

The BC Greens believe every person has the right to make their own reproductive choices, and to get the care they need to support those choices at every stage of life.

Decisions about whether and when to have a child are some of the most fundamental decisions that a person will make in their lives. To ensure that it is fully a choice, the BC Greens will ensure that access to contraception and abortion is not only legal, but that it is accessible - no matter where you live in the province. Specialised clinics, such as Island Sexual Health and Options For Sexual Health provide an essential service for so many British Columbians, but are forced to rely on fundraising to meet the full range of services that they provide. In a system where reproductive healthcare is truly valued as healthcare, this must change.

The decision to begin funding a single-round of IVF to eligible people in 2025 was a helpful initiative. But earlier-stage interventions, such as intrauterine insemination, are unfunded, and the fertility industry remains under-regulated in British Columbia. The BC Greens will ensure that people who need support to get pregnant have up-to-date information about the options that are available, including their success rates. For too many people, information about IVF success doesn't tell the full story,¹ or people are sold additional services that aren't independently verified, increasing the costs or over-promising the chances of success. For people struggling with infertility, this is particularly cruel.

When someone gets pregnant, their health must be considered as important as the health of their baby. Accessing a midwife or other lead maternity carer can be challenging, especially in rural areas. Updating the model for delivering midwifery services to ensure it is fair for both the provider and the community, and allows midwives to recover from what can be a 24/7 role is crucial to the ongoing viability of this service. While pregnancy care is covered under MSP, post-partum recovery, including for post-partum depression, remains difficult to access. As part of our mental health support work, the BC Greens will ensure accessible access to mental health support for new mothers and everyone who gives birth.

For people going through menopause, a lack of information and easy-to-access products make life harder than it needs to be. Access to a lead carer through a community health centre will help many women with getting better access to hormone replacement therapy. For others, over-the-counter medications are sufficient - if they were more widely available.

The BC Greens will:

- Ensure mifepristone and misoprostol remain legally available via virtual telehealth clinics, with medication able to be shipped to patients.

¹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10767958/>

- Include sexual health services in community health centres, and provide direct funding to existing services.
- Require all fertility clinics to advertise full details on the life birth successes per cycle, including for additional or 'add-on' services.
- Review the midwifery funding model to ensure it is sustainable, recognises the distinct needs of rural and Indigenous communities, and provides enough care so families can receive care in their own communities.
- Ensure mental health support for post-partum depression is fully covered by MSP.
- Make vaginal estrogen available over-the-counter from pharmacists