

The Green Party Sign Up Kit

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We're Rewriting The Political Map of British Columbia

Come Home
To The
Greens



British Columbia's
Green Party

The Green Party of B.C.
Leadership Fund
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Bioregionalism.

*A change in the consciousness of human beings
where we observe that the Earth
already has natural political boundaries.*

The twelve bioregions on this map
are based upon the natural drainage
of major river systems, climate
systems and the historical unions of
indigenous people. Your bioregion is
a natural interdependency of small
ecosystems and microclimates
around your home.

For a clearer view,
walk to the highest mountain
observable from where you're sitting
and you'll see how
the lines are drawn.

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I. Forests

Stop extremist

logging.

Start defending

B.C. jobs.

It doesn't take a Ph.D. in Soil Management to identify extremists in our public forests. Take a stroll through any industrial forest and you'll experience an extremist style of logging that destroys habitat, wilderness and spawning streams.

The Green Party believes we need moderate selective logging practices that preserve the jobs of hunters, trappers, guides, fishers and loggers. We need moderate logging practices that protect the thousands of mammal, bird, amphibian and insect species who call our forests home. We need moderate logging practices that protect the forests' ability to maintain its structural integrity with natural reseeding and intact biological systems in forest soils

Yet clearcut logging, already banned in Germany, has been entrenched by the N.D.P. government's new forest practices code and forest 'renewal' plan. This 'renewal' includes increased chemical pesticide and herbicide spraying to stop so-called 'competitive growth'. This 'renewal' includes cancellation of the public's right of appeal on individual logging plans.

The present policies proposed by the Mike Harcourt government only renew our ongoing human skill at transforming wonderfully fertile land into deserts. Meanwhile, Gordon Campbell's Liberals feel that current forest policies are too environmentally focussed because they attempt to limit clearcuts to 60 hectares.

Why is it that when the forest service in Washington state allows a forest company to cut trees in a public forest, Washington taxpayers receive eight times the revenue we do for the same trees in the same public forests on our side of the border? In the United States, companies still make a profit when they pay market value for the publicly owned trees they cut.

The sad truth is that transnational corporations with cutting rights to areas like Clayoquot Sound are being subsidized by you and me. The benefits from our natural resource, instead of being used to pay for our health care and our children's education are leaving our homeland as record profits posted by forest companies. Canadian timber is cheaper than timber in any other developed country and for each cubic metre, yields fewer jobs and benefits for us here in B.C..

When we granted private companies the license to cut our public trees, they promised us jobs in return. Instead, they broke this social contract and our jobs have been replaced by mechanized industrial harvesting machines that systematically devour vibrant ecosystems.

In return, it's only fair that we take back their licenses and return our forests to the union locals and small businesses who will rebuild our forest-dependent communities.

Green party policies for sustainable forestry:

- a ban on clearcut logging
- a moratorium on cutting in endangered ecosystems
- an immediate preservation of 12% of each ecosystem type (rather than 12% of land base) followed by a scientific audit of what percentage of additional land must be set aside to maintain biodiversity
- a study of compliance with Tree Farm License (T.F.L.) contracts by major corporations
- local forest tenure legislation — where 50% of shares in a forest company must be owned within 80km of the T.F.L. in which the company operates
- an immediate 400% increase in the size of riparian management areas to protect streams to bring us in line with U.S. legislation.
- prosecution of all violations to which forest companies have admitted
- a ban on export of raw logs, raw log cants and other minimally processed timber.
- development of alternative fibre crops for paper, including hemp, flax, barley and straw.

2. Deficits

Money isn't the only thing we shouldn't be borrowing from our children.

In its dying days, the Vander Zalm government reported borrowing \$2.2 billion from our children and grandchildren to pay for pre-election goodies. In 1994, the B.C. New Democrats reported that they have reduced our deficit so we are only borrowing \$900 million from our children this year. This is simply voodoo economics. Mike Harcourt is trying to hide \$1.5 billion of government spending in a special fund called BC2I which is not included in government accounting. Economists not on the government payroll calculate the real deficit for 1994 at \$2.4 billion.

(Having trouble imagining how much \$2.4 billion is? Take a day off for every dollar of deficit, and we get put well back into the Age of Dinosaurs.)

This missing \$1.2 billion is not, as government ads tell us, being used to 'build B.C. for the 21st century.' It is being used for good old fashioned, 1950s-style vote buying. More than three quarters of all BC2I spending has been used to lay asphalt for a public infrastructure that will become obsolete as increasingly expensive fuel prices take our cars off these roads. So much for preparing our B.C. economy for the realities of the 21st century. Where is the funding for energy efficient public transportation networks? Where are the rail line infrastructures? Have we really hired the navigator of the Titanic to plot our course for the future?

Our grandchildren are going to gnash their teeth and shed bitter tears over this stupidity. Mike Harcourt's years in government have doubled the burden of accumulated debt our children and grandchildren will pay in an age of increasing scarcity. But that financial debt is nothing compared to the huge environmental debts successive N.D.P. and Social Credit governments have piled up over the past twenty years, as this province has run a topsoil deficit, a forest deficit and an ozone deficit every single day they have held office.

Want to know what Mike Harcourt's forest deficit is this year? Don't even ask. Independent studies show that, thanks to our dependence on industry financed evaluations, the huge deficit between cutting and regrowth is up to 800% larger than panicked forest ministry officials now admit.

British Columbia desperately needs real leaders in our legislature to speak for our children and grandchildren against irresponsible financial and environmental decisions. If not, our children will pay our debts through massive tax increases, unemployment and poisoned air and water.

Green policies on deficits:

- increasing government revenues from ministries which sell public goods - forestry, mining
- cut to zero our annual forest deficit and institute proper accounting by our forest ministry— cubic metres logged = cubic metres regrown NOT acres logged = acres replanted
- a moratorium on development of valley bottom arable land
- intergenerational equality enshrined in legislation
- inclusion of crown corporations in figures on annual government borrowing
- truly balanced budget legislation

3. Kemano

*Greens and fishers
working together
for jobs and
the environment.*

The Kemano 'completion' project, scheduled for 1999 will complete a fifty year process of selling the rights to the entire wild Nechako River (the Fraser River's largest tributary) to a private corporation. Unlike B.C.'s other massive water diversion projects on the Columbia River and the Bennett dam on the Peace River, the Kemano project will never, ever return Fraser destined water to the Fraser River system. Instead, it will divert this water directly into the Pacific Ocean— and the Nechako's irrigation, fishing, recreation and water supply potential will disappear with it.

When the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union in Victoria asked the Green Party Energy critic to chair the local Nechako River stewardship coalition, we took this responsibility

seriously. In the next provincial election, a vote for the Green Party will be a vote in support of the municipal councils, farmers, cattlemen, fishermen, aboriginal bands, guides, outfitters and the river herself, whose survival depends on stopping Kemano completion.

Alcan Aluminum, the corporation which is 'buying' the river (Can a company actually 'buy' a river?) has guaranteed that although it will divert 88% of the Nechako river into the Pacific Ocean, not one salmon would be lost. Hmm. This is a peculiar guarantee, considering that Alcan has not even bothered to study silting, sedimentation, weed growth and other environmental impacts of the diversion. In fact, the experts in our fisheries ministry are under a gag order, and will lose their jobs if they reveal to us what the impacts of this water diversion will be. And the hearings Mike Harcourt set up to allegedly review Kemano Completion Project have been forbidden by the government to discuss Alcan's continuing and flagrant violation of the fisheries act.

What happened to the promise Mike Harcourt made to hold an environmental review of the project?

The Kemano completion will create a grand total of six permanent jobs for British Columbians. The completion will also create the permanent loss of the livelihood of hundreds of fishermen from Vancouver to Vanderhoof... the permanent loss of the jobs of hundreds of local farmers... the permanent loss of the water supply of thousands of people now living along the Nechako river... the permanent loss of 25% of the Fraser River's sockeye salmon... and the permanent eradication of a living river that has been pouring its flow across our planet for tens of thousands of years.

Green policies on water diversion:

- a moratorium on large scale hydroelectric development
- establishment of a rehabilitation fund for converting existing major hydroelectric projects into fish friendly ecosystems in watersheds affected by the Columbia River dams, W.A.C. Bennett Dam and the Kenney Dam
- coordinated water use policies on emission controls, hydroelectric development, forest practices, sewage treatment, and protection of fishing jobs
- government sponsorship of aboriginal lawsuits against Alcan
- a permanent ban on the Kemano completion
- prosecuting Alcan for its ongoing violation of fisheries legislation
- fighting for stable water levels in Columbia River treaty negotiations

Dear green friend

Just imagine what
NDP grabs people
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we share.

4. Communities

Bringing democracy home.

In the last fifty years, we've seen the transformation of self reliant communities into single industry, branch plants towns. We've watched our neighbourhoods being transformed into suburban sprawl.

This is our home, and Green policies start with the rehabilitation of our communities. We believe that high crime rates, unemployment and alienation from the political process share a common cause in our personal loss of community. Yet as urban and suburban British Columbians attempt to cope with massive growth, we find our governments deaf to our concerns.

The Green Party believes that decision making must be brought back into our neighbourhoods. We need to create communities that integrate agricultural, industrial, commercial and residential areas instead of suburban sprawl punctuated with occasional industrial parks and shopping malls. We need to re-establish urban communities by enhancing the roles of cycling, public transit and walking. While governments pay lip service to these goals, their actions are quite the opposite. Time and time again, property developers, asphalt pavers and car dealers win out over community values and our environment.

British Columbians need a provincial government which will walk their talk.

Transnational forest and mining companies are not the only organizations transforming the vibrant and diverse communities of rural B.C. into company towns. B.C. farmers are being forced to sell their land to golf course developers as cheap industrial food from chemical farms in Mexico and southern California continue to flood the Canadian market. The average bite of food we consume has traveled 1241km to our mouths. Government must help local farmers to preserve our agri-culture through subsidies on domestically produced organic foods, paid for by tariffs on those which are imported.

Communities in B.C. need to reclaim their economies, so that decisions about local employment are made by the people who live here, not by corporate boards in Vancouver, Toronto, or New York. Community forests, community farmland and community mineral resources should be awarded to local companies. To go beyond billboard ads encouraging us to buy B.C. products, Greens advocate a program of legislative and structural change to transform our economy to one which is locally self reliant and in harmony with our environment.

Green policies for communities:

- empowering neighbourhood meetings and referenda to make final decisions about park land acquisitions and zoning density
- making B.C. communities 75% self sufficient
- adding tariffs on imports of a product into a region which produces that product
- local tenure legislation - 50% of the shares in a forest company must be owned within the region it operates
- a program to reduce population growth to zero in over-stressed ecosystems in the Georgia basin and Okanagan valley until the region's carrying capacity is audited
- unilateral repudiation of the F.T.A. and N.A.F.T.A. by the B.C. government
- maintaining B.C.'s 75 school districts [Reform, Liberals and N.D.P. all plan to reduce the number to 50]
- a moratorium on road construction in Southern Vancouver Island and the Fraser Valley
- equalizing per capita subsidies on car users and those for bike and public transit users

5. Conscience

*B.C.'s New Democrats
promised us they'd put
people before profits.*

What happened?

When Mike Harcourt took office in 1991, the parents of inner city school children, people on social assistance, the working poor, aboriginal people and environmentalists breathed a collective sigh of relief. Now, at last, it was their turn to have government put their needs on equal terms with the well-heeled lobbyists and big money interests.

Mike Harcourt has broken their trust. Today, a welfare cheque has less buying power than it did when Bill Vander Zalm was forced to resign. Today, the average student in Vancouver receives 70% less library funding than in 1983 when Bill Bennett initiated his Restraint program. Under the Vander Zalm government, the mini-

imum wage increased at nearly twice the rate it has under the Harcourt government. And from Clayoquot Sound to the Nechako River, Mike Harcourt has put the interests of the powerful few ahead of his promise to safeguard our environment and the rights of aboriginal people.

When Mike Harcourt promised to get tough with 'welfare cheats and deadbeats,' people lost their welfare cheques. When Attorney General Colin Gableman promised to get tough with 'environmental extremists,' hundreds of peaceful protesters went to jail for their beliefs. With more than 300 confirmed violations of environmental legislation by forest companies in 1993, only two charges have been laid by the government. And Moe Sihota's 'tough enforcers' still haven't fixed a court date for one charge.

Mike Harcourt made a lot of promises before people trusted him with their votes in 1991. But the only promise he's kept, was that under an N.D.P. government it would be 'business as usual.'

British Columbians deserve better than 'business as usual.' We need a government who prepared to make the choices required to sustain us here in B.C. We need a government that will put our children's health, our jobs and our environment ahead of economic gain by the few. We need a government that is prepared to guide us through the economic and environmental challenges that lie ahead.

We need the Green Party in government.

Mike Harcourt will do if he gets in again. You've seen what happens when the and now we know what comes down when people vote 'strategically' to buy a lit-
er endangered ecosystems.
to make a difference? With your help, Forest Ministers can be held accountable for
of the law last year by forest companies. Premiers can be challenged on their wel-
green baiting. With elected Greens in the legislature, someone will finally have the
out against the mining of our forests and the poisoning of our agricultural land.
ader of the B.C. Green Party, I was arrested for my Green Party views on the
ridge in Clayoquot Sound. I spoke out for our forests at my trial in the B.C. Supreme
community forums from Port Alberni to McBride, I've raised my voice for the dream

... of hope for a sustainable planet without your support.
... province need a voice in the legislature. Our chil-
... need a voice in