



Believe in Better.

October 2026

BC greens



A Message from BC Green Party Leader Emily Lowan

For too long, British Columbians have been led to believe that better isn't possible. That decline is inevitable. That the status quo is a fixed point. But every day, people across our province show us this isn't true. From workers standing on the picket lines and demanding better, to innovations in renewable energy and forestry driving community ownership, to nurses and doctors fighting for a system that treats patients with the care they deserve.

This platform is ambitious. It is a plan that looks beyond the failures of the status quo and beyond the wishes of the multinational corporations that have had a stranglehold on BC for far too long.

The BC Greens believe that government should play an active role in improving lives, stepping in and delivering a better province for the public good. The government should respond to market failure, it should stand up and take preventative measures before environmental and social crises get worse, it should make the ultra-wealthy and corporations who have benefited off of public infrastructure pay their fair share.

This is not the time to hunker down, and repeat the mistakes of the past fifty years that have brought us to this point of crisis. Now is the time for hope and vision.

That's why this platform offers a transformative vision of what our province could be. A province where everyone, from children to seniors are given the care they deserve. Where working people don't have to shell out more than half of their paycheque on rent. Where you can build a dignified life and know that when there's an economic shock or climate disaster, that the government has your back.

The BC Greens have a comprehensive platform covering issues across the spectrum, from the resource economy to arts and culture. I am deeply proud of the work this party has done, and so excited to share this platform and our vision for better with you.

Emily Lowan
Leader, BC Green Party

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Our fiscal plan

This platform sets out a bold new vision for British Columbia, one that puts people first. It changes the priorities of government so that working people can afford a good life, care is there when you need it, the ultra-wealthy and mega-corporations pay their fair share, and we fight for a future worth passing on. The BC Greens estimate that collectively, the initiatives outlined in this document will cost an additional \$9.28 billion annually which will be offset by the new revenue outlined below. This estimate represents the analysis of the BC Green policy team, based on publicly available information, conversations with experts, and projects in similar jurisdictions.

This investment would be game-changing for British Columbia. It would end deep poverty, provide every child with a properly resourced classroom and a school lunch. It would ensure seniors have access to the care they need - in their own home or in more intensive care. It would let people get around this province by bus, whether they're going downtown or down Island. This investment would ensure that nurses, teachers, students and parents know that they have a government that they can rely on, who is acting in their best interests. This investment would protect the forests, waters and mountains that British Columbians - and tourists - know and love, and that make British Columbia the best place in the world to live and visit.

As mentioned above, this investment is off-set by a one-time tax on excessive wealth tax, the Fair Share Act, that would raise \$22.2 billion in the first year, giving total additional revenue in 2027/28 of \$25.3 billion. From 2028/29 onwards, the BC Greens would raise an additional \$9.14 billion in revenue through appropriate taxation on the wealthiest British Columbians, collecting the full 50% of oil and gas revenues that British Columbians were promised, and making sure that the multinationals using our water are paying their fair share. These figures will increase as wealth grows and gas production increases. No British Columbian who works for an income will pay a single dollar more in tax than they do currently.

This investment is also offset by the knowledge that investing in prevention means fewer health emergencies in the future. It is offset by helping people before they lose their home, rather than penalizing them once they do. It is offset by giving children the skills, tools and support that they need to achieve their full potential.

	2027/28	2028/29
Total new revenue	\$25.3 billion	\$9.14 billion
Total new costs	\$9.28 billion	\$9.28 billion

Pillar 1: A life you can afford

People in BC work hard, and they deserve to know their future is secure. Your paycheque should cover a safe home, food on the table, and a little left over at the end of the month. Families should be able to find affordable child care. Getting to work or school shouldn't depend on owning a car. And those who spent their lives building this province should be able to grow older with security and dignity.

That isn't what people in BC are getting. Mortgage rates are hitting harder, rent can swallow half a paycheque, and families wait on child care spaces that never open up. Even working full-time, too many people can't keep up. Seniors are left wondering whether they can afford to stay in their homes or find care when they need it.

It doesn't need to be this way.

This section sets out a new path forward for British Columbians, one where the services that you rely on are available to you and your loved ones when you need them. One where the necessities of life, something to eat and a roof over your head, are treated as necessities, not an avenue for mega-corporations to extract profits.

The BC Greens will build a province where working people can get ahead, not just get by. We will put government back to work building homes people can actually afford. We will make sure wherever you need to go in the province, there is affordable and reliable public transit that you can take. We will treat poverty as the systemic failure it is and make sure everyone has enough income to live with dignity. From our youngest to our oldest, and everyone in between, we will ensure people are respected, cared for, and supported. This is the BC we will build.

Believe in better. The BC Greens will build a life that you can afford.



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Housing

The BC Greens believe that everyone in British Columbia should have a home that meets their needs.

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. We cannot continue to rely on the market to solve this crisis; the private sector is not equipped, nor responsible, for providing housing that is deeply affordable for all British Columbians. This responsibility sits firmly with the government. Sadly, it's a responsibility that has not been met for decades.

People with secure housing are able to fully participate in their communities - working, studying, caring, and volunteering. For renters, secure housing is never assured; British Columbia leads the country in "renovictions" (displacement due to a landlord renovating), housing access remains the top reason for surrendering pets, and a third of renters will spend over half of their income on rent. North Vancouver and Vancouver are Canada's two most expensive cities for renters, with average rents of \$3,039 and \$2,686 per month, respectively.¹ Six of the 20 most expensive cities to rent in Canada are in British Columbia.²

As more people are priced out of homeownership and are renting longer than in past generations, good rental homes are critical to solving the housing crisis. 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 centres in search of affordable housing. Unfair provisions, including a prohibition on pets, leave many renters feeling that they may be inhabiting a house, but they don't have a home.

Across the province, about 25% of cats and dogs surrendered to the BC SPCA are given up by their guardians due to a lack of available pet-friendly housing. This represents about 1,150 pets annually.³

The BC Greens believe that 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. The private sector alone cannot deliver the affordable housing that we need: the federal and provincial governments must be part of the solution. This includes direct provision of affordable and deeply affordable units, protecting the already existing affordable units that remain, and helping with the costs of market rentals for those who are close to being able to meet market rents. This framework also ensures that housing starts do not drop in an economic downturn - as is currently occurring. Housing starts are down 18% against 2025⁴ numbers - a reaction to a cooling market that has long-term implications for housing supply. More direct government intervention allows for counter-cyclical investment, utilizing capacity and investing when the private market won't.

The Eby Government has failed to provide renters with any tools to reap the benefits of their touted lower rent; on average, one in three renters in Canada are spending beyond the 30% recommended monthly income threshold for rent.

With less affordable housing funding, and no tools for renters to dig themselves out of this vicious monthly cycle, we are being told things are getting better. But as BC reclaims its position as the most expensive province in the country for apartment or condo rents, it's clear that we are living in the consequences of failure. After cancelling the Community Housing Fund, failing to pass vacancy control at the urging of the BC Greens, and committing to bailing out condo developers, British Columbians are now forced to live with the collapse of the NDP's approach.

Decreases in asking rent is making life easier for new renters in some situations. But we lack detailed information about what rents are being charged for existing properties, and tenants don't have the ability to seek a decrease in their existing rental agreement to match market rates.

Instead, landlords are still seeking annual increases, leaving tenants forced to choose between making an expensive move or paying above market rates for an existing home.

Indigenous British Columbians are more likely to be renters, and to be in core housing need than other population subgroups.⁵ Indigenous people deserve to have housing that meets their needs, in culturally safe and supportive settings, administered by Indigenous and First Nations groups.

The BC Greens will:

- Immediately restart the Community Housing Fund and Indigenous Housing Fund, with a goal of building and protecting 26,000 housing units per year.
- Implement Vacancy Control. Currently, rental increases are allowed once per year, unless there is a change of tenant. Vacancy control ties increases in rent to a unit, rather than a tenant, reducing the incentive for landlords to evict tenants without fault. Annual increases will continue to be determined by the Residential Tenancy Branch.
- Provide support for the Residential Tenancy Branch to speed up resolution times and provide more support for both renters and landlords.
- Amend the Residential Tenancy Act to prohibit blanket no pets clauses in rental contracts. Instead, we will develop appropriate management guidelines on pets in rentals.
- Protect 2000 deeply affordable rental homes each year by increasing funding and support for the Rental Protection Fund.
- Increase direct support for renters unable to afford market rentals through the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program.
- Create a mechanism through the Residential Tenancy Branch to allow renters to seek an annual rent review when market rents in their city are decreasing.

- Provide adequate and equitable funding for Indigenous-led Complex Care Housing, designed and determined by Indigenous communities. This will include trauma-informed housing allocations and supported Rent Supplements set aside for Indigenous Peoples and administered in line with guidance from Indigenous organizations and communities, surrounded by supportive services.
- Pass responsibility for collecting and holding deposits to the Residential Tenancy Branch. In addition to ensuring that bonds are processed and returned when appropriate, this will provide additional information to the Residential Tenancy Branch on rents that are being charged - information that can be published for use by government and researchers.
- Update the housing targets methodology, in partnership with municipalities, to include assessments of water system capacity, watershed health, climate resilience, healthcare infrastructure and other critical services. Reward successful communities who build by sharing a portion of property transfer taxes.
- 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.
- Reduce emissions in the building sector by promoting conservation, efficiency and lower-carbon design and materials.
- Implement a province-wide policy to prevent oil and gas hookups in new buildings, accelerating the transition to clean energy in the housing sector.

¹ <https://rentals.ca/blog/rentals-ca-august-2026-rent-report>

² [Ibid](#)

³ <https://spca.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/renters-guide.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/New-Homes-Registry-Report-August-2026.pdf>

⁵ https://housingcentral.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/BC_AffordableHousing_Plan.pdf



Photo by Tolu Olubode on Unsplash

Transport

The BC Greens believe that everyone should be able to get where they need to go, safely, efficiently, and affordably.

The average British Columbian household spends over \$12,000 per year on transport, 85% of which is on private car travel.⁶ For some people and some journeys, personal cars make sense. But for too many people the lack of safe, reliable, and comfortable public transit makes driving the only option. Our current system heavily subsidizes car drivers, while underinvesting in public transit, cycling, ferries, trains and inter-regional buses.⁷ Offering people more choices to get around benefits the economy, supports the environment, and improves public health. A well-functioning public transit system delivers substantial economic benefits, with returns of up to \$5 for every \$1 invested.

The BC Greens believe in induced demand: people will use transportation infrastructure if it is fast, efficient, and offers a viable, cheaper alternative to their current transport method. We believe that we cannot build our way out of congestion with more traffic lanes, but that 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.

British Columbia's transport and transit funding system is complex - and unsustainable. Funding comes from federal, provincial and municipal governments, as well as fuel taxes, property taxes, transit fares, and advertising revenue. The BC Greens have seen the challenges of this system first hand, as the Eby Government has obfuscated and delayed providing regional transit services in the Sea-to-Sky - even when local governments and First Nations are clear about their needs. Contracting out bus services, including HandyDart, makes the funding and service delivery even more difficult and prioritizes cost-cutting over service delivery.

Successive governments have known that our transit funding system is unsustainable, but have refused to address the issue. Most recently, the Eby Government committed to a new TransLink revenue source in April 2025, and then denied that commitment in the lead-up to this election. We cannot grow a world-class transit system without adequate resources and long-term, sustainable funding agreements that allow planning and purchasing to take place. The BC Greens will work with all parties in the Legislature after the election to develop a non-partisan mechanism for funding transit and transport infrastructure that brings buses and trains to communities across British Columbia and expands services in cities and towns.

The BC Greens will:

- Implement free, fast, frequent public transit. Our plan will prioritize doubling the number of buses on the roads within the first term. We will approach free transit in a phased approach, starting with youth aged under 25 and seniors 65 and over. We will make transit free for all once infrastructure improvements are made, funding stabilizes, and fast, frequent transit is established.
- Make regional transit planning easier by working collaboratively with regional districts and First Nations on their priorities.
- Implement a Province-wide, wheelchair accessible, intercity network, with at least hourly service for 80% of British Columbia and at least daily service for every part of BC.
- Have regional transit buses on Highway 99 in the Sea-to-Sky within the first year.
- Bring the SkyTrain to UBC.
- Establish an all-party Parliamentary Committee to develop a consensus-based, long-term transport and transit funding model that updates the funding model for both BC Transit and TransLink.
- End the outsourcing of public transit delivery and ensure public transit workers are paid fair wages and have union opportunities.

FERRIES

For Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, the Sunshine Coast, the North Coast, Haida Gwaii and other coastal communities, ferries are marine highways. Too often, sailings are cancelled or delayed. Cancellations across all routes have nearly tripled, from 952 in 2017 to 2,809 in 2025, driven by increasingly wild weather, mechanical and staffing challenges.⁸

As BC Ferries itself notes in its forward funding submission, 'A key challenge is that BC Ferries' ongoing funding arrangements have not kept pace with the cost of operating and renewing a large, aging, asset-intensive transportation system'.⁹ Decades of underinvestment and delayed maintenance are creating operational risk; since the Federal-Provincial subsidy agreement was established almost 50 years ago, BC Ferries' costs have grown at more than twice the rate of federal funding.¹⁰ The discrepancy with Atlantic Canada ferry services is alarming: Atlantic ferries receive federal subsidies of \$291 per passenger, while BC Ferries receives \$1.63 per passenger.¹¹ Total operational funding from Provincial and Federal governments represented 3% of BC Ferries revenues in 2025¹², completely out of step with other forms of transport.

The impact of this is passenger and freight fares that are prohibitive, vessels and terminal infrastructure that is near end-of-life and dilapidated, and a marine sector unwilling to even bid for the opportunity to build new vessels.

The BC Greens will:

- Work with the Federal Government to increase funding and achieve parity with Atlantic Canada. We will review the governance model and long-term funding arrangements as part of this work.
- Expand infrastructure at terminals and docks, including planning for electric ferries.
- Build and maintain ships locally, to boost the local economy and provide good union work.
- Increase the number of vessels in the system to add contingency and reduce reliance on temporary fixes or route cancellations when mechanical problems arise.
- Re-establish the 13 Ferry Advisory Committees, to ensure residents who use the ferries have their voices heard in planning decisions.

RAIL

For a long time, rail was a key connection network across British Columbia. Being able to cover vast distances, keep trucks off the roads, and move large amounts of freight supports tourism, industry, and cross-community connection. The decision by CN Rail to end its lease of the rail corridor between Squamish and 100 Mile House provides an opportunity for the province to support interior communities by getting trains running again. The BC Rail Corridor Alliance is still waiting for a response from the province for support in an engineering feasibility assessment, economic study and operations funding.

Likewise, on Vancouver Island, work is underway to build partnerships and maintain the Island Rail Corridor. This work needs support and commitment from the provincial government.

The BC Greens will:

- Develop a large-scale passenger rail strategy, in partnership with First Nations. This will focus on Vancouver Island, Metro Vancouver, the Sea-to-Sky and the Fraser Valley.
- Provide support to the BC Rail Corridor Alliance, including financial support for an engineering assessment, economic study, and operations funding.
- Protect the rail corridor for freight and passenger rail while opportunities for active transportation, recreation and tourism are evaluated.
- Work with First Nations and the Island Corridor Foundation to determine next steps for Vancouver Island rail.

ICBC

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 its promise. 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 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 or careers because of limitations in ICBC policy. The Eby Government has treated the ICBC system as a way to dispense money to car drivers; the BC Greens will let it live up to its proper purpose of protecting British Columbians.

The BC Greens will:

- Support and continue the no-fault model for car crashes.
- Amend the legislation governing ICBC, to make clear that all reasonable costs relating to an accident should be covered.
- Re-establish the Special Committee to Review Provisions of the Insurance (Vehicle) Act to ensure victims' voices are heard and the Legislature can make appropriate legislative amendments.

⁶ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1110022201>

⁷ <https://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2026/sp/pdf/ministry/tran.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/what-s-changed-for-b-c-ferries-cancellations-and-delays-9.7194665>

⁹ https://www.bcferries.com/web_image/h26/h55/9110357999646.pdf

¹⁰ https://www.bcferries.com/web_image/h26/h55/9110357999646.pdf

¹¹ <https://cowichanvalleycitizen.com/2026/09/02/editorial-feds-need-to-bring-ferry-funding-numbers-up/>

¹² https://www.bcferries.com/web_image/h0e/h87/9078307160094.pdf



Photo by Ronin on Unsplash

Groceries

The BC Greens believe that food is a human right, and that mega corporations are serving their own interests, not ours.

British Columbia has enough food for everyone, but too many people are skipping meals, putting things back in grocery stores, and changing their eating habits because prices are simply unaffordable. Since the BC NDP came into government in 2017, the price of one kilogram of potatoes has increased 67%, and a loaf of bread costs 36% more.¹³ A 2025 survey found that 61% of Canadians are unsure about their ability to afford food six months from now.¹⁴

At the same time, profits remain high for the small group of grocery stores that dominate British Columbia. The grocery industry likes to say they have very low profit margins. But since 2020, those margins have gone from 2-3% to 4-5%. While that seems small, because of their large volume/oligopoly, that's \$600 in pure profit from every BC household every year.^{15 16}

The BC Greens are determined to change this system, to break up the oligopolies and make the basics affordable for British Columbians again. The supply management system has protected the price of staple products like eggs and milk from tariffs. It also demonstrates that there is a role for government in establishing price caps to protect consumers from price gouging. Now is the time to take that work further, and ensure families can afford to buy Canadian.

The public grocery store model works elsewhere. In Mexico, a program of 24,000 community grocers with 300 warehouses has been established for decades, and New York Mayor Mamdani is rolling out a pilot currently. Closer to home, the BC Liquor Distribution Branch shows that the government has the capacity to make consumer products distribution work - while providing good union jobs.

The BC Greens will:

- Create a network of public grocery stores. Starting with 20 stores and a distribution hub, with an investment of \$100 million in upfront establishment costs, the Green Grocers will support BC agricultural and food sovereignty by selling fresh BC produce and staple products at affordable prices.
- Build public wholesaling and distribution to supply Green Grocers, schools and hospitals. With a 30% locally produced food mandate, this would meaningfully build BC's food security, from farm to warehouse.
- Seek matching funding from the National Food Security Strategy's \$1 billion Food-Link fund.
- The stores will focus on providing BC farmers and planters with distribution and market access, while keeping costs on a basket of core goods 30% below market prices for consumers.
- Provide a direct supply of groceries to institutional purchasers, including the BC Greens proposed universal school food program, to provide greater volumes and help lower prices.
- Set a new standard for grocery transparency by making detailed information on purchasing costs and supply chains publicly available, providing greater insight into how grocery prices are set and where our food comes from.
- Work with groups studying public grocery stores across Canada to ensure the program is delivering the suggested benefits and provide lessons for other levels of government and other provinces.

¹³ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1810024501>

¹⁴ <https://abacusdata.ca/the-changing-landscape-of-grocery-shopping-in-canada/>

¹⁵ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mALI2HNbrx6UgbmsyBRo1VyLvc2k8hHQwBI8mKN5wK8/edit?usp=sharing>

¹⁶ <https://www.dal.ca/sites/agri-food/research/canada-s-food-price-report-2023.html>

Poverty

The BC Greens believe that poverty is a systemic failure of government.

Poverty is a political choice. The decisions that we have made in British Columbia have created systemic, entrenched poverty. We need only look around to see too many of us without housing, without enough food, and with bills unpaid at the end of the month. Homelessness, once rare or even non-existent in British Columbia, has been normalized. This is just one highly visible symptom of a social support foundation that can no longer underpin a strong, resilient province.

One in 16 people in British Columbia is currently living in deep poverty - assessed as living on less than 75% of the poverty line.¹⁷ 50,000 of those are children, whose early experiences of deep poverty will shape their future; poverty has been shown to impair the cognitive development of children, affecting their mental growth and future potential.¹⁸ This includes people receiving social assistance and disability supports, a form of legislated poverty; a single person receiving disability assistance currently receives \$1,483.50 per month, \$997 below the poverty line of \$2,480 per month.¹⁹

Indigenous poverty is particularly prevalent and particularly cruel in British Columbia. Canada's Indigenous peoples are nearly twice as likely to be living in poverty as non-Indigenous Canadians.²⁰ 33% of First Nations children living on reserve are living in poverty.²¹

57.8% of homeless youth in Canada have been involved with the child welfare system, and 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.²² Investing in this particularly vulnerable group of young people is one of the province's most impactful investments.

Poverty is hard for those experiencing it and expensive for the province. The failure to address poverty and the social determinants of health shows up in the provincial finances every year - in health spending, in the child welfare system, and in the carceral system especially. The cost of poverty to the provincial government is estimated at 3.4% to 4.7% of GDP, equating to \$15.9 billion to \$22 billion in 2026.²³

The BC Greens will:

- Raise social assistance and disability assistance rates to the market-basket measure of poverty and index to inflation.
- Implement a new targeted basic income benefit for all youth formerly in care, equal to the market-basket measure poverty line, until age 25.
- Remove clawbacks to ensure people receive the full support that they need.
- Create low-barrier access to assistance by eliminating intrusive checks that discourage individuals from seeking help, and making paperwork accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- Develop a poverty elimination plan tailored to Indigenous individuals, families, and First Nations, addressing the systemic impacts of colonization and dispossession.
- Fund Indigenous-specific services in social service areas, including reintegration programs for Indigenous women, addiction support, and child care.
- Reduce bureaucratic barriers for non-profit service providers, ensuring they can effectively support vulnerable populations.

YOUTH IN CARE

According to the Government, as of March 2025, there were 4,795 children and youth in care, and of that number, 3,260 were Indigenous, making up more than 68% of children and youth in care.²⁴

Youth in care can access Strengthening Abilities and Journeys to Empowerment (SAJE) until age 27, which includes partial fulfilment of the targeted income through Unconditional Income for youth leaving care, though it only partially fulfils the recommendation. This is a cash transfer of \$1,250 per month until their 20th birthday. Between 20 and 27, this transitions into Conditional Income support of \$1,250/mo based on enrollment in an education program. This program also includes access to guides and navigators; however, SAJE Navigators and Guides have unmanageable caseloads, leaving youth without proper support. These guides are crucial for many youth aging out of government care because of the complicated income and wrap-around supports offered through MCFD, and because many lack the familial and relational support other youth have for life planning and skill building.

In 2017, the BC Green Caucus made a study of basic income a requirement for entering the Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA). The report was led by David Green, Professor at the University of British Columbia (Chair), Jonathan Rhys Kesselman, Professor Emeritus at the School of Public Policy at Simon Fraser University, and Lindsay Tedds, Associate Professor at the University of Calgary. The report is based on over 40 research studies commissioned by the panel and written by “some of the best public policy economists in Canada.” The panel consulted British Columbia residents through a web-based public engagement process and received over 450 submissions from individuals and community organizations. The panel held in-person consultations with stakeholders in May 2019, and the report incorporates findings from an online survey in 2020 that sampled approximately 2,000 British Columbians. The Committee’s report is available here: <https://bcbasicincomepanel.ca/>

The panel found that youth aging out of care are less likely to have graduated high school, are more likely to have used income assistance, and are more likely to be involved with the criminal justice system. Collectively, these costs and foregone tax revenue due to underemployment have a net present value per individual of \$320,000 at age 19. They also found that the mortality rates of youth aging out of care are much higher than the rest of the population - 15% of the people aged 19 to 33 who died in 2015 were former children in care.

“Numerous researchers and investigators argue that these poor outcomes arise from a background of instability. Anyone taken out of their family home has, by definition, experienced a traumatic event and for many, it is simply one of many traumatic events.”²⁵

Accordingly, the Basic Income panel recommended a targeted basic income for former youth in care, equal to the market basket measure poverty line. The package of support for youth aging out of care was estimated to cost \$120 to \$190 million per annum in 2020; we have costed this at \$250 million per annum to account for inflation over the past 6 years.

¹⁷ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/initiatives-plans-strategies/poverty-reduction-strategy/prs-2024-annual-report.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://oacas.libguides.com/c.php?g=702168&p=4990142>

¹⁹ <https://www.disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca/en/take-action/cdb-poverty-line>

²⁰ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/260429/dq260429a-eng.htm>

²¹ <https://firstcallbc.org/2025-child-poverty-report-card/>

²² <https://homelesshub.ca/collection/population-groups/youth/>

²³ https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/news/docs/MB%20Cost%20of%20Poverty_1.pdf

²⁴ <https://mcf.gov.bc.ca/reporting/services/child-protection/permanency-for-children-and-youth/performance-indicators/children-in-care>

²⁵ https://bcbasicincomepanel.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Final_Report_BC_Basic_Income_Panel.pdf [All quotes and data in this paragraph, page 272]

Seniors

The BC Greens believe that seniors should be valued, secure, and supported to live the lives they want.

People aged over 65 are the fastest-growing population group in British Columbia, now making up more than one in five people.²⁶ Seniors are an incredibly diverse group of British Columbians, with a range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, life experiences, and support needs. While many seniors have benefited enormously from accrued housing wealth and generous pensions, others are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis; in 2025, 11% of food bank visits in British Columbia were by people over 65.²⁷

The BC Greens will support seniors to remain independent and connected with families, friends, and communities. People 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.²⁸ 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 seniors. At the same time, we must address the long-term care crisis that has ballooned under Eby's Government and previous governments. Between 2016 and 2025, the number of people waiting to be admitted to long-term care rose from 2,381 to 7,212, an increase of 200%.²⁹ The BC NDP's decision to delay construction of seven long-term care facilities has exacerbated this problem. In 2025, 5,900 seniors were forced to remain in hospital for an average of 38 days because there weren't care beds to take them, causing distress for the patient and placing further strain on desperately needed health resources.³⁰

In 2025, the BC Greens worked with the government to increase supports available for seniors who rent under the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program. We increased the household income limit to \$40,000, including 1,600 more seniors, and increased the average supplement by nearly 30%, bringing the average monthly subsidy to \$337.

British Columbians deserve a province that is prepared to care for people at every stage of life. Yet today, our care systems are already struggling to meet demand, while the needs of an aging population continue to grow. More seniors will need home support, affordable housing, long-term care, caregiver respite, and reliable income supports in the years ahead. The gaps we face today will only widen if we fail to act now. We must build a province that plans ahead, invests in care, and treats dignity, independence, and support for older British Columbians as essential public responsibilities, not afterthoughts.

The BC Greens will:

- Further increase the thresholds for Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters to provide greater monthly rental assistance for low-income seniors. The thresholds will be raised to \$48,000 for single individuals and \$53,000 for couples, ensuring more seniors qualify for support.
- Support and scale homeshare housing that matches responsible renters with seniors living in a full house - providing affordable housing, gentle density, and intergenerational support.
- Apply vacancy control to assisted living, including the additional fees for services, to protect seniors from rent increases and extra charges.
- 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.
- Develop and implement a detailed plan to increase the number of publicly-funded long-term care facilities to meet the growing demand for senior care services.

- Develop and implement a rural seniors strategy to address the needs of seniors in rural communities.
- Establish a clear dementia care pathway and support family practitioners to do more early screening for dementia, and develop a dementia support strategy, with a focus on cultural safety.

²⁶ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1710000501>

²⁷ <https://foodbanksbc.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/FBBC-Hunger-Report-2025-25.11.28-D4-WEB.pdf>

²⁸ <https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/osa-reports/we-must-do-better-home-support-services-for-b-c-seniors/>

²⁹ <https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/osa-reports/from-shortfall-to-crisis-growing-demand-for-long-term-care-beds-in-b-c/>

³⁰ <https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/monitoring-seniors-services/>



Photo by Vitaly Gariev on Unsplash

Child care

The BC Greens believe all children deserve the best start in life, all families deserve excellent care, and early childhood staff deserve fair compensation.

Early childhood education is the foundation of a healthy society, yet successive governments in British Columbia have consistently deprioritized it. Lack of access, qualified educators, and unaffordable fees send a clear message to young people and families: we are not investing in you. Despite persistent and visible inequities, no BC government has adequately addressed these issues.

British Columbia has the most expensive and complicated child care in Canada.³¹ This is an economic issue, a gender equality issue, and a government accountability issue. Increasing access to early care and learning supports increased labour force participation, particularly for women, who still undertake the majority of child care. Child care and early learning is an investment in our future - one with a return that is both immediate and long-term, for parents and the children who are able to access high-quality education.

Between 2019 and 2024, child care expansion created more than 8,000 jobs and added an estimated 33,000 full-time-equivalent workers to BC's economy - generating an additional \$1 billion in provincial revenue in 2024 alone, more than the government spent on child care that year.³²

Currently, British Columbia has the highest child care fees in Canada,³³ and 75% of children have no access to licensed care.³⁴ At the same time, educators are without the wage grid BC committed to in its 2021 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.³⁵ Currently, only 10%, or roughly 16,000 out of the 159,000 early childhood education spots in BC, are currently available at \$10-a-day.³⁶

The BC NDP has failed to fully implement \$10/day child care, failed to create a flexible system that meets the needs of working families, and failed to attract and adequately pay the skilled workforce needed. This is a challenge for family budgets, for our economic productivity, and for growing the next generation of British Columbians.

BC and the Yukon are now the only jurisdictions in Canada with neither a capped child care fee nor a wage grid for early childhood educators. The BC Greens will address both.³⁷

The BC Greens will:

- Commit to making quality \$10-a-day child care available to families all across British Columbia by lifting the freeze on new \$10-a-day enrolments introduced in Budget 2026³⁸, and use it as the foundation to later implement universal child care coverage by 2031.
- Make registering for care simple; create one point of registration for \$10/day spaces across BC, replacing today's centre-by-centre waitlists so families no longer have to win a lottery to access affordable care.
- Make it easier for early childhood centres to become, and remain, part of the \$10/day spaces by reducing burdensome compliance paperwork. New spaces and priority registration going to public, non-profit and Indigenous-led centres, building a system rooted in community care, not private profit.
- Create a universal early childhood education funding model to reduce administrative burdens for child care operators, allowing them to focus on quality care for children. This model will address wage grids, space creation, licensing, and staffing.

- Provide paid practicums for early childhood educators, offering financial support during their essential training periods.
- Implement an early childhood educator wage grid, and reach \$35-45 per hour by 2028 based on qualifications and years of experience.
- Ensure early childhood educators have access to pension plans and extended health benefits to improve job security and retention.
- Work with child care operators to support ongoing growth in capacity through capital upgrades to schools and existing facilities, a workforce development plan, and sufficient operational flexibility to meet the needs of families now and in the future.

³¹ Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, “The \$10-a-Day Divide: Child Care Fees in Canada in 2026,” 2026. childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/10-day-divide-child-care-fees-canada-2026

³² Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, BC Budget 2027 Submission. 10aday.ca

³³ Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, “The Price Is Not Right (Yet): \$10-a-Day Child Care Falling Short of Target,” July 2025. <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/news-research/the-price-is-not-right-yet-10-a-day-child-care-falling-short-of-target/>

³⁴ Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, BC Budget 2027 Submission. <https://www.cccabc.bc.ca/bc-budget-2027-submission>

³⁵ Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, BC Budget 2027 Submission, “Let BC Parents Work – Expand Access to Quality \$10aDay Child Care.” 10aday.ca

³⁶ <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/news-research/the-price-is-not-right-yet-10-a-day-child-care-falling-short-of-target/#median-fees-by-age-group-in-april-2025>

³⁷ Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, BC Budget 2027 Submission. 10aday.ca

³⁸ Province of British Columbia, Budget 2026 Highlights. bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2026/highlights/



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Pillar 2: Care you can count on

British Columbians should expect their government to be there to help and to provide the services they need when they need them. Your physical and mental health should be supported by preventative and primary care. Children should learn in excellent schools, with teachers focused on teaching - not worrying about paying for school supplies or children going hungry. And everyone should be able to trust that the justice system will actually deliver justice, and that they can go about their day feeling safe in their own community.

That isn't what people in B.C. are getting. Emergency rooms have been closed, nurses are working short-staffed shift after shift, and people are left waiting for mental health care until they reach a breaking point. One in every eleven dollars spent in this province goes to health care, yet more and more of it flows to private providers and administration while people get sicker. We are investing in the worst, and the most expensive, part of the problem. We are letting five British Columbians die every day, because the government is too scared to implement the fixes to the toxic drug crisis that the evidence shows will work.

It doesn't need to be this way.

The BC Greens will build Community Health Centres in every community, so care is close to home. World class schools, with universal school lunches and counsellors students can actually reach. Solutions to the toxic drug crisis that put health and saving lives first. A child welfare system that supports families and strengthens communities rather than punishing them. A post-secondary education system that treats students like an investment in our future. This is the future the BC Greens will build.

Believe in better. The BC Greens will deliver care that you can count on.



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Health

The BC Greens believe that British Columbians deserve to be well, and to access the care that they need, when they need it.

Our healthcare system is in crisis. Every day, we see emergency room closures, nurses leaving the profession, and people unable to receive the care that they need. Despite increasing investments in health, access to care continues to get harder. There are nearly 1.3 million British Columbians without a regular family doctor or nurse practitioner - a 45% increase since 2017.³⁹ And even when people are attached, being able to access an appointment can be incredibly challenging. 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 promoted as the answer to these issues. Instead, they contribute to staff shortages at other clinics and hospitals, without providing either the resources available at hospitals or the longitudinal care of traditional health centres. An average UPCC visit costs the system \$186, vastly higher than regular family practitioner visits.⁴⁰ Accessing a UPCC involves luck, good timing, and the ability to be available the moment phone lines open in the morning.

For rural British Columbians, access to healthcare is even more challenging. Transportation barriers and the distance to health-care services provide unique and real obstacles for people living in rural areas, and being a rural health worker means navigating heavy workloads, professional isolation, and broad scopes of practice with limited resources. For Indigenous communities, which already face disproportionate barriers rooted in historic systemic inequities, these disruptions compound existing challenges and deepen long-standing gaps in care.

This is at the same time as the world is making people sicker and sicker - pandemics, air pollution, chemicals in our water and our clothes, and changes to what we eat and how much we move. The health impacts of the methane gas now being fracked around BC to be exported as LNG is detrimental to health, especially for people living near flaring sites.⁴¹ The wildfires and heat domes being worsened by the climate crisis are impacting our health at both a population and an individual level.

British Columbia's health workforce is incredibly skilled, hard-working, and resilient. Yet the levels of stress, moral injury and unsafe working conditions are pushing people out of the sector. We hear daily about nurses who are routinely working under unsafe staffing conditions, facing forced overtime, and denied time off. The nurses strike in July 2026 was the longest nursing strike in BC's history, as nurses sought to bring attention to compensation, workplace violence and non-nursing tasks being asked of them.⁴² Health workers across the system are grappling with the emotional toll of being unable to provide the level of care their patients deserve. While the focus of the Eby's Government is on recruitment, retaining the nurses already in the system must become a much higher priority.

In 2026, the provincial health budget is \$40.6 billion.⁴³ That is 8.7% of GDP; one in every eleven dollars spent in this province goes to government healthcare spending. \$3.8 billion of that is on health administration - a 270% increase since 2017.⁴⁴ Medical professionals we've spoken with agree that having an efficient bureaucracy to support the health system is important, but are unable to understand the rationale for the size and complexity of the health authorities, other than to insulate the Minister of Health. The current administration doesn't provide the flexibility to support the necessary work done by individual clinics to support chronic conditions, such as the Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Clinic, or the clinics supporting people living with HIV.

In 2025, the BC Greens worked with the BC NDP to review primary care, especially the Community Health Centre model. This work points to the role that this model can play in providing longitudinal, culturally-safe care across British Columbia. The community health centre model has advantages for both practitioners and patients: it has easy referral models, so patients can receive care from the expert that best meets their needs, be it a physiotherapist or a dietitian. It places the administrative burden on administrative professionals, rather than health staff, and offers physicians the option of being a staff member, with benefits such as pensions, paid vacation, and parental leave, which are not available under other models. The BC Greens believe every community should be able to have a community health centre that meets their needs and vision of health. Further evidence of the good that community health centres do, including same day access, reductions in avoidable use of emergency services, and better information sharing and integration, is necessary, but should not stop us from investing in and growing this model.

The Eby Government provides millions of dollars in funding for private care every year. This contributes to workforce shortages in our public hospitals and comes at a higher price due to profit margins, capital costs, and higher labour costs. In Alberta, the experiment with private care has resulted in reduced surgical capacity and worsening wait times. The BC Greens will push back on the creeping privatization of healthcare, and instead keep public dollars focused on care, deliver equitable access, support workforce planning and standards, and ensure that all British Columbians can access the care they need, regardless of income.

The BC Greens will:

COMMUNITY CARE

- Establish an integrated Community Health Centre in every riding in the province.
- Support effective triage in the ER with more long-term care beds.
- Commit to funding Virtual Group Care for those with complex chronic diseases, following the BC-CLMF model.

- Make all recommended vaccines available to all people, at no cost to the consumer.
- Commission a comprehensive and independent health impact assessment to evaluate the health effects of LNG and fracking activities.

HEALTH GOVERNANCE

- Review the Health Authority model, with a focus on creating a consolidated health authority with joint services and localized decision-making within communities.
- Continue to support the First Nations Health Authority's work to address systemic racism and improve Indigenous life expectancy.
- Require health authorities to collect and share data for workforce planning, ensuring alignment with educational institutes. Take a longer time horizon for data collection, and monitor the impacts of all-of-government spending and decisions on population-level health and wellbeing metrics.
- Centralize referrals for surgeries and team-based models of non-surgical and pre-surgical care by introducing a single-entry model, rather than distributed lists.
- Increase funding for nurses in the public system to support safe nurse-to-patient ratios and phase out reliance on private agency nurses and for-profit staffing agencies.

HEALTH WORKFORCE

- 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.
- Adopt and implement the 'Nursing Retention Toolkit: Improving the Working Lives of Nurses in Canada'.
- Work with health unions to support the recruitment and retention of qualified health care staff.

³⁹ <https://thetyee.ca/News/2026/05/31/BC-Family-Doctor-Crisis-Gets-Even-Worse/>

⁴⁰ <https://healthdatabc.ca/upcc/upcc2025.pdf>

⁴¹ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41913658/>

⁴² <https://www.bcnu.org/news-and-events/news/2026/bc-nurses-end-province-wide-job-action-accept-mediators-recommendations>

⁴³ https://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2026/pdf/2026_Budget_and_Fiscal_Plan.pdf

⁴⁴ <https://healthdatabc.ca/healthauthority/index.html>

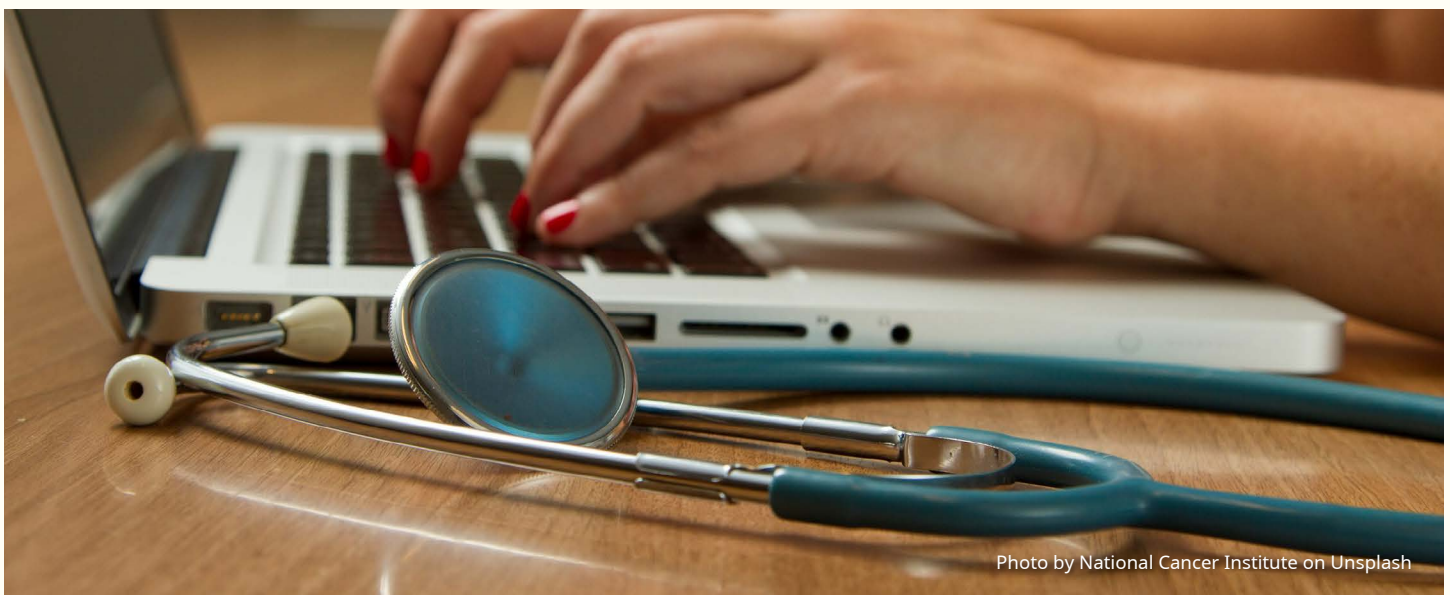


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Mental health

The BC Greens believe that mental healthcare is healthcare.

A well-resourced, evidence-based, accessible mental health support system is foundational to a healthy, connected, and thriving British Columbia. It is critical that this system meets people where they are in the moment and that it invests in preventative, community-centred holistic care. Today, individuals are living in communities where the cost of living continues to skyrocket, social programs are increasingly slashed, and climate emergencies leave entire communities without homes. The toxic drug crisis continues unabated, colonialism and racism maintain barriers to equity and health, and people are feeling as disconnected from themselves and one another as ever. These issues impact all of us and, as people seek support, the mental health system bears much of the weight.

Across Canada, the mental health crisis is estimated to hold an economic cost of \$180 billion dollars with that number increasing to \$600 billion by 2060.⁴⁵ In British Columbia, we are taking the most expensive route to address this stark reality. Instead of well-resourced social programs, publicly funded counselling, and voluntary treatment services, our tax dollars are being used to support already overcrowded emergency rooms and prisons. Not only is this unsustainable for BC's public infrastructure, but also for all of the front-line workers at risk of burnout.

A responsive and holistic system also prioritizes the mental health, agency, and perspectives of children and youth. In BC, there are currently 84,000 children and youth with a mental health diagnosis, and only one third of that group is receiving support.⁴⁶ Children and youth in BC are also rating their own mental and emotional health worse than pre-pandemic⁴⁷ years, and identifying housing affordability and the climate crisis as top local concerns. For children in the foster care system, the prevalence of mental illness increases significantly, with rates four times higher than those not in care.⁴⁸

Just this year, the BC Supreme Court affirmed that fundamental changes are, and have been, required to bring BC's mental-health laws into compliance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. While the immediate priority must be to respond to the Court's ruling and ensure that people receiving involuntary care have appropriate protections for autonomy, consent, capacity and equality, we won't stop there. We will also use this as an opportunity to build the long-term support and sustainability that BC's mental health system so desperately needs. Our goal is a system in which people not only get the help they need when in crisis, but are able to live and grow within communities that are connected, resilient, and safe.

The BC Greens will:

Expand publicly funded counselling and psychotherapy programs, increasing access to effective, responsive, and timely support for adults, youth, and families across the province.

- Include six visits annually 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.
- Commit to sustained, multi-year funding for the Canadian Mental Health Association's Mind and Mood Clinical Care Network, bringing together psychiatrists, psychologists, counsellors, CBT-based coaches, and employment services into one virtual network.
- Establish a working group to create a pilot project for 24/7 neighbourhood mental health centres across the province, incorporating diverse and representative experiences and perspectives and decreasing labour and cost on emergency and primary healthcare services.
- Increase funding to provincial programs that provide counselling and psychotherapy to women, queer and trans people, and/or children experiencing, leaving, or recovering from intimate partner and/or domestic violence.

- Expand the existing rural/remote loan-forgiveness program model and create a dedicated BC Mental Health Workforce Scholarship and Loan-Repayment Program, structuring disbursement around demonstrated workforce shortages to encourage an increase in psychologists, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, clinical social workers, and addictions specialists.

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.
- Expand funding for the Crisis Response, Community Led (CRCL) (previously PACT) program, ensuring that they can continue and grow their work of providing a trauma-informed, mental-health focused alternative to police-involvement in crisis situations, ensuring that quality of service and front-line worker wellness is as prioritized as the number of clients served.
- Establish provincial leadership and invest \$500,000 to create consistent protocols for 911 operators, first responders, and mobile crisis teams to ensure coordinated and effective mental health crisis responses.
- Ensure trauma-informed practice and Indigenous Cultural Safety education is mandated and provided for 911 operators, first responders, and mobile crisis teams.
- 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.

Launch a robust and independent review of BC's Mental Health Act, informed by the recent BC Supreme Court Charter decision.

- Act immediately to bring BC's legislation into compliance with the Constitution, including strengthening protections around consent, capacity, involuntary treatment, and independent oversight.
- Following the policy approach of "Nothing About Us Without Us," strike a working group of independent actors with lived and professional experience and expertise to examine the Mental Health Act in its entirety to ensure that provincial mental health legislation is not only charter compliant but evidence-based, effective, and informed by lived and living experience.
- Ensure that specific resources and attention are given to the development of mental health legislation that upholds and protects the rights and dignity of children and youth, following the recommendations of the Representative for Children & Youth's report *"Putting Children and Youth at the Centre: Reforming and Modernizing the Mental Health Act for Children and Youth."*
- Examine and address disparities and any inequitable impacts of mental health legislation on people based on identity, including but not limited to Indigenous People, Black and racialized communities, people with disabilities, and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
- Make certain the development, content, and implementation of mental health legislation is compliant with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Ensure provincial legislation strengthens Indigenous determinants of health, including connections to land, culture, identity, spirituality, language, and traditional health practices.
- Prioritize the inclusion of conditions and treatment that not only respect human rights but facilitate and encourage wellness, including standards for social connection, self-determination, and mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

Establish independent oversight and accountability mechanisms for mental health service delivery in BC, including involuntary treatment programs and any detainment authorized under the Mental Health Act.

- Establish an Independent Office of the Mental Health Advocate to provide individual and system advocacy and oversight to the provincial mental health system, including involuntary treatment programs and any holds authorized under the Mental Health Act.
- Invest in proactive monitoring processes that are independent of government and the healthcare system.
- Create and maintain a data collection program, and establish transparent reporting processes so that information and records are accessible and allow meaningful public analysis of how the system is working and what changes are needed.
- Together with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Public Safety, and the Solicitor General, ensure specific training, oversight, and accountability is established, audited, and maintained for health care workers, police officers, and criminal justice actors who come into contact with those held or are at risk of being held under the Mental Health Act.
- Prioritize hearing the perspectives of people with lived experience of police interaction related to their mental health or police apprehension under the Mental Health Act.
- 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.

Increase investment in child and youth mental health

- Implement all of the recommendations from the BC Coroner's Death Review Panel report *"Creating Connection, Supporting Strength: A Review of Youth and Young Adult Deaths by Suicide in British Columbia"*⁴⁹.
- Invest sustained, multi-year funding for youth-focused mental health programs, including Foundry BC, and BC's Take a Hike Foundation.
- Following recommendations from BC's Child and Youth Wellbeing Action Plan⁵⁰, coordinate government initiatives to provide one front door for children, youth, and families to access services.
- Establish a paid youth-advisory structure to ensure there is meaningful child and youth involvement in the design and delivery of programs, services, and community connection opportunities.

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, evidence-based, 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.

⁴⁵ <https://www.csagroup.org/article/public-policy/the-economic-cost-of-mental-health-in-canada>

⁴⁶ <https://lowermainland.cmha.ca/impact/influencing-policy/facts-and-figures/>

⁴⁷ https://chartlab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/YDI-2022-2023-Provincial-Report_2023-11-21.pdf

⁴⁸ <https://childhealthpolicy.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/SFU-CHPC-RCY-Children-in-Care-2022.08.25.pdf>

⁴⁹ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/death-review-panel/creating_connection_supporting_strengths.pdf

⁵⁰ <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2026/06/CYWB-Action-Plan.pdf>

The toxic drug crisis

The BC Greens believe that every drug death is a policy failure. We can end preventable drug deaths through evidence-based policies and solutions grounded in dignity and care.

Five people die every day from the toxic drug crisis in British Columbia.⁵¹ We are in an unprecedented public health emergency that has lasted ten years and taken far too many lives. This is a crisis that has affected everyone in British Columbia: from families dealing with death, grief, and ongoing injuries, to frontline workers who spend every day dealing with trauma and harms inside a system with inadequate support, and communities who are left to carry the burden of a crisis that is politicized and never solved.

Harm reduction is under attack. This crisis will not be addressed through half-measures and short-term pilot programs. It will not be solved by expanding a punitive system that leads to more overdoses and a reduction in trust in health services. It will not be solved by unnecessary involvement with the criminal justice system. The toxic drug crisis will only be solved when politicians are willing to show leadership; when regulated alternatives are available, when voluntary treatment is available when people need it, and when people who use drugs have the same access to resources, medical care, housing, dignity and respect as anyone else does.

The ongoing prohibition and war on drugs have exacerbated the crisis by increasing the toxicity of the unregulated drug supply, which now regularly includes medetomidine.⁵² The rising presence of benzodiazepines in the illicit supply has further complicated overdose reversals, harming both people with opioid use disorder (addiction to opioids) and recreational users. Combined with a cost-of-living crisis and a housing crisis, leading to significant increases in the number of people homeless across BC, the toxic drug crisis is now highly visible.

On September 29th, the BC Supreme Court found that our current legislative settings around controlled substances are unconstitutional, with Judge Murray finding that “a non-medical safe supply is urgently needed to save lives” and “the DULF compassion club reduced the harms associated with the toxic drug crisis and did not negatively impact the community or public safety.”⁵³

Successive actions by Eby’s Government have contributed to a worsening of this crisis. The rollback of the decriminalization pilot has increased stigma and the number of people using alone, and therefore the likelihood of death; in 2026, 81% of unregulated drug deaths occurred inside. Evidence shows that fear of criminal sanctions can prevent people from accessing services, and involvement with the criminal legal system can drive harms like losing housing or employment and increasing risk of overdose.⁵⁴

After more than 6.6 million visits in the ten years to January 2026, there have been two deaths at supervised consumption sites and overdose prevention sites in British Columbia;⁵⁵ we know what works, but the Eby Government lacks the willpower to make the changes necessary.

The BC Greens will:

- Provide regulated, pharmaceutical alternatives to the illicit drug supply to reduce fatalities associated with substance use. Our main priority must be keeping people alive. The supply must be based on advice from health professionals and advocacy groups.
- Enhance access to supervised consumption sites and overdose prevention sites. Ensure that they have the capacity for safe inhalation spaces to reduce harm and public drug use, and support public safety. Ensure these spaces are connection points for detox, recovery, housing, and other supports.

- Increase access to transitional and public housing projects, with wrap-around healthcare and harm reduction principles.
- Match investments in bed-based care with a spectrum of community-based outpatient substance use treatment services.
- Treat drug use as a health and social issue, not a criminal one, by decriminalising possession of drugs for personal use. Alongside decriminalization, implement the measures on housing, mental health, and voluntary care that the Eby's Government failed to, ensuring people who use drugs have the full range of support needed.
- Ensure children and youth are educated about drug risks and supported by trusted adults to make informed decisions.
- Build out mobile and 24-hour overdose prevention sites.
- Allocate annual funding for existing drug-checking services to ensure their sustainability.
- Create an evidence-based standard of care for all substance use treatment services, informed by experts and community leaders.
- Ensure that individuals working on the frontlines and those with lived experiences of substance use are supported and valued in decision-making processes.

⁵¹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/death/coroners-service/statistical-reports>

⁵² Medetomidine is a potent sedative, predominantly used by veterinarians, that can cause low heart rate (bradycardia), changes to blood pressure, and prolonged sedation. It can cause sleepiness or unconsciousness, increasing the risk of drug poisoning. <https://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2026/bc-drug-poisonings>

⁵³ https://www.bccourts.ca/jdb-txt/sc/26/18/2026BCSC1855.htm#_Toc241558733

⁵⁴ <https://drugpolicy.ca/bc-revives-criminalization/#6c569e8e-426f-4182-8ad9-b7fa17078b3e>

⁵⁵ https://archive.news.gov.bc.ca/releases/news_releases_2024-2028/2026HLTH0037-000404.htm



Photo by Anthony Maw on Unsplash

Education

The BC Greens believe that education is the cornerstone of a healthy society.

From early childhood education to post-secondary, all students in the province should have the opportunities they need to succeed. If you walk into any public school in BC, you should feel safe, included, welcome, and cared for. When the needs of students, educators, and staff are met, the best learning outcomes occur. Students cannot learn to their full potential in an environment of scarcity and insecurity. Yet, BC now ranks second to last in Canadian provinces in per-pupil funding,⁵⁶ and funding has dropped dramatically as a percentage of government spending over the past five years - a drop that is projected to continue.⁵⁷

Diversity, equity and inclusion are the baseline requirement for everyone to thrive in the education system. This is especially true for students with disabilities who require additional support – such as education assistants and specialist teachers. All students, regardless of their ability or background, should feel like they belong in schools and education spaces. By ensuring our education system has enough staff and adequate resources, we can create an educational environment that is safe, healthy, and conducive to learning and development.

Research by the British Columbia Teachers Federation found that provincial supplemental inclusive education funding covered only 75.8% of what BC school districts actually spent. Districts received about \$994.8 million but still had to make up a shortfall of \$316.8 million from other operating funds. This funding gap has persisted for at least 18 years. The BC Greens will close this gap. We will fix the broken operating model that has allowed this gap to persist, and ensure that school districts can rely on having the resources that they need to educate children. Not from fundraising, not from one-off grants, but from a funding model that supports our children and our educators.

The Government is responsible for ensuring that the experience for children in the education system, no matter where they are in the province, is an equitable one. Instead, under Eby's Government, resources are being diverted from the public education system to support private schools, whose funding is now growing faster than any in the public system.⁵⁸ The Eby Government currently contributes \$590 million per year⁵⁹ to subsidize private schools - schools that are now enrolling the highest numbers of any province in Canada.⁶⁰ This two-tiered education system undermines social cohesion and reduces funding available to the public system.

This disparity comes at a time when families across the province are feeling strained. It is increasingly difficult for many families to pay for basic expenses like school supplies, lunches, and child care. Operating costs for schools and school districts continue to rise, placing more pressure on tight budgets. BC's K-12 and child care sectors face challenges attracting and retaining qualified employees, especially in rural and remote areas. Chronic underinvestment in the education system has made it difficult for teachers to do their jobs, and for students to receive the education they deserve.

We are entering uncharted territory as we move through the 2020s. Rapid changes in the economy mean that many of the jobs our children will have don't even exist today, and they will be using technology that has not yet been invented to solve the incredible challenges facing us. The role of AI in the classroom is one example of regulation not keeping pace with technological change. We need to redesign our education system to prepare our children for this future and instill in them a commitment to lifelong learning. For our children to be able to prosper in the world that is taking shape before them, adaptability, perseverance, problem-solving, and creativity are some of the most important skills they will learn.

The BC Greens will:

- Eliminate the inclusive education funding gap. We will review the per-pupil funding formula to develop a new needs-based, stable, and sustainable model to fund actual costs, resource needs, and professional development requirements of each school district.
- Reallocate private school funding to the public school system, in a phased approach to support students currently enrolled.
- Develop a detailed capital improvements plan to ensure school facilities meet high standards of safety, functionality, and climate resilience.
- Establish a sustainable funding model for organizations addressing diverse and under-resourced student needs, such as the Take a Hike Foundation.
- Enact a moratorium on the use of AI in classrooms from K-12 in order to develop a comprehensive response to AI in the classroom, and direction on safe, ethical use of AI with students. This includes protecting privacy, enforceable safeguards, digital literacy support for all educators, and working with the Federal Government to hold tech companies accountable for ensuring that systems are safe before they reach the classroom.
- Create a universal school food program that provides opportunities for schools, community organizations, and farmers to promote sustainable practices and educate children on healthy eating habits.
- Create a school supplies program that ensures students have access to the stationery and supplies that they need to learn to their full potential and teachers don't have to pay out of pocket.
- 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, the human rights movements, impacts of colonialism, and other critical moments in history.
- Continue supporting and expanding the SOGI 123 initiative to create inclusive school environments that support 2SLGBTQIA+ students and address the topics of gender identity and sexual orientation.
- Increase provincial funding support for community schools, to help create space for community connection and make use of public buildings that would otherwise be empty outside of school hours.
- Ensure every school district has the resources to develop credible and robust language learning options, particularly for Indigenous and French languages, and American Sign Language.

⁵⁶ <https://instituteforpubliceducation.org/projects/funding-public-education-project/>

⁵⁷ https://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2026/pdf/2026_Budget_and_Fiscal_Plan.pdf

⁵⁸ <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/news-research/public-funding-for-b-c-s-private-schools-is-indefensible/>

⁵⁹ <https://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2026/sp/pdf/ministry/educ.pdf>

⁶⁰ <https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/more-bc-parents-opting-independent-schools-report>

Post-secondary education

The BC Greens believe post-secondary education is a public good, and that cost or geography should never determine who gets the chance to learn, retrain or build a future.

British Columbia's colleges, universities and institutes are part of the foundation of our province. They educate nurses, teachers, tradespeople, scientists, artists and entrepreneurs, support research and innovation, and anchor communities across BC. They should be places where people can pursue ideas, develop new skills, change careers and deepen our understanding of the world around us. They have an important role in filling immediate labour shortages, but a strong public post-secondary system is also about giving people opportunities throughout their lives to build knowledge, skills and creativity that benefit all of us.

But BC has known for years that the way we fund post-secondary education needs to change. The Province launched a system-wide funding review in 2022 after acknowledging that the funding model had not been updated in more than two decades.⁶¹ That process did not produce the promised new funding model, and the Eby Government launched another sector-wide review in 2025, which has also not been released. The result is a system still operating without the stable, predictable public funding needed to protect programs and plan for the future.

Institutions have become increasingly dependent on tuition revenue, particularly from international students, leaving programs and jobs exposed when enrolment changes. Until 2023/24, international tuition accounted for about 18% of revenue across the public system and as much as 40% at some institutions. Federal changes to international study permits are expected to reduce tuition revenue across the sector by about \$300 million a year.⁶² Many institutions are responding to growing financial pressure with hiring freezes, layoffs, restructuring, and program suspensions or cancellations.

BC Greens do not believe we should respond to that instability by asking students to pay more or by steadily shrinking the public system. BC needs to rebuild public funding and take a serious look at how all 25 public institutions fit together. Research universities, teaching universities, colleges, and specialized institutes serve different purposes, and institutions in smaller and rural communities face different realities than those in major urban centres. A new funding model should recognize those differences while protecting access to education throughout the province.

Affordability is just as important as institutional stability. Students come to post-secondary education from very different financial circumstances, and tuition is only one part of the cost of getting an education. Students need somewhere affordable to live, food to eat and a way to get to class. Some are supporting children or other family members, while others are working long hours alongside their studies just to cover their basic expenses. These costs can determine whether someone enrolls, how much time they can devote to learning and whether they make it to graduation. To address this, we will freeze domestic tuition and mandatory fees while expanding need-based grants, affordable student housing, campus child care and other supports so that the opportunity to pursue an education does not depend on how much money you or your family have.

The BC Greens will:

AFFORDABILITY

- Freeze domestic tuition and institutionally charged mandatory fees at public post-secondary institutions.
- Work with the Federal Government to set a pathway to free post-secondary education.
- Cap annual international tuition and mandatory-fee increases at inflation.
- Double the BC Access Grant, providing up to \$8,000 per year for students with financial need, while also reviewing and increasing thresholds for students in programs longer than two years.
- Bring university and college residences under provincial renter protections for the first time, with dedicated rules under the Residential Tenancy Act that cap increases in residence rates, including between academic years, set basic standards for fees, maintenance and housing agreements, protect students from arbitrary eviction, and provide access to independent dispute resolution.
- Expand non-market student housing on public campus land, with provincial capital funding to build substantially more below-market student homes, including family-sized units for students with children. Require new publicly funded student housing to remain affordable over the long term.
- Require public colleges and universities to offer reduced residence rates for students with financial need, supported through the new post-secondary funding model.
- Create more child care spaces on college and university campuses, with provincial capital funding for new and expanded centres and operating funding to bring campus spaces into the \$10-a-day child care system.
- Expand open educational resources and zero-textbook-cost programs through BC campuses, reducing the cost of textbooks and required course materials for students.

FUNDING & SYSTEM CHANGES

- Replace BC's outdated post-secondary funding model through a public, system-wide review with new provincial funding on the table. This will include reviewing the roles and mandates of all 25 public institutions, how funding is distributed, regional access, research and teaching responsibilities, trades and technical education, transfers between institutions, and the needs of communities around the province.
- Set a long-term path to restore public funding so that, over time, at least 75% of core institutional operating costs are publicly funded.
- Modernize post-secondary governance so campus communities have a stronger voice in the institutions where they study and work.
- Provide temporary stabilization funding to institutions facing severe shortfalls from the rapid decline in international enrolment, tied to plans that protect core programs and student services while institutions move toward a more sustainable funding model.
- Protect the right of graduate student workers to unionize by amending the Labour Relations Code to clearly recognize paid graduate teaching and research work as employment, including graduate research assistants.

⁶¹ Government of BC, [Province launches public post-secondary funding review](#), 2022.

⁶² Government of BC, [Province reviews public post-secondary system to ensure long-term sustainability](#), November 25, 2025.

Justice and public safety

The BC Greens believe that everyone should be able to go about their lives freely and without fear, in the knowledge that they will be looked after should something happen to them.

A safe society relies on a justice system that is responsive, equitable, and evidence-based. This means ensuring that individuals working with the justice system are well-informed and resourced and that we are tackling the systemic issues that result in over-policing and under-protection.

Safety is experienced differently by different people, as is the justice system itself. We know that systemic racism and colonial harm is embedded within it, particularly in policing, and that an intersectional approach is critical in addressing the harm done to Indigenous, Black, and racialized people and communities across the province. We also know that a significant proportion of those who come into contact with the justice system are dealing with a substance use or mental health issue and that “wellness checks” conducted by police involve Indigenous, Black, and racialized communities at a disproportionate rate.⁶³

We must do more to address the underlying conditions that create crime, such as colonial violence, homelessness, lack of access to basic services and supports, and the criminalization of poverty. 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 all involved and contributing to the vast over-representation of Indigenous, Black, and racialized people in the criminal justice system. This is due, in part, to a lack of alternatives and insufficient investment in healthcare, affordable housing, and transformative justice approaches.

From the Royal Commission on the Rights of Aboriginal People (1996), to Red Women Rising (2019), To Rights in focus: Lived Realities in BC (2024), and so many more, there is no shortage of reports done and options offered for how to address the public safety issues facing British Columbia. It is time to honour the work that has been done to show us the way, and take action to keep each and every person in British Columbia safe and capable of living in their power and potential.

The BC Greens will:

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

- Disband CRU-BC, the Critical Response Unit, a branch of the RCMP tasked with protecting industrial interests at the expense of public and Indigenous rights.
- Invest sustained and robust multi-year funding into the British Columbia First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) to support their two-track First Nations Justice Strategy.
- Following calls to action from the Red Women Rising report and BCFNJC’s Indigenous Women’s Justice Plan, create a specialized and independent taskforce to investigate and prosecute open and cold cases of violence against Indigenous women, children, and 2Spirit peoples. This taskforce will operate under civilian oversight from Indigenous communities, with a strong focus on women’s leadership.
- Create and invest in pre-existing mental, emotional, and spiritual health programs that provide services for men who use violence against others.

- 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.
- Repeal the Legal Professions Act, which disrupted the role of the Law Society of BC, and reinstate the Law Society to launch a comprehensive review of access to justice in accordance with the Futures Task Force Report.

Implement new laws and structures that promote accountability, equity and cultural safety, applicable to all criminal justice system actors.

- 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.
- Create and fund an accessible, voluntary system for mental health and substance use, reducing the use of police and criminal justice resources on healthcare issues.
- Commission an independent review of prison conditions, including the involuntary treatment programs located within provincial prisons, to ensure that they meet humane standards and uphold human rights.
- Enhance and standardize education and training for justice system actors on topics such as cultural safety, anti-racism, mental health awareness, and de-escalation. This will involve ensuring that all learning is distinctions-based, evidence-based, and trauma-informed.
- Require all police services to collect and publicly report disaggregated race-based and other demographic data, in line with OCAP principles, in the interest of identifying inequity and upholding human rights.
- Create an all-party select standing committee to oversee policing and community safety across the province, ensuring oversight and continuous improvement in police practices and public safety strategies.

⁶³ [Rights in focus: Lived realities in B.C.](#)



Photo by Ronin on Unsplash

Children and family development

The BC Greens believe that the care of children must be rights-based, preventative, and centred on the self-determination of First Nations, youth, families, and the communities they are a part of.

Children, youth, families, and communities in British Columbia deserve real support, and a child welfare system that is safe, resourced, and capable. This involves ensuring that the health and wellbeing of children and their families are at the centre of policy, program, and legislative development. For too long, BC's system has been rooted in colonial perspectives of paternalism and disconnection, placing a duty to report over a duty to support.

We know that time spent in the foster care system leads to a significant risk of adverse childhood experiences, trauma, abuse, homelessness, lower life expectancy, and increased interaction with the criminal justice system.⁶⁴ We also know that Indigenous children and youth are vastly overrepresented in these systems, with Indigenous youth making up 68% of youth in care and 44% of youth in custody, despite making up less than 10% of the child population in BC.⁶⁵ This is unacceptable, and a clear example of the need to address paternalistic colonial policy and systemic racism across the board. It is First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples who know what is best for their lands, communities, and children. It is children, youth, and families that have the expertise we need to build systems that work.

The BC Greens will:

Reorient MCFD and child welfare towards prevention, connection, and the adequate resourcing of social determinants of health.

- 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 centres.
 - Tertiary Prevention: Wrap-around supports for children and parents affected by violence.
- Create non-punitive, culturally safe environments in which families can talk about their struggles without fear of consequence.
- Enact legislative reforms ensuring families are provided with the necessary resources and services, as guided by the reports released by the BC Representative for Children and Youth.
- Redirect Ministry funds to provide families with financial resources, address poverty-related neglect, and create conditions in which parents are resourced and supported.

Advance Indigenous jurisdiction over child welfare to protect children from colonial violence and ensure culturally appropriate services are available and accessible.

- Recognize Indigenous jurisdiction over child welfare, providing appropriate funding to support culturally rooted, distinction-based services and language revitalization.
- Promote community-oriented, family-centred care where extended family plays a vital role, ensuring conditions for children to thrive.
- Ensure funding and resources are available to families and community members of children of missing and murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

- Commit to sustained, multi-year funding for culturally centred and Indigenous-led programming for Indigenous parents who are or have ever been placed in the child welfare system and/or in contact with the criminal justice system.
- Encourage the colonial system to learn from Indigenous approaches, fostering self-reflection, accountability, and a shift in intention and practice within child welfare services.

Strengthen social work regulation, oversight, and workplace safety, ensuring all social work practices within MCFD are ethical, culturally safe and consistent with best practices.

- Implement legislative changes requiring anyone using the title “Social Worker” to be registered with the BC College of Social Workers.
- Commit to addressing Our Children Our Way Society’s 15 Calls for Justice for Social Workers and Those Implicated in Child Welfare, as released in their report *Bringing Justice Home: Recommendations to Honour Our Lost & Missing Loved Ones*⁶⁴
- 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.
- Establish a comprehensive oversight system for MCFD staff and senior leadership that addresses systemic failures rather than focusing on individual social workers.
- Provide families in kinship care with the same financial and social resources that foster families receive.

Changes in youth disability funding

In February 2026, MCFD introduced the new “Children and Youth with Support Needs” (CYSN) framework to provide support and services to youth with disabilities. While the increased support for children, youth, and families with disabilities is long overdue, the new application process requires parents and families to navigate a laborious and confusing new route to funding, without understanding who is going to receive the sensitive information they are providing and what resources, if any, they will receive. Numerous families and disability advocacy groups have repeatedly voiced their opposition to this change, yet are met with claims that consultation has been extensive, without evidence. The CYSN criteria for the Disability Benefit sets an unreasonably high and deficit-focused threshold that excludes too many who need support.

The BC Greens are dedicated to building strong partnerships with children, youth, parents, and families with disabilities to ensure any disability support framework is developed to meet each life stage. This means maintaining the current Autism Funding stream while co-designing a disability strategy that supports ALL families within the disability community. This model would ensure that funding models are evidence-based, culturally safe, and meet the unique and diverse circumstances of rural and remote communities and First Nations.

⁶⁴ [State care in childhood and adult mortality: a systematic review and meta-analysis of prospective cohort studies - PMC, Mortality outcomes of children and young people who have spent time in care: evidence from Children's Health in Care in Scotland, a population-wide administrative data cohort study - PMC, BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel: Review of MCFD-Involved Youth Transitioning to Independence Jan. 1, 2011 - Dec. 31, 2016](#)

⁶⁵ [BC Gov News; Improving Justice Outcomes for Indigenous Youth - Progress, Youth Justice](#)

⁶⁶ [OCOWS-Bringing-Justice-Home-V1R0F1-WEB_112723.pdf](#)

Pillar 3: Economic fairness for all

Our economy works because people believe in a simple promise: if you work hard and contribute to society, you'll be able to build a good life. People expect the government to set fair rules for industry, make sure everyone pays their fair share, secure a fair return on the resources we all own, and invest public money in industries that create good jobs. That promise has never been kept by government alone. For generations, unions have fought to ensure workers who head out each morning return home safely in the evening, with a fair wage to show for it.

Yet inequality is tearing that promise apart. More than ever, the life you live is determined not by how hard you work, but by the family you were born into. Mega-corporations profit from our public forests, minerals, gas, and water, while British Columbians see little of that money come back to our communities. The ultra-wealthy grow richer every year, without contributing their fair share to the services and infrastructure that we all rely on. New industries, like AI data centres, are moving into our communities with little regulation or oversight, putting our environment and jobs at risk.

It doesn't have to be this way.

The BC Greens will build an economy powered by clean energy, one that shares what it produces with the people who help make it happen. We will make sure mega-corporations and the ultra-wealthy pay their fair share, and that BC gets a fair return on its natural resources through community and Indigenous ownership. We will welcome visitors while protecting the places they came here to see. We stand behind small businesses at the heart of our towns. We will give every worker the chance to join a union through sectoral bargaining, so people are paid fairly for the value they create, wherever they work. And we will make sure every business operating in BC treats our environment and the people who live here fairly. This is the BC we will build.

Believe in better. The BC Greens will ensure economic fairness for all.



Photo by The Bialons on Unsplash

Economic vision

The BC Greens believe that British Columbia can make different choices about its economic future. We can build more here, keep more wealth in our communities, and create an economy where prosperity is shared more fairly.

British Columbia has much of what it needs to build a prosperous, resilient, low-carbon economy. We have clean electricity, natural resources, skilled workers, strong public institutions, research capacity and communities with deep knowledge of their regions. But too many people are working hard and barely getting by. Small businesses are struggling, resource communities are losing jobs, housing is consuming more household income, and too much of the wealth generated from our land, resources and public investment leaves the communities where it was created.

For decades, governments have asserted that their economic role should be limited to creating the conditions for private investment, offering minor corrections when markets fail and otherwise getting out of the way. As BC Greens, we believe in better. Some of the foundations of BC's prosperity, from our electricity system and transportation networks to our schools and hospitals, exist because governments were willing to invest and build for the public good and for the long term. Government can once again set a bold direction, build public capacity and make deliberate choices about the economy we want to create.

We can build more here, retain more value from what we produce, give regions and First Nations greater power to shape development, and ensure prosperity reaches more of the people who help create it. That will require government to do more than manage the economy it inherits. It must be willing to help build the economy we want.

This economic vision sets out where we believe BC can make a major shift over the coming decade. It sits alongside our commitments on housing, health care, education, poverty reduction, climate action and the other foundations of a good life in British Columbia.

Our full economic vision, including the policies and analysis behind it, [is available here](#). It focuses on four areas:

1. STRONG REGIONAL ECONOMIES

A strong provincial economy starts with strong local economies. We want more small businesses to start and grow, more public spending to support BC suppliers and workers, and more economic decisions to be shaped by regions and First Nations. Our approach includes:

- Introduce province-wide commercial rent protections and give municipalities new tools to address long-term commercial vacancies.
- Make government easier for small businesses to navigate through a single front door for approvals, simpler forms and clearer timelines.
- Stand up to the multi-nationals and monopolies crushing small businesses. Investigate current impacts and create the conditions for local economies to succeed.
- Use public procurement to support BC businesses, workers and supply chains, including making contracts easier for smaller firms to compete for.
- Publish longer-term procurement plans so BC businesses can see what government will need and invest to supply it.
- Strengthen regional economic trusts and other local institutions with stable funding, and give First Nations, communities and local governments a stronger role in shaping regional economic priorities.
- Invest in the public infrastructure that supports regional economies, including tourism, recreation and better transportation connections.

2. ABUNDANT, AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE CLEAN POWER

Clean electricity is one of BC's greatest economic advantages. We want to use much more of it across transportation, buildings and industry, while giving households, First Nations, communities, and businesses a much bigger role in producing, owning and managing it. This will lower energy costs, keep more energy spending in BC and make our electricity system more resilient. Our approach includes:

- Restore one-for-one net metering and make rooftop solar much easier to install through a single, streamlined approval process.
- Enable certified plug-in balcony solar so renters and apartment residents can participate too.
- Offer low-cost on-bill financing for household solar, batteries and related electrical upgrades.
- Expand community-owned energy and make it easier for First Nations, municipalities, cooperatives and local organizations to develop generation and storage projects.
- Give BC Hydro a clear mandate to partner with households and communities to produce, store and manage electricity, and compensate them fairly for the value they provide to the grid.
- Set an initial target for electricity to supply at least 35% of BC's total energy needs by 2035 and build clean supply, grid capacity and workforce training ahead of demand.

3. MAKE AND RETAIN MORE VALUE IN BC

BC should get more lasting economic value from the resources, knowledge and public investment we already have. We want to build deeper supply chains here, support industries where BC can develop a lasting advantage, and create more good jobs in processing, manufacturing, technology and other higher-value activities. Green industrial policy will bring together electricity, infrastructure, skills, financing, research and public purchasing around areas where BC can build real strength. Our approach includes:

- Launch a green industrial strategy focused on a small number of areas where BC has strong foundations and growing opportunities.
- Use public purchasing, infrastructure, financing, workforce training and research to help BC businesses scale and build stronger domestic supply chains.
- Reset the forest sector around a sustainable fibre supply, regional planning, more local manufacturing and more value from every tree harvested.
- Build a responsible critical-minerals strategy focused on high environmental standards, recycling and recovery, and more processing and value-added activity where it makes sense in BC.
- Use public procurement and strategic investment to help promising BC technology and clean-technology companies grow here, with public returns when taxpayer-backed investments succeed.
- Restore strategic freight and passenger rail corridors to better connect businesses, workers and communities across the province.

4. A FAIR ECONOMY THAT SHARES PROSPERITY

The economy should give more people the opportunity to build dignified lives with financial security and well-funded public services. Today, people who earn their living through work pay tax as they earn it, while some of the largest fortunes can grow for years with relatively little return to British Columbians. We want a tax system that better reflects people's ability to contribute and raises the revenue needed for the infrastructure and public services that a productive economy depends on. Our approach includes:

- Introduce a progressive tax on extreme wealth above \$50 million, raising an estimated \$22.2 billion through a one-time levy, followed by an annual wealth tax expected to raise about \$5.4 billion a year, affecting roughly 0.1% of the population.
- Close wealth-tax loopholes through stronger valuation rules, reporting, enforcement and information-sharing with other governments.
- Reform resource royalties so British Columbians receive a fairer return from publicly owned resources, including restoring the 50% net-profit objective for oil and gas, which could raise nearly \$3 billion more in 2027/28 alone.
- Establish a minimum effective tax for large corporations so companies cannot stack deductions and tax breaks to reduce their provincial tax contribution below a reasonable floor.
- Introduce an excess-profits tax when major crises allow large corporations to earn extraordinary windfall profits.
- Pilot land-value taxation with interested communities, shifting more of the tax burden toward valuable land and away from new buildings and productive investment.

Labour

The BC Greens believe that we must protect workers' rights to secure an adequate income, to fair treatment and safety at work, and to be involved in workplace decision-making.

The Government must create the conditions for workers and businesses to thrive. For workers, the last years have been difficult; rampant inflation has eaten away at paycheques, new technologies have changed workplaces, and the trade dispute with the United States has rocked entire industries. In contrast, big businesses used inflation to hide their price-gouging during COVID-19, and Canadian billionaire wealth on the Forbes list grew by 37.2% between July 2023 and July 2025.⁶⁷ The effects of this are showing across the province; the living wage is now more than \$9 per hour higher than the minimum wage in Vancouver and Victoria,⁶⁸ and one in five visits to a food bank is by someone in full-time employment.⁶⁹ This is a fairness issue - one that splits across gender and ethnic groups; 47% of all racialized women working in Metro Vancouver earn less than the living wage.⁷⁰ In contrast, 38% of racialized men earn less than the living wage, as do 27% of non-racialized women and 22% of non-racialized men.⁷¹

Solutions lie in empowering the people who do the labour. Working people, employers, and unions should be involved in making decisions about issues in their workplaces, the economy, and the environment. Workplace democracy and collective organization are essential to address the inherent inequality of power between employers and employees. Sectoral bargaining, where employees working for different employers but in the same sector negotiate together is one way to achieve this, particularly in smaller workplaces and dispersed sectors, such as home healthcare. While a powerful tool for employees, many employers are also supportive, given the benefits of simplifying negotiations and bringing stability to a sector.⁷²

As new technologies, such as AI, become more widespread, the labour market impact will be widely felt. Youth unemployment (workers aged 15-24) is already higher than other age groups, reaching 13.2% in August 2026, compared to 6.5% for all ages. Faced with uncertainty, and with AI seen by some as a replacement for entry-level labour, firms are reluctant to hire new, especially younger staff. More work is needed to understand whether this is a permanent, structural change in response to new technology, or a reflection of current economic uncertainty.

The BC Greens will:

- Increase the minimum wage annually, at a rate of inflation +1%, until parity with the living wage is reached.
- Implement a pilot model of sectoral bargaining following a modified version of the 1992 Baigent-Ready model updated to reflect the 2026 economy and job market. The pilot would focus on especially precarious workers with minimal access to traditional collective bargaining, including migrant care workers, retail and service workers, and fast-food and food service workers.
- Develop a labour market impact assessment and strategy, in conjunction with business, unions, young people and academics, to respond to the structural employment challenges of AI and new technologies. This will include supports for workers displaced by new technologies, strategies for ensuring roles are available for young and inexperienced workers, and a review of how our employment insurance and social assistance systems need to adjust, such as moving to Universal Basic Income.

- Expand BC's successorship provisions to cover all workers who work in contracted industries when their business is sold or merged.
- Reverse the NDP's proposed direct delivery of refreshment beverages, which opens the door to the privatization of BC Liquor's distribution centres and related work.
- Implement indexed annual funding increases to the Labour Relations Board and Employment Standards Branch as well as immediate core-funding top-ups to address the ongoing issues with lengthy delays, administrative challenges, and growing workload.
- Establish an immediate expert panel to conduct a review to address the significant backlogs, delays, and inefficiencies at the Employment Standards Branch, which has struggled as an under-resourced and under-funded organization.
- Commit to all public infrastructure and construction projects being Project Labour Agreements or Community Benefit Agreements to ensure the work and wealth produced by these projects stays close to home and with the communities and workers that build them.
- Commit to having full-time worker representation on mine health and safety committees, ensuring every worker in BC returns home safe at the end of the day.
- Immediately reinstate a plan to build the BC Burnaby Hospital through a Project Labour Agreement, providing workers and Burnabarians with excellent jobs from construction to surgery and expanding healthcare services where we need it most.
- Upgrade the existing Pay Transparency legislation to implement Pay Equity, mirroring that already in place for federal workers, and ensuring all working people in BC, no matter their gender or race, receive equal pay for equal work.

⁶⁷ <https://bcpolicy.ca/2026/02/11/tax-the-rich/>

⁶⁸ <https://bcpolicy.ca/2026/05/28/wage-gap/>

⁶⁹ <https://foodbankscanada.ca/five-things-you-should-know-about-hunger-among-employed-people/>

⁷⁰ <https://bcpolicy.ca/2026/05/28/wage-gap/>

⁷¹ Ibid

⁷² <https://thetyee.ca/News/2025/10/10/Could-One-Change-Vulnerable-BC-Workers/>



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Small business

The BC Greens believe strong local economies are built around businesses rooted in the community.

Small businesses are part of almost every community and industry in British Columbia. They fill our main streets and industrial areas, employ local people, train workers and give people a way to build something of their own. BC has more than 524,000 small businesses, representing more than 98% of all businesses in the province.⁷³ As trade relationships shift and the global economy feels increasingly uncertain, we're reminded how important it is to have strong businesses rooted here in BC that can help our communities weather changes beyond our control. Small businesses also shape the places we call home and are a big part of what gives our communities character, brings people together and makes them places we want to live.

But running a small business has become increasingly difficult. Independent businesses have far less ability than large companies to absorb sudden increases in rent, property taxes and other costs. A business can spend years building a customer base and investing in a storefront, only to face a major rent increase when its lease comes up for renewal.

Government itself can also make operating a business harder than it needs to be. Starting or renovating a business can require dealing separately with provincial agencies, municipalities, health authorities and other regulators. Regulations protecting workers, consumers, public safety, and the environment are important, but unnecessary duplication and unclear requirements can disproportionately burden businesses without dedicated administrative staff. We believe small businesses shouldn't need a lawyer or consultant to understand what government requires.

We also need to think about what happens when local business owners retire. A healthy business can disappear, or be sold to a larger company outside the community, because employees, family members or local entrepreneurs cannot finance the purchase. Employee ownership, cooperatives and other tools to support local succession can preserve jobs, skills and ownership in the communities where they were built.⁷⁴

As BC Greens, we recognize the work and risk involved in building a small business, and the value those businesses bring to their communities. We want to give independent businesses more stability, make government easier to navigate and help more businesses and commercial spaces remain locally owned.

The BC Greens will:

- Introduce province-wide commercial rent protections, beginning with a commercial rent registry and phasing in limits on rent increases during tenancies, at renewal and between tenants. The system will include protections against evictions or non-renewals intended to avoid the rules, alongside a fair process for exceptional cost increases, major improvements and redevelopment.
- Give municipalities the power to tax persistently vacant commercial properties.
- Support local business succession and employee ownership by giving workers a first opportunity to buy businesses that are being sold or closed, and providing financing and expert support for transitions to employee, cooperative and other local ownership models.
- Create a Community Right to Buy for commercial properties, allowing existing tenants, First Nations, local governments, cooperatives and eligible community organizations to register an interest in commercial properties and receive the first opportunity to purchase when they are put up for sale.

- Adopt a “Think Small First” approach across government, requiring new regulations and administrative requirements to consider their impact on small businesses and avoid unnecessary complexity without weakening protections for workers, consumers or the environment.
- Create a single front door for business approvals, where businesses submit information once, and provincial ministries and agencies coordinate permits and licences behind the scenes. Work with and incentivize local governments to join the system, with common application forms, clear timelines and shared digital processes.
- Expand BC’s existing inter-municipal business licence system so more mobile businesses can work across neighbouring communities with one licence, and support more regions and municipalities to participate.
- Make provincial procurement more accessible by breaking large contracts into smaller opportunities and removing disproportionate administrative and qualification barriers, giving small and locally owned businesses a fair chance to compete for public work.
- Publish longer-term procurement plans so BC businesses know what government will need before contracts go to market, giving smaller firms time to invest, hire and build the capacity to compete.

⁷³ Government of British Columbia, [Better Regulations for British Columbians: Annual Report 2024/25](#)

⁷⁴ BC Chamber of Commerce, [Addressing Barriers to Succession Planning for Small & Medium Enterprises](#) (2025); BC Policy Solutions, [A Resilient Economy: Building Community Wealth and Economic Security in B.C.](#) (May 6, 2025)



Photo by Aida Sam on Unsplash

Arts and culture

The BC Greens believe that the Arts and Culture sector is central to the province's social and economic wellbeing. As we face increasing environmental instability, political polarization, and rising inequity, Arts and Culture continue to offer new ways to imagine, design, and build public life in the province.

The First Nations people of British Columbia are revitalizing their traditions of art, storytelling, and community resilience through self-determination and perseverance. Both the provincial and federal governments bear the responsibility to support and fund these vital, distinct cultures, allowing Indigenous peoples of this land to flourish. Repatriation, ceremony, and the sharing of knowledge and language are critical for future generations to understand their history and navigate their present.

More than ever, the BC Greens recognize that the artistic and cultural works created and practiced by British Columbians affirm our relationships to one another and to the world around us. In this way, art and culture are not simply entertainment, but the foundation on which we create connection, imagination, and worlds more just than this one.

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.

Colonization has involved the theft of First Nations' art and culture, alongside the destruction and burning of numerous heritage sites. Preserving the province's rich, vibrant history is essential, as is providing Indigenous communities with the resources to sustain their cultural practices.

Valuing Arts and Culture also means moving beyond a cost/benefit analysis and into an investment framework. It means recognizing that this sector's work can collectively shift our priorities and improve our economic and collective health in ways we have yet to imagine. This power is reflected in the reality that Arts and Culture is often the first to be hit when instability arises; it is no coincidence that this same sector gives us tools and opportunities to understand one another.

The BC Greens will:

Strengthen the arts, culture, and heritage sector in British Columbia through increased funding, strategic planning, and/or legislative reform.

- Increase the annual BC Arts Council budget to \$65 million to enhance support for arts and culture initiatives.
- Work in partnership with the sector to develop a provincial Arts, Culture, and Heritage Action Plan to guide future investments and initiatives.
- Collaborate with sector professionals to identify and develop legislative responses to the impacts of AI on the creative sector.
- Build partnerships with organizations and First Nations in rural, northern, and coastal regions to identify strategic plans and sustainable funding models for arts, culture, and heritage programming.

Supporting First Nations repatriation

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

Roll out the red carpet, not the red tape

- Make BC the easiest place in North America to actually get a permit and start rolling cameras, by working across all levels of government to ensure faster location approvals and simplified studio-use rules across all of BC's production hubs.
- Reform the film and TV tax credit to remove complications, ensure it enables and supports Canadian creatives, speeds up turnaround, and puts more local content in front of us.

Save small venues

- Create a dedicated “small live venue” licence class, with lower fees and simpler zoning for smaller venues booking local artists.



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Tourism and recreation

The BC Greens believe tourism should be good for the people who live here as well as the people who come to visit. We can grow local businesses and regional economies while protecting the landscapes, cultures and public spaces that make British Columbia worth experiencing.

Tourism is already a major part of British Columbia's regional economies. In 2024, it supported more than 113,000 direct jobs, paid \$5 billion in wages and salaries, and contributed nearly \$8 billion in real GDP.⁷⁵ Much of the sector is made up of small, locally rooted businesses, from accommodation and restaurants to guiding, transportation, arts and cultural experiences. Tourism also brings spending into communities from elsewhere in Canada and around the world, making it an important export industry and source of regional economic development.

People come to British Columbia for our mountains and coastlines, forests and wildlife, communities and cultures, and the recreation opportunities that make different parts of the province distinctive. These are advantages that cannot be moved or recreated somewhere else. Tourism gives communities an opportunity to build lasting prosperity without destroying the things that prosperity depends on. Healthy forests, clean water, wildlife and access to nature can support jobs and businesses for generations if we take care of them.

Tourism can also make communities better places to live. Better regional transit can help workers get to jobs, residents reach neighbouring communities, and visitors explore more of our province without having to rent an expensive car. Investments in parks, trails, public spaces, and cultural amenities can support tourism while improving daily life for residents. For rural and resource-dependent communities in particular, tourism can create new sources of local income and employment and help build a more diverse economy.

Our approach is to grow tourism in ways that leave communities stronger, keep more economic benefits local and protect the natural and cultural assets that make British Columbia somewhere people want to visit.

The BC Greens will:

- Increase annual funding for BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC by 50%, from \$76 million⁷⁶ to \$114 million, to expand year-round access, improve maintenance and visitor services, and better manage growing use.
- Create a \$30 million annual Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund for five years to build and improve trails, campsites, day-use areas and other public recreation infrastructure across BC, working with First Nations, communities and local recreation organizations.⁷⁷
- Expand the Adventure Tourism Hub into a permanent one-window system to make it easier for outdoor tourism businesses to secure permits and tenures on public land, with clear timelines, strong environmental standards and early First Nations involvement.
- Make it easier to explore BC without a car by expanding regional bus service, passenger rail and coastal passenger ferries between communities and major tourism destinations. Make the Sea-to-Sky an early priority for new regional bus and passenger rail connections, and develop similar links across BC.

- Provide stable, long-term funding to Indigenous Tourism BC to grow Indigenous-owned tourism businesses, train workers and support First Nations developing tourism on their own terms.
- Make the BC Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative⁷⁸ permanent, supporting businesses and communities with climate-adaptation planning, training and funding, and strengthening emergency communications so visitors get clear, local information during wildfires and other disruptions.
- Give tourism and recreation greater weight in land-use decisions by identifying established tourism areas in regional planning and considering the long-term impacts of major industrial development on the landscapes and local economies they depend on.
- Support communities to plan tourism growth around local priorities and capacity, including housing, transportation, infrastructure and pressure on natural areas. Help busy destinations focus on shoulder seasons, longer stays and greater local benefit, while supporting new destinations and locally owned businesses in communities with room to grow.
- Create dedicated tourism and hospitality workforce funding for training, career development and retention, with a focus on rural and seasonal communities.
- Create dedicated funding for workforce housing in tourism-dependent communities, supporting local governments and First Nations to secure land, service sites and build housing for year-round and seasonal workers.

⁷⁵ Government of British Columbia, [Tourism Research](#), Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

⁷⁶ Government of British Columbia, [Ministry of Environment and Parks: 2025 Estimates Notes](#), 2025

⁷⁷ Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, [Why Outdoor Recreation Needs a Stronger Commitment in BC's 2026 Budget](#)

⁷⁸ Destination British Columbia, [BC Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative](#)



Photo by Rahul Shanbhag on Unsplash

Technology and AI

The BC Greens believe that technology must be designed and operated to benefit and respect people, communities, individuals and the environment.

New technologies provide incredible opportunities for British Columbia to improve our quality of life, help solve the biggest problems facing us, and connect people across distances. But technology also brings big risks and challenges, especially frontier technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI).

At the forefront of a new technology, governments around the world have a responsibility to set the parameters for the use and design of these technologies - including how they interact with public services, personal information, and the built and natural world. In the case of AI, this is not only the systems themselves but the infrastructure they rely on, particularly electricity and water.⁷⁹ A single AI data centre can consume 438,000 to 700,800 megawatt-hours of electricity annually, equivalent to the electricity consumption of roughly 40,000 to 64,000 Canadian households.⁸⁰ Communities also report that AI data centres are noisy for residents and provide few stable jobs or local benefits.⁸¹

We have seen in other sectors the challenges of regulating once norms are in place and industry is established, and we are quickly running out of time to avoid the same mistakes with AI. This is especially pressing when technologies are targeted towards children and youth, or when they're used to inform government decision-making.

Algorithms can be biased black boxes that increasingly shape our thinking, lives, and decision-making. Whilst they have many potential benefits and uses, they are also difficult to challenge or scrutinize and can potentially amplify misinformation, cause harm to people, compromise privacy, create dehumanizing outcomes, and diminish livelihoods. The BC Greens are concerned that the Eby Government isn't taking these responsibilities seriously. When even AI companies are warning that their sector is unregulated, the pace of their development is too fast, and their products pose a risk to humanity and the climate,⁸² we must act faster.

The BC NDP has moved faster on AI adoption than regulation, and still has no standards or privacy protections that make sure the rights and privacy of British Columbians are fully protected.

These challenges extend to technologies already part of our daily lives. Social media algorithms, while useful, are often optimized to keep you on the app longer, feeding you paid content, and to provide you a curated experience rather than one of your own choosing. Australia is proposing legislation to force social media companies to give people an option to opt in or out of their algorithm, allowing you to choose your experience. We believe British Columbians deserve the same freedom, and will push the Federal Government to regulate social media companies accordingly.

The Eby Government may believe that AI and other social media companies can set their own rules, but the BC Greens believe you deserve better.

The BC Greens will:

- Put a moratorium on the construction and operation of AI data centres until a detailed public-interest audit is developed and an appropriate regulatory regime is implemented. This will include consideration of access to electricity and other public resources, the economic value created in BC alongside electricity and water use, impacts on communities and the environment, and demands on other public infrastructure.

- Introduce legislation within the first 100 days to ban retailers from using consumers' personal data to increase the price of goods for a specific consumer ('surveillance pricing'), following the 'Manitoba model' led by Premier Kinew.⁸³
- Work with the Federal Government to create an independent AI oversight commission so new AI is properly tested for safety and regulated before it's used in BC, because even the companies building it now say things are moving too fast.
- Ban the use of AI for surveillance of workers at all jobsites. Work with labour groups to develop a comprehensive plan to address unemployment related to AI automation.
- Enact a moratorium on the use of AI in classrooms from K-12 in order to develop a comprehensive response to AI in the classroom, and direction on safe, ethical use of AI with students. This includes protecting privacy, enforceable safeguards, digital literacy support for all educators, and working with the federal government to hold tech companies accountable for ensuring that systems are safe before they reach the classroom.
- Develop a labour market impact assessment and strategy, in conjunction with business, unions, young people and academics, to respond to the structural employment challenges of AI and new technologies. This will include supports for workers displaced by new technologies, strategies for ensuring roles are available for young and inexperienced workers, and a review of how our employment insurance and social assistance systems need to adjust, such as moving to Universal Basic Income.
- Work with the Federal Government to ensure social media companies allow an easily accessible option to opt out of their algorithms⁸⁴ - your feed, your choice.
- Strengthen the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to make privacy, security, transparency and accountability mandatory, including requirements for privacy-impact assessments for use of AI, disclosure when AI is involved in decision-making, and opportunities to challenge or correct an AI-assisted decision.
- Work with First Nations to ensure data sovereignty is protected.

⁷⁹ <https://unu.edu/inweh/news/environmental-cost-of-AIs-Energy-use-carbon-water-and-land-footprints>

⁸⁰ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ai-data-centre-opposition-explained-9.7225796>

⁸¹ <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/662fe7a3d2aa94403d829e56/t/6a5128b7a9a891460148951d/1783703735062/2606-UCL-AI-summary-03-v1.pdf>

⁸² <https://darioamodei.com/post/we-must-pace-the-frontier#why-pace>

⁸³ <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=73120&posted=2026-03-17>

⁸⁴ <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/my-feed-my-way>



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The BC Greens believe those who benefit most from BC's economy should contribute their fair share to the public services and communities that make that prosperity possible.

Most British Columbians contribute to society through income taxes. But for the very wealthy, much of their economic gain comes from rising values of shares, businesses, real estate, and other assets rather than a paycheck. This allows enormous fortunes to grow in ways that are treated very differently by our tax system than ordinary employment income. This also includes large corporations making extraordinary profits, valuable public resources that generate enormous private returns, and vast fortunes that can be passed between generations without being taxed in the same way as income earned through work.

The BC Greens will introduce the Fair Share Act to ensure that people with more than \$50 million in net wealth contribute their fair share. The Act will establish a one-time tax on extreme wealth, followed by a smaller annual wealth tax. It will affect only a very small number of the wealthiest households in British Columbia and would not increase taxes on ordinary British Columbians. Alongside it, we will strengthen taxes on extraordinary inheritances, large corporate profits and the value generated from publicly owned resources. Together, these measures will provide much-needed revenue to support community services, reduce costs for British Columbians and help put the province on a stronger fiscal footing.

Canadian household wealth grew by more than \$1 trillion in 2025,⁸⁵ largely because of appreciating financial assets, and the wealthiest 1% of families own almost a quarter of the country's net wealth.⁸⁶ British Columbia is a wealthy province, but an increasing share of that prosperity is concentrated among those who already have the most. Yet British Columbians are still being asked to make do with underfunded health care, education, and public services, while the public is told we don't have the resources to invest in the housing, infrastructure, and economy our future depends on. Cutting services, running ever-larger deficits, or asking ordinary British Columbians to pay more are not the only choices before us.

Paying tax is part of the shared responsibility. The infrastructure we build together, an educated and healthy workforce, strong public institutions and thriving communities all help create the conditions in which wealth can be built. Those who have accumulated extraordinary wealth, earned exceptional corporate profits or benefited from access to publicly owned resources have benefited enormously from these foundations, but our tax system does not currently require them to contribute their fair share toward maintaining them. The Fair Share Act would help to ensure that those who have benefited most from our economy contribute their fair share to building its future.

The BC Greens will:

- Introduce a one-time Fair Share tax on extreme wealth, beginning at 5% on net wealth above \$50 million, 10% above \$100 million, and 20% above \$1 billion. This is estimated to raise approximately \$22.2 billion after accounting for administrative costs and behavioural responses.
- Establish an ongoing annual tax on extreme wealth, beginning at 2% on net wealth above \$50 million, 3% above \$100 million, and 5% above \$1 billion. This is estimated to generate approximately \$5.4 billion each year.

- Establish a dedicated tax enforcement and design process to close wealth-tax loopholes as they emerge, including stronger rules around trusts, debt, asset valuation, residency and beneficial ownership, and work with other governments where information-sharing or enforcement requires federal or interprovincial cooperation.
- Develop a progressive tax on extraordinary inheritances above \$10 million, while leaving ordinary family inheritances untouched. Wealth passed down in fortunes worth tens or hundreds of millions of dollars should not receive more favourable treatment than wealth earned through work.
- Reform BC's oil and gas royalty system to achieve the Province's original objective of collecting 50% of net profits after production costs. In 2027/28, this would generate an estimated \$4.1 billion in natural gas royalties, nearly \$3 billion more than the Province currently forecasts. We will also review royalty regimes in mining, forestry and other areas to ensure British Columbians receive a fair return when companies profit from publicly owned resources.
- Develop a minimum effective provincial tax for large corporations so that tax credits, deductions and other preferences cannot be stacked to drive their corporate income tax contribution below a reasonable floor.
- Introduce a temporary excess-profits tax when major disruptions allow large companies to earn extraordinary profits far above their normal returns, with the additional revenue helping offset the costs imposed on households and the public.

⁸⁵ Statistics Canada, [National balance sheet and financial flow accounts, fourth quarter 2025](#), March 16, 2026

⁸⁶ Parliamentary Budget Officer, [Estimating the Top Tail of the Family Wealth Distribution in Canada: 2025 Update](#), 2025



Photo by Aditya Chindure on Unsplash

Pillar 4: Fight for the Future

People in BC want to be good stewards and ancestors. We want to leave this place better than we found it, with clean water, healthy rivers, and ancient forests still standing for our grandchildren. Your family should be able to breathe clean air all summer long, and not have to worry about climate-fuelled storms. Communities should have what they need to protect themselves when disasters like wildfires or floods hit. Reconciliation between the government and First Nations should be built on true partnership and the full truth of our shared history. And every vote should count, wherever it's cast.

That isn't what people in BC are getting. Summers are thick with wildfire smoke, and home insurance and energy bills keep climbing. Communities are left to rebuild after each disaster with too little support for the next one. Old-growth forests keep falling, and new fossil fuel projects keep getting approved amid a deepening climate crisis. The right is weaponizing and fear-mongering about reconciliation, while Indigenous rights are promised in law but not honoured in practice. And our voting system means many people cast a ballot that never counts toward who represents them.

It doesn't need to be this way.

The BC Greens will honour Indigenous rights in full, in true partnership with First Nations. We will build a climate plan that lives up to the science, with no new fossil fuel development. We will build renewable, clean energy and home retrofits that lower your bills and create thousands of good union jobs. Old-growth deferrals will be fully funded, with fair compensation for First Nations and forestry communities. Communities will have the resources to respond when disaster hits. And bringing in proportional representation will mean every vote counts. This is the BC we will build.

Believe in better. The BC Greens will fight for the future.



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Indigenous rights

The BC Greens recognize the inherent, existing, and inextinguishable rights of Indigenous peoples. We uphold Indigenous self-determination, address rights and title, and support the customary roles and lives of Indigenous peoples.

First Nations peoples have lived on and stewarded the lands of British Columbia since time immemorial. Indigenous people and nations contribute enormously to British Columbia, but the decades of federal and provincial Crown policy that created the residential school system, systemic racism in healthcare, education and employment, dispossession and displacement from lands and territory have resulted in a socioeconomic crisis for First Nations and Indigenous communities.

This is still marked by lower life expectancies for Indigenous peoples, who face disproportionate rates of homelessness, substance use challenges, drug toxicity deaths, suicide, police violence and imprisonment. The work ahead of us is to reverse these statistics, and through public policy, create the conditions for the flourishing of all Indigenous peoples and Nations in British Columbia.

Recent Court cases have laid bare the historic reality of illegal land dispossession. First Nations access to enough land to support their communities has, both historically and contemporaneously, been weaponized by bad-faith actors, further increasing the racism experienced by Indigenous people. First Nations in British Columbia 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.

The modern treaty process, and other constructive agreements, are important tools for the provincial government to uphold the honour of the Crown and provide an opportunity to resolve outstanding land claims, with appropriate improvements to the process and the determination of overlapping land claims.

Nations shouldn't have to choose between poverty and a pipeline. Governments have a duty to support genuine economic reconciliation that enables nations to plan and determine their own economic future.

Economic reconciliation is essential, but it is not enough. We must strive for full reconciliation, supporting Indigenous peoples as they heal from the damaging legacies of colonization. The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) provides a framework for reconciliation, outlining the work the Government must do to set the stage for this future. Free, prior and informed consent is crucial, especially in a time of fast tracking and trade wars. Leaders have been clear that "economic urgency does not override our inherent and constitutionally protected First Nations title and rights, nor does it diminish the Crown's obligation to consult and cooperate in good faith with First Nations in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent before approving or advancing projects affecting our lands, territories or resources",⁸⁷ and made clear the protections for Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirited people that must be centred in any discussion on extractive industry.

The BC Greens will:

- Remove uncertainty and opacity that currently exists by implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act through legislation.
- Support and improve the Modern Treaties process and expand the opportunities for other constructive agreements.
- 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.
- Work with the Federal Government to ensure Indigenous governments have access to stable and reliable revenue, comparable to other levels of government, allowing them to carry out their responsibilities to their constituency and make long-term planning decisions and capital investments to overcome their infrastructure deficit.
- 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.
- Enable the use of all Indigenous languages on government-issued identification, ensuring that people can reclaim their names.
- Provide education to all MLAs and public servants on the history of Indigenous peoples, including the legacy of residential schools, treaties, Indigenous law and Indigenous-Crown relations.
- Ensure the whole Legislative Assembly is responsible for stewarding the Crown-Indigenous relationship by re-establishing and renaming the Legislative Assembly's Aboriginal Affairs Standing Committee.
- Establish an expert advisory committee comprising specialists in Indigenous rights, DRIPA, and constitutional law. This committee will advise both the Legislative Assembly, through the Aboriginal Affairs Standing Committee, and Indigenous governments on legislative developments. Their advice will be made public.
- Co-develop a mechanism with Indigenous peoples for resolving Indigenous-Crown disputes proactively, to foster understanding and avoid litigation.

- Following calls to action from the Red Women Rising report and BCFNJC's Indigenous Women's Justice Plan, create a specialized and independent taskforce to investigate and prosecute open and cold cases of violence against Indigenous women, children, and Two-Spirited peoples. This taskforce will operate under civilian oversight from Indigenous communities, with a strong focus on women's leadership.
- Call on the Eby Government to issue a formal apology to the Cowichan and Gitxaala for mishandling his government's approach to DRIPA.
- Fund public education on DRIPA to combat misinformation.

⁸⁷ https://www.ubcic.bc.ca/ubcic_womens_declaration_protecting_our_women_and_our_lands



Photo by Julian Gentile on Unsplash

Climate change

The BC Greens believe British Columbia can lead on climate again by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, lowering energy costs and protecting the communities and places we love.

British Columbia has lost its way on climate change. We have legislated climate targets, but current policies are not projected to meet them. The Eby Government is supporting new LNG development, weakening policies intended to reduce transportation emissions, and backing away from climate action when it becomes politically difficult. The independent review of CleanBC confirmed that BC is off track and called for stronger action that also addresses affordability, the economy and the impacts of climate change.

We believe British Columbia can cut climate pollution, strengthen our economy and make life more affordable. Transportation, buildings, industry, and energy must all be part of meeting our climate targets, with policies that help people and businesses move away from fossil fuels and toward cleaner alternatives. Done well, this transition can create good jobs, strengthen communities and reduce our exposure to volatile fossil-fuel prices.

But building cleaner alternatives will not be enough if the government continues making decisions that lock BC into greater fossil-fuel dependence. New LNG terminals, pipelines and increased gas production are long-lived investments. Once built, they create pressure for continued extraction and continued emissions for decades. Proposed LNG development also risks cancelling out reductions being made by households and other industries by adding millions of tonnes of industrial emissions each year.

BC needs to begin a managed transition away from our dependence on fossil fuels. We will stop further expansion of fossil fuel production and infrastructure, require major polluters to reduce their emissions, and end public support for expanding the industry. Where oil and gas production continues during this transition, British Columbians should receive a fair return from publicly owned resources. We will reform resource royalties and strengthen industrial carbon pricing so that companies profiting from our resources and producing significant pollution contribute their fair share.

This transition needs to be planned with the people and communities most affected by it. First Nations, workers and resource-dependent communities should be part of shaping what comes next, with support for new industries, skills and economic opportunities. We want more of the benefits from BC's resources and the industries that replace them to remain in the communities where that economic activity takes place.

Climate action is also about protecting people from changes that are already underway. Wildfire, drought, extreme heat and flooding are damaging homes and infrastructure, threatening people's health and increasing costs for households, businesses and governments. The costs of climate change will continue to grow if we wait until after disasters happen to respond. BC needs to invest earlier in prevention and resilience, with stable funding that allows First Nations and local governments to plan for the long term and protect their communities.

The BC Greens will put the province on a new path. We will stop expanding fossil fuel production, plan for a managed transition away from fossil fuels, make major polluters pay their fair share, and help people and communities prepare for a changing climate. We will pair this with a major expansion of clean electricity and electrification, set out in our Renewable Electricity section.

The BC Greens will:

RENEW BC'S CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

- Treat the climate crisis like the emergency it is. We'll bring in a new provincial climate action plan that meets the targets demanded by the climate emergency, with clear sector-by-sector milestones, annual public reporting, and real consequences when government falls behind.
- Require major policies, infrastructure investments and industrial decisions to be assessed against BC's climate targets and climate risks.
- Maintain BC's legislated long-term climate targets and establish interim targets and accountability measures that reflect where emissions are today and keep the province on track for 2040 and 2050.
- Support First Nations to lead their own climate priorities through stable, long-term funding for community-led clean energy, adaptation, stewardship and economic development that builds lasting opportunities beyond fossil fuels.

STOP EXPANDING FOSSIL FUELS

- End approvals for new fracking expansion, LNG terminals and expansions, and new fossil-fuel pipelines in British Columbia.
- End provincial subsidies, tax preferences and public financing that encourage the expansion of fossil fuel production.
- Set a plan for the managed decline of existing oil and gas production consistent with BC's climate targets and planned with affected First Nations, workers and communities.
- Develop regional transition plans with First Nations, workers and resource-dependent communities, including support for economic diversification, training and good jobs.
- Require gas utilities to plan for declining fossil gas use and protect households from being left to pay for unnecessary or stranded gas infrastructure as BC moves toward cleaner forms of heating.
- Accelerate the phaseout of methane and eliminate routine venting, reduce flaring and address compressor and fugitive emissions.

MAKE POLLUTERS PAY

- Reform BC's oil and gas royalty framework to achieve its original objective of collecting 50% of net profits after production costs, with clear rules for allowable costs and public reporting on the royalties collected. For 2027/28, the province currently forecasts approximately \$1.14 billion in natural-gas royalties. We estimate that achieving the 50% objective would generate approximately \$4.09 billion - nearly \$3 billion more in a single year, and rising as gas production increases.
- Strengthen BC's industrial carbon-pricing system so major polluters face a meaningful and rising incentive to reduce their emissions, including by preventing an oversupply of credits from weakening the system.
- Require the oil and gas sector to reduce emissions in line with BC's climate targets, with a binding sectoral emissions cap if existing regulations and industrial carbon pricing do not deliver the required reductions.
- Introduce a windfall profits tax on extraordinary corporate profits, including in the fossil fuel sector.
- Restrict fossil fuel advertising and promotion, including advertising that encourages greater consumption of fossil fuels.

MAKE EFFICIENCY CHOICES AFFORDABLE

- Expand support for heat pumps, insulation and energy-efficiency upgrades, with the greatest support going to low and middle-income households.
- Make it easier to install heat pumps in existing homes and apartments by streamlining permitting and removing unnecessary regulatory and strata barriers.

- Provide on-bill utility financing for efficiency upgrades so the upfront cost does not prevent households from lowering their energy bills.
- Enforce a province-wide ban on gas hookups in all new buildings to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

CLEAN UP TRANSPORTATION

- Restore BC's requirement that 100% of new light-duty vehicle sales be zero-emission by 2035, reversing the government's decision to weaken the target to 75%.
- Phase in zero-emission requirements for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as technology becomes practical across sectors.
- Expand public charging across BC and make it easier for renters, strata residents and people living in multi-unit buildings to charge electric vehicles.

PREPARE BC FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

- Establish stable, long-term funding for First Nations and local governments to assess local climate risks and prepare for wildfire, flooding, drought, extreme heat and other hazards.
- Expand support to make homes and communities safer during extreme weather, including access to cooling, clean-air spaces, wildfire protection and resilience upgrades, with priority for people and communities least able to pay.
- Require new residential buildings and major renovations to be EV-ready, so charging can be added later without costly electrical retrofits.

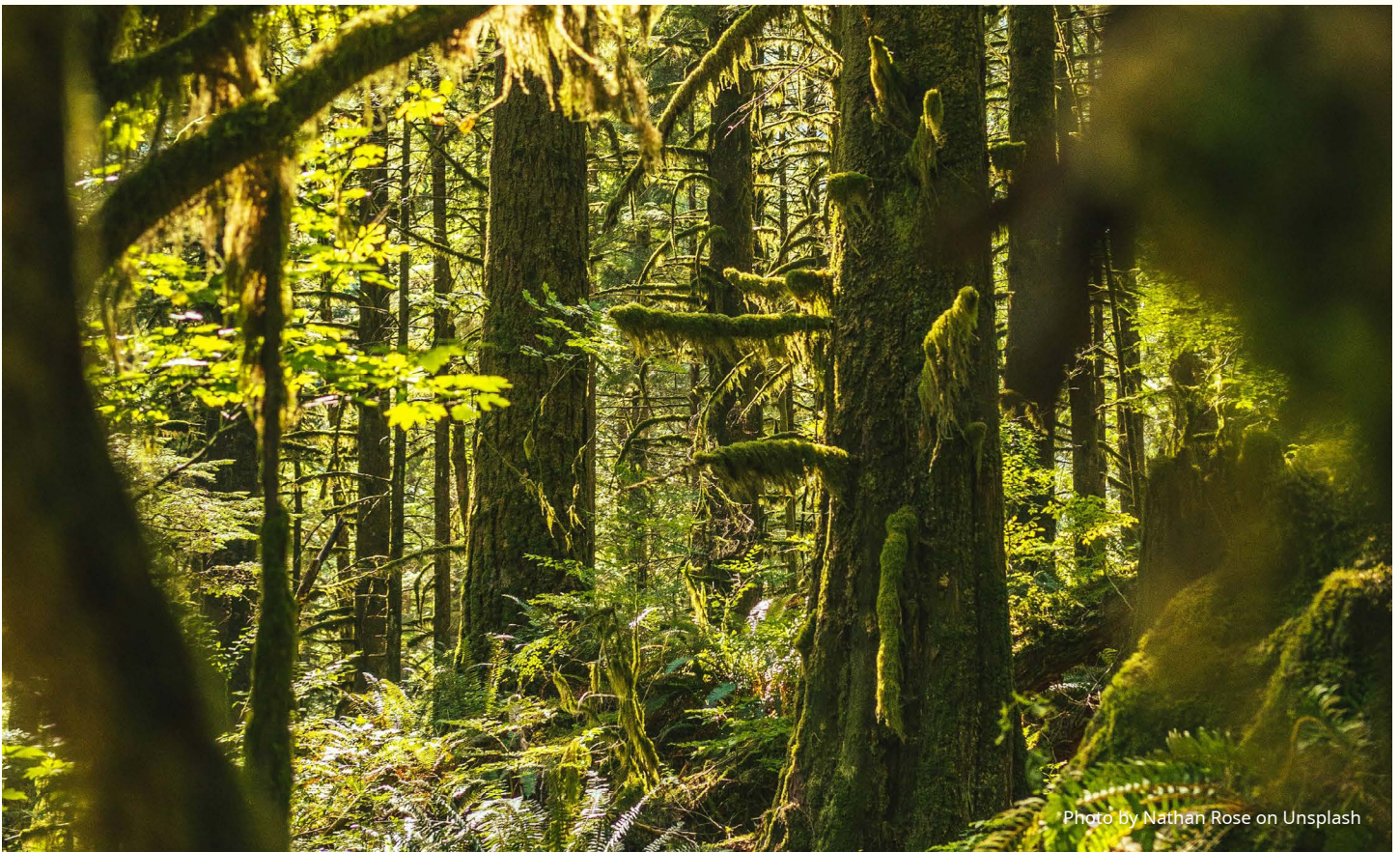


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Renewables & electrification

The BC Greens believe clean electricity should power BC's future, replacing expensive fossil fuels across our economy while keeping energy affordable. We will build an abundant and reliable electricity system in partnership with First Nations, communities and households that can produce, own and benefit from more of the energy we use.

The world is entering a new age of electricity. After decades of progress, renewable power and the technologies that store and use it are becoming cheaper, more capable and available at enormous scale. More than 90% of new renewable power projects built around the world last year produced electricity more cheaply than new fossil fuel power.⁸⁸ Recent wars, disrupted trade routes and volatile oil and gas prices have brought energy security back to the centre of economic policy. Electrification gives British Columbia a way to rely more on energy produced at home, spend less on volatile fossil fuels and cut pollution.

This creates a major opportunity for British Columbia. We already have one of the cleanest electricity systems in the world, a publicly owned utility and hydroelectric reservoirs that can work alongside growing amounts of wind, solar and storage. As economies worldwide invest in electrification, BC is starting with advantages many jurisdictions are spending billions to create.

But most of the energy we use in BC still comes from fossil fuels. Electricity currently provides less than 20% of the total energy used to heat our buildings, move people and goods, and power businesses and industry.⁸⁹ We want to change that balance. As vehicles switch from gasoline to electricity, buildings replace gas furnaces with heat pumps, and industries adopt electric technologies, we will target electricity supplying at least 35% of BC's total energy needs by 2035. We will plan the electricity system now to make sure the clean power is there when people and businesses need it.

We also have an opportunity to rethink how the electricity system works. Solar panels, batteries, electric vehicles, and smart devices allow electricity to be produced, stored, and managed across thousands of homes, businesses, and communities. These resources can reduce pressure on the grid and help meet growing demand more efficiently. We will make distributed energy a core part of electricity planning and ensure people are fairly compensated for the value they provide to the grid.

We will build this system without new large hydroelectric dams. New wind, solar and other renewable power can work alongside batteries, energy efficiency and flexible demand. BC's existing hydroelectric reservoirs are well suited to support a more diverse electricity system, allowing us to conserve water when wind and solar are abundant and generate power when they are not. Together, these resources can deliver much more renewable electricity while maintaining a reliable grid.

The transition will involve billions of dollars of new investment. We want more of the benefits to stay in BC. First Nations, local governments, cooperatives, households and businesses should have greater opportunities to own energy infrastructure, earn revenue from it and build local expertise and jobs. BC Hydro will remain publicly owned and at the centre of the system, while more British Columbians are able to participate in and benefit from the electricity economy growing around it.

⁸⁸ International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), [Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2025](#) (July 2026)

⁸⁹ CleanBC Independent Review Panel, [CleanBC Independent Review: Final Report](#) (November 2025)

The BC Greens will:

BUILD THE CLEAN POWER BC WILL NEED

- Set an initial target for electricity to supply at least 35% of BC's total energy needs by 2035, with shorter-term electrification targets and annual public reporting on progress.
- Direct BC Hydro to plan for a high-electrification future and build generation, transmission and distribution ahead of demand, supported by regular competitive calls for new renewable power.
- Maintain BC's requirement that, by 2030, 100% of electricity generated in BC and supplied to the integrated grid comes from clean or renewable resources.
- Rule out new large hydroelectric dams and meet future electricity demand through wind, solar, storage, efficiency and the flexibility of BC's existing hydroelectric system.

LAUNCH A RESIDENTIAL SOLAR & BATTERY STRATEGY

- Restore one-for-one net metering for households and small businesses, and keep it open to new customers until distributed solar supplies at least 5% of BC's electricity demand.
- Legalize certified plug-in balcony solar so renters, apartment residents and households without suitable rooftops can generate some of their own electricity.
- Create one province-wide approval process for standard rooftop solar and battery systems, with simple rules and automated permitting where possible.
- Expand low-cost on-bill financing for solar, batteries and electrical upgrades so households do not have to cover the full cost upfront.
- Require BC Hydro to treat household solar, batteries, electric vehicles and flexible demand as core parts of the electricity system, and fairly pay customers when their equipment supplies power or helps manage the grid.
- Create stronger ongoing electricity-bill support for low-income households as BC electrifies.

PUT MORE ENERGY OWNERSHIP IN COMMUNITY HANDS

- Create a Community Energy Project Office and standardized rules to help First Nations, local governments, cooperatives, strata corporations and community organizations develop and finance local solar, wind, storage and microgrid projects.
- Strengthen BC Hydro's new Community Generation Service by working with community proponents to remove barriers as they arise, including around project size, compensation, ownership and grid connection.
- Expand the Community Energy Diesel Reduction program so more remote First Nations can replace diesel generation with local renewable power, storage and microgrids.
- Use BC Hydro's purchasing power to grow BC and Canadian electricity supply chains, First Nations participation, apprenticeships and skilled trades.

MODERNIZE THE GRID

- BC Hydro is lagging behind on battery development – invest in their capacity to lead the way.
- Reform the Utilities Commission Act so the BCUC can approve investments ahead of demand and must consider BC's climate and electrification goals alongside affordability and reliability.
- Set clear service standards for new electricity connections, with transparent timelines, costs and technical requirements so households, businesses and clean-energy projects know when and how they can connect.
- Require BC Hydro and the BCUC to consider energy efficiency, flexible demand and storage before building new generation or grid infrastructure, choosing the lowest cost option that can reliably meet electricity needs.
- Move virtual power plants, smart charging and other flexible-energy programs from pilots into regular grid operations, with customers retaining control and being paid for the value they provide.

Forests

The BC Greens believe that healthy forests and thriving forestry communities both depend on planning for the long term. Decisions about how much we harvest should begin with what our forests, watersheds and communities can sustainably support, so that our forests remain healthy for generations.

British Columbia's forest ecosystems and forest economy are both in trouble. Harvest levels have declined, mills have closed, communities have lost jobs, and decades of management focused heavily on timber volume have damaged our ecosystems and left the next generation with difficult ecological and economic choices. We have cut too much, for too long. A lasting forestry economy cannot be built by trying to return to the harvest levels of the past.

The economic returns from the government's current approach have also collapsed, with provincial forest revenue providing just \$397 million in 2025/26.⁹⁰ Direct forest revenue now falls short of the operating cost of the Ministry of Forests. After decades of intensive harvesting on public land, this model is not economically or ecologically sustainable for the future.

For this reason, the BC Greens oppose the NDP's proposed Working Forest Model. This model starts with a target to increase the annual harvest by over 40% to 45 million cubic metres and seeks to secure the land base needed to meet it. This will lock much of BC's most productive, lower-elevation forests into industrial logging, including old growth and areas important for ecological health and watersheds. The proposed "no net loss" policy will also limit future conservation by fixing the amount of land available for timber production. Protecting additional areas will then require other land areas to be opened up into working forest zones. This starts in the wrong place. We should not decide how much timber we want to cut and then organize our public forests around supplying it.

Instead, regional forest planning should begin by identifying what each landscape needs to sustain ecosystem health, biodiversity, cultural values, watersheds, wildfire resilience and healthy communities. A sustainable fibre supply can then emerge from those plans, providing workers and businesses with a long-term forest-economy based within ecological limits.

That also means protecting forests that should no longer be part of the timber supply. We will permanently protect big-treed old growth and old second-growth forests from logging and invest in conservation financing to support First Nations and communities in protecting these forests. We will fully implement the Old Growth Strategic Review in partnership with First Nations, including its call to make ecosystem health and biodiversity an overarching priority in forest management.

BC forestry is already changing, whether we plan for it or not. The forests available for harvest are different than they were a generation ago, and many forestry communities are already living through mill closures and job losses. Our focus is on building a forest economy that can last for future generations. That means getting more value and supporting more jobs from the fibre we can sustainably harvest, expanding community and First Nations forestry, changing how we harvest, and helping each region build a sustainable economy around the forests it will have for generations to come.

The BC Greens will:

- Permanently protect big-treed old growth and large second-growth forests from logging, fully implement all 14 recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review in partnership with First Nations, and provide conservation financing to support Indigenous-led protection and replace foregone forestry revenues where needed.
- Reject the proposed Working Forest Model, including the 45 million cubic metre harvest objective and “no net loss” approach, and instead determine sustainable harvest levels through regional, area-based forest planning.
- End conventional clearcutting across BC’s public forests. Work with First Nations, forest communities, workers and the industry to transition away from conventional clearcutting and toward forestry that maintains forest structure and reflects the ecology of each landscape.
- Expand community and First Nations forestry by increasing the number and size of community forests, removing requirements that force them to maintain the Annual Allowable Cut, and working toward dedicating 20% of the AAC to community forests.
- Reform forest tenure so that more tenure is held by First Nations, communities and smaller operators rather than concentrated among a small number of large companies.
- Shift forestry toward partial harvesting, selective logging, commercial thinning, longer rotations and other practices that maintain more forest structure and better reflect the ecology of each landscape.
- Dedicate substantially more of BC’s available fibre to value-added production, with a short-term goal of directing 30% to 50% of available volume toward higher-value manufacturing and prioritizing small and independent producers.
- Diversify milling and secondary manufacturing so BC gets more jobs and economic value from every cubic metre harvested, including investment in facilities capable of using smaller-diameter and lower-quality fibre.
- End raw-log exports and close loopholes that allow minimally processed or rough-sawn wood to leave British Columbia without meaningful processing here.
- Share a greater portion of forest-resource revenues directly with First Nations, municipalities and regional districts so communities that host forestry receive more of its economic benefits.
- Ban the use of glyphosate and other chemical herbicides.
- Support forestry workers through the transition with dedicated retraining, upskilling and employment supports.
- Improve forest transparency and accountability by publishing current maps, harvest data and planning information, and strengthening government monitoring and enforcement of forest-management rules.
- Amend the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* to ensure basic ecological and cultural protections on private land.
- Protect a minimum of 30% by 2030 of BC’s lands and waters by working with First Nations and the Federal Government.

⁹⁰ BC Public Accounts 2025/26 <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/government-finances/public-accounts/2025-26/public-accounts-2025-26.pdf>

Wildfires

The BC Greens believe protecting communities from wildfire requires preparing before fires start and drawing on the knowledge, skills and capacity of people across BC.

Wildfire has become one of BC's most costly recurring emergencies. The 2023 season burned 2.84 million hectares and cost nearly \$1.1 billion to suppress, followed by another 1.08 million hectares and \$769 million in suppression costs in 2024.⁹¹ Climate change is making wildfires more frequent and extreme, and it is lengthening the wildfire season in BC.

The impacts reach far beyond the communities directly threatened by fire. Wildfire smoke can travel thousands of kilometres, affecting people across our province. It worsens asthma and other heart and lung conditions, drives emergency-room visits and hospital admissions, and growing evidence links repeated exposure to longer-term health impacts. The BC Centre for Disease Control has described wildfire and smoke as potentially one of the costliest health impacts of climate change in the province.⁹²

We will continue to provide and expand the resources needed for rapid detection, initial attack and community protection in every fire season, including planning for when several major fires are burning at once. But emergency response alone will not make communities safer over the long term. Our forestry plan addresses the conditions on the landscape that can make severe fire worse, including forest health and how we manage public forests. We also recognize that communities need practical protection now. That means reducing risk before fires start, strengthening local response, making better use of technology and local expertise, and ensuring people have the support to recover when fires do get through.

As wildfires become more severe, we cannot build our emergency system around the assumption that government will always have enough people and equipment to protect every property. People in BC know this, and it undermines trust when the emergency system does not acknowledge this reality. People staying behind to protect their homes without training or communication with professional responders can put themselves and others at serious risk. But we know that some people will choose to do so anyway. We should recognize that reality and bring more of this local capacity into the emergency response system. People with local knowledge, skills and equipment should have safe ways to contribute alongside professional responders, with proper training and clear roles under incident command.

There is no quick fix for wildfire in British Columbia. Decades of forest management have left many landscapes more vulnerable to severe fire, while climate change is bringing hotter, drier conditions and making the challenge harder. We will be dealing with these pressures well into the future. The BC Greens recognize the need to invest for the long term, learn from each fire season, and be willing to change how we prevent, prepare for and respond to wildfire as the risks change.

The BC Greens will:

- Expand Cooperative Community Wildfire Response⁹³ across BC, with provincial funding to train and equip local people before fire season and clear roles under BC Wildfire Service command, so communities can safely draw on local skills, equipment and knowledge when resources are stretched.
- Provide stable, multi-year FireSmart funding for First Nations and local governments, and expand grants for homeowners to make homes more wildfire-resistant through safer roofs, vents and siding, and better management of vegetation around buildings.

- Launch a rolling open competition for wildfire response technologies, giving BC companies and innovators an ongoing pathway to test, demonstrate and scale new solutions with the BC Wildfire Service. Prioritize made-in-BC technologies that improve wildfire detection, mapping, communications and response, and use public procurement to help successful companies grow, export their products and build a strong BC wildfire-technology sector.
- Create a wildfire insurance pilot for homeowners who cannot obtain reasonably affordable private coverage, using a pooled insurer-of-last-resort model similar to California's FAIR Plan. Guarantee access to basic coverage sufficient to rebuild after a fire, with lower premiums for homes that complete FireSmart and other wildfire-resilience upgrades.
- Create ready-to-use wildfire-resilient building standards for new construction that municipalities, regional districts and First Nations can opt into where wildfire risk is high. Ensure the standards can be met with practical, affordable materials wherever possible, and provide clear public guidance for homeowners and contractors on compliant products and construction methods.
- Invest in clean air centres in every community to provide safe environments during wildfire seasons and other air quality emergencies, ensuring they have appropriate and safe levels of air filtration and air conditioning and supplies to meet the needs of the community.
- Create a standing provincial disaster-recovery team that can deploy planners, engineers, procurement specialists, finance staff and other expertise to communities overwhelmed by a major disaster, giving small local governments and First Nations additional staff capacity while keeping recovery decisions in local hands.
- Expand cultural burning and prescribed fire across BC, supporting Indigenous leadership and partnerships in how fire is brought back onto the landscape, while investing in the crews, planning and funding needed to safely increase prescribed burning around communities and in high-risk areas.
- Increase wildfire training and equipment for volunteer, First Nations and municipal fire departments, including more capacity to protect homes and other structures at the wildland–urban interface.

⁹¹ Government of BC, [Wildfire Averages](#), 2026.

⁹² BC Centre for Disease Control, [Understanding the long-term health effects of exposure to wildfire smoke](#), 2026.

⁹³ BC Government, [Cooperative Community Wildfire Response](#), 2026.



Photo by RO Kazui on Unsplash

Farming and food

The BC Greens believe that by working towards food sovereignty, we can improve food security while creating a vibrant, sustainable food system that values farmers and strengthens community resilience.

As the climate crisis worsens and trade disputes continue, the ability of British Columbia to maintain our own food supply will become one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century. The BC Greens believe that food sovereignty is about more than economic resilience - it's about healthy and culturally appropriate food, about farming within ecological limits, about looking after the people and systems who produce food and put it on our tables.

In the words of the Nyéléni Declaration:

Food Sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and the right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of the food system rather than the demands of markets and corporations. It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation.

We urgently need to invest in food security, steward our farmland, and support our farmers. For too long, provincial agriculture policies have benefited large corporations and prioritized exports at the expense of local food systems and the economic well-being of family farms. The BC NDP have had years to address this issue, with the BC Greens introducing legislation to ban foreign ownership of farmland in 2017, which the NDP have consistently ignored.

The BC Greens will prioritize building a food system that puts local and regional economies first rather than the current system that seems to prioritize absentee investors and agribusiness conglomerates. We will ensure BC grown food ends up on BC tables, not just on container ships.

The Agricultural Land Reserve protects the 5% of British Columbia with the greatest agricultural capacity. It doesn't however, place limits on the ownership of that land - making British Columbia an outlier, risking the health of our agricultural system, and limiting opportunities for new and younger farmers. By protecting agricultural land in our communities, expanding local food production, and investing in local food systems and processing infrastructure, we will strengthen our regional food networks and reduce dependence on distant sources. This will create a more resilient and self-sufficient food system for all British Columbians. It also reduces the financialization of farmland - something that contributed to the average value of cultivated farmland rising 11.3% in 2024,⁹⁴ increasing pressure on new farmers and making farming less affordable. This is playing out in communities across British Columbia, with the town of Dunster, in the Robson Valley being a prime example. US-based billionaires have bought up 3,500 acres of Agricultural Land Reserve land in the small community, pushing up prices and leaving homes and properties vacant, hollowing out a tight-knit farming community.⁹⁵ The Dunster Farmland Coalition have been a driving force in pushing the Government to act on this issue, including bringing the extent of the issue to light, given the lack of transparency on foreign ownership of agricultural lands.

The BC Greens will:

- Protect BC's farms and food security by restricting non-resident and investment firm ownership of farmland. Specifically, the BC Greens will limit ownership of Agricultural Land Reserve Land parcels greater than 4 hectares only to citizens and permanent residents of British Columbia, unless they demonstrate intent to become residents and establish themselves within two years.
- Make food sovereignty part of the Agricultural Land Commission's mandate, to protect and prioritize agricultural use, and provide additional funding and staffing to fulfill that mandate.
- Unlock the next generation of farmers and protect and expand BC's reserve of farmland by establishing a publicly owned agricultural land bank for lease by new farmers.
- Improve public data on who owns BC's farmland, how ownership is changing and how agricultural land is being used, so governments, researchers and the public can better understand emerging trends and develop effective policy.
- Empower municipalities to be able to tax productive farmland that is being left idle.
- Develop a public interest test for significant farmland purchases to ensure that they support the long-term interests of BC's agricultural land base, food production, and farming communities.
- Incentivize regenerative farming practices that build healthier soils, improve water management, reduce energy use and sequester carbon.
- Streamline the approvals process 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.
- Facilitate public institutional procurement of local food, ensuring schools, hospitals and other institutions prioritize locally produced food.
- Support the development of systems to address food insecurity in First Nations communities that honour First Nations knowledge, values, harvesting areas and practices.
- Create a school food program that provides opportunities for schools, community organizations and farmers to promote sustainable practices and educate children on healthy eating habits.

⁹⁴ https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2025/fac-fcc/CC212-4-2024-eng.pdf

⁹⁵ <https://therockymountaingoat.com/2026/07/dunster-farmland-coalition-gains-momentum/>



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Clean air

The BC Greens believe every British Columbian should be able to breathe clean, healthy air at home, at school, at work and outdoors.

Wildfire smoke has become an unavoidable reality of BC summers, with communities across the province regularly facing smoky skies and air quality alerts. Climate change is contributing to more frequent and severe wildfires, exposing British Columbians to dangerous air pollution that can travel thousands of kilometres. Even at low concentrations, wildfire smoke poses serious health risks, and repeated exposure can have lasting consequences for our health.

The BC Greens believe we need to stop treating smoke as a short-term emergency that can be managed through warnings and advice alone. We need to start preparing our buildings, workplaces and communities for a reality that is becoming more frequent and severe.

Clean air should not depend on whether a family can afford an air purifier, whether a school happens to have a modern ventilation system, or whether an outdoor worker can afford to miss a shift. The Province has a responsibility to ensure people can breathe healthy air, particularly children, seniors and those most vulnerable to its effects. That means long-term planning and investment in clean-air infrastructure, from schools and care facilities to homes, workplaces and community spaces.

We also need stronger oversight of the air pollution we can control. As major industrial developments, including LNG facilities, expand across BC, communities deserve reliable, independent information about the pollutants being released into the air around them. Protecting public health requires better monitoring, transparent reporting and accountability for industrial emissions.

The BC Greens will:

Introduce a Clean Air Act that would protect people from wildfire smoke and industrial pollutants, including:

- Set health-based indoor air standards for schools, child care facilities, hospitals, long-term care and assisted living, post-secondary institutions and other public buildings, including standards for ventilation, filtration and fine particulate matter. This will ensure that every community has access to a designated clean air centre during wildfire smoke events.
- Require indoor air monitoring and public reporting in public institutions, and make health-based indoor air standards enforceable through the Public Health Act, with clear inspection, compliance and response requirements when standards are not met.
- Require public buildings to have wildfire smoke response plans, including access to effective filtration and cooling during smoke events.
- Direct WorkSafeBC to establish enforceable wildfire smoke protections for workers, including air-quality action levels, maximum exposure periods, requirements for employers to make appropriate protective equipment available, measures to modify or reschedule work, stop-work thresholds for non-essential outdoor work, and protection from reprisal for workers who raise air-quality concerns. These standards will recognize that some parts of BC can experience prolonged periods of wildfire smoke and focus on giving workers and employers the tools to protect health while allowing essential work and economic activity to continue safely.
- Update provincial building standards so new public and institutional buildings are designed to maintain healthy indoor air during wildfire smoke and extreme heat.

- Require continuous, independent air-quality monitoring around major industrial developments, including LNG facilities and oil and gas infrastructure, with public reporting of pollutants of concern and clear requirements to investigate and respond when measured pollution exceeds permitted levels or differs significantly from reported emissions.
- Require environmental assessments and industrial permitting to consider cumulative air pollution within an airshed, rather than assessing each major project in isolation.

To support this legislation, the BC Greens will:

- Fund upgrades to schools, hospitals, care facilities and other public buildings so they can meet the new clean-air standards, including high-efficiency filtration, ventilation and cooling.
- Provide portable HEPA air cleaners and replacement filters at little or no cost for low-income households and people at greater risk from wildfire smoke.
- Expand BC's air quality monitoring network where there are existing gaps and make local air quality information easy for the public to access.



Photo by Lee Robinson on Unsplash

Water

The BC Greens believe water should be clean, secure and healthy, sustaining communities, cultures, and ecosystems across British Columbia. Stewarding water is a shared public responsibility, and communities must have the resources and voice to shape decisions grounded in local realities.

British Columbia is shaped by water. Our rivers, lakes, wetlands, glaciers and groundwater systems supply drinking water, grow our food, sustain ecosystems, generate electricity, and support communities across the province. But the water systems British Columbians have long relied on are changing.

Drought has affected every major basin in BC over the last decade, and at least one region has reached Drought Level 4 or 5 every year since 2015.⁹⁶ In 2023, 85% of the province reached those levels. These are now common occurrences across the province, with communities facing threats to drinking-water supplies, farmers contending with water shortages at the height of the growing season, low and warm streams putting fish at risk, and reduced hydroelectric generation as electricity demand is growing.

These pressures are here for the long-term. Changing precipitation patterns, hotter summers, earlier snowmelt and the loss of glaciers are changing when and where water is available across our province. Healthy forests, wetlands and aquifers will become even more important for storing water and sustaining rivers and streams through dry periods. We need to prepare for a future where water scarcity is an annual reality rather than treating each drought as a temporary emergency.

Our current system was largely built for a time when water was assumed to be abundant. Water rights are still largely governed by a rigid first-in-time, first-in-right system. We do not consistently measure how much water major users withdraw, and many large industrial users pay only a few dollars for millions of litres of water. Communities and First Nations are often left trying to plan and restore watersheds without the authority, information or stable funding they need. POLIS' Drought Ready report describes many of these problems and calls for BC to move from reactive drought response toward continuous planning, adaptation and locally grounded watershed governance.

BC has spent years promising to modernize how we manage water, but much of that work remains incomplete. The Water Sustainability Act came into force a decade ago, yet the Province has still not completed a single Water Sustainability Plan. It also promised a Watershed Security Strategy developed with First Nations, but years later that strategy has still not been released. BC's water governance has not kept pace with a changing climate, leaving communities to deal with the consequences.

The BC Greens will move away from only reacting to water crises, towards a proactive long-term approach for water security. We will plan and make decisions at the watershed level, give communities and First Nations the resources and authority they need to steward their watersheds, protect the water to support healthy ecosystems, and ensure large industrial users measure and pay a fair price for the water they use.

The BC Greens will:

- Put a moratorium on the construction and operation of AI data centres until a detailed public-interest audit is developed and an appropriate regulatory regime is implemented. This will include consideration of access to electricity and other public resources, the economic value created in BC alongside electricity and water use, impacts on communities and the environment, and demands on other public infrastructure.
- Protect water resources for the benefit of people not profit, ensuring that drinking water, healthy ecosystems, and food security take priority over water use by AI data centres, industry, and bottled water companies.
- Release and implement BC's Watershed Security Strategy, developed with First Nations, with clear timelines, responsibilities, funding and annual public reporting on progress.
- Establish and fund regional watershed boards with First Nations, local governments and local water users to coordinate watershed planning, monitoring, restoration and proactive drought response, with meaningful authority over decisions affecting the watersheds they steward. Ensure major activities that affect watershed health, including forestry and development, are incorporated into watershed planning and accountable to watershed objectives.
- Use the tools within the Water Sustainability Act to their full potential where necessary, including critical environmental flow thresholds, responsive and flexible water license review and transfers, and water sustainability plans. Support communities and First Nations to lead these processes through locally driven monitoring and drought assessments, collective decision-making, planning guided by community objectives, and risk management strategies.
- Develop flexible water-sharing and reallocation processes that respect Indigenous rights, protect critical environmental flows and allow communities to respond to changing conditions before water shortages become emergencies.
- Modernize industrial water rental rates so that large industrial users pay a fair price for the water they use. Bring rates into line with other Canadian provinces, using Quebec as a minimum benchmark, while protecting household, agricultural and small-business users.
- Put the Watershed Security Fund on stable, long-term footing, with \$75 million in annual funding supported by modernized industrial water rates. This will fund Indigenous and community-led watershed governance, monitoring, restoration, planning and local watershed jobs including work to support restoring the landscape's ability to slow and store water, recharge aquifers, and cool waterways to protect aquatic life.
- Require major licensed water users to meter and publicly report how much water they actually use, and expand surface-water and groundwater monitoring across the province. Use that information to produce public water budgets and regular state-of-the-watershed reporting.
- Develop a provincial water storage strategy that helps regions prepare for increasingly limited water supplies, allowing them to continue to meet the needs of ecosystems, drinking water, and agriculture. This strategy should include guidance and resourcing to support the safe construction and management of community-scale storage, on-farm storage, and the natural storage capacity of the landscape.

⁹⁶ POLIS, [Drought Ready: From Crisis Response to Community & Watershed Resilience in B.C.](#), 2026

Democracy

The BC Greens believe that British Columbia deserves a trusted, effective, representative government.

Our democracy is in trouble. Governments are perceived as acting in their own interests - as exemplified by the snap election call - and the interests of corporations, rather than on behalf of ordinary people. Increasingly, the BC Government is seen as either unable or unwilling to substantively address the problems facing this province. Instead of committing to addressing climate change, the BC NDP has approved new LNG terminals and pipelines while pretending to act 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 housing crisis. Instead of being honest with British Columbians about the limitations of the government and the trade-offs that are being made, the BC NDP has introduced fees for information, increased their abilities to withhold information from freedom of information requests, and regularly passes legislation without full legislative scrutiny. Together, these failures have eroded trust in Government, contributing to a rise in right-wing populism, as exemplified by increasing support for the BC Conservatives and OneBC. First Nations British Columbians bear the brunt of this failure - in both their direct dealings with the government and in the racism that perpetuates society as a result.

The relationship between the provincial and municipal governments around the province has become strained, with the Eby Government implementing 'naughty lists', requiring staff to sign non-disclosure agreements before receiving even basic information, and downloading responsibilities and costs without commensurate funding.

Municipal governments of all kinds play an incredible role in providing services and vision for their areas. The BC Greens commit to upholding and supporting the mandate and vision of municipal governments across the province, and to building enduring connections that reflect true partnership.

To rebuild trust with British Columbians, the BC Greens propose a series of significant reforms to strengthen our democracy. Most importantly, we will make sure that every vote counts, ending the majority rule by minority support governments that have existed for too long. We will embed young people at the centre of our democracy - they are, after all, the people who will deal with the problems that we have, as yet, been unable to address.

The BC Greens will:

- Within the first 100 days of being elected, introduce legislation to implement a proportional representation system for the 2030 election.
- Extend voting rights to 16- and 17-year-olds, and introduce civics and voting education in schools.
- 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.
- Implement the recommendations of the Special Committee on Democratic and Electoral Reform.
- Strengthen the role of Legislative Assembly Committees as an oversight function, with responsibilities for tracking whether recommendations from expert panels and oversight agencies are implemented.
- Remove the fee for Freedom of Information requests and require all government departments and ministers to respond to requests within the legislative timeframes. We will repeal the changes made under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act 2026.
- Proactively release government materials, including ministerial calendars and departmental briefing notes.

- Enforce a minimum two-year stand-down period between holding a designated office in government and working in a lobbying role.
- 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.
- Limit the use of non-disclosure agreements for routine government business and consultations.
- Support libraries by increasing the provincial funding level from \$14 million to \$30 million per year.



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Costings

Detailed costings:

Plank	Total costs (\$ million)
Arts and culture	\$24
Child care ^{*see note 1}	\$260
Clean Air	\$50
Climate	\$100
Democracy	\$16.05
Education	\$587
Farming	\$90
Forests	See note 2
Groceries	\$100
Health	\$200
Housing	\$1800
Indigenous Rights ^{*See note 3}	\$71
Justice	\$131
MCFD	\$69
Mental Health	\$201
Poverty	\$4250
Post-Secondary Education	\$40
Renewables	\$50
Seniors [*]	See note 4
Tourism	\$73
Toxic Drugs	\$50
Transport	\$1000
Water	\$75
Wildfires ^{*see note 5}	\$40

Notes:

Note 1: This figure does not include the capital costs for new centres being built.

Note 2: Conservation financing mechanisms and funds to be developed through consultation with rights and title holders.

Note 3: This figure does not include the stable and reliable revenue for Indigenous governments, which will be worked through with Nations and the Federal Government.

Note 4: The enhancement of SAFER is included in the housing costs.

Note 5: This figure does not include the wildfire insurance pilot.

Revenue:

Source	Revenue (\$ million) 2027/28	Revenue (\$ million) 2028/29
One-time extreme wealth tax	\$22,200	
Ongoing extreme wealth tax		\$5,400
Oil and gas royalties	\$3,000	\$3,600
Fair water rental rates	\$142	\$142
Total	\$25,342	\$9,142

Detailed proposal for social assistance and disability supports^{97, 98}

	Current level of support (monthly)	Proposed level of support (MBM threshold, Vancouver) (monthly)	Number of households	Additional total cost (monthly)
Social Assistance				
Single person	\$1,060	\$2,681	48,497	\$78,613,637
Two adults, no children	\$1,650	\$3,741	1,144	\$2,392,104
Single adult with one or more children	\$1,405	\$3,741	14,239	\$33,262,304
Two adults and one or more children	\$1,845	\$4,535	2,683	\$7,217,270
Disability Assistance				
Single person	\$1,483.50	\$2,681	109,312	\$130,901,120
Two adults, no children	\$2,548.50	\$3,741	6,830	\$8,144,775
Single adult with one child	\$1,828.50	\$3,741	24,347	\$46,563,638
Two adults and one child	\$2,268.50	\$4,535	12,169	\$27,581,039

Total additional costs:

\$334,675,887 per month. \$4,016,110,644 per year.

Note: this is an estimate based on publicly available information.

⁹⁷ <https://maytree.com/changing-systems/data-measuring/welfare-in-canada/british-columbia/#adequacy-of-welfare-incomes>

⁹⁸ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1110010401>