

Reponses to the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council questionnaire from Scott Fraser, BC NDP Candidate in Mid Island-Pacific Rim

1. The Supreme Court of Canada *William/Tsilhqot'in* decision has been marginalized by Christy Clark, when it in fact establishes, for the first time in courts, that title as well as rights exist in BC. A BC NDP government will use that reality in conjunction with *United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* to provide real opportunities for partnerships and benefits for all. We will commit to work with First Nations to modernize our mandates, policies, and processes to reflect the legal decisions set out defining aboriginal title and rights.

2. The BC NDP recognize that First Nations may or may not chose to enter the BC Treaty Process and we respect those decisions, and will modernize our treaty process to come in line with case law, landmark decisions, and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP). For those not in the treaty process, we will ensure that mechanisms like UNDRIP guide us towards Reconciliation outside of the treaty process. In both cases an NDP government will proceed in partnership with Nations, a true partnership based on respect and recognition.

3. *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action are about the land, our children, and our shared future. We will not grow into a better future by denying the reality of First Nations' place in this province. The NDP will adopt the UNDRIP. That commitment is declared on page 83 of our election platform. The mandate letters to Ministers in an NDP government will require ministries to review policies, programs and legislation to determine how to make them consistent with UNDRIP. That will extend to a review of the polies and processes for negotiations. After 6 years of hearings and the testimony of over 6000 Survivors affected by residential schools, it is time for action. We will accept and act on the 94 Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report. We will work with First Nations and the Government of Canada to do this.

4. Call to Action 41 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's demanded a federal investigation into murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls, which is now underway. An NDP government under John Horgan will work closely with BC First Nations and the federal government to ensure that the outcomes and recommendations are given the highest priority. We will also continue to support the work done by groups like the Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, and the work done by Paul Lacerte's Moosehide Campaign, where men stand up against violence towards women and girls.

5. We will develop, in consultation with First Nations, a curriculum for indigenous languages and for indigenous history in Canada and BC, so that Indigenous children and their peers can learn the history with greater accuracy. We will provide support to indigenous communities seeking to revitalize connections to their languages.

6. We will implement the recommendation of Grand Chief Ed John's report and provide better supports to keep Aboriginal children at home and out of care. We will ensure Delegated Aboriginal Agencies are supported to offer core services at the same level offered to non-aboriginal children. When aboriginal children do enter care, we will ensure that basic care standards are met, that there is a plan for every child in care to connect them with their culture and communities, and that there is a plan for permanency.

7. We recognize that Nuu-chah-nulth are on the front lines when it comes to providing marine emergency services on the West Coast. We are deeply appreciative of Ahousat residents for heroic efforts that have saved so many lives. We will work to overcome federal and provincial jurisdictional conflicts, and ensure that the province is a true partner, so that Nuu-chah-nulth have all the supports required to provide these vital rescue services.

8. As the NDP MLA for Alberni-Pacific Rim, I spent most of 12 years lobbying the BC Liberal government for improvements on such roads. Paving is certainly an important goal, however, I believe the immediate priority needs to be bringing these roads up to public safety standards.

9. We are the only province in the country where government has refused to engage in a poverty reduction program, despite our introduction of private members' bills (multiple times) to the BC Legislature. Each time the Premier has refused to even bring them up for debate. An NDP government is committed to engaging in a full poverty reduction strategy. We will work closely with First Nations and local government to bring an end to poverty. From increasing the minimum wage, social assistance and disability rates, to building 114,000 social housing units over the next 10 years, we will seek partnerships with First Nations as part of our commitment.

10. We are creating an entirely new Ministry to address mental health and addiction services. They will work closely with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Ministry of Health, local governments, First Nations, and the educational and justice systems so patients get treatment early and effectively. We will establish a special initiative with First Nations Leaders and their communities to provide additional assistance where the impact of the crisis is greatest.

11. We will update our environmental assessment legislation and processes to ensure that they respect the legal rights of First Nations, and meet the public's expectation of a strong, transparent process that results in the best outcomes as part of a made in BC assessment process. We will improve environmental assessments to provide certainty to project proponents, First Nations, and all British Columbians, faster.

In partnership with First Nations and communities, we will modernize land-use planning to effectively and sustainably manage BC's ecosystems, rivers, lakes, watersheds, forests and old growth, while accounting for cumulative effects. We will take an evidence-based scientific approach and use the ecosystem-based management of the Great Bear Rainforest as a model.

12. We agree that we need a strong government-to-government relationship based on respect (Isaak) and recognition. We are committed to building this relationship with Nuu-chah-nulth using the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as our guide.