



# 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.