

Nuu-chah-nulth questions for 2017 BC Provincial Election Candidates and Political Parties

1. The William/Tsilhqot'in decision changed the landscape in terms of **Aboriginal Title and Rights in BC and across Canada**, what are you and your party committed to doing to ensure that Aboriginal Title and Rights are respected, recognized, and implemented?

Aboriginal rights and title flow from the Proclamation of 1763 and are affirmed in the 1982 Constitution Act. Aboriginal rights and title, for the most part, have not been resolved by treaty in BC. The BC Green Party approach is to build a respectful relationship with Indigenous People that builds true partnership through ongoing dialogue; a commitment to respect court decisions and the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People; and a commitment to resolve Aboriginal Rights and Title issues.

2. While many First Nations still prefer to negotiate, what are you and your party committed to do to ensure that negotiations of **treaties, agreements or other constructive arrangements** occur in the Province of BC?

The BC Green Party is committed to collaboration with First Nations and the Federal government to renew and reinvigorate the treaty process. Ultimately the treaty process will be much more successful once a respectful collaborative relationship is established with First Nations on resource management.

3. What are you and your party committed to doing in terms of implementing the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released their 94 "Calls to Action"**? We have promised to implement the UNDRIP and all relevant recommendations from the TRC.

4. What are you and your party committed to doing to ensure there is action taken to address the issue so of **Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls**? I have personal experience with this issue as I knew some of the women who disappeared and were murdered from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. I will do everything in my power to push the Inquiry forward and to implement any recommendations arising from it. The BC Green Party and I are committed to addressing systemic racism in our judicial, health and education systems by: 1. Alloting \$50 million to support the increased use of restorative justice and other alternatives to the

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criminal justice system, and to provide related public education. 2. Increasing funding to recruit health service professionals from First Nations and ensuring culturally appropriate training and collaboration and 3. Increasing supports and funding for recruiting many more First Nations teachers and educators into the public school system and adequately funding significantly more cultural content into that curriculum.

5. First Nations Control of First Nations Education remains a priority for Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. What are you and your party committed to doing to ensure that the Province of BC advances First Nations Control of First Nations Education with BC First Nations? A BC Green government would work with the First Nations Leadership Council and nations, and the federal government to ensure control of your education.

6. First Nations Child and Family Services remain in a crisis in the Province of BC, with over 50% of all children in care in BC being Aboriginal. Due to inadequate funding from both the provincial and federal governments, the issue still remains at the forefront for Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. What are you and your party committed to do in terms of improving First Nations Child and Family Services in partnership with BC First Nations?

ENHANCE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES: Invest an additional \$100 million in child protection to hire additional social workers and staff to support social workers, and to implement incentives to attract social workers to rural and underserved regions.

TACKLE CHILD POVERTY: Identify strategies to address all aspects of child poverty in the province, including specific actions to address poverty affecting Indigenous children and families as part of a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy.

ENHANCE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: Work with stakeholders, including front line service delivery agencies, Indigenous people, local governments, educators, and community not-for profit agencies to address recommendations made by the Representative for Children and Youth, and the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth, including those regarding adoptions and foster care.

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:Engage with patients and their families as well as their care providers to identify the need for transition services and to determine the means to implement those services in the most efficient manner possible.

:Work collaboratively with First Nation communities to implement the recommendations from Grand Chief Ed John's report, Indigenous Resilience, Connectedness and Reunification: From Root Causes to Root Solutions

7. Although some believe that emergency services are the jurisdiction of the federal government for on-reserve emergencies, Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations believe the Province plays a critical role in **emergency response, management and preparedness**. What are you and your party committed to do to address emergency response and preparedness with Nuu-chah-nulth Nations?

A BC Green government will work hard to establish an equal partnership with First Nations and ensure equitable funding and support for all provincial jurisdictions.

8. BC's Ministry of Transportation plays an important role when it applies to **road access for our First Nations**. Are you committed to lobby and promote the paving of roads in and out of our remote/rural communities? (i.e. paving and improvements to communities such as Bamfield, Nitnaht, Zeballos and Fair Harbour etc.)

Mobility is critical for the resilience of remote and rural communities - for economic opportunities, social cohesion and educational and health-related activities. We are committed to ensuring all communities have the connectivity - both physical and virtual to ensure that resiliency. We will work hard to de-carbonize our transportation networks, so will work with local stakeholders to explore and support alternative modes of transportation such as low or no-carbon vehicles, ride-sharing and improving other modalities.

9. Reducing **poverty** remains a critical element to improving the life of First Nations people in BC. What are you and your party committed to do in terms of developing a provincial poverty reduction strategy and implementing it?

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We must complement initiatives to promote job creation and the ability of British Columbians to fill those jobs with a new approach to support people and families when they are between jobs, on low incomes, or experiencing other life transitions. There has been a lot of discussion recently about guaranteeing a basic livable income. If British Columbians are to be able to respond to the opportunities of the 21st century in a bold and entrepreneurial fashion, we must eliminate the fear of uncertainty that is brought by income insecurity. Many people who are not paid to work outside the home are making a major contribution to the quality of life of British Columbians through volunteering, caring for children or elderly relatives without financial reward. Women often take on this work and undervaluing their contribution often leaves them struggling to make ends meet. “Covering the Basics” is the least we, as a society, should do for them.

A BC Green Government will:

MOVE TOWARD LIVABLE INCOMES: Initiate the transition to livable incomes with an increase in Persons with Disabilities (PWD), income assistance and shelter allowance rates. Rates will increase by 10% effective October 1, 2017, rising to 50% above the current level on April 1, 2020. This increase will be supplemented by other programs to support those on assistance. Estimated cost of the program is \$79 million in 2017/18, rising to \$788 million in 2020/21. Existing assistance programs will be reviewed to ensure that they are efficient, effective and fair; and, that financial disincentives to work are avoided.

:Introduce a basic income support for youth aged 18 to 24, who are transitioning out of foster care. Estimated cost is \$60 million per year.

:Draw on experience in other jurisdictions to design a basic income pilot to test whether giving people a basic income is an effective way to reduce poverty, improve health, housing and employment.

ESTABLISH FAIR WAGES & LOW INCOME SUPPORT :Establish an at-arm’s-length Fair Wages Commission that will be tasked with establishing a new minimum wage and overseeing regular rate reviews. The commission will bring forward recommendations regarding strategies to address the discrepancy between minimum wages and livable wages. The commission will make its first report on a new minimum wage by November 30, 2017. The new minimum wage will become

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effective January 1, 2018. 26. Work with the federal government to provide a Low-Income Benefit of up to \$205 per month for low income families.

ABOLISH REGRESSIVE MSP PAYMENTS: Roll MSP payments into the payroll tax and personal income tax to ensure that they are administered in a more equitable and progressive manner.

- 10.** Nuu-chah-nulth communities have been devastated over the past several years in terms of **mental health and addictions**. What are you and your party committed to do to address mental health and addictions?

There are failures occurring at all levels in the system. Adults with severe needs are unable to get adequate access to adult tertiary care; less than 20% of the 1.2 million Canadian children and youth that are affected by mental illness will get appropriate treatment,⁷ there are limited resources for early detection in schools; and, there is fragmented programming for youth with mental illness transitioning into adulthood. Young people who are engaged in child and youth mental health services, and who require continued services, are often not well supported as they prepare to enter the adult mental health system. Transition-aged youth who disengage from mental health services are at a significantly higher risk of developing more enduring mental health problems later in life. Early intervention can improve quality of life and provide significant cost savings. Empowering youth, educators, and health professionals with a better understanding of mental health can help alleviate the social and economic impact of some mental health problems. The fentanyl crisis has highlighted the inadequacy of our addiction services, our lack of safe injection sites and naloxone training.

A BC Green government will:

FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH: Establish a Ministry responsible for mental health and addictions; which will be responsible for developing and implementing: • A Mental Health and Addiction Strategy based on the recommendations of the auditor general; • A Youth Mental Health Strategy for early detection of mental health illness.

PRIORITIZE EARLY INTERVENTION: Allocate \$80 million to fund early intervention, youth mental health initiatives, supervised injections sites, and community-based

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centres for mental health and rehabilitation.

INTEGRATE PRIMARY CARE: Implement an integrated primary care model specific to youth and mental health so that patients and their families can easily navigate resources in a supportive environment, and support innovative community-based options for responding to the needs of young people with mental illness and their families such as the Clubhouse International model.

RESPOND DECISIVELY TO THE FENTANYL CRISIS: Develop an immediate response to the fentanyl crisis based on successful programs in Europe that invest in treatment on demand, drug substitution, early-warning monitoring systems, and coordinated response.

11. Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations want to ensure that resources taken out of their Ha'wiih Hahoulthee (hereditary chiefs territories) is done to the highest environmental and sustainable standards, while also ensuring that **benefits such as revenue, jobs creation and decision making stay within both Nuu-chah-nulth and non-Indigenous/British Columbians within that specific electoral district**. How will you and your party ensure this happens for the betterment of all British Columbians?

Natural resources are a major source of income and employment to communities across B.C. However, development of resources without proper engagement with local communities, particularly including Indigenous People, has been a major source of conflict.

Natural resource projects in B.C. are a litany of conflict from which lawyers are the main beneficiaries. Our litigious approach is disrespectful, and a costly deterrent to project development. If we are to successfully and sustainably develop our resources, and support resilient First Nations communities, we need a fundamentally different approach that is inclusive, all encompassing, and without a pre-determined outcome.

The B.C. Green Party approach is to build a respectful relationship with Indigenous People, that builds true partnership through ongoing dialogue.

1. A B.C. Green government will recognize First Nations as equals in land management and establish a co-management stewardship model with Indigenous people for the development of provincial resources.

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- 12.** Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations want to ensure that there is a **government-to-government relationship between our First Nations and the Government of British Columbia in terms of management.** What are you and your party committed to do to ensure this occurs?

The BC Green Party approach is to build a respectful relationship with Indigenous People that builds true partnership through ongoing dialogue; a commitment to respect court decisions and the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People; and a commitment to resolve Aboriginal Rights and Title issues

*****Note***** BC Political Parties have answered BC First Nations Leadership Council questions with answers being seen here (link can be copied and pasted into web browser):

https://d3n8a8pro7vmx.cloudfront.net/ubcic/pages/1494/attachments/original/1492782272/2017April20_FNLC_ProvElec_PartyResponses.pdf?1492782272