service that meets the needs of those giving and receiving care.

Ensure public spaces are equipped with clean air measures to protect vulnerable populations from respiratory threats.

- Ensure public spaces across British Columbia are equipped with air filtration systems to reduce the health impacts of COVID-19, respiratory viruses, and wildfire smoke, especially for people with disabilities and compromised immune systems.

- The Clean Air Act, introduced in Spring 2024, demonstrates a commitment to creating safe, accessible public spaces. This legislation focuses on improving air quality and public health protections for all British Columbians, particularly those most vulnerable.

Remove barriers to accessing necessary support for individuals with permanent disabilities.

- Work with the Health and SDPR Ministries, along with the Provincial Accessibility Committee, to evaluate changes to the PWD application process, reducing complexity and eliminating barriers for applicants.
- Ensure individuals with permanent disabilities do not need to repeatedly submit medical forms. Streamline the process by allowing a one-time submission of medical documentation for those with permanent diagnoses, reducing delays and frustration for applicants.

Ensure that people with neurodiverse conditions, particularly students, receive the support and services they need to thrive in educational settings and beyond.

- Expand the discussion of accessibility to include neurodiverse individuals, such as those with autism, ADHD, dyspraxia, dyslexia and Tourette's. Create environments that are inclusive of all abilities and accommodate the needs of all individuals, including those with down syndrome.
- Provide additional funding to increase the number of Education Assistants (EAs) in classrooms, provide regulation tools for students, and continue individualized autism funding. Invest in early identification and diagnosis, ensuring neurodiverse students receive appropriate support throughout their education.



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

We can create communities that prioritize connection, resiliency, and creativity. We envision a province where everyone has a safe place to live, can easily get to the places they need to be, and feel supported in raising their families.

The world is in a time of immense change. With the rapid development of technology and acceleration of climate change, it's more important than ever to create the conditions for resilient communities. We must ensure the development of infrastructure, like housing and transportation, is oriented towards creating connected communities. In recognizing the threat of climate change, we need to create systems that are resilient and reduce the environmental impacts.

For too long, successive governments have allowed their role to be minimized, assuming that 'the market' can create the conditions for communities to thrive. Forty years downstream from the government abdicating their housing responsibilities, we have

more people experiencing homelessness, more people spending half of their income on rent, and more people not able to pursue their dreams because of insufficient housing than ever before. Government can and must do more; we can orient our systems to ensure that all communities have the basics; quality education, reliable public transit, opportunities for recreation and arts.

The BC Greens believe in smart planning. Better coordination between governments and agencies, guided by sustainable urban values that makes good use of the land that we have already disturbed with increased density, supported by transportation and social services, and encourages green spaces and designed spaces to engage public discourse. The BC NDP focused on housing units, while the BC Greens focus is healthy communities where people can thrive, where public processes are efficient and bureaucracy is effective.

Housing

By 2035, everyone living in BC can afford a home that meets their needs—as renters or owners

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Every British Columbian deserves a safe, secure and affordable home—yet in recent years, rising housing costs have placed immense strain on individuals and families, whether they rent or own. Despite being a fundamental human right, access to affordable and secure housing remains out of reach for many across the province.

We cannot continue to rely on the market to solve this crisis. The private sector alone cannot deliver the affordable housing we need. A bold shift in approach is required—one that prioritizes the creation of truly affordable homes and provides stronger protections for renters.

Our plan prioritizes those most vulnerable in the housing market—renters, seniors, students and families—because this is not just a housing crisis. It is a crisis of inequality and for the unhoused and our communities it is a humanitarian crisis.

Housing in British Columbia is increasingly unaffordable and unstable, holding our province back from reaching its full potential. When people are free from the anxiety of “renovictions” and skyrocketing rents, they can focus on contributing to their communities and the economy, making BC stronger.

The cost of inaction on housing far exceeds the cost of meaningful investment. By increasing the supply of affordable housing we can alleviate pressure across the housing system. This will have a ripple effect: more affordable options mean households can save, enjoy greater financial security, and foster vibrant, mixed-income communities. It allows workers to live close to where they work, strengthening our economy and creating a more stable labor force for communities throughout British Columbia.

British Columbia should be the best place to live, not just for investors, but for everyone. It is time to take decisive action to ensure that everyone has access to a home they can afford, paving the way for a more equitable and prosperous future for all.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Access to affordable and secure housing is slipping further out of reach for many British Columbians, with renters now commonly spending over 50% of their income on housing, leaving little room for savings or other essentials. Skyrocketing rents have made it difficult for young families to plan for the future, strained employers' ability to attract and retain talent, and forced many people to leave urban centers in search of affordable living.

The impact of high housing costs is eroding both the economy and the overall livability of our communities. This housing crisis is complex, deeply entrenched and there is no quick fix.

For too long, BC's housing system has served primarily as a mechanism for increasing wealth, rather than ensuring fair access to housing for all. The financialization of housing—where corporate investors buy properties and drive up prices—has been a major factor in rising unaffordability across the province. We need stronger action to curb this trend and protect housing for prospective owners and renters alike. All levels of government and available resources must be deployed to address the crisis.

We believe housing is a basic human right, a place where individuals, families and communities can live in security and dignity—not a tool for generating profit. It is time to take decisive action to ensure that homes are for people, not for profit. Everyone deserves a home they can afford.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Support Renters

- Prevent landlords from dramatically increasing rents after a tenancy ends by implementing vacancy control measures..
- Create province-wide minimum standards for tenant protection to safeguard renters from renovictions and other forms of displacement.

- Enhance the Residential Tenancy Branch to address tenant and landlord disputes more effectively, ensuring fair and timely resolutions.
- Increase funding to \$164 million annually for the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SHELTER) and Rental Assistance Program (RAP). Raise the rent ceilings, index them to inflation, and expand eligibility to better support low-income renters.

Scale Up Non-Market Housing

- Provide \$1.5 billion annually to construct 26,000 new units of non-market housing each year, with 3,000 units dedicated specifically for Indigenous Peoples.
- Implement province-wide upzoning initiatives to end exclusionary zoning for non-market housing.
- Support non-profits and housing cooperatives with upfront investment, grant capital and low-interest financing through government-backed construction loans and mortgage guarantees.
- Make existing public land available for non-profit housing development and acquire new public land to expand affordable housing opportunities. Recognize community land trusts as crucial for securing land for non-market development.
- Improve efficiency and transparency at BC Housing to ensure the build out of 26,000 units of non-market housing per year.

Protect Existing Affordable Housing Stock

- Increase funding to the Rental Protection Fund with a \$500 million re-capitalization to safeguard existing affordable rental units. Mandate transparency in fund allocation to guarantee equitable distribution.
- Allocate \$100 million annually to a Rental Maintenance Fund to preserve and maintain existing non-profit and co-op housing to prevent these units from falling into disrepair.
- Grant non-profit organizations the right of first refusal on the sale of rental apartment buildings, preventing the loss of affordable housing to private investors.

Build whole communities

- Partner with municipalities to meet housing development targets and reward successful communities by sharing a portion of property transfer taxes.
- Provide \$650 million annually in infrastructure funding to municipalities.
- Develop housing specifically for families, students, essential workers, seniors, and people with disabilities to meet the diverse needs of communities
- Safeguard existing green spaces and expand the urban tree canopy.
- Investigate the potential of land value capture as a funding source for infrastructure projects and community development.

Address the Commodification of Housing

- Introduce legislation to formally recognize housing as a fundamental human right.
- Implement regulations to curb the impact of short-term rentals on the availability of long-term affordable housing.
- Investigate the implementation of a property transfer tax on the transfer of properties to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) or limited partnerships with REIT involvement.
- Advocate for federal legislation to ban the sale of residential units to REITs.
- Extend the Speculation and Vacancy Tax to all interested communities, with revenues directed towards non-market housing development.
- Create a single income-tested housing grant for renters and homeowners alike, merging the Home Owner Grant and Renter's Tax Credit for more equitable support.
- Apply a 2% tax on residential property values over \$3 million and double existing provincial property tax rates for homes valued above \$3 million, \$4 million, and \$7 million, ensuring high-value properties contribute more.

Support the Construction Industry and Innovation

- Collaborate with the Construction Association to promote trades as a career option for young people, women, Indigenous, and racialized communities. Ensure these training programs have affordable tuition.
- Position BC as a global leader in prefabricated home technologies by investing in innovation and developing comprehensive design guidelines to improve housing quality and affordability.

Climate-Proof our Housing

- Reduce emissions in the building sector by promoting conservation, efficiency, and lower-carbon design and materials.
- Develop new rebate programs to incentivize deep energy retrofits for housing providers, tenants, and landlords, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep rents low.
- Provide financial support to households that cannot afford the upfront capital costs of zero-carbon technologies, such as heat pumps, to promote sustainable housing.
- Introduce measures to protect renters, including requiring cooling systems in existing rental buildings or setting a maximum allowable temperature for rental units.
- Implement a province-wide policy to prevent oil and gas hookups in new buildings, accelerating the transition to clean energy in the housing sector.



Transport and Transit

Everyone should be able to get to where they need to go—safely, efficiently, reliably and affordably.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

The way we choose to travel shapes our province, our cities and our daily lives. Offering people more options for transportation benefits the economy, supports the environment, and improves public health.

We believe in induced demand—and that people will use transportation infrastructure if it exists. We cannot build our way out of congestion. But we can make fast, frequent and free public transit a reality. We can build cities that welcome people who use wheelchairs and mobility scooters. We can make cycling safe and accessible. And we can have buses and trains as viable choices across the entire province.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Our transport choices contribute significantly to climate change. Transport emitted 21.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2021, 34.8 percent of total emissions. Passenger trucks and cars were the biggest share of that, yet consecutive governments have continued to subsidize car travel at a rate of four times that of transit.

Our transportation system heavily subsidizes car drivers while underinvesting in public transit, cycling, ferries, trains and inter-regional buses. TransLink has warned that without more funding, transit services in Vancouver could be cut by up to 50% as soon as next year.

Outside of urban centres, the challenges are even more profound. In many parts of the province, public transit is either nonexistent or so infrequent that it's not a viable option for most people. And despite recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, bus service along Highway 16 remains inadequate.

Transport is also expensive. On average, households in BC spend \$10,879 a year on transportation, with 85% of that going towards private cars.

The benefits of a well-functioning transportation system are substantial, with returns of up to \$5 for every \$1 invested in public transit.

Mobility is good for business.



The BC Greens will make all public transit free for riders.

- We will implement a free public transit system for all people in British Columbia.

We commit to delivering regular bus services across British Columbia.

- We will ensure at least hourly service for key routes and at least four services per day on all other routes.
- We will double the number of buses within three years, and triple within six.

We will provide immediate funding for TransLink to maintain and expand service levels in 2025.

- Allocate funds to address existing public transit infrastructure and operational needs across the region.

We will require the Government to spend at least as much on public transit, walking, and cycling as on highway infrastructure and operations.

- Reduce the subsidy that car drivers receive to promote equitable transportation funding.

We will convene a roundtable with Indigenous, Federal, Regional, and Municipal governments.

- Determine next steps to bring rail back to Vancouver Island.

We will establish an all-party Parliamentary Committee for sustainable transport funding.

- The Committee will gather expert opinions to create a non-partisan mechanism for funding transport infrastructure and operations, ensuring a comprehensive network for trains, ferries, buses, bikes, trucks, and cars.

Education and Childcare

A well-supported education system that creates the conditions for all students to thrive.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

BC's education system, from early childhood to post-secondary, must create an environment where all students can thrive. Every public school should be a place where students, educators and staff feel safe, included, welcome and cared for. When this happens, optimal learning follows. Students cannot succeed in environments marked by scarcity and insecurity—and our schools must be fully equipped to meet their needs and those of the educators who support them.

Currently, BC's child care system is fragmented by pilot projects and ad hoc funding, making it difficult for both providers and families to navigate. This disconnected approach has placed enormous strain on child care providers, leading to burnout and the closure of vital spaces. By creating a universal funding model, we can simplify the process for providers, allowing them to focus on the children and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens.

Staffing shortages continue to affect educational outcomes, from early childhood through to post-secondary. We must prioritize recruitment and retention of early childhood educators, education assistants, and teachers, whose contributions are essential to a thriving education system.

At the post-secondary level, the rising cost of living and tuition has made further education out of reach for many. We must work toward a future where every BC resident, regardless of income, can access higher education and vocational training. A well-educated, well-equipped workforce will create the conditions for everyone in BC to thrive.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Education is the foundation of a healthy society, yet it has been consistently deprioritized by consecutive governments in British Columbia. Teacher shortages, reduced funding for special education and rising operating costs are having a heavy impact on students. When schools are inadequately funded and students spend their education years in portables, a clear

message is sent to our youth: we are not investing in you. Despite persistent and visible inequities, no BC government has adequately addressed these issues in over two decades.

The K-12 and childcare sectors in BC are struggling to attract and retain qualified staff, particularly in rural and remote areas. Chronic underinvestment has left teachers unable to do their jobs effectively, affecting the prospect for students to receive the education they deserve. This underinvestment is felt not only in K-12, but also across post-secondary institutions.

While there have been recent increases to operating grants, the current BC NDP government is still not spending enough on post-secondary education. Funding has not kept pace with inflation and has failed to compensate for the significant cuts. It is crucial for the province to invest in post-secondary education to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

Our education system must be designed to prepare children for the future, equipping them with adaptability, perseverance, problem-solving and creativity. These are the skills they will need to thrive in an evolving world—and it is our responsibility to make sure they are ready.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Education Workforce Strategy

Strengthen the education workforce by providing financial support, fair compensation, and streamlined processes for educators.

- Provide paid final practicums for teachers and Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), offering financial support during their essential training periods.
- Simplify the certification process for teachers from other provinces or countries to attract more qualified educators to BC.
- Develop bursaries for educators who commit to serving in remote districts, and increase funding for rural and remote teacher education programs to address workforce shortages.

- Ensure Educational Assistants (EAs) receive fair compensation and increased hours, ensuring they earn a living wage and have job security.
- Pursue loan forgiveness programs for teachers, ECEs, and EAs as part of broader post-secondary support initiatives (see: Post-Secondary Education section).

Child Care

Develop a universal, accessible and well-compensated ECE system.

- Create a universal Early Childhood Education funding model to reduce administrative burdens for childcare providers, allowing them to focus on care. This model will address wage grids, space creation, licensing, staffing, and fee reduction initiatives.
- Implement gradual increases to the ECE wage grid, and reach \$30-40 per hour by 2026.
- Ensure ECEs have access to pension plans and extended health benefits to improve job security and retention.

Improve access to affordable childcare for children under 5.

- Allocate at least \$250 million to expand childcare space creation for children and infants under 5.
- Provide ECE and childcare centres with the necessary supports to continue operations and create more spaces to meet demand.
- Ensure the province remains on track to deliver \$10/day childcare for all, making early childhood education affordable for all families.
- Provide \$100 million in new funding to create a capital program within the Ministry of Education for renovations and additions to schools to support ECE space creation.

Ensure all families have access to before- and after-school care.

- Expand the availability of dedicated school-age care spaces across BC schools to meet the needs of working families.
- Increase before and after school program offerings to provide flexible childcare solutions for families.

K-12 Education

Modernize public school funding and infrastructure to support student success.

- Modernize operational funding and increase grants for school districts to ensure every school has the resources to meet instructional and student support needs.
- Undertake comprehensive reforms in facilities management to ensure all schools meet high standards of safety, functionality, and climate resilience.
- Collaborate across ministries and the construction industry to create pre-approved universal school building designs, which will be reevaluated every 10 years to ensure they meet climate-resilient standards.

Foster community connections by expanding the use of school facilities.

- Increase provincial funding support for community schools, which serve as spaces for community connection and make use of public buildings outside school hours.

Support students with diverse learning needs through equitable and inclusive education.

- Work with education partners to create province-wide inclusive education policies, ensuring equitable access to education for all students.
- Establish a sustainable funding model for organizations addressing diverse student needs, such as the Take a Hike Foundation, to ensure long-term support.
- Ensure every school district has sufficient funding to provide accessible recreation programs. Invest in outdoor education to promote leadership skills and confidence in youth.
- Continue funding ArtStarts and other arts programs, ensuring educators have the tools to integrate arts education into classrooms, supporting mental health and wellbeing.

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

- Expand the discussion of accessibility to include neurodiverse individuals, such as those with autism, ADHD, dyspraxia, dyslexia and Tourette's. Create environments that are inclusive of all abilities and accommodate the needs of all individuals, including those with down syndrome.

Ensure all students have equitable access to mental health support in schools.

- Increase the counsellor-to-student ratio in school districts to provide better mental health support for students.
- Allocate additional provincial funding to hire more school psychologists, counsellors, and social workers across BC schools.

Provide healthy, nutritious meals for all students.

- Create a universal school food program ensuring all students, regardless of family income, have access to healthy meals.
- Ensure school meals meet comprehensive nutritional guidelines to support children's health and development.
- Partner with schools, local farmers, and community organizations to promote sustainable food practices and educate students about healthy eating.

Equip educators with the tools and knowledge to deliver quality, inclusive education.

- Ensure educators have the resources to equip students with critical thinking skills and knowledge about: our electoral systems and the responsibilities of citizenship, the World Wars, the Holocaust, the Nakba, the Cold War, apartheid South Africa, human rights movements, impacts of colonialism, and other critical moments in history. Young people are graduating into a rapidly changing world and need to be equipped with the skills, knowledge, and understanding to navigate a growing volume of disinformation and misinformation.

- Provide robust learning resources for Indigenous and French languages, as well as American Sign Language, ensuring diverse language education options.
- Develop guides for digital literacy, preparing students for an increasingly digital world.

Promote inclusivity and support for LGBTQ+ students in BC schools.

- Continue supporting and expanding the SOGI 123 initiative to create inclusive school environments that support LGBTQ+ students and address issues of gender identity and sexual orientation.

Post-secondary Education

Increase access to post-secondary education and support for students and institutions.

- Increase the amount students can receive through the BC Access Grant and extend eligibility to graduate students to reduce financial barriers.
- Collaborate with Student Aid BC to expand the list of professions eligible for student loan forgiveness, targeting in-demand occupations and underserved communities.

Ensure equitable access to education for Indigenous students through culturally relevant institutions.

- Create a dedicated funding stream for First Nations-mandated institutes, providing Indigenous language programming and culturally relevant education for Indigenous students in rural and remote areas.

Create a culture of safety and respect on post-secondary campuses.

- Amend the act to include the 11 minimum standards identified by Students for Consent Culture to improve campus safety.
- Provide \$5 million annually to support the operation of sexual violence prevention offices and initiatives at post-secondary institutions.
- Implement measures and legislation to prevent the misuse of Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) by post-secondary institutions, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Child Welfare

Shaping a child welfare system that is oriented towards the health and wellbeing of children, families, and communities.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

We believe the outcomes of the child welfare system can be improved by strengthening social services and providing families with essential financial resources and support. Protecting children from harm requires a tiered preventative support system that places the health and wellbeing of children and their families at the centre. This is fundamental to a healthy society.

Addressing the root causes of poverty and ensuring that families and communities have stable sources of income are key to improving conditions for all. We must also acknowledge and right the historical harms caused by the child welfare system, and implement the changes necessary to protect children and their families from future harm.

We envision a child welfare system where the “duty to report” becomes a “duty to support.” The BC Greens will adopt a rights-based approach, focusing on prevention rather than apprehension, to create a system that truly protects and uplifts children and their families.

The child welfare system needs to be severed from its colonial roots in order for it to stop being a mechanism of harm, particularly for Indigenous families and communities.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Since the creation of residential schools, the governments of BC and Canada have been separating children from their families and communities. While the reasons may have shifted, the current child welfare system remains rooted in the colonial policies of the past. Regardless of intentions, the outcomes are clear: the system is broken and has had a horrendous impact. Far too many children die in government care, and far too many youth go missing from the system. Despite numerous reports, investigations, and recommendations, the system continues to fail children and families across BC.

Indigenous children and youth are disproportionately affected by our system. Although they make up just 10% of the child population, 68% of those in government care are Indigenous. Centuries of government policies have left Indigenous communities grappling with poverty, discrimination, violence, and disconnection from land and culture—creating deeply unstable conditions for them to thrive.

The social determinants of health for Indigenous people in BC remain largely unaddressed. Indigenous communities are overrepresented in government care, incarceration, suicide and drug poisoning deaths. Indigenous people face lower graduation rates, higher poverty, lower life expectancies and are 6 to 12 times more likely to be missing or murdered than the general population. These outcomes reflect the systemic issues that continue to create and perpetuate such conditions—not individual failings.

The impact of the child welfare system is not limited to Indigenous families. Over 60% of people experiencing homelessness in Canada have had contact with child protection services. BC's current child welfare system is not effective, efficient or ethical in many cases. It is in critical need of reform, and the status quo is simply not enough to achieve the changes that are desperately needed.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Ensure that all social work practices within the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) are aligned with professional standards and increase accountability through legislative reform.

- Implement legislative changes requiring anyone using the title “Social Worker” to be registered with the BC College of Social Workers.
- Mandate a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in Social Work and BC College of Social Workers registration for any MCFD employee conducting child protection work. A timeline will be provided to accommodate workforce adjustments.
- Require anti-racism and anti-stigma education for all Ministry staff, informed by the Provincial Committee on Anti-Racism and individuals with lived experience in the child welfare system.
- Establish a comprehensive oversight system for MCFD staff and senior leadership, addressing systemic failures rather than focusing on individual social workers.

Shift the child welfare system’s focus from reactive interventions to preventive measures, ensuring families receive the support they need before crises arise.

- Enact legislative reforms ensuring families are provided with the necessary resources and services, as guided by the RCY.
- Implement a public health framework with tiered prevention levels:
 - **Primary Prevention:** Family strengthening programs, resource access, and public awareness campaigns.
 - **Secondary Prevention:** Home visits, respite care, and family resource centers.
 - **Tertiary Prevention:** Wrap-around supports for children and parents affected by violence.

- Create a non-punitive environment where families can discuss struggles without fear of consequences.
- Redirect Ministry funds to provide families with financial resources, addressing poverty-related neglect and empowering parents to better care for their children.

Advance Indigenous jurisdiction over child welfare to ensure culturally appropriate services and promote reconciliation in alignment with the Supreme Court of Canada’s rulings.

- Recognize full Indigenous jurisdiction over child welfare, with appropriate funding to support culturally relevant services.
- Promote community-oriented, family-centered care where extended family plays a vital role, ensuring conditions for children to thrive.
- Encourage the broader system to learn from Indigenous approaches, fostering a shift in intention and practice within child welfare services.

Reorient child welfare practices to be trauma-informed, emphasizing safety, collaboration, and cultural recognition, particularly for Indigenous children and families.

- Shift the focus to trauma awareness, safety, collaboration, and strength-based approaches.
- Acknowledge the past and ongoing impacts of colonialism, incorporating cultural safety into all child welfare practices.

Ensure that families raising children in kinship care receive equitable financial and social support comparable to that provided to foster families.

- Provide families in kinship care with the same financial and social resources that foster families receive.
- Address the insufficient financial support currently provided, recognizing the importance of familial and kinship care in child welfare.

Tourism and Recreation

Tourism in BC must benefit communities equitably and economically, while protecting the environment and meeting the needs of local residents.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Tourism is a gateway to the beauty of BC's environment, people, and culture—and it is a key component of our economy.

In a time of increasing uncertainty, British Columbians are seeking stability and security—especially when it comes to employment. Tourism offers the opportunity for BC-based businesses to create long-term, stable employment in all regions of the province.

Tourism is an ever-growing industry in BC, currently the second-highest earner in the province, and will continue to play a vital role in our economy. As tourism continues to expand, it is essential that our communities benefit equitably and that our ecosystems remain protected. Socio-cultural and ecotourism offer visitors the chance to experience BC's landscapes and cultures firsthand, while promoting sustainable growth.

Regular physical activity plays a key role in improving both physical and mental health, preventing disease and helping people live longer, healthier lives. The BC Greens believe that investing in sport and recreation is a proactive approach to building more connected communities and healthier individuals, which will reduce long-term pressure on the healthcare system.

Improving cycling infrastructure and trail networks across the province would not only enhance access to recreation but also promote sustainable tourism, creating lasting benefits for local communities and contributing to a more resilient future.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Tourism is an essential part of our province's economy, but a changing climate continues to impact the sector. It is crucial for tourism to grow sustainably, minimizing harm to ecosystems while building resilience against climate change. Many examples from around the

world, including Canada, highlight the risks of extractive, unsustainable tourism—pollution, resource depletion and environmental degradation.

BC has a critical opportunity to align tourism practices with the needs of local communities and ecosystems, ensuring long-term sustainability and protection of our natural resources.

Enhance cycling tourism in British Columbia by improving infrastructure and collaborating with local partners to promote cycling and trails as a sustainable travel option.

- We will work with the BC Cycling Coalition and other local partners to expand and improve cycling tourism across the province.
- We will focus on improving cycling infrastructure to create safer and more accessible routes for cyclists.
- Collaborate with Destination BC to promote cycling tourism through targeted marketing and outreach efforts.
- Collaborate with local partners to improve and expand trail networks across the province.

Support and enhance the amateur sport sector in British Columbia by ensuring adequate funding and resources.

- Coordinate and collaborate with Sport BC to ensure sufficient funding and support is provided to BC's amateur sport sector.
- Update the "Pathways to Sport: A Strategic Framework for Sport in British Columbia 2020-2025" to prepare for the next five years of sport development.
- Through extensive collaboration with sport organizations, set an ambitious plan to improve the access and quality of sports and recreation services across the province.

Arts and Culture

A flourishing society includes universal access to arts programming and cultural events.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Arts and culture are essential to a flourishing society, offering insights into our past and shaping our present and future. They foster community connections and help give voice to what we're experiencing now and into the future.

The First Nations people of British Columbia are revitalizing their traditions of art, storytelling and community resilience through determination and perseverance. Both the provincial and federal governments bear the responsibility to support and fund these vital cultures, allowing Indigenous peoples of this land to flourish.

The BC Greens recognize that the wellbeing of all British Columbians is closely tied to the health of the province's cultural investments. Repatriation, ceremony, and the sharing of knowledge and language are critical for future generations to understand their history and navigate their present. Indigenous peoples possess invaluable knowledge for managing diverse ecosystems, which will be increasingly crucial as climate change intensifies and extreme weather events become more common.

A robust arts and culture sector will benefit all British Columbians—creating greater connection to our communities and our shared future.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Arts, culture and heritage are frequently underfunded and unsupported by all levels of government. This has led to the closure of local music venues and the shutdown of valuable programs across British Columbia, where the voices of our storytellers have traditionally found space to share.

Historically, governments in this province have devalued art and culture. Colonization resulted in the theft of First Nations' art and culture, alongside the destruction and burning of numerous heritage sites. Preserving the province's rich and vibrant history is essential, as is providing Indigenous communities with the necessary resources to sustain their cultural practices.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Strengthen the arts, culture, and heritage sector in British Columbia through increased funding and strategic planning

- We will increase the annual BC Arts Council budget to \$55 million to enhance support for arts and culture initiatives.
- We will maintain COVID-era investments in arts, culture, and heritage and increase funding based on inflation to support ongoing recovery and growth.
- Collaborate with the sector to develop a provincial Arts, Culture, and Heritage Action Plan to guide future investments and initiatives.

Supporting First Nations repatriation

- Develop a centralized service with the Royal BC Museum that assists Indigenous communities with repatriation of cultural items. By working and liaising with global institutions, the service would streamline Indigenous repatriation.

Provide additional funding streams for BC Museum

- Ongoing Heritage Legacy Fund: An annual allocation of \$500,000 to support operational needs, addressing past funding cuts and stakeholder concerns.
- Archives Grant Program: An annual grant of \$50,000 to assist with digitization and proper archival processes, ensuring the preservation of cultural artifacts – especially in light of climate impacts.



A FLOURISHING NATURAL WORLD

We will not accept a future where our province is engulfed in flames, our children breathe polluted air, and floods and droughts continually disrupt our lives.

It's clear the climate is changing rapidly. These shifts already impact our economy, our ecosystems, and our health and wellbeing.

Fortunately, BC is well positioned to be a clean energy leader. With smart choices over the next four years, we can build a thriving clean energy economy, attract investment, and provide good jobs.

We can afford a safe and sustainable future for our children. We can afford a future where our iconic forests and wildlife are healthy and abundant; where our communities have energy-efficient buildings equipped with heat pumps and solar panels; where our watersheds are protected and secure.

We must dramatically and rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions to stabilize the climate. The BC Greens understand this task and have developed ambitious solutions that address the urgency of this moment.

By stopping the expansion of fossil fuel production in British Columbia, we will follow other jurisdictions towards a climate-safe future. We will redirect those funds towards developing a robust, internationally-acclaimed clean energy industry. Reaching these

goals will not only reduce carbon emissions but respect the cultural and environmental values of local communities. By directing a portion of carbon pricing revenue to local governments, we will help communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of climate change.

Safeguarding our climate and environment requires participation from all parts of the province.

By working collaboratively with local governments and First Nations, we can build resilience, mitigate risks, and create a strong clean energy economy that British Columbians can be proud of.

As we embark on this transition, inclusivity will be our guiding principle. We will support workers and communities, invite local input and foster shared decision-making. We will ensure that the benefits of resource management remain within our local communities.

With strong leadership, we can safeguard what makes British Columbia special—our clean air and water, our thriving forests, and our resilient communities—while ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

We can afford climate action. Together, we can forge a cleaner, safer future for all.

Climate Change

A fossil fuel-free future for BC

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

The science is clear—if we want to secure a climate-safe future, we must put an immediate stop to new fossil fuel development. Across this province, British Columbians are deeply concerned about the impacts of climate change, and they have every reason to be.

BC has the potential to be a climate leader, but under the NDP government, every climate target has been missed, and emissions keep rising.

We promise a new direction—one grounded in the realities of our climate crisis. We will oversee a managed decline of gas production in this province, recognizing that continuing to expand fossil fuel projects is fundamentally incompatible with achieving our climate targets. Under our leadership, no new liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects will be approved—and fracked gas production will be phased out entirely.

Good climate policies can be powerful tools for improving affordability, creating well-paying jobs and saving businesses and taxpayers money. This shift is not only necessary to ensure BC meets its greenhouse gas reduction goals, but it is also essential to safeguarding our environment, our health and our economy.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

The World Health Organization has declared climate change the greatest existential threat to global health—and here in British Columbia, we are already living with its devastating consequences: severe wildfires, prolonged droughts, catastrophic flooding and escalating health issues.

The cost of inaction is staggering. In 2021 alone, extreme weather events in BC resulted in losses of up to \$17 billion. The heat dome, which devastated our natural environment, tragically led to the loss of 619 lives.

Despite the clear link between burning fossil fuels and catastrophic climate events, while in power the BC NDP has overseen a 44% increase in fracked gas production and an expansion of the LNG industry. Fracking poses a serious risk to human health, impacts freshwater and the environment, and is a major source of methane, which traps 84 times more heat than carbon dioxide.

If built, the six proposed LNG projects would account for 40% of BC's 2030 emissions target and require the electricity of over eight Site C dams, reducing the electricity available for British Columbians and clean industries.

Experts have been clear: in the coming years, as we decarbonize and move to renewable energy, the world will no longer need BC LNG.

Further investing in fossil fuels projects is not the future we want for British Columbia. Our comprehensive climate plan will help put our province back on track—providing tangible solutions that reflect the urgency of the climate crisis. It's time to prioritize the health of people and communities over fossil fuel profits.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

Commit to a Fossil-Free Future

- Stop permitting new fracking wells.
- Set a date to phase out gas production in the province.
- Prohibit any new LNG projects.
- Stop permitting new pipelines. Direct the BC Environmental Assessment Office to allow the 2014 environmental certificate for the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission pipeline to expire.

Set Ambitious Climate Pollution Targets

- Develop a new Climate Action Plan, ensuring emission reduction targets are supported by measurable actions.
- Convene leading scientists and clean energy experts to identify innovative approaches for enhancing BC’s emissions reductions.
- Review and update climate pollution targets regularly as climate science evolves to ensure effective action.
- Fully implement the oil and gas emissions cap as a backstop to upcoming federal regulations to meet or exceed BC’s oil and gas emissions targets.

Make Polluters Pay

- Introduce a windfall profits tax on oil and gas companies.
- Increase the industrial carbon tax and redirect revenue from industrial carbon pricing to fund climate action in communities.
- Eliminate loopholes that allow large industries to pollute and cause climate damage.

End Fossil Fuel Subsidies

- End all subsidies and public financing for fossil fuel infrastructure, including capital cost recovery and discounted electricity rates for LNG facilities.
- Reallocate subsidies and public financing from fossil fuels towards renewable energy development and production.

Reduce Methane Emissions

- Accelerate BC’s target of near-zero methane emissions from the oil and gas sector.
- Eliminate venting and flaring, and compressor emissions.
- Commit to reviewing the province’s methane regulations by the end of 2027 to align with global best practices.

Prohibit fossil fuel advertising

- Ban oil and gas advertisements in the province

Ban Gas in New Buildings

- Enforce a province-wide ban on gas hookups in all new buildings to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provide rebates for electric heat pumps to support the transition to clean, energy-efficient heating and cooling solutions.
- Ensure Fortis’ business plan is coherent with the goal of electrifying BC and helping homes and businesses transition off fossil fuels.

Carbon Offsets

- Ensure carbon offsets are not used to expand fossil fuel infrastructure.
- Create a carbon offset policy for the province based on the principles of the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi).



Powering the Clean Energy Future

BC has a vibrant clean energy economy that reduces emissions, creates jobs, and drives sustainable economic growth

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Climate action isn't about restrictions or compromise—it's about saying yes to the benefits of electrifying our economy. British Columbia faces a choice: keep investing in outdated fossil fuels or embrace a clean energy future that drives job creation, climate action and economic growth.

Major investments are needed to expand BC's electricity capacity. To do so, we will invest in renewable energy like wind, solar, and geothermal. We will improve energy storage and enhance energy efficiency. We will ensure a significant portion of our electricity is generated through Indigenous and community-led projects.

We must invest in a clean, renewable energy future now. Renewable energy not only protects our environment and health but also strengthens our economy—and is essential for decarbonizing BC's economy.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Climate change is already impacting BC. Year after year, we see more intense, more destructive wildfires, heat waves, flooding and droughts. Record low snowpack levels threaten our ability to generate hydropower, underscoring the urgent need to diversify our electricity system—not only to meet climate goals, but to also remain competitive in the global clean energy economy.

BC is spending money in the wrong places. The NDP has continued to prioritize energy for industry, while British Columbians face supply concerns. After years of controversy, the \$16 billion Site C dam—the most expensive publicly funded project in BC's history—will soon provide electricity, yet much of it is already allocated to the LNG industry.

A cleaner future does not require new large hydro or nuclear projects. With smart planning, we can expand renewable energy while protecting our natural environment and our communities.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

Establish long-term procurement targets

- Establish a renewable procurement timetable for renewable energy projects with defined annual procurement targets and parameters.
- Develop a jobs plan that aligns regional economic development and workforce readiness with climate and energy plans.
- Invest in research and development of geothermal energy production. Investigate a technology transfer from oil and gas drilling to geothermal energy production.
- Invest \$20 million annually for education and training programs to address the skills shortage in the renewable energy sector and to retrain oil and gas workers. Invest in a BC Clean Energy Institute in Northwest BC to drive innovation and training.

Invest in Community-Scale Renewable Projects

- Invest \$20 million annually in small-scale distributed solar projects, with a goal of having solar account for 15% of electricity generation by 2035. Ensure these projects are economically viable and accessible to low- and moderate-income households.
- Expand the Community Net Metering program to allow British Columbians to own a share of community-scale solar energy production, receiving credits on their electricity bills for the energy produced.
- Expand funding for the Community Energy Diesel Reduction program to help Indigenous communities transition off diesel and connect to clean power and storage solutions

Ensure First Nations equity ownership and streamline regulatory processes

- Mandate a minimum of 50% equity ownership for First Nations in large renewable energy projects.
- Prioritize renewable energy projects under the First Nations Equity Financing Framework, ensuring these projects are not competing with oil and gas industry projects for resources.
- Simplify and expedite the permitting process by appointing a single regulatory authority within the Ministry of Energy.
- Invest in expanding energy storage capacity and improving electricity distribution to support a more efficient and resilient renewable energy grid.

Prioritize Power for British Columbia, Not LNG

- We will stop public funds from being used for BC Hydro infrastructure that supports LNG projects. Existing LNG projects will be required to cover their own electricity generation and transmission costs, prioritizing BC’s energy resources for residential use and sustainable industries.

Accelerate Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies

- Rapidly increase the availability of heat pumps, focusing on low-income households to ensure equitable access to these energy-saving technologies.
- Enhance energy efficiency in new buildings by promoting passive solar design, higher insulation levels, heat pumps, and smart thermostats to reduce energy use.
- Invest in deep energy retrofits of existing buildings, making them more energy-efficient and reducing long-term energy costs.
- Revise regulations to mandate the use of low-global-warming-potential (GWP) and PFAs-free refrigerants, promoting safer and more sustainable cooling practices.

Increase Transparency at BC Hydro

- Implement a real-time public dashboard at BC Hydro, showing data on electricity production, usage, imports, and exports for British Columbia.

Electrify Transportation

- Advance the electrification of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles (MHDVs) and expand electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure.
- Set sales targets for MHDVs and introduce fleet purchase requirements to accelerate the shift towards electric vehicles in the province.
- Adjust rebates for zero-emission MHDVs to ensure funding goes to small fleets.
- Expand the EV charging infrastructure across BC to support the growing number of electric vehicles and facilitate their use in rural and urban areas.
- Support the conversion of gasoline and diesel vehicles to electric vehicles by extending financial incentives to EV retrofits, ensuring that older vehicles can also contribute to emissions reductions.



Biodiversity and Environmental Protection

By reversing biodiversity loss and protecting our natural systems, we can ensure a thriving, resilient BC into the future

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Our goal is clear: to halt and reverse biodiversity loss while building resilience for both ecosystems and communities. We have the roadmap, the tools and the vision to shape a better future—one where ecosystem health and biodiversity are central to every decision we make.

We know that a sustainable future begins with protecting and restoring the natural areas that make our province so ecologically diverse. We will create a sustainable economy that provides good, well-paid jobs without compromising the environment.

The role of government is crucial in this transformation. When elected, we will proactively engage communities to identify and safeguard environmental and social values to develop long-term solutions that allow us to flourish today without impacting the ability of future generations to do the same.

With bold leadership, BC can become a global leader in nature-based climate solutions, where healthy ecosystems not only support life but also naturally sequester carbon, helping us mitigate the impacts of climate change.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

BC is home to the most biodiversity in all of Canada. It's also home to more species at risk than any other province or territory.

Despite campaign promises from the NDP, our province still lacks stand-alone legislation to protect species at risk. We are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis and standing at a crossroads: either we take bold action to protect our ecosystems or we risk losing iconic species like caribou, spotted owls and orcas forever.

Decades of resource extraction have degraded the natural systems that both wildlife and communities depend on—with global climate change only worsening these threats. As BC faces more frequent

and intense wildfires and floods, it's clear we need a fundamental shift in how we manage our land, water and air—one that prioritizes resilience, values ecosystem services and invests in our communities for the long term.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

Prioritize Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity

- Require measures to protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystem health where necessary.
- Improve decision-making for industrial projects by holding industry to higher standards.

Prioritize Protection

- Achieve 30% land and water protection by 2030, in consultation with First Nations.
- Work with Indigenous communities to establish Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), fully upholding those declared by First Nations.
- Strengthen and fund BC's park system, create new provincial parks, and expand camping and recreation opportunities.
- Establish urban tree canopy targets and improve legal protections for urban trees.

Protect Species-at-Risk

- Immediately enact Species at Risk legislation to safeguard vulnerable species.
- Allocate \$120 million to fish and wildlife programs over three years.

Nature-Based Solutions

- Invest \$50 million in a Youth Climate Corps to provide good-paying jobs for youth in restoring and protecting natural systems.
- Invest in a Watershed Security Fund to protect BC's

watersheds (see Watershed Security section).

- Invest in Indigenous-led conservation and Indigenous Guardians programs.
- Shift to long-term, stable funding for nature-based solutions.
- Support long-term employment and governance in line with community goals and priorities.

Strengthen Environmental Oversight

- Create an integrated and independent compliance and enforcement regime for the Ministry of Energy and Mines.
- Increase bonding rates for industry to account for worst-case scenarios and raise fines to deter reckless behaviour.
- Address industry's disproportionate access to government in decision-making processes.
- Lower thresholds for mandatory environmental assessments and close loopholes that allow projects to avoid assessments.
- Increase oversight and independence of the BC Conservation Officer Service and other Natural Resource Compliance Officers.

Reform the Mining Sector

- Modernize BC's mining and mineral staking regimes to respect Indigenous rights and reduce risks to our watersheds and communities.
- Modernize the Mineral Tenure Act to ensure it reflects current environmental, social and Indigenous rights concerns.
- Establish an industry-levied fund to mitigate the costs of mining pollution and disasters, including the rehabilitation of abandoned mines.
- Enhance oversight of the mining industry through a robust inspection and audit process.
- Designate certain areas, including salmon rivers, as off-limits to mining.
- Engage in a conversation about the future of critical minerals in BC. Prioritize transition minerals in mining. Ensure that benefits flow to communities and First Nations, not just shareholders.

Invest In Our Coasts

- Transition all open net-pen salmon farms in BC to land-based aquaculture systems.
- Restore and protect salmon habitat to ensure the survival of key species.
- Regulate the shipbreaking industry to protect coastal habitats from harmful practices.



Forests

To safeguard British Columbia's forests through holistic, sustainable management that ensures ecosystem health, biodiversity, and community prosperity.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Protecting British Columbia's old-growth and primary forests is not just important—it is crucial to securing a resilient future for our environment, economy and communities. To do this, we need a new approach. We must manage our forests holistically, recognizing the full range of values they provide. This starts with enacting legislation that makes the conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity the top priority. Logging practices must also evolve to reflect this new approach, with a sustainable timber supply just one of the many benefits.

Through bold action, we can be a leader in forest management, establishing an industry that prioritizes long-term sustainability. We will actively support communities by ensuring small producers have access to sustainable wood, incentivizing value-added wood products, and encouraging non-traditional uses of wood fibre. Revenue-sharing with First Nations, municipalities and regional districts will ensure that the benefits of these practices are shared equitably.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

British Columbia's forests are some of the most unique and diverse in the world, but a century of extractive logging practices and increasingly destructive wildfires have degraded these ecosystems with little regard for nature or culture. The result has been landslides, droughts, impacts on fish populations and the loss of both cultural values and biodiversity. These pressures are only intensifying as climate change and biodiversity loss accelerate, threatening the critical services and economic resources our forests provide.

For decades, Indigenous communities, scientists and environmental advocates have called for a fundamental change in how we manage our forests. While the BC NDP government has promised new legislation and protections, old-growth logging continues and communities—both Indigenous and non-Indigenous—are left facing mill closures and job losses.

The time for comprehensive protection is now. We must prioritize the health of our forests and the wellbeing of the communities that depend on them by embracing sustainable practices that protect ecosystems and create long-term prosperity.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

Prioritize Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity

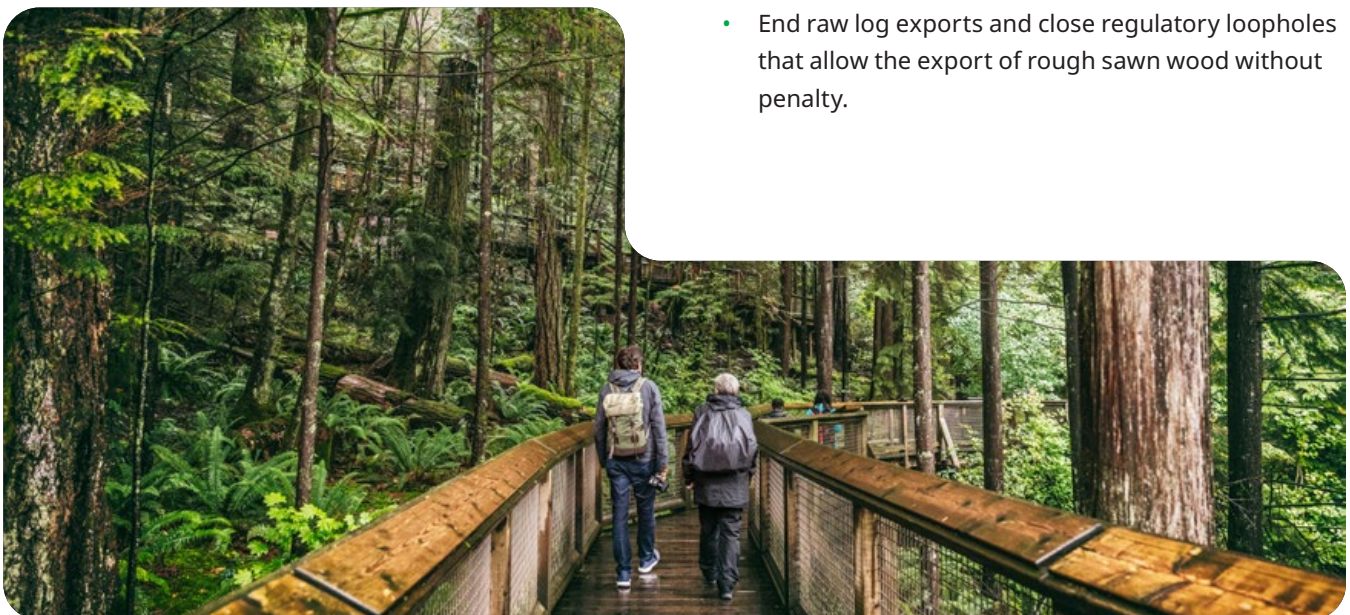
- Immediately establish conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of BC's forests as an overarching priority, with timber supply being one benefit (for more information, see our Environment plank)
- Establish a Chief Ecologist as a counterpart to the Chief Forester to ensure multiple values are adequately incorporated into timber supply analysis and other decision-making
- Zone BC's forests into three broad categories:
 1. Primary forests
 2. Restoration in secondary forests
 3. Second-growth forests managed for timber production
- Reduce the Annual Allowable Cut to ecologically and economically sustainable levels.
- Scale up, fund, and prioritize Forest Landscape Plans and Modernized Land Use Planning processes.
- Stop clearcut industrial logging and adopt logging practices that emulate natural disturbance regimes, such as selective logging, commercial thinning, and longer stand rotations.
- Ban the use of glyphosate and other chemical herbicides.
- Improve silviculture practices.
- Amend the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* to ensure basic ecological and cultural protections on private land.

Protect Old Growth/Primary Forests

- Implement all 14 recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review in partnership with First Nations.
- Defer harvesting in the most at-risk old growth forests, as outlined by the Old Growth Technical Advisory Panel.
- Fully fund the protection of old forests and compensate First Nations for any lost revenues due to deferrals.
- Implement effective targets for old and mature forest retention, and improve riparian protection province-wide, as an interim strategy before Forest Landscape Planning is finalized.
- Direct Ministry of Forests staff to improve transparency in government announcements, reporting, and monitoring. Make information about forests and logging accessible and current—including updated maps and data.
- Strictly prohibit pellet mills from converting trees logged in primary or old growth forests into wood pellets. Define ‘waste’ for pellet mills to ensure ecosystem health is protected.
- Dedicate funds for private land acquisition to protect old growth forests on private lands.

Generate More Jobs and Revenue

- Expand the community forest program by increasing the number and size of community forests to promote wildfire protection, rural development, and Indigenous and non-Indigenous relationships. Remove the requirement for community forests to maintain the Annual Allowable Cut.
- Ensure maximization of value-added production from available timber supply, prioritizing small value-added producers. Aim to allocate 30%-50% of current available volume for value-added production as a short-term goal.
- Investigate opportunities to diversify milling and secondary manufacturing to better utilize existing timber resources.
- Review the tenure and appraisal system to encourage best practices and partial cutting in forestry.
- Begin a process of tenure reform to redistribute tenures from large corporations. Increase the proportion of tenures held by First Nations and community forests.
- Ensure resource revenue benefits flow directly to local communities by sharing more revenues with First Nations, municipalities, and regional districts.
- Fund training and upskilling programs to support workers finding new job opportunities.
- End raw log exports and close regulatory loopholes that allow the export of rough sawn wood without penalty.



Wildfires

To safeguard our communities from wildfires, we prioritize prevention, build climate resilience and empower our communities

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

In order to limit the harmful impacts of wildfires, improve wildfire management, and help our communities adapt to living with fire, we need bold and immediate action. Protecting British Columbia's diverse landscapes and communities requires solutions that are tailored to the unique risks and priorities of each region. A one-size-fits-all approach will not suffice.

Restoring the health of our forests and enhancing wildfire preparedness within our communities are essential steps toward building resilience. The BC Greens are committed to working with communities and First Nations to implement strategies that reflect their specific needs, ensuring that provincial programs empower locally-driven solutions.

We recognize that the hidden costs of wildfires—to ecosystems, human health, watersheds and the economy—far outweigh direct firefighting expenses. As such, we will invest in prevention, mitigation, restoration and climate adaptation treatments. By embracing this comprehensive strategy, we can secure a safer, more resilient future for British Columbia and its people.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

British Columbia is in the midst of a growing wildfire crisis. Decades of fire suppression, combined with the escalating impacts of climate change, have led to larger and more intense wildfires across the province. The 2023 wildfire season in BC was the most devastating on record, burning millions of hectares, displacing thousands of people, destroying homes, and exposing countless residents to dangerously unhealthy air.

As climate change accelerates, wildfires are expected to become even more frequent and severe. Polarized responses won't protect our communities. We need to engage and educate communities to build trust and understanding of wildfire risks.

The BC Greens are committed to fostering collaboration among federal, provincial, Indigenous, and local governments, as well as private organizations,

to increase wildfire resilience. Only through strong partnerships and coordinated efforts can we safeguard British Columbia from the growing wildfire threat.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

Protect communities

- Dedicate \$100 million in annual funding for preventative and harm-reduction measures, including fuel management treatments to mitigate wildfire risks.
- Improve communication about wildfires through engagement, better live updates, more trusted information and more detailed coverage.
- Fully implement all recommendations from the Abbott Chapman report to improve firefighting strategies and community safety.
- Build on FireSmart and wildland urban interface management programs to foster neighborhood resilience against wildfires.
- Provide funding and technical assistance to private landowners to improve outreach and wildfire preparedness.

Support Firefighters

- Hire additional seasonal and year-round firefighters to ensure adequate staffing.
- Invest \$50 million annually in community safety and firefighting responses.
- Implement strategies to fix recruitment and retention issues within the firefighting community.
- Enhance agency capacity and resources for local firefighting teams to improve response effectiveness. Incorporate local knowledge into first responders' training.
- Ensure access to mental health support for survivors of wildfires and firefighters.

Manage Forests for Resilience

- Increase the scale of fuel treatments, such as forest thinning and fuel removal, to reduce fire hazards.
- Expand the use of prescribed and cultural burning while supporting Indigenous fire stewardship practices.
- Mandate that industry adopt better practices, including fuel thinning and removal, to enhance forest resilience.
- Shift forest management focus to include ecosystem health, biodiversity, climate resilience, and community resilience, rather than solely timber production.
- Expand community forests to enhance local management and stewardship.
- Provide \$50 million for a Youth Climate Corps to engage in year-round mitigation work and forest management.

Community Engagement and Collaboration

- Proactively engage communities to build trust, educate, and empower local decisions regarding wildfire management.
- Invest in initiatives that support communities and build social cohesion to enhance resilience.
- Develop and implement place-based solutions tailored to local needs and conditions.
- Establish a new cooperative and collaborative approach to wildfire management that includes all levels of government—Indigenous, local, and federal.
- Engage industry, civil society, local experts, non-government organizations, and citizens to leverage diverse resources and knowledge for adapting to landscape and wildfire challenges.



Disaster Prevention and Management

Reduce the risk of disasters and increase community resiliency in BC

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

We face a stark choice: continue with ineffective disaster relief or embrace a preventative, people-centered approach that builds resilience and reduces future costs. Our strategy is grounded in the principles of the United Nations' Sendai Framework, addressing all phases of disaster management—prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. We are committed to investing in nature-based solutions and climate resilience to better prepare communities for extreme climate events and support their recovery from disasters.

Indigenous communities are often on the front lines of floods, landslides and wildfires—and they must be integral partners and leaders in emergency management. We will ensure Indigenous involvement from the outset, engaging First Nations at every stage of planning, decision-making and implementation. We will also strengthen relationships across all levels of government, which is essential for building climate resilience and mitigating disaster risks and impacts.

Our province is already feeling the impacts of climate change—and costs are escalating. We will take decisive action now to protect our communities, safeguard our environment and ensure a sustainable future. The time for meaningful climate action is now. Together, we can build a safer, more resilient British Columbia for everyone.

PROBLEM DEFINITION:

British Columbia is on the front lines of the climate crisis. Across the province, communities are grappling with unprecedented wildfires, droughts, floods, and heat domes. These extreme weather events are not just environmental issues—they are urgent crises that threaten our health, livelihoods, infrastructure and economy.

The reality is clear: extreme weather will become more frequent and severe as the climate crisis worsens. We cannot afford to delay. Immediate action is essential

to prepare our communities, enhance resilience, and secure our collective future. Investing in climate resilience and adaptation is not just a necessity—it is a moral obligation.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

Adopt the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Ensure there are enough paid, trained professionals available to manage disasters from mitigation to recovery.
- Establish and maintain strong relationships between First Nations, local governments and emergency management agencies, including BC Wildfire Service.

Mitigation

- Shift from reactive disaster response to proactive resilience building and climate action, including habitat restoration and biodiversity protection.
- Utilize nature-based solutions to protect and conserve ecosystems while augmenting natural assets with green infrastructure.
- Implement measures to reduce risks at the local level, linking to Wildfire and Watershed Security planks for further details.
- Invest in initiatives like a Youth Climate Corps and Watershed Security Fund to bolster community resilience and environmental protection.

Preparedness

- Ensure local authorities and First Nations have the capacity, resources, and authority to prepare and respond effectively to emergencies.
- Provide ongoing funding and resources for First Nations and local governments to conduct comprehensive hazard risk and vulnerability assessments.

A FLOURISHING NATURAL WORLD

- Foster community engagement and participation before disasters occur to strengthen preparedness.
- Utilize local expertise to enhance disaster preparedness and response efforts.

Response

- Ensure timely and accurate information is communicated to the public during emergencies.
- Ensure reception centers are accessible and supports are available for all evacuees. Ensure economic, cultural, and practical needs are met for evacuees.
- Identify and address gaps in the emergency support system. Develop a plan to assist individuals facing long-term displacement due to disasters.
- Prioritize responses to extreme weather events that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and Indigenous Peoples.

Recovery

- Emphasize the “build back better” approach to recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts.
- Rebuild buildings and infrastructure to withstand potential disasters and climate change impacts. Prohibit construction in disaster prone areas.
- Integrate mental health support and address long-term displacement issues.

Securing Funding

- Negotiate with the federal government to create a dedicated funding stream for community resilience projects, including neighbourhood-level emergency preparedness and resilience-building programs.
- Connect carbon tax revenue directly to community climate action initiatives, including diking system improvements and wildfire prevention measures.



Watershed Security

Thanks to strong co-governance, communities, fish, and ecosystems across BC are ensured a resilient and sustainable water future

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Water will be the defining issue of the coming decades, shaping our future in ways we cannot afford to overlook. Water is more than just a resource—it is the foundation of our health, the backbone of our local economies, and a lifeline for our communities, forests, fish, and wildlife.

Recognizing the vital role water plays, we are committed to prioritizing the health and security of our watersheds. This means fostering collaborative governance models that allow for equitable access, thoughtful management and shared decision-making. By doing so, we can ensure that communities across the province have both the voice and the tools necessary to protect this invaluable resource.

Water is, at its core, a shared responsibility. Effective stewardship cannot happen in isolation. It requires the direct involvement of First Nations and local communities, whose deep connections to the land and water must guide our collective efforts. Only through an inclusive and sustainable approach can we secure the future of our water resources for future generations.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

British Columbia is facing increasingly severe climate challenges—droughts, landslides, flooding, and water quality issues—putting immense strain on our water management systems. Farmers, in particular, are struggling with water shortages that threaten food security and their livelihoods.

Without intervention, our way of life, economy, and food supply are at serious risk. The situation is worsened by past mismanagement, such as logging in vital watersheds and inadequate regulation of large water users, compounded by the province's continued expansion of water-intensive fracking.

To safeguard our water security, we must empower local communities to take the lead and invest in natural infrastructure, such as protecting aquifers and restoring wetlands. These actions will not only improve flood protection and maintain clean water supplies but also create sustainable jobs and long-lasting solutions.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Create Watershed Boards

- Create and support watershed boards in every community. These boards will be granted authority over decisions that affect watershed security and will serve as collaborative platforms where First Nations and local stakeholders - farmers, industry representatives, commercial users, and environmental stewards - can collaboratively manage and conserve their local water sources.
- We will commit \$100 million to fund the establishment and ongoing support of watershed boards across the province, ensuring their sustainability and effectiveness.

Streamline the *Water Sustainability Act*

- Set clear environmental and critical flow thresholds to safeguard water ecosystems and ensure sustainable water use across the province.
- Safeguard drinking water sources by implementing stronger protections and monitoring to prevent contamination and overuse.
- Require industries to accurately report their water use and provide state-of-the-watershed reporting, improving transparency and resource management.
- Grant an amnesty to farmers and long-standing water users who missed previous deadlines, allowing them to apply for water licenses before new users.
- Update the “first-in-time, first-in-right” principle to reflect modern realities, ensuring allocations are adaptable and durable.
- Empower local watershed boards to have a role in critical water-use decisions.
- Improve the Ministry of Environment’s ability to administer penalties, enhancing compliance with water use regulations and protecting water resources.

Invest in Watershed Security

- Leverage federal funding to create a \$1 billion endowment for the BC Watershed Security Fund. The fund will support community planning, decision-making functions, and natural defenses against floods, fires, droughts, and contamination.
- Provide \$75 million annually to the BC Watershed Security Fund to ensure sustainable, long-term investment in watershed management.
- Mandate that municipalities install water meters to track water usage, ensuring accountability and promoting conservation.
- Fund and implement the BC Flood Strategy by 2027 to protect floodplain communities and agricultural land from climate-related flooding risks.
- Invest in building more water storage reservoirs and bolster wetlands to enhance water retention and resilience against drought.

Reform Water Use

- Protect the province’s water resources to ensure long-term water security.
- Increase water rental rates to reflect the true ecological costs of water extraction in BC.
- Commit to an ongoing, comprehensive review of water rental rates to ensure they remain fair and reflective of ecological values.
- Suspend all non-essential industrial water uses, including fracking and water bottling, during periods of severe drought to prioritize essential water needs.
- Mandate the treatment and increased reuse of fracking wastewater to minimize the use of fresh water in fracking operations.
- Implement stricter standards for disposal wells and require baseline and ongoing testing of water systems affected by oil and gas operations.
- Transfer water licensing and permitting authority back to the Water Stewardship Branch, ending preferential treatment for oil and gas companies and ensuring stricter oversight.



Clean Air

Every British Columbian can breathe clean, healthy air—both indoors and out—all year round

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

The Province has a responsibility to protect public health by taking air pollution seriously and addressing the rising dangers posed by wildfire smoke.

When elected, we will take decisive action to safeguard the health of our communities, with a focus on caring for the most vulnerable. Wildfire smoke is not just a short-term nuisance—its long-term effects on health are becoming increasingly apparent. To confront this challenge, we need long-term planning and meaningful investments in clean air infrastructure across the province.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Wildfire smoke has become an unavoidable and troublesome reality of BC summers, with communities across the province regularly facing smoky skies and air quality alerts. Climate change, coupled with historically poor forestry practices, has created conditions for larger and more intense wildfires. These fires produce smoke that can travel thousands of kilometers, impacting both nearby and distant communities alike.

Air pollution is now the greatest environmental threat to human health, and wildfire smoke plays a significant role. In Canada, it is linked to thousands of premature deaths each year, and in BC air pollution costs the healthcare system at least \$14 billion annually.

There is no safe level of exposure to wildfire smoke. Even at low concentrations, it poses serious health risks. As climate change continues to accelerate, our exposure to this harmful pollution will only intensify, making it clear that urgent action is needed to protect public health.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Invest in Clean Air Centres and HEPA filters.

- Monitor and regulate air quality in both indoor and outdoor environments, particularly in places frequented by vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant people, those with pre-existing health conditions, and the elderly.
- Invest in clean air centres in every community to provide safe environments during air quality emergencies, ensuring they have appropriate and safe levels of air filtration and air conditioning. Ensure clean air centres are equipped to meet the needs of the community, providing water, food, beds, access to Wi-Fi and other essential services.
- Make clean air accessible to people in their homes by providing funding to purchase portable air cleaners with HEPA filters.
- Mandate that existing infrastructure for vulnerable populations- including, assisted care facilities, childcare centres, and schools - are retrofitted with air filters.
- Require new buildings to have safe levels of air filtration and cooling and standardize this across the province.
- Ensure employers and operators adhere to regulations in order to ensure safe air quality standards are met.

Farming and food security

Address immediate food security needs while creating a vibrant, sustainable food system that values farmers and strengthens community resilience.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Ensuring all British Columbians have access to nourishing food is essential to the health and wellbeing of our communities, and it is a key priority for our party. We are committed to working with farmers and other stakeholders to transform our food and farming systems so that we are producing healthy, nutritious food at fair prices for consumers, while also ensuring fair wages for growers.

Over 50% of our food comes from California, a region suffering from drought and wildfires. BC's reliance on food imports leaves us vulnerable if exporting jurisdictions decide they need to keep their food at home. Farmers are on the front lines of climate change, and the provincial government must step up to support the resilience of our food systems in the face of these challenges.

We urgently need to invest in food security, protect our farmland, and support our farmers. When elected, our focus will be on building a food system that strengthens local and regional economies rather than serving corporate interests. By protecting agricultural land, expanding local food production, and investing in processing infrastructure, we can fortify our regional food networks and reduce reliance on distant sources.

This approach will create a more resilient, self-sufficient, and sustainable food system for all British Columbians.

PROBLEM DEFINITION:

Food insecurity is a pressing issue affecting communities across the province. We can see this in the rising use of food banks by families. Climate change impacts like flooding and droughts threaten our food security now, and are only expected to worsen in both severity and frequency in the coming years.

For too long, provincial agriculture policies have benefited large corporations and prioritized exports at the expense of local food systems and the economic wellbeing of family farmers. These policies have undermined the foundation of our food security, making it clear that we need to shift our focus toward strengthening local food networks and supporting those who produce our food.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Protect Farmland

- Expand the area of land under food production by providing \$90 million in funding for a publicly owned agricultural land bank - available for lease by new farmers.
- Make food production and food security part of the Agricultural Land Commission's (ALC) mandate to protect and prioritize agricultural use.
- Restrict and regulate foreign ownership of Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land to ensure that farmland remains in local hands and supports food security.
- Investigate how to mitigate the impacts of oil and gas operations on agricultural land in the northeast region of the province.

Promote Regenerative Farming Practices

- Incentivize regenerative farming practices that build healthier soils, improve water management (e.g., rainwater harvesting systems), reduce energy use and sequester carbon.
- Streamline the approval processes for water storage dugouts on farms to improve drought resilience and water availability.
- Commit the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to work with farmers to ensure the protection of food crops during drought periods.

Support Farmers

- Improve access to credit and capital for new farmers to make it easier to start and sustain farming operations.
- Identify options to make farming a more attractive and sustainable endeavor, including exploring a Basic Income Guarantee for farmers to secure income and encourage the next generation of farmers.

Local Food Systems

- Invest \$9 million to bolster local food systems.
- Rebuild our local food processing, storage and distribution systems.
- Support small-scale, cooperatively-owned infrastructure and businesses, including grocery retailers.
- Develop policies to facilitate public institutional procurement of local food, ensuring schools, hospitals and other institutions prioritize locally produced food.
- Invest in farmers markets, community-supported agriculture, and non-profit food hubs.
- Increase support for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program.

Address the Root Causes of Food Insecurity

- Create a universal school food program that provides:
 - **Equal Access:** Ensuring every child in British Columbia has access to healthy meals, regardless of their family's financial situation.
 - **Nutritional Standards:** Meals will meet nutritional guidelines to support children's health and development.
 - **School and Community Collaboration:** Work with schools, organizations, and local farmers to promote sustainable practices and educate children on healthy eating habits.

Indigenous Food Sovereignty

- Support the development of systems to address food insecurity in First Nations communities that honour Indigenous knowledge, values, harvesting areas and practices.
- Support Indigenous communities' access to and use of traditional foods.
- Invest in Indigenous food sovereignty programs that promote community-led initiatives and sustainable food systems.





SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE

Our way of life depends on strong institutions and thriving businesses. We know that effective governance and sustainable economic growth are intertwined—and that both are essential for a prosperous future.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the resilience of our institutions. It reminded us that government can rise to meet our biggest challenges, bringing us together to protect the most vulnerable and safeguard our way of life. At the same time, the pandemic exposed ways in which government is lacking in many areas of our lives. It showed how a lack of transparency and inefficiency in addressing critical issues is eroding trust in our institutions and creating space for populism to grow.

We envision a democracy and a government that prioritizes people—a system where every person can be heard and seen and involved. We want a tax system that promotes fairness and efficiency, incentivizes lowering emissions and helps prevent climate disaster.

Equally vital is a vibrant business sector. A strong economy not only creates jobs, but also drives innovation and raises living standards. By supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses, we can harness the creativity and ambition of our citizens. A flourishing business sector drives investment, fosters competition and ultimately leads to better products and services. When businesses succeed, they generate revenue that funds education, healthcare and infrastructure.

The BC Greens are committed to a future built on robust institutions and dynamic businesses. We believe in policies that promote transparency, foster economic opportunity and empower individuals. Together, we can create a society where good governance and entrepreneurial spirit work hand in hand, driving progress and improving lives for everyone.

Democracy

Trusted, effective, representative government.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Trust in government is built on seven factors: reliability, responsiveness, openness, integrity, fairness, commitment to addressing long-term and global challenges, and effectiveness in dealing with these challenges.

For a government to be seen as legitimate, it must be representative, trustworthy, and effective. Trust in government is crucial for it to effectively implement its agenda and be recognized as legitimate. For a democracy to work effectively, the government must be accountable to the public, reflect voters' choices and respond to the challenges we as a province and global community face.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Our democracy is in trouble. Successive governments are viewed as more accountable to industry than to the public. There's a perception that the government lacks both the intent and the inclination to address the pressing issues people are facing. We can see the effects of declining trust in institutions through low voter turnout, a rise in personal security systems and a growing focus on alternative media sources.

Governments in British Columbia tend not to be representative of the voters' decisions. In the 2020 election, the NDP gained 66% of seats with only 48% of the vote, forming a majority government with only minority support. The BC NDP have subsequently embraced the worst parts of that majority, ignoring oversight, silencing committees and calling for closure on multiple Bills as they pass through the Legislature.

Successive governments in British Columbia have fallen short in addressing major challenges like climate change and rising inequality. Additionally, instead of being transparent about these issues, there has been a decrease in openness, including the introduction of fees for accessing government information. Instead of a commitment to addressing emissions, the BC NDP has approved new LNG

terminals and pipelines, while pretending to be acting on climate change. Instead of being a reliable partner, the government has failed to deliver solutions to the healthcare crisis, the toxic drug crisis, or the lack of infrastructure in education. Together, these failures have eroded trust in Government, contributing to a rise in right-wing populism.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

We will enhance public trust in the political process.

- Within the first 100 days of being elected, the BC Greens will introduce legislation to implement a Proportional Representation system for the 2028 election. This will ensure that every vote counts and supports a truly democratic, multi-party system.
- A referendum will be held after the second proportional representation election to confirm whether the system aligns with voter interests.

Lower the Voting Age to 16

- The BC Greens will lower the voting age to 16 and introduce civics and voting education in schools, empowering young people to participate actively in democracy.

Implement a Standing Citizens' Assembly

- We will establish a biennial Citizens' Assembly, with topics selected by the Legislative Assembly. This Assembly will ensure ongoing citizen participation in major policy discussions and decision-making.

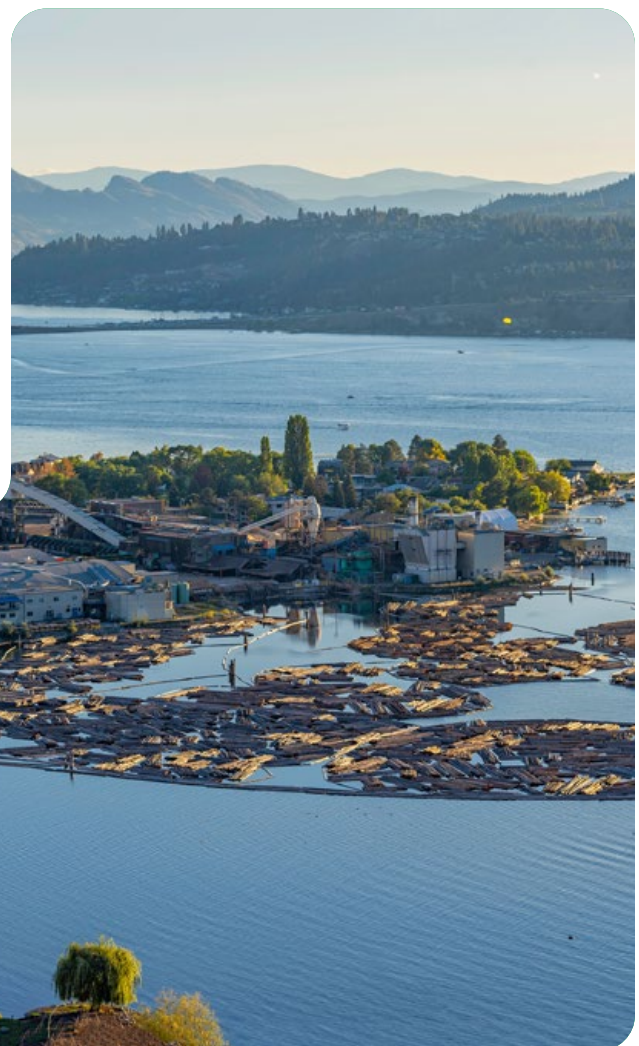
We will reform parliamentary practices to promote transparency, ensure thorough legislative scrutiny, and foster collaboration among all political parties.

- The BC Greens will commit to never using closure in bill debates, ensuring that all legislation receives adequate scrutiny. House Leaders will collectively develop a legislative calendar that provides enough time for debate and consideration of all bills.

- The BC Greens will establish all-party caucuses based on geography, common interests, and background. These caucuses will be mandated and supported to work collaboratively on shared priorities.
- We will commit to thoroughly considering Private Members' Bills and amendments from all Legislative Assembly members, fostering a more inclusive and participatory legislative process.
- We will strengthen the role of Legislative Assembly Committees as an oversight function, with responsibilities for keeping track of whether recommendations from oversight agencies, such as the Auditor-General and Representative for Children and Youth, are being implemented.
- The BC Greens will support Indigenous communities in meaningful consultation by providing appropriate resources and ensuring their input is thoroughly considered in government decision-making.
- To avoid conflicts of interest, we will enforce a minimum two-year stand-down period between holding a designated office in government and working in a lobbying role.
- We will implement a ceiling on public servant salaries, so that no staff member can earn more than five times the lowest-paid staff member. This will be implemented over time, to ensure no employment contract laws are broken.

We are dedicated to improving transparency and accountability in government operations by reforming executive practices, ensuring proactive information release, and supporting meaningful consultation.

- The BC Greens will remove the fee for Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and require all government departments and ministers to respond to requests within the legislative timeframes.
- We will proactively release government materials, including ministerial calendars and briefing notes, to promote greater transparency and public accountability.



Justice and Public Safety

A British Columbia that is safe and secure for all people.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

A fair and equitable society relies on a justice system that not only keeps people safe, but ensures that people feel safe. Everyone should feel that they can go about their lives freely and without a sense of fear, in the knowledge that they will be looked after should something happen to them. The justice system should be demonstrated to enable access to justice, and should treat all people equally.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

The experience of justice and public safety looks very different for different communities in British Columbia. We must acknowledge that systemic racism exists in policing in British Columbia. 41% of women in the provincial custody system are Indigenous—and Indigenous women and girls in Canada have been murdered or gone missing at a rate four times higher than their rate of representation in Canada. Black men are incarcerated at almost three times their share of the population. The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations has stated that First Nations people find themselves simultaneously over-policed and under-protected.

We need to do more to address the underlying causes of crime—such as poverty, homelessness, colonization, the rolling back of drug decriminalization, and lack of access to basic services and supports. The Canadian Mental Health Association BC Division states that one in five interactions with Police in British Columbia involves someone with a mental health or substance use problem.

We must ensure that the right services are available to deal with each problem. Police have been tasked with responding to issues for which they are not the appropriate service provider, causing distress to both the public and to the officers. This is due, in part, to a lack of alternatives and insufficient health, mental

health and social supports.

The Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act did an excellent job of depoliticising this issue—bringing experts together, and of creating an action plan to create “policing and community safety rooted in decolonisation, anti-racism, community and accountability”. It is a pity and an insult to that Committee that the NDP has not progressed their work.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

We will transform the policing and justice systems to prioritize accountability, equity and community safety. These changes will focus on addressing systemic racism, enhancing transparency, and ensuring fair treatment for all citizens, with particular attention to Indigenous peoples, racialized communities, and marginalized groups.

- The BC Greens will disband CIRG, the Community Industry Response Group, a branch of the RCMP tasked with protecting industrial interests at the expense of public and Indigenous rights. This group has caused significant harm to police-community relationships and must be dismantled to rebuild trust.
- We will create a specialized taskforce to investigate cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, children, and two-Spirited people. This taskforce will operate under civilian oversight from Indigenous communities, with a strong focus on women’s leadership, and follow the guidance of the *Red Women Rising* report.
- A Parliamentary Committee will be established to examine how the justice system treats Indigenous peoples, racialized communities, and homeless individuals. The goal is to identify and address systemic inequities and improve access to justice

for all.

- We will formally recognize the Conservation Service as a Law Enforcement Service and apply the same oversight mechanisms as other policing bodies to ensure accountability and public trust.
- We will repeal Bill 21, which disrupted the role of the Law Society of BC. In its place, we will reinstate the Law Society and launch a comprehensive review of access to justice in accordance with the *Futures Task Force Report* to ensure fairness and professional integrity in legal practice.

We will implement new laws and structures that promote accountability, equity and cultural competence within the police force, while ensuring public safety and mental health services are adequately supported.

- We will carry out the recommendations from the *Transforming Policing and Community Safety in British Columbia* report, which includes enacting a new *Community Safety and Policing Act*. This will lay the groundwork for a reformed policing structure and set clear guidelines for community safety and accountability.
- We will establish a new provincial police service governed by the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, ensuring that Indigenous communities have direct input into the structure and governance of their

police services.

- We will create and fund a comprehensive response system for mental health, addiction, and other complex social issues. This initiative will ensure a continuum of care and support that reduces reliance on policing for non-criminal matters.
- BC Greens will commission an independent review of prison conditions, including the use of solitary confinement, to ensure that they meet humane standards and respect human rights.
- Police education and training will be enhanced and standardized across the province to reflect key values such as cultural competence, de-escalation, and mental health awareness. This training will be integral to shifting police culture toward community-based service.
- We will require all police services to collect and publicly report disaggregated race-based and other demographic data. Comprehensive reviews of policies and procedures will be conducted to address systemic racism within policing.
- We will appoint an all-party parliamentary committee to review and modernize the *Mental Health Act*. This will ensure alignment with the recommendations of the *Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act* and better protect individuals experiencing mental health crises.
- An all-party select standing committee will be created to oversee policing and community safety in British Columbia. This committee will ensure ongoing scrutiny and continuous improvement in police practices and public safety strategies.



ICBC AND NO-FAULT INSURANCE

The BC Greens believe that people who have been injured in a car crash should be able to access care and support without having to fight the system that is meant to provide it.

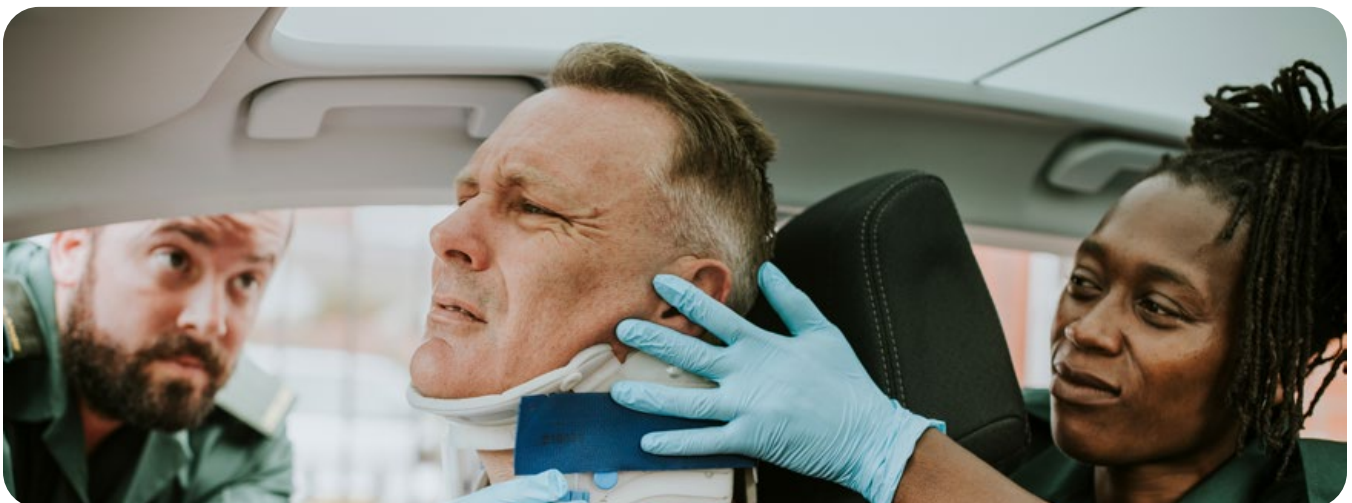
The enhanced care model has not lived up to what was promised. People who have been injured in vehicle accidents should be able to rely on a system that puts their wellbeing and recovery first.

The current no-fault system is not providing this level of care. We see too many cases where people cannot access necessary medical care, or return to their study and careers, because of limitations in ICBC policy. ICBC must be empowered to focus on providing care to victims. Anyone injured in an accident in BC should be assured that they will be treated with respect, and not subject to undue administrative burdens and barriers.

The BC Greens would amend the Legislation governing ICBC, to make clear that all reasonable costs relating to an accident should be covered. We would also amend the income replacement sections, to take into account not only current income, but earning potential, so that students and people temporarily out of the workforce are not penalized.

The BC Greens would reorient the culture of ICBC, to require it to focus on care, rather than minimizing payouts. We would require full transparency from ICBC, including having all client notes be proactively shared with the client so that people can trust the processes and the outcomes.

BC Greens would also ensure that pedestrians, cyclists and any other vulnerable road users injured by vehicles are considered fully covered by the care system.



Small business and community economic development

British Columbia is the best place in the world to make a living - and a life.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

The government must create conditions for people—and businesses—to thrive. This means ensuring that employees and customers have access to essential services like healthcare, education, reliable public transit, affordable housing and a strong social safety net. We need a province where businesses feel secure to invest—and individuals have the confidence to spend and innovate.

We must change the narrative about who we are and what we do. British Columbia has traditionally viewed itself as a resource-based economy, where jobs and productivity rely on natural resources—but this view is outdated. Service industries now account for over three-quarters of the province's economic activity, with less than two percent of jobs tied to oil and gas extraction, mining and related activities.

We need to build a new economy, one that supports small businesses rather than undermines them, placing people and communities at the centre while protecting our ecosystems.

British Columbia has unique advantages we can leverage. Our proactive approach to carbon pricing has led to a thriving clean tech industry, with seven of the world's top 100 cleantech companies based here. By effectively pricing pollution and incentivizing green business, we can continue this progress.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

It's been a tough few years for many businesses. Inflation has driven up input costs, while high interest rates have restricted consumer spending. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted supply chains and global demand, while geopolitical tensions, particularly the Russian invasion of Ukraine, have further strained European supply chains. Uncertainty around election outcomes, including in the United States, is undermining business confidence.

Canada is experiencing declining productivity, largely due to insufficient investment and market consolidation among a smaller number of larger players. Just as individuals struggle to invest in themselves while worrying about rent, small and medium businesses find it difficult to invest in capital and personnel amid rising costs and uncertainty around consumers' ability to afford their products.

We continue to subsidize highly profitable, polluting industries at the expense of small and knowledge-based businesses. For instance, fracking receives water licenses at more favourable rates than domestic consumption, and the province is directly providing power lines for LNG Canada.

Key local industries, such as hospitality and construction, are facing challenges in attracting skilled labor, while young people are struggling to find meaningful employment that offers a good standard of living.

We know that there is a growing demand for incentives beyond financial compensation, with many seeking better work-life balance, support for caregiving and increased leisure time.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Provide meaningful employment opportunities for youth, fostering environmental stewardship and green skills development.

- We will increase support for the Youth Climate Corps, connecting young people with meaningful jobs across the province, restoring the environment, building resilient infrastructure, and fostering connections with communities and nature.
- We will work with the construction industry to create a program for young people and apprentices to upskill in retrofitting and improving the environmental sustainability of existing buildings.

Create sustainable career opportunities and workforce development.

- We will introduce a careers program for the food, beverage, and hospitality sector, providing jobseekers with training, mentorship, and job placements in British Columbia's food manufacturing and hospitality businesses.

Prioritize local businesses and resources to boost the provincial economy.

- We will update procurement policies to ensure local contractors and resources benefit first in public projects and government contracts.
- We will expand the InBC Investment opportunity with an additional focus on supporting rural British Columbia, ensuring equitable access to investment resources.
- We will amend and expand the community grants program funded by the Carbon Tax, limiting eligibility of businesses headquartered outside British Columbia to prioritize local business support.

Expand support for electric vehicle (EV) initiatives.

- We will expand the Clean Incentive Vehicle (CIVC) program to allow retrofitted electric vehicles to be eligible for grants, incentivizing the transition to greener transport options.

Support early-stage innovators to advance green and commercial technologies.

- We will expand the Advanced Research and Commercialization program to provide support and mentoring to innovators at the early stages of development (levels 2 and 3 of the Technology Readiness Index), before they reach proof of concept.



Human Rights

All people are free to be themselves, to thrive

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

The freedom to be yourself and express yourself in a manner that aligns with your identity is fundamental. We are committed to shaping a province where human rights are upheld—and where everyone, regardless of their identity or background, can fully participate and belong in our communities.

We know that racism and discrimination continues in British Columbia. This can be overt, or it can present in subtle ways, where people don't feel safe to be present in the ways that are true to them.

We affirm that abortion is healthcare, that conversion 'therapy' is abhorrent, and that trans women are women, and trans men are men.

All people in BC should have the ability to safely access essential services and public spaces – free from hate and discrimination. The BC Greens commit to defending and advancing human rights in BC. Our province is diverse, and we all thrive when our rights are upheld by decision-makers.

Our work in British Columbia is to create the conditions where people are safe, where people are free from discrimination and hatred, where people can fully participate in our society.

We need to renew our commitment to fighting for inclusion and equity across our province and in every aspect of our society.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Despite federal legislation, conversion therapy is still being practiced in British Columbia. This practice harms young people in particular, with victims describing the lifelong impact that this has had on them.

Access to abortion and reproductive healthcare is not just about the legislative settings, it's also about service availability. We need to ensure that these services are available to people across the country, in settings that align with preferences and cultural safety needs.

People experiencing poverty and homelessness can be discriminated against, without recourse to the Human

Rights Code. For some of the most vulnerable British Columbians, we need to extend the protections of this code, to make sure they can access services and opportunities.

Too many people continue to experience sexual harassment and discrimination, and then are silenced through unfair non-disclosure agreements. Non disclosure agreements are contracts that were created to protect trade secrets but when used wrongly become secret settlement contracts used to buy the silence of a victim or whistleblower. They have become the default solution for organisations, corporations and public bodies to settle cases of sexual misconduct, racism, pregnancy discrimination and other human rights violations.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Protecting Social Condition

- We will add 'social condition' as a protected ground under the Human Rights Code to prevent discrimination based on socioeconomic status.

Better Data

- We commit to using disaggregated data to eliminate barriers that racialized, Indigenous, and 2SLGBTQ+ people face in accessing public spaces and essential services.

Protecting youth

- We will re-introduce legislation to ban conversion therapy in BC.

Protecting reproductive rights and freedoms

- We commit to ensuring that all people can access reproductive health services, at a time and a place that meets their needs.

Protecting victims, not harassers

- Introduce legislation to prevent the misuse of non-disclosure agreements in cases of sexual assault and harassment

Tax

A British Columbia that is prosperous, fair, and ready for the future

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Tax policy is essential in shaping our society and economy, enabling the government to fund vital services like education, healthcare and infrastructure necessary for a functioning society. Moreover, tax policy creates the economic landscape by establishing incentives, influencing demand and supply, and signaling to both domestic and international audiences that British Columbia is a secure place for investment.

The design of our tax system can either enhance or undermine equity and social justice. It is essential that people have confidence that our tax system is fair and treats everyone and their contributions equally.

An effective tax system should be efficient, easy to navigate and difficult to manipulate.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Our tax system is overly complicated, fails to set the right incentives and does not treat all forms of money equally.

Currently, the system misaligns with our values and priorities, placing excessive emphasis on taxing earned income while taxes on pollution and excise taxes shrink as a proportion of overall tax revenue. This focus on income rather than wealth contributes to extreme economic inequality, with the richest 1% in Canada controlling 25% of the nation's wealth—much of which is inadequately taxed. Additionally rising house prices have significantly increased wealth for homeowners, often at the expense of renters and non-homeowners.

BC's tax system is also overly complex, featuring seven different marginal income tax brackets, various grants and credits, and confusion surrounding carbon taxes. This complexity undermines the system's ability to provide the incentives and efficiency needed. If taxpayers are unaware of potential tax breaks, they cannot adjust their behaviour to benefit from them.

The corporate tax structure is similarly flawed. For instance, businesses earning up to \$499,999 are taxed at 2%, while income above that threshold is taxed at

12%. There are no additional marginal tax rates beyond this point, allowing large corporations to operate unchecked due to their economies of scale and price-setting powers.

The government must take an active role in addressing this imbalance, and the tax system is a key tool for doing so. We are witnessing too many billionaires and corporations extracting wealth without paying their fair share or reinvesting in the province. A fairer, more efficient tax system will help reduce inequality and ensure that the wealth generated in British Columbia benefits everyone.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

The BC Greens would undertake a systematic review of British Columbia's entire tax and transfer system.

- This would look not just at what is and isn't taxed and to what extent, but also how the system treats different groups, including both census families and individuals.
- It would consider where our tax take is on the Laffer curve, and what the incentives are for both high income individuals and companies.

Enhancing progressiveness in income tax.

- The BC Greens would introduce an additional marginal tax rate of incomes over \$350,000 per year, of 22.5%. This would impact 39,936 tax filers, with an average income of \$935,090. The additional revenue raised is \$394.5 million.

Taxing windfall profits and make corporate tax fair

- The BC Greens would introduce an additional marginal tax rate for corporate revenue above \$1 billion per year, of 18%. This would impact approximately 35 companies, with an average income of \$4.75 billion per year. The additional revenue raised is approximately \$4.1 billion per annum.

Taxing property wealth effectively

- The BC Greens will increase the taxes paid on the most expensive properties in British Columbia. We will double the existing provincial property tax rates (the 'School Tax') on residential property valued above \$3 million to 0.4%, above \$4 million to 0.8%, and add a new bracket for properties valued above \$7 million at 1.5%.

- We will also apply these brackets to the total property holdings of a household, rather than assessing on a per-property basis.
- These changes will impact approximately 3.7% of British Columbian households with significant wealth. The additional revenue raised is approximately \$938 million per year.

CARBON TAXES

The BC Greens understand that climate change is an existential threat, and that emissions of carbon dioxide and methane are the cause of climate change.

We believe that we all have a right to a future, and that industries who are putting that future at risk should be held responsible for their emissions.

British Columbia's price on carbon pollution is not perfect. But it is necessary, and a crucial step in ensuring British Columbia meets our greenhouse gas reduction goals, while safeguarding our environment, our health, and our economy.

The BC Greens are committed to having a price on pollution, and to improving the system such that there is a price on every tonne of carbon dioxide and methane emitted.

The BC Greens will:

- Continue with planned increases to the price of emissions, by \$15 per year. The price is currently \$80 per tonne. We will increase this to \$95 in 2025, \$110 in 2026, \$125 in 2027, etc.
- Remove the annual emissions limits for industry, established under the output-based pricing system. Every tonne (or liter) emitted will be subject to the same fee regime.
- Include emissions relating to venting and non-compression and non-processing activities in the oil and gas sector.
- Continue the oversight of emissions through the GGIRCA, including the requirement for third-party verification of emissions from industrial polluters.
- End the use of compliance mechanisms and carbon offsets.

The fossil fuel industry was responsible for

14.8

million tonnes of emissions in 2021

Under the current model, most of these emissions were exempt from the carbon tax. The BC Greens would ensure that these emissions were treated the same as all other emissions in British Columbia.

The revenue from these taxes will continue to be rebated to British Columbians, who are already paying the price of a changing climate.

We will also use the revenue to fund mitigation and response activities in communities, including providing funding to municipal and Indigenous governments. We will continue this scheme even if a future Federal Government walks back their commitments on pricing pollution.



COSTING AND INVESTMENT INFORMATION

The costs of implementing our platform are significant. Eliminating poverty, providing free public transit, and ensuring we have a world-class education system—none of this comes without a price. But inaction is far more expensive.

Take just one example: eliminating deep poverty and ending homelessness in British Columbia is estimated to cost over \$2 billion annually. However, the price we pay for keeping people in poverty is much higher. A single hospital stay for someone experiencing homelessness costs more than \$16,000. Investing early to prevent poverty and homelessness isn't just a moral imperative—it's also fiscally responsible. Analysis on the costs of poverty suggests it is between 3.4 and 4.7 percent of British Columbia's economic activity; between \$13.4 billion and \$18.6 billion. This is predominantly healthcare and crime costs, but also reflects a loss in productivity. Upstream investment is the smart choice—for people, for our economy, and for the future of British Columbia.

Likewise, we know that we must transition our economy away from fossil fuels and the depletion of natural resources. Over the past three years, inflation has affected every sector of our economy, with energy prices contributing to a third of that inflation. As long as British Columbia remains dependent on fossil fuels and invests in stranded assets like LNG, energy-driven inflation will persist.

The reality is, British Columbia can afford free public transit, which will not only help those struggling to afford transportation travel to where they need and get more people using our infrastructure, but will also contribute to emission reductions. What we cannot afford is to continue subsidizing multinational corporations to frack methane.

Transitioning to cleaner energy sources is not just an environmental necessity—it's an economic one. By shifting our investments, we can build a more resilient economy and protect ourselves from the rising costs of fossil fuel dependency.

Revenue

Our platform outlines new taxation in the following areas:

- A new marginal tax rate of 22.5% for incomes over \$350,000 per year. This will raise an additional \$394.5 million per annum.
- Amendments to property taxes, to capture the complete holdings of property owners and tax extensive wealth. This will raise an additional \$938 million per annum.
- A new marginal tax rate of 18% for corporate profits over \$1 billion per year. This will raise an additional \$410 million per annum.

	Year 1 (\$, million)	Year 2 (\$, million)	Year 3 (\$, million)
Corporate Taxes	410	410	410
Property Taxes	938	938	938
Marginal Income Taxes	394.50	394.50	394.50
Carbon Tax	3,549	5,462	4,818
Total	5,291.50	7,204.50	6,560.50



Expenditure

We estimate the additional costs included in this platform to be in line with the figures below. These do not account for the offsets from cutting existing government programs, as they will require review before they can be costed - for example, the review and amalgamation of the Health Authorities.

Plank	Year 1 (\$, million)	Year 2 (\$, million)	Year 3 (\$, million)
Wellbeing	0.5	0.5	0.5
Health	190.5	190.5	190.5
Mental Health	142.9	148.6	154.3
Drug policy	296.5	290.5	290.5
Poverty	2023	2079.19	2137.07
Seniors	321.5	321.5	321.5
Disability	20	20	20
Housing	1600	2100	1600
Transport	1965	1476.75	1605.26
Education	1072.6	1116.9	1235.86
Arts and Culture	21.55	21.55	21.55
Biodiversity and Environmental protection	80	90	100
Forests	0.5	0.5	0.5
Watershed Security	175	175	175
Clean Air	125	65	65
Farming and Food Security	33	33	33
Democracy	.3	.3	.3
Public safety	10	10	10
Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	100	110	120
Small business and Community Economic Development	6	6	6
Total	8,183.85	8,255.79	8,086.84

Some funding is present in more than one plank, and has been calculated under the first plank in which it appears.

Initiatives to be funded through the Carbon Tax:

Plank	Initiative	Year 1 (\$, million)	Year 2 (\$, million)	Year 3 (\$, million)
Housing	Infrastructure funding to municipalities and Indigenous governments	650	650	650
Housing	Rebates for deep energy retrofits	50	50	50
Wildfires	Wildfire prevention	100	100	100
Wildfires	Community safety and response	50	50	50
Disaster Prevention and Management	Local Authority and First Nations preparation and response	100	110	120
Disaster Prevention and Management	Fund community resilience)	100	110	120
Clean Energy	Support for clean energy upskilling	20	20	20
Clean Energy	Incentives for small-scale solar	20	20	20
Forests	Support for retraining and upskilling	20	20	20
Total		1,110	1,130	1,150

All additional revenue from the Carbon Tax will deliver CleanBC projects or be rebated to British Columbians.





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