

# British Columbia's Green Book

2009-2013

A Better Plan for British Columbia

- **Building A New Economy**
- **Caring For One Another**
- **Protecting Our Resources**
- **Reforming Government**

[www.bcgreens.ca](http://www.bcgreens.ca)

## Core Beliefs of Global Greens

### Participatory Democracy

Working to create proportionally elected governments that represent and engage citizens.

### Sustainability

Using natural resources wisely, to protect the rights and needs of future generations.

### Social Justice

Acknowledging that all humans have a fundamental right to health, well-being, and freedom.

### Respect for Diversity

Protecting and valuing all cultures and individuals while conserving variety in the natural world.

### Ecological Wisdom

Learning to live within the physical and biological limits of our Earth and to protect its life-giving nature.

### Non-Violence

Safe-guarding people’s security and freedom through cooperation and consensus-building.



printed in Canada on recycled paper

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## About the BC Greens

The Green Party is fiscally responsible, socially progressive, and environmentally conscious. We are committed to sustaining our economic competitiveness by greening our economy. Greening our economy will create new industries and tens of thousands of new jobs.

It is all about responsible government. The Green Party is dedicated to responsible fiscal management, greater accountability, and meaningful transparency in government. Greens seek to build resilience into the economy to avoid the shocks of boom and bust cycles that plague the current financial system. Increased efficiency and conservation will protect our natural resources and long-term planning will ensure future generations can be prosperous.

The Green Party cares about those who are vulnerable in our society. We believe a responsible government will encourage hard work and self-reliance as well as uniting citizens to create strong communities. Greens are committed to ending poverty in the province and to supporting those in need. We believe in working hard for a better future – a better future for all British Columbians.



**“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent; it is the one most adaptable to change.”**

**- Charles Darwin**

## **Message from the Leader**

### **March 2009**

The Green Party has a better plan to govern our province and we need your support to make it happen. The old politics of the NDP and Liberals are responsible for the social and economic problems we now face. Fortunately, there are other ideas.



The Greens have gathered solutions from you, the people of BC. Individual citizens, community groups, businesses, and First Nations peoples have helped us put together a better plan for our province. This plan is your voice and ensures you regain a say in governing this province. It includes measures to invest in a new green economy, improve healthcare, build affordable housing, and care for our families and neighbours. The BC Greens' plan is all about solutions – solutions that will allow us to flourish for generations.

With your support, we can work together for a prosperous future. With your support, we can build a better BC.

**Vote Green on May 12, Vote Yes to BC-STV.**

- Jane Sterk  
Leader, Green Party of BC

Solutions Today for Opportunities Tomorrow

"For 25 years BC Greens have been lobbying for green jobs. Clean technology and green-collar jobs are BC's future: they are its hope.

A vote for a Green MLA is a vote to engage the expertise of the private sector to research, develop, design and build clean technology, and a vote to maintain BC's strategic public control of its own resources.

BC will lead the region and the nation in building the green economy."

- Damian Kettlewell  
Candidate, Vancouver-False Creek  
& Deputy Leader



"One-industry communities suffer in times of challenge. A vibrant, healthy community is a diverse one, with innovation, local production and manufacturing and an ability to adapt rapidly to changing conditions. Localized, self-sustaining economies are stronger, healthier; and less subject to wild economic swings."

- Simon Lindley  
Candidate, Cowichan Valley



## Building a Strong Economy

### Job Creation in a Healthy Steady State Economy

By directing investment into infrastructure renewal, green technological advancements, and higher education we can transform the BC economy. Green Party policies would help create thousands of new jobs in BC by transitioning to clean industries and technologies. Significant economic opportunities would result from energy conservation, transit development, renewable energy generation, value-added forestry, fisheries regeneration, restoration of natural systems and service sector expansions. All of these jobs mean money flowing through the economy.

The Green Party's plan includes incentive pricing for the renewable energy sector as well as investments in energy-efficient building, building retrofits, sustainable agriculture, and value-added manufacturing. Greens would reduce the tax burden upon businesses that are responsible and sustainable. BC Greens will work with business and industry to create lasting green-collar jobs while simultaneously addressing climate change by reducing emissions.

### A Strong Green Economy Will

- Create thousands of new green-collar jobs
- Encourage small, local business and diverse local economies
- Shift taxes away from jobs and onto waste
- Measure genuine progress
- Reduce our dependence on gambling and oil and gas revenues

## Moving Toward Steady State Economics

All economies are embedded in and dependent on the biosphere for energy, materials, water and many other ecosystem services. Evidence suggests that the resources and natural systems of our planet cannot sustain unlimited economic expansion. Peak oil, climate change, accelerating species extinction, fresh water scarcity and nuclear power risks are among the more widely discussed threats.

Economic growth has not delivered as promised on full employment, eradication of poverty and environmental protection. A disconnect between rising incomes and happiness is more apparent than ever. For all these reasons, economic growth looks less and less viable as a long-term strategy, especially for rich countries.

Greens advocate for the gradual weaning of our economy away from a dependence on growth toward a steady-state economy that provides opportunities to add value through means other than growth. The Green Economic Plan will create jobs that are sustainable, increase the health and quality of life for future generations, and help create an economy that is resilient against sudden shocks.

While we move through this recession, Greens will spend more money than we take in; however, we are keenly aware that the money we spend today will need to be paid back by our children in the future. The economy of yesterday has placed us in fiscal and ecological deficits that we must work together to overcome.

### Key Goals

- Reduce our economy's dependence on growth and ever-increasing consumption
- Eliminate sources of pollution
- Create meaningful, lasting jobs
- Make better use of our natural resources

### BC Greens Will

- Increase taxes on industries and individual practices that cause pollution
- Decrease taxes on industries and individual practices that promote health
- Create new jobs and stimulate the economy by emphasizing local and regional economies
- Capitalize on the opportunity to build long-lasting infrastructure with a green stimulus package during the recession
- Return to balanced budgets as soon as possible
- Invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency and help shift our economy for the low-carbon demands of the future
- Reform tax structures to ensure competitive value-added industries
- End subsidies to sunset industries that are inefficient and wasteful
- Create a provincial Green Venture Capital Fund to encourage local green business start-ups to create green-collar jobs in green technologies and renewable energy sectors
- Provide assistance to family farms by supporting companies or co-operatives that offer warehousing, refrigeration, packaging and marketing so they can supply supermarket chains. This will enable small farms to compete with large agri-business.
- Shift government-supported research away from GMOs and energy-intensive agriculture and towards research into making organic food production commercially viable
- Invest in wild fisheries and large scale rehabilitation of habitat and spawning rivers

- Establish additional spaces in technical schools for retraining workers in the installation of solar photo-voltaic systems, geo-exchange home heating and cooling systems, and solar hot water systems and conducting general energy audits and performing minor energy efficiency upgrades
- Create a service program for youth to receive training and provide 6 months of service in repairing environmental damage, restoring natural habitats (including, for example, salmon habitat), building park and recreation infrastructure
- Facilitate First Nations participation as partners in projects that create long-term economic benefits
- Amend tax policy to allow municipalities to issue municipal bonds that are RRSP-eligible
- Introduce and enforce amendments to the BC *Business Corporations Act* to ensure that businesses operate in a manner that positively contributes to social, environmental, and economic prosperity
- Allocate one cent from PST to municipal governments for “Green Cities” initiatives, ensuring that the funding is used to reduce sprawl, generate local green energy, conserve electricity and water, increase densification, expand public transit, and build cycling and walking paths
- Create a BC Legacy Fund from oil and gas royalties in order to provide funds for municipal and community emission reduction programs and energy saving upgrades

## Green Economic Concepts

**Triple Bottom Line Accounting** – Prudent use of public finances means attending to three bottom lines: economic, social, and environmental. The Green Party would ensure all provincial ministries, agencies and government contractors use this accounting methodology. Triple-bottom line accounting practices ensure the public is not left paying huge social, health, and environmental clean-up costs in the future.

**Genuine Progress** – The Green Party supports establishing and monitoring a provincial Genuine Progress Index (GPI) in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. The GPI is a tool that will paint a much truer picture of our well-being than the outdated Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which only measures the quantity of market activity without accounting for social and ecological costs. The GPI values unpaid labour such as parenting and volunteer work and subtracts the costs of pollution and crime, the depletion of natural and non-renewable resources, and other economic activities that cause harm. The end goal is to establish measurable bottom lines for social and environmental indicators that, together with traditional financial indicators, better measure the well-being of BC citizens.

### Getting off Gambling

The Green Party supports a moratorium on gambling licences and a gradual phase-out of the most addictive forms of gambling such as slot machines and on-line gambling. The Green Party would use more of gambling tax revenues to help gambling addicts as well as to develop educational programs aimed at reducing gambling.



## Giving Small Business a Boost

Greens support investments in urban and rural BC communities. Bringing production and consumption closer together not only minimizes our ecological footprint, but it leads to increased diversity and decentralization within the economy. This greening of the economy, in turn, leads to greater resilience and resistance against the harmful uncertainties of boom and bust cycles.

In an era of capital uncertainty, the future health and stability of BC's economy lies in our small businesses. 98% of all businesses in BC are small to mid-sized enterprises (SMEs). In BC, over 370,000 entrepreneurs contribute to our diverse economy. SMEs employ more individuals per dollar transacted, invest money directly into the communities where they operate, and contribute to community spirit and quality of life. Government policies fail to recognize the importance of this business sector. BC Greens will take small to mid-sized businesses seriously and work with municipal and regional governments to ensure they are given every opportunity to succeed.

### Key Goals

- Create a business climate in which more locally owned business across a range of industries can prosper

### BC Greens Will

- Introduce Green Business, a program that will remove the provincial sales tax from made-in-BC goods, reduce costs through harmonizing the administration of the GST and PST, and remove administrative costs of complying with government regulations
- Introduce a Buy Green BC campaign that provides consumer incentives to buy made-in-BC green products and services
- Provide Small Power Producer (SPPs) Loan Guarantees – interest-free loans for small and mid-sized businesses to install net-metering and energy solutions such as solar, wind, and geothermal systems, allowing them to reduce their operating costs and to generate residual revenue

- Offer Clean Air Tax Credits – tax credits for business initiatives such as company car pool programs, 'Lights Off!' participation programs, implementation of logistics programs in deliveries and other carbon-reducing measures

### Advanced Technology

- Reduce taxes on advanced technology businesses to the same level afforded the film industry.
- Reinstate funding for Discovery BC to help turn BC research into commercial applications
- Establish a \$10 million research and development fund for on-the-ground pilot projects to help re-establish our global leadership in this area

### Arts and Culture

- Increase funding to the BC Arts Council
- Establish a separate Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Cooperate with other levels of government to provide funding for an indigenous peoples culture and arts plan for BC

### Ecotourism

- Restore interpretive services, rangers, and conservation officers as well as provide adequate funding to ensure that BC parks are on a par with national parks
- Re-open public campgrounds and upgrade aging infrastructure and trails
- Expand BC's protected areas system over the next ten years



## Fueling the Economy with Clean Energy

BC Greens will allocate funding for the building of green and clean renewable energy facilities with an emphasis on cooperative and municipally-owned utilities. We will ensure private producers and transmission operators are able to participate in a mixed public/private energy system. We favour the creation of regional energy production systems rather than inefficient, large-scale projects. These systems allow for a built-in resiliency in case of failure and create more long-term jobs than large-scale projects.

A new ministry – combining environment, energy, and climate change portfolios – will oversee a new BC Energy Authority responsible for all aspects of energy regulation and planning for the province. Elected Regional Resource Management Boards will establish a diversified portfolio of projects to meet regional requirements.

### Key Goals

- Get the province off oil and gas
- Power the province using only green and clean power
- Provide incentives for citizens and businesses to generate their own power and get off the grid
- Encourage new clean and green energy generation projects
- Promote local and district scale generation over remote projects

### What does Clean and Green Mean?

*Clean energy does not produce harmful by-products such as SO<sub>2</sub>, carbon dioxide, radioactive waste, and other toxic or harmful substances.*

*Green energy does minimal harm to the environment and its planning and development considers broader economic and social concerns.*

*In keeping with Green principles, green energy projects are smaller scale and managed regionally.*

## BC Greens Will

- Establish a Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
- Create a new BC Energy Authority (BCEA) to support the diversification of energy sources. BC Hydro would report to the new BCEA as would all new power producers
- Make BC Transmission Corp. a division of the BCEA
- Create a clear reporting relationship for the BCEA to the Ministry of Energy, Environment and Climate Change
- Mandate elected Regional Resource Management Boards that report to the BCEA for planning purposes, and approval of regional energy generation and distribution systems
- Require the new BCEA to eliminate the current calls for power, and to implement Feed-in-Tariffs that will:
  - Promote the development of geothermal, solar, ocean and wind power generation
  - Favour local generation projects
  - Favour cooperative and public ownership as well as Small Power Producers (SSPs)
- Repeal Bill 30 – 2006 Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2), 2006 which prevents local oversight of public resources and include local and regional government representation on the new elected Regional Resource Management Boards
- Halt all river-based energy generation projects pending stricter environmental assessment
- Require methane capture and power generation plants at all wastewater and landfill sites
- Restore public ownership of the Nechako/Kemano generation system
- Phase out all power imports from fossil fuels or other greenhouse gas emitting sources
- Require that BCs short- and long-term energy needs be fully met first, before foreign energy sales take place
- Prohibit the use of food products other than local food waste products for the production of fuels

"Eighty-five per cent of BC's electrical power supply stems from hydro-based generation systems. It is imperative that we diversify our generation systems so that we are not reliant on any single method for our electricity needs – especially if global warming cannot be halted and our water supply dwindles. We need to invest in geothermal, wind, ocean and solar methods of power production."

- Heather Drugge  
Energy Policy Analyst, Green Party



## Energy Action Timeline

Year	Action
<b>2009</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Create new Ministry of Energy, Environment &amp; Climate Change and a new BC Energy Authority</li> <li>– Design Regional Resource Management Boards</li> <li>– Implement a Feed-in Tariff incentive program</li> <li>– Halt all river-based hydro projects pending stricter environmental assessment process</li> <li>– Halt the import of energy from fossil fuel-based generation systems</li> <li>– Return Kemano to the public</li> <li>– Ban cosmetic gas fireplaces from new developments</li> </ul>
<b>2012</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Smart metering fully implemented</li> <li>– Methane capture on landfills and wastewater treatment plants</li> </ul>
<b>2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Decommissioning of all natural gas and diesel power stations</li> </ul>
<b>2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All new public buildings net GHG zero and energy self-sufficient</li> </ul>
<b>2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All new housing net GHG zero</li> <li>– Ban on bio-fuels not derived exclusively from waste sources that would otherwise release GHGs</li> <li>– Halt coal mining and export industry for energy generation</li> <li>– Halt oil and gas mining and export industry for energy generation</li> </ul>
<b>2030</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Vancouver Island is energy self sufficient</li> <li>– Gasoline powered vehicles phased out</li> </ul>
<b>2100</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Decommission Peace, Columbia, Kootenay, Nechako and other river-based generation systems</li> <li>– BC is fully powered by clean and green energy</li> </ul>

## Planning Better Transportation

The Green Party is committed to improving the quality of life in communities by providing a variety of clean, affordable, and efficient transportation options. These options include walkable neighbourhoods, cycling networks and infrastructure, bus systems that provide frequent and affordable service, and rail of all forms (light rail, commuter and distance passenger rail and freight). Evidence shows we cannot build our way out of traffic grid-lock. Building new superhighways and bridges simply leads to urban sprawl and increases long-term overcrowding.

### Key Goals

- Limit urban sprawl
- Encourage walking and cycling
- Improve public oversight of transportation system planning

### BC Greens Will

- Prioritize provincial, regional and municipal transportation policy and projects, according to the following hierarchy:  
Pedestrians, Cycling, Transit, Commercial and Goods Vehicles, Taxis, High Occupancy Vehicles, Single Occupant Vehicles
- Ensure the provincial government pays the fair share cost of major capital transport infrastructure, including transit and cycling facilities
- Implement tax-shifting policies that encourage the use of and pay for the provision of sustainable transportation options such as transit, cycling and walking
- Re-establish BC Ferries as a Crown corporation with a mandate to serve the BC public as a waterway extension of the public highway system and require that all BC ferries be built in BC
- Cancel all Gateway projects, including new bridge construction, highway widening in the lower mainland and the pipeline project in the north and the energy corridor through central BC

- Establish community rail service on, but not limited to, the E&N Railway on Vancouver Island and the former Interurban Line in the Fraser Valley
- Require all Official Community Plans to include a complete streets policy, detailing plans for pedestrians, cyclists and people in wheelchairs and other assistive modes of transportation
- Tie ICBC rates to the distance driven (Pay-As-You-Drive (PAYD) vehicle insurance), vehicle type and vehicle age
- Expand the HOV network
- Introduce Location Efficient Mortgages, enabling car-free citizens to afford housing in urban centres
- Study the implementation of various incentives and disincentives that support sustainable transportation infrastructure, such as tax increment financing, tax base sharing, vehicle registration fees, congestion pricing, local option sales taxes, and parking site taxes

"A Green transportation strategy will connect communities through efficient, cost-effective and sustainable transportation measures. As we move to give British Columbians equitable access to public transit, we will also move to reform automotive insurance to be more fair for motorists while also helping the environment."

- Trevor Loke  
Candidate, Surrey Newton.



## Getting the Games Right

The Green Party supports our Canadian athletes and recognizes the importance of celebrating sporting excellence in BC. We also recognize that a comprehensive economic plan for the Olympics has not been made public and the governance of the games has been characterized by a lack of transparency. Mis-spending, cost overruns, and secrecy have tainted the Olympic project and BC citizens remain responsible for any financial shortfalls incurred as a result of hosting the Olympics. Vulnerable members of society suffer disproportionately from post-Games spending cuts and rising property values.

Greens believe that the Olympic movement must do more to acknowledge the ongoing BC treaty process and the long-term First Nations' development issues that may be adversely affected by the Games. While Olympic investment may provide some beneficial economic stimulus, we must also account for related social and environmental costs. For all these reasons, we believe that the BC government must co-ordinate more effectively with the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC) to ensure that the Games remain economically viable, socially and environmentally responsible, and fully inclusive.

### Key Goals

- Reaffirm Olympic commitments to balanced decision making, inclusiveness, equity, and healthier communities
- Bring public oversight to Olympic budgetary information and create a best-practices plan for minimizing Olympics-related cost overruns

### BC Greens Will

- Preserve the value of new facilities to ensure communities benefit from them over the long run
- Recognize and compensate the four host First Nations
- Require VANOC to create a central budgetary reporting authority that is accountable to the public
- Request an Auditor General's report on Games-related costs

- Increase funding for Games-related subsidized housing and use the Games as an opportunity to find solutions for unmet housing needs
- Ensure Olympic security measures do not violate British Columbians' civil liberties
- Provide for the long-term financial, social, and environmental sustainability of Olympic Legacy Projects and facilities

"While the BC Green Party sees the importance to our culture of the celebration of sporting excellence, the Olympics have unfortunately become economic drains for hosting cities. Why not reuse existing sites around the world instead?"

- Jodie Emery  
Candidate, Vancouver-Fraserview



“The current arrangement of health authorities is full of unworkable extremes: one health authority is responsible for 64% of the area of BC; another serves 1.5 million people; a third provides services to both dense downtown Vancouver and the sparsely populated Central Coast. Greens will replace the current oversized health authorities with more manageable, regional health trusts.”

-Tom Bradfield  
Candidate, Saanich North and the Islands

## Caring for One Another

### Improved Health and Vibrant Communities

The Green Party is dedicated to striving for improved personal health, strong social structures, support for families and inclusive communities. We believe caring for one another starts with our children. This means providing appropriate supports for at-risk children and families, improving access to quality childcare based in early education principles and supporting education designed for the new century.

Our healthcare plan involves improving people’s overall health by transitioning priorities in services and financing to preventative strategies. We will ensure there are adequate dollars for acute and hospital care and then make wellness and public health the focus of our healthcare system.

By building a stronger financial future for British Columbia based on new, clean industries, we will procure needed investment capital for the programs and services that will improve the lives of all British Columbians.

### A Society that Cares Will:

- Improve our health
- Educate our citizens
- Provide for seniors
- Treat workers fairly
- End homelessness and poverty
- Create local support systems that promote health, child welfare and accessibility for people with disabilities and the aging
- Regulate substance use

## Promoting Healthy Living

We spend proportionally far too much on disease management as opposed to undertaking broad, integrated preventive measures to improve our health. British Columbians will become healthier through green initiatives that reduce environmental pollutants such as pesticides, carbon emissions, and toxic chemicals. The Green Party supports initiatives that promote healthier lifestyles through better nutrition and increased physical activity. By cleaning and greening our environment, we reduce cancer, asthma, and other illnesses.

### Key Goals

- Eliminate toxins that contribute to poor health
- Focus on creating lifestyles and environments that promote health
- Invest in public health and preventative measures

### Our Commitment

We are committed to working with many stakeholders (policy-makers, community groups, health agencies, multiple levels of government, the private sector) to reduce, eliminate, or overcome those factors that harm health or act as barriers to health enhancement. We will promote those factors that enhance the health, well-being and quality of life of all Canadians.

### BC Greens Will

- Enforce existing laws for industrial pollution, increase pollution fines, and create a graduated pollution tax that increases with the amount of pollution
- Legislate a province-wide ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides for residential, institutional and business properties, remove chemical pesticides from retail sales and work with the agriculture and forestry industries to reduce and eliminate pesticide use
- Implement Right-to-Know Product labeling legislation, requiring a clear hazard symbol on products that contain carcinogens

- Eliminate the import and use of products containing the most toxic substances, including carcinogens, endocrine-disrupters and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). This list will include Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE), a toxic chemical used in many household products as a flame retardant.
- Increase tobacco taxes
- Reinstate and expand Medical Service Plan (MSP) coverage to include preventative treatments such as chiropractic, physiotherapy, eye exams, massage therapy and routine physical exams
- Expand MSP coverage for preventative measures such as counselling for addictions, weight control and stress reduction
- Institute a junk food tax
- Reduce exposure to electro-magnetic fields generated by wireless networks, cell phone towers and electrical transmission systems

## Dealing with Rising Drug Costs

Recognizing that spiraling PharmaCare costs have now eclipsed all other health care expenditures, the Green Party supports a public inquiry into the rising cost and over-prescription of drugs.

### BC Greens Will

Commission a cost-benefit analysis on the feasibility of establishing a new Crown corporation to bulk purchase and dispense generic drugs to pharmacies in BC.



## Caring for the Sick

We are facing a crisis in BC's public health care system that has been more than two decades in the making. It started in the 1990s with decreases in federal government transfer payments and decisions by the provincial NDP to cut the number of health care professionals trained in BC, to reduce funding for mental health, and to eliminate home support for seniors. Then the Liberals closed hospitals, surgical services, and long-term care beds. The result has been increased wait lists, over-crowded emergency rooms, and the increased privatization of services. We have watched the steady development of a two-tiered system.

BC Greens will do better. We will protect the public health care system and reform health care delivery to ensure that people get timely and appropriate care.

### Key Goals

- Reduce health care costs and maintain service levels by eliminating waste, improving primary care and increasing multi-disciplinary service
- Provide adequate access to health care in rural and urban communities
- Preserve universal single-tier health care

### Our Commitment

The Green Party of BC is committed to creating a robust public health care system that guarantees our children the same standard of care we have enjoyed.

### BC Greens Will

- Provide increased and new training programs for health care professionals for both acute care and preventive care
- Facilitate the recognition of foreign-trained doctors, nurses and other professionals' qualifications
- Provide payback incentives for graduating doctors, nurses, paramedics, and other health care professionals who staff rural and other facilities where recruitment is currently a problem
- Acknowledge electro-hypersensitivity & increase public awareness

- Restore public management of billing and records for the BC Medical Service Plan
- Restore publicly managed and delivered food, housekeeping, laundry and security services in public health care facilities
- Establish maximum allowable distances from acute care facilities in rural areas (one-half hour in all but the most remote communities) and maximum density ratios for facilities serving urban areas
- Offer financial assistance to families providing home care for seniors and disabled family members who otherwise would require more costly public or private assistance in outside facilities
- Establish 24-7 clinics in rural areas staffed by salaried doctors and nurse practitioners, who can perform emergency surgical services
- Implement e-Hospital services, that monitor patients at a distance and allow for local provision of timely care
- Establish community health care centres that would include teams of health care workers trained in preventative care, primary care and diagnosis, designed to keep people healthy and out of acute and hospital care
- Gradually change from the fee-for-service Medical Service Plan billing towards salaries for doctors
- Expand home support and home care programs and assisted living services to support people with chronic care needs, including many seniors so they can remain in their own homes
- Increase funding for non-institutionalized mental health patients including children and youth to provide adequate housing, community-based support, and ongoing outpatient and inpatient care by mental health practitioners
- Educate the public about end-of-life issues including the limits to life support extension, surgical operations and chemical therapies and options for the transition from life
- Enact living-will legislation that guarantees people the right to limit or refuse medical intervention and treatment so people have the choice to die with dignity



## Reforming Health Care Governance

The Green Party would reform the governance of provincially-funded health services to create more effective and responsive provincial health services.

### BC Greens Will

- Establish 14 Regional Health Trusts, for which the catchment area takes into account the demographic and geographic realities of all British Columbians
- Establish public accountability in provincially-funded health organizations by restoring an arms-length, non-partisan body that will seek candidates and make appointments based on qualifications, expertise, absence of conflict of interest and community credibility through a competitive, open and accountable process
- Institute a health ombudsperson, to investigate and attempt to resolve complaints and problems, ensuring fairness and equitable access to health services and resolving patient care issues
- Establish executive pay scales in line with compensation levels for similar positions in other provinces taking into account the cost of living in British Columbia
- Reinstate workers and services unfairly replaced by private contracts
- In line with the majority of Canadian jurisdictions, British Columbia should phase out MSP premiums, funding the public health system from general revenue
- Ensure all residents with federal coverage enjoy equitable access to provincial health programs by negotiating access for members of the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP and other federal employees
- Encourage ongoing Health Canada investment in First Nations health programs in BC

## Providing for People with Special Needs

Nearly 640,000 British Columbians are directly impacted by physical or cognitive impairments. For one in six British Columbians and their families, the inability to access services and to participate in the social and economic life of BC has a negative effect on their quality of life. According to the 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey, in BC:

- 25% of children with disabilities have unmet needs for special education
- For 60% of children with disabilities, the burden of paying for assistive technology is carried by their families, and the same ratio cite purchase or maintenance costs as denying them aids for carrying out many activities of daily living
- Loss of financial and other supports and the lack of accessible transportation were cited as barriers to working by 27% of adults with disabilities

The Green Party understands that a fundamental shift is necessary. We need to focus not just on the impairments of individuals, but on rectifying our inadequate provision of the services and supports people with special needs require to realize their potentials. Actions to achieve that shift must involve people with impairments, their families, service agencies, funders and policy makers.

### BC Greens Will

- Request that the Auditor General review services to persons with disabilities with particular attention to structural barriers
- Take a partnership approach to developing the details of a strategy which supports persons with impairments as full citizens, within a framework that:
  - provides a comprehensive continuum of ongoing services (as well as appropriate capital and one-time investments)
  - supports inclusion in the social fabric of BC, and
  - promotes full economic participation in the province

- Implement an Access and Ability Strategy with a commitment to fully fund its components. Initial actions must address improvements in accessible transportation, health and assistive services, and income supports
- Establish services to ensure fair access to programs:
  - appoint an Advocate for Persons with Disabilities as an independent officer of the Legislature,
  - require an annual report be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, and
  - enter into a formal agreement with the federal government to ensure full coverage for those who have some form of fiduciary relationship with the Government of Canada

“The best way to ensure a child’s well-being is to reunite parents with children as soon as possible. Greens will initiate local social trusts to help parents with education, substance use and counseling services to help them become better parents.”

- Rev Warkentin  
Candidate, Vancouver-Kingsway

## Initiating Local Social Trusts to Help Families

Programs for children at risk and their families have been ineffective. Centralized funding and programming that delivers ‘one size fits all’ solutions has not worked.

British Columbians want an effective plan that focuses on whole and healthy families. When a child is deemed at risk, this requires a progressive three-step process: remove the child from danger, remedy the issues within the family, and reunite the family.

The current system, targeting only the first step, falls short on too many occasions. By constantly restructuring and failing to commit the desperately needed funding, the BC Liberals have severely undermined the ability of the Ministry of Children and Family Development to adopt a proactive and positive approach to child protection.

### Key Goals

- Protect children from harm
- Reunite families
- Provide local programs to support people to care for their children

### BC Greens Will

- Implement a full range of programs for families, including:
  - Direct services: parental, life-skill, employment, and education training, grade school and high school completion, and health and mental health education
  - Supportive, indirect services: prevention services, such as child care, in-home support, emergency and crisis services, a guaranteed livable income, and adequate and safe housing
- Establish local child care trusts, with provincial standards that are monitored by the Ministry of Children and Family Development

Local social trusts will work with families living in poverty or who experience mental health issues, domestic violence, and/or substance abuse.

Trust programs will be designed to support family needs and foster healthy family functioning. Whenever possible, families will be assisted to stay together, be gainfully employed, develop appropriate parenting and family skills. There will be access to family support services in all communities throughout the province.

Trusts will develop prevention and remediation strategies to deal with the health and social issues of local at-risk families. Local authorities will be responsible and accountable for planning and coordinating complete support service plans that address housing, education, employment, remediation and prevention for children and families faced with the challenge of overcoming their histories.

When adult activity shows criminal intent, financial exploitation of a child, abuse or neglect, the criminal justice system will have authority, rather than the child welfare system.

The Green Party plan acknowledges the needs of First Nations families in BC. One in 20 British Columbians is an aboriginal person: one in 2 children in care is aboriginal. Indigenous British Columbians struggle with a quality of life that is, according to the Provincial Health Officer, 20% lower than other citizens. While some progress is being made for aboriginal children in care, it has been disappointingly slow.

A new system under the leadership of the BC Greens will communicate better with parents, will mentor as much as monitor, will seek whole solutions, and will provide 18 and 19 year-olds in care with a less abrupt transition out of care.

The most effective form of child welfare is family restoration.

“Children in care in British Columbia are more likely to end up in jail than to graduate from high school. Only by moving to a model that believes healthy family functioning can be learned and provides the necessary resources to help families at risk can we find appropriate and positive outcomes for children and prevent the next generation of broken individuals and families.

We can help parents develop the necessary skills needed to keep the family together in most instances or to be re-united quickly should a child need to be removed.”

- Jane Sterk  
Leader, Green Party of BC



## Investing in Education

Public education is Canada's longest standing universally accessible social service. Education is an essential building block of our society and striving to create a well-educated province will be a top priority for Green MLAs.

The Green Party places a priority on adequately funding our public education system, from pre-school to post-secondary. We understand that funding for education is an investment not an expenditure. Studies have shown that every dollar spent on education results in more than \$7 in savings in later remedial social service costs. And, in this information age, education is clearly linked to job creation and our collective prosperity.

### Key Goals

- Foster a well-educated, well-trained society
- Improve affordability and accessibility as we move towards a more equitable system of well-funded post-secondary education
- Focus on the individual needs of differentially-abled students, to make sure they receive a strong education
- Turn schools into community education centres, focussing on the needs and interests of students with a wide-range of learning abilities

### BC Greens Will

- Provide a full tuition refund for all post-secondary graduates who work and live in the province for five years after receiving their degree
- Find an alternative to the "per-student" funding model that impedes flexibility
- Immediately reduce tuition fees by 20% and increase funding to post-secondary institutions to improve service levels, provide new equipment and maintain infrastructure
- Provide training upgrades for laid-off workers to help them transition back into the workforce through programs that train for jobs in the green economy

- Meet the needs of differentially-abled children, including early intervention for autistic children
- Provide seismic upgrades to schools around the province within the next five years
- Promote greater bandwidth capacity with obsolescence resistant fibre optic cabling instead of wireless networks
- Promote a community school model that provides full libraries, recreation facilities, technology & training areas, fine arts theatres and studios in partnership with municipalities, elementary and secondary schools
- Fund extra-curricular sports, fine art and student clubs that encourage healthy community spirit, creativity and leadership and keep students engaged in a strong learning environment
- Promote instruction in nutrition and healthy living, including sexual health and sexuality to make sure students understand what it means to live a healthy life



## Reducing Poverty

British Columbia has a rich abundance of resources and wealth. Unfortunately, mismanagement and misplaced priorities have led to unacceptable levels of poverty. According to Stats Canada, BC has the highest ongoing poverty levels in Canada at over 16% and child poverty at over 20%.

The Green Party understands that immediate action is needed to ensure every British Columbian has a meaningful opportunity to share in the wealth of this province.

The Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) will replace all existing income assistance programs. The rate will be based on the cost of living and other factors. The GLI is socially progressive because it ensures a higher basic amount without placing difficult barriers. Simultaneously, it encourages people to earn more income. By removing the trauma and waste of the bureaucratic process and streamlining access to assistance, GLI creates greater efficiencies and helps us focus on the ultimate goal: a better quality of life. GLI is an economic solution and it stimulates the flow of money in the economy.

### Key Goals

- Ensure we can all meet our basic needs
- Reverse the trend towards greater disparity between rich and poor

### BC Greens Will

- Unify all current income support programs into one comprehensive Guaranteed Livable Income
- Protect children by securing universal, safe, and affordable child care
- Create tax benefits for companies that provide on-site childcare, flex-hours, and job sharing
- Reinstate and improve funding for women's emergency shelters and transition houses
- Provide real employment assistance and encouragement for individuals, businesses and community organizations
- Modernize services for people with disabilities based on a social model of ability rather than a medical model

## Building Affordable Housing

Having a home is essential to a healthy life. With more than 10,000 homeless people in BC, the need for affordable housing is growing. The federal government cut the funding for social housing programs in 1993 and the provincial government has often left many people to fend for themselves.

BC Greens will establish a provincial housing program that works with municipalities to build affordable housing or to purchase existing housing that can be moved into permanent rental housing. Public land will be retained for non-market housing that cannot be sold for private interests. We will also work with the federal government and other provincial/territorial governments in order to create a national social housing program.

### Key Goals

- Ensure all British Columbians can live in safe and affordable homes

### BC Greens Will

- Commit 1% of the total provincial annual budget to solving the housing crisis
- Support funding small-scale, mixed-income co-op and non-profit housing
- Construct healthy, energy efficient green housing for people with disabilities and mental health problems and for low-income people
- Modernize the BC Building Code to ensure that buildings are more energy efficient
- Update the *Residential Tenancy Act* to ensure a balance in the rights of renters and landlords
- Restore the local Residential Tenancy offices that were closed across the province
- Mandate BC Housing Corp to purchase units of market housing within current or stalled projects to provide an expanding pool of permanent below market and market rental housing

"BC's Green Party advocates for spending equal to one per cent of the annual provincial budget on social housing, including small-scale mixed-income, co-op or non-profit housing. The party will commit half of this funding for the construction of affordable and more sustainable green housing for people with disabilities and mental health problems, and half for the construction of green housing for people on low incomes."

- Drina Read  
Candidate, Vancouver-West End



## Ending Prohibition: Regulating Substance Use

British Columbians recognize that substance use should be dealt with as a public health concern rather than a criminal matter. The Green Party understands the wisdom of this approach. We are prepared to support an end to prohibition on psychoactive substances and begin regulating and controlling modes of production and access. This means we will focus on the principles of human rights and harm reduction rather than criminalizing substance use.

The Green Party's new "Green Strategy for Substance Use" is an evidence-based, public-health centered approach that will take away power from organized crime without criminalizing those who struggle with addictions. We believe that enforcement can and should play a role in a public health approach to substance use. However, it should be focused on protecting the public from serious crime, rather than on personal substance use.

### Key Goals

- Establish drug policies based on clear scientific evidence
- Treat substance abuse as a health problem, not a criminal problem
- Reduce crime associated with marijuana prohibition
- Help addicts to stop abusing drugs

### BC Greens Will

- Support the use of evidence-based, harm reduction practices such as needle-exchange, substitution treatments, and safe consumption sites in order to reduce the potential personal and public health harms of substance use
- Work toward regulation and control of the production and distribution of cannabis through licensed outlets
- Support regulated access to currently illegal drugs through a physician's recommendation

- Implement school-based drug education focused on science, reason, and evidence-based public awareness. This kind of effective prevention campaigning can be seen in the use of tobacco which has dropped dramatically over the last 40 years.
- Ensure that regional health authorities in British Columbia offer a variety of options for treatment of addictions of all kinds
- Regulate access to substances traditionally used for spiritual purposes and provide funding for research into their therapeutic potential.

“Currently, Canada’s drug policy funds gangs and terrorists by creating a market for illicit narcotic sales. Rather than building our drug policy on fear and perceived morality, the GPBC will base legislation on evidence and science. We will regulate the drug market, removing the economic basis for crime.”

- Ryan Conroy  
Candidate, Vancouver-Hastings



## Protecting Our Resources

### Strengthen Environmental Legislation and Ensure Food Security

British Columbia can truly be the ‘Best Place on Earth’. Our province is a spectacular part of our world and we have much for which to be grateful. However, in the last one hundred years, the rapid depletion of resources and high levels of poorly planned development have led us into environmental debt.

The Green Party recognizes that a healthy environment and responsible resource use is essential for healthy communities and a strong economy. Our plan for the environment focuses upon the conservation of resources through improved efficiencies, the reduction of toxic pollutants, and the protection of wilderness.

### Protecting Our Resources and Environment Will

- Guarantee the prosperity of future generations
- Result in meaningful action on climate change
- Ensure our economy runs sustainably



## Strengthening the *Environmental Protection Act*

The Green Party is committed to restoring and enhancing public and local government control over resource use, development, and the protection of ecosystems. We will repeal Bill 30 – 2006 Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2), 2006 and reaffirm the right of local and regional governments to say no to development and resource use that is not in the economic, social, or ecological best interests of their region. The BC Greens will establish elected Regional Resource Management Boards to review development proposals and will strengthen the environmental assessment process to ensure resource use is sustainable and cumulative impacts from all projects and activities are measured.

### BC Greens Will

- Strengthen Environmental Assessments and Standards and reform the appointment process
- Pass strong Species-at-Risk legislation

“Currently BC’s Environment Assessment process is too narrowly focused to accurately determine if development is appropriate on social and economic grounds. We need to broaden the scope of our development planning and be more inclusive of broader values and concerns. Local Government and First Nations need to be equally empowered and the decision making process decentralized back to the communities most effected.”

- Philip Stone  
Candidate, North Island



## Restoring our Wild Fisheries

Well-managed wild fisheries can be sustainable and provide healthy food and jobs in many smaller communities. However, many salmon runs have gone extinct due to poor logging practices, misplaced road building, and irresponsible urban development.

BC Greens will rehabilitate rapidly dwindling wild salmon stocks, protect and restore habitat and recognize First Nations’ constitutionally-guaranteed right to fish. We will also put the control of fisheries back into the hands of coastal communities and small fishers.

### Key Goals

- Restore healthy natural fish stocks to BC’s waters
- Create local jobs in coastal communities

### BC Greens Will

- Negotiate with the federal government to take over management of coastal marine fisheries
- Cap the production levels of existing salmon farms and then phase out open-net-cage farms over a ten-year period
- Implement stream-by-stream actions to rejuvenate wild salmon by restoring habitat and halting destructive industrial practices
- Halt all run-of-river projects pending strengthened environmental assessments
- Phase out bottom trawling and less-selective seine and gillnet fishing and replace them with more selective methods
- Phase in terminal salmon fisheries to replace open ocean interception salmon fisheries and to restore traditional First Nations fishing practices
- Implement transition plans for workers and First Nations communities to ensure employment when fisheries closures are needed to rebuild wild stocks
- Reform licensing of fishers, breaking up the corporate concentration in big seiner licences and reallocating licenses back to small-scale fishers

"Scientific evidence confirms the bioaccumulation in farmed fish of dangerous chemicals such as PCBs, dioxins and other contaminants detrimental to peoples' health. It is virtually impossible to ensure that the pellets fed to crowded, penned fish are not laden with these bad chemicals. Our position is that it's ecologically unsustainable and unhealthy to 'farm' carnivorous fish."

- Lisa Girbav  
Candidate, North Coast



## Protecting Endangered Species and Wilderness

Some of our greatest public assets are the water, land, air, and wildlife of this beautiful province. Clean water, fresh air, incredible green spaces, and recreation opportunities are the foundation of our economy, but the protection and management of these assets has been inadequate.

The Green Party understands that we depend on a strong economy based on a healthy environment for our continued prosperity and well-being.

### BC Greens Will

- Combine the Ministry of Environment with the Ministry of Energy and the Climate Change Secretariat
- Direct this new ministry to increase BC's parks and protected areas system, including marine environments, to 20% of the land base over the next 100 years
- Form elected Regional Resource Management Boards
- Make permanent the moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration and offshore drilling to protect our coastal waters and marine wildlife
- Ban oil tanker traffic from BC's coastal waters
- Enact BC Species-at-Risk legislation that includes identification of species at risk by an independent, scientific body and mandatory protection of critical habitat to ensure species survival and recovery
- Place a moratorium on logging, road building, and industrial development in critically endangered species habitat
- Bring old-growth logging to a halt
- Appoint an independent Commissioner of the Environment with responsibility to ensure environmental legislation is obeyed and that resource development is undertaken in the public interest to oversee the environmental assessment of industrial and infrastructure projects

- Strengthen the environmental assessment process to make it compliant with watershed-based assessments and to measure cumulative impacts from all activities and proposed projects.
- Develop park co-management agreements with First Nations
- Expand the Ecological Reserve system to encompass one per cent of BC's land base
- Eliminate sport and trophy hunting of grizzly bears
- Restore funding for monitoring of pollution, protection of species at risk, and enforcement of fish and wildlife regulations

## Reducing Consumption: Moving to Zero Waste

The effective management of waste presents us with a significant source of revenue. In order to capitalize on this opportunity, we need to shift away from seeing waste as a problem and toward understanding waste as a resource. The Green Party is prepared to make this shift and prepared to follow in the footsteps of many regional districts in BC that have adopted the goal of zero waste.

We believe that a goal of zero waste provides direction and inspiration for continuous improvements in our waste prevention processes. A goal of zero waste is also a major part of our economic strategy because it reduces the costs of resource extraction and creates numerous green-collar jobs.

BC Greens will further consult with the public, stakeholders, other levels of government, and experts regarding the creation of a Zero Waste Strategy for BC. This strategy will include measures to expand the scope of producer responsibility programs and provide financial assistance to major waste reduction activities.

### Key Goals

- Make better use of industrial waste
- Place cradle-to-grave recycling responsibility on producers for their products
- Make BC packaging free by eliminating PST on unpackaged goods
- Declare BC a 'Plastic Free Zone'

### BC Greens Will

- Establish an inspection and certification program to allow and encourage the use of recycled and reclaimed materials in new and renovated buildings
- Create demand for recycled pulp by mandating a minimum 50 per cent post-consumer recycled paper content for all newspapers
- Phase in recycling deposits to be paid when purchasing all manufactured goods in order to ensure the internalization of recycling costs into the initial price of the product

## Combating Climate Change

Climate change truly is the critical issue of our time. There is a growing consensus that we must avert a 2°C temperature increase above pre-industrial times. Global temperature is already about 0.7° above that level, and another 0.5° is likely “locked in” due to an ever thickening blanket of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. If these temperatures continue to rise unabated they will dramatically damage our economy.

Climate change is not only an economic issue but also a social justice issue. Those in poverty, the working poor, and the lower middle class are all disproportionately penalized by the stresses climate change brings. Therefore, BC Greens will ensure any measures to limit climate change include protections for the most vulnerable in our society.

The Green Party proposes a comprehensive package of strategic actions to address both carbon emissions and climate change in BC. Given the focused work of many dedicated stakeholders, we draw on existing studies and policy proposals. We understand the need to price the cost of pollution into the economy and the need to emphasize energy conservation and alternative energy sources. Our package therefore includes: emission targets, regulation and taxation, transportation reforms, increased information sharing and coordination, and adaptation strategies.

### Emission Targets

The Green Party of BC shares the targets identified by the Green Party of Canada:

- at least 6% below 1990 levels by 2012 (30% below 2007)
- at least 30% below 1990 levels by 2020 (47% below 2007)
- at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2030 (62% below 2007)
- at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2040 (85% below 2007)

## Regulations and Taxation

- Amend the *Environmental Management Act* to include GHG reduction regulations
- Mandate the BC Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change to audit GHG emissions and prescribe GHG remediation
- Increase the carbon tax to \$50/tonne and increase the tax to help reach emission targets on time. In addition:
  - Tax all GHG emitting industries
  - Capture the full social global cost of carbon emissions
  - Exempt British Columbians living below the low income cut-off as established by Statistics Canada
- Extend carbon emission taxes to oil & gas and cement industries
- Convert fuel taxes to a carbon & environmental tax
- Place a hard cap on large final emitters of GHGs (the ten largest industrial sources account for 15% of all BC GHGs)
- Ensure that GHG emissions reporting in BC takes into account the GHGs of coal-fired electricity imported from outside the province and work to eliminate imported coal fired electricity
- Amend the *BC Oil and Gas Commission Act* to include BC GHG reduction targets
- Make the Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) by the Oil and Gas Commission a regulated requirement under the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change to include the risk of GHGs to all future generations
- Phase out the nearly \$1 billion in annual subsidies to the oil and gas industry
- Place a permanent moratorium on coal bed methane projects and shale bed gas exploration and production
- Amend the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act* to mandate the meeting of provincial GHG reduction targets and to require accurate and available records for GHG audits
- Prohibit gas flaring by sector industries, with significant penalties for non-compliance (flaring and fugitive emissions at natural gas facilities account for nearly 14% of GHG emissions in BC)

## Transportation Reforms

As transportation accounts for 37% of BC GHGs, the Green Party of BC will work with British Columbians towards significantly reduced carbon emissions for transportation-related activities. By 2030 BC Greens will phase out gasoline powered cars and short haul trucks.

### BC Greens Will

- Cancel all Gateway projects, including new bridge construction, highway widening in the lower mainland and the pipeline project in the north and the energy corridor through central BC
- Regulate vehicle carbon emissions to fall by 30% by 2015 and 85% by 2030, using tax incentives and regulatory standards
- Cancel the exemption of BC Ferries Corp. from the *GHG Reduction Targets Act*
- Introduce an automobile environmental carbon tax — by sliding scale according to the fuel efficiency of the vehicle and miles driven
- Regulate the hydrogen fuel cell industry to ensure the use of only zero emission energy for hydrogen production
- Apply a carbon tax to short haul air trips
- Provide tax breaks and funds that support cycling, transit, rail, tele-working, walking and video-conferencing
- Match any federal tax incentives for Canadian manufacturers of super-efficient vehicles, Plug-in Hybrid Electric and electric vehicles sold in BC
- Work with the reality that rail is the most carbon efficient way to move goods and people.
- Invest in renewing and expanding rail systems in BC (e.g. E&N on Vancouver Island, former BC Rail lines in the interior) and new systems where needed (e.g. the Fraser Valley and light and commuter rail in all major urbanized areas)
- Move cargo to routes serviced by rail in order to reduce the volume of trucks moving goods through Metro Vancouver
- Implement distance-based auto insurance, congestion and parking pricing policies

## Increased Information Sharing and Coordination

- Create an independent Climate Change Science Panel and an all-party Standing Climate Change Committee to compliment the work of the BC Climate Action Secretariat
- Support British Columbia joining the Western Regional Climate Action Initiative (WRCAI) and the proposed \$95 million Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions
- Include local governments as key players in all initiatives, and provide incentives and increased budgets for successful projects
- Support global verification and certification standards for carbon credits and establish a provincial carbon bank to support the purchase of local offsets

## Adaptation Strategies

The Green Party believes that a responsible government will show leadership in developing an adaptation strategy in collaboration with the other levels of government in order to limit the harmful impacts of climate change. Failure to reduce the harmful impacts of a changing climate allows millions of dollars to be drained from the BC economy. We will not allow this kind of wastefulness to continue.

### BC Greens Will

- Establish special task forces to prepare area-specific climate change adaptive strategies involving all stakeholders
- Set up a Climate Change Adaptation fund to assist those areas hard hit by “natural” disasters linked to global warming, for example, enabling local governments to upgrade dykes in areas more prone to flooding

## Conserving Energy

A fiscally responsible energy strategy starts by reducing energy waste through increased conservation and efficiency.

### Key Goals

- Reduce our overall energy demands
- Use existing energy resources more efficiently

### BC Greens Will

Put into place incentives for energy conservation and conversion projects, including:

- Refundable tax credits for all energy retrofit costs based on before-and-after Energuide or infrared heat tests for residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings
- Tax-deductible 'Green' mortgages for home-owner energy retrofit costs
- 100% Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance for all businesses for energy retrofit costs
- Revolving loans for residential or business energy retrofits
- PST credits for all materials used in LEED-certified buildings
- A sliding price scale for residential and commercial energy users based on time of energy use to encourage off-peak power use.

### Building Code Changes

- Mandatory installation of solar hot water systems and pre-wiring for solar photo-voltaic (PV) systems on new buildings.
- Mandatory 2 kW solar PV system on all roofs two years after the price of solar falls to \$2/watt.
- The inclusion of pre-wiring requirements for electric cars - 220V circuits and higher amperage 20A 120V circuits need to be available. Particular attention will be given to implementation for multi-tenant buildings, workplace parking, and public parking lots.

- Energy efficiency labeling for buildings before they are sold or leased, including the average energy consumption/m<sup>2</sup> and estimated annual energy costs
- Heat recovery devices on suitable outlets and drains.

### Public Buildings and Spaces

- Implement a provincial program to energy retrofit public sector buildings such as universities, schools, museums, and hospitals.
- Mandate the use of occupancy sensors on all public area lighting, including all multi-tenant and office buildings
- Require by 2016 that all new publicly-funded buildings in BC are energy self-sufficient as well as net-zero GHG emitters

"We must develop clean, green forms of energy to power our vehicles, our homes and our businesses and we need to start right now because it will take a generation for us to achieve any kind of real change. The Green Party first talked about tax shifting over 20 years ago. It's gratifying to see our ideas finally being accepted, but there is much more to do."

- Jane Sterk  
Leader, Green Party of BC





## Reforming Agricultural Practices

Organic farming is the fastest growing agricultural sector and the most profitable. However, much industrial agricultural production is heavily subsidized, which artificially lowers the price of many foods.

The Green Party recognizes the economic and ecological potential of organic farming and hears the concerns of family farmers throughout the province. There are numerous risks that industrial production poses for our continued health – for example, the large-scale contamination of ground water aquifers and surface water systems with nitrates as well as the introduction of bacterial pathogens and other contaminants from agricultural run-off. In other words, intensive agri-business methods make our food supply susceptible to large-scale disease outbreaks, such as BSE (mad-cow disease) and avian flu.

We believe we can do better in BC.

### Key Goals

- Ensure that BC enjoys high quality, healthy, and plentiful local food supply systems
- Encourage biodiversity
- Prevent food-related illnesses
- Encourage long-term jobs in the food production sector

### BC Greens Will

- Stimulate local production to improve regional food security
- Enable small organic producers to raise and sell – independent of the marketing boards – an economically viable number of livestock
- Limit any further establishment of marketing boards or expanding marketing board jurisdiction over small farm production
- Remove PST on value-added BC agricultural products such as juices and wines

- Influence the distribution chain to support the sale of locally produced food and to remove any subsidies that distort the true cost of imported foods
- Shift taxes onto imported foods and off locally grown and produced food
- Work with the livestock industries to establish slaughterhouses in BC and help market BC range-fed livestock internationally
- Reform the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) in membership and process, with members selected in a transparent and open competition of qualified individuals conducted by an arm's length agency free from political influence
- Freeze all further withdrawals of class one agricultural land from the Agricultural Land Reserve
- Change the *Agricultural Land Reserve Act* to prohibit landowners from degrading class one and two ALR lands by activities such as removing topsoil and depositing sand, gravel or construction wastes on these lands
- Employ farmland covenants and trusts as tools to increase the amount of land used for agriculture and to provide access to land for those who want to farm and for whom the cost of land is prohibitive
- Establish locally grown food procurement policies for government and government agencies
- Re-establish a Buy BC program to identify BC grown agricultural products and promote agri-tourism
- Provide small grants to support municipalities and school boards that wish to maintain and expand community gardens and urban agriculture



“Preservation of the ALR is critical for the provision of food supply and protection of an essential and important industry. It provides a livelihood for over 33,000 British Columbians employed directly in the agricultural sector and almost 250,000 who are in agriculture and food-related jobs. This translates into approximately \$1.6 billion in annual economic activity in BC. With ever-increasing pressure for development on agricultural lands, it is vital to protect farmland for the future of food security.”

- Murray Weisenberger  
Candidate, Surrey-Panorama



## Food Safety

- Phase out chemical pesticides
- Make BC a Genetically Modified Organism free (GMO-free) agricultural zone
- Require the labeling of all foods for genetically modified organisms and other harmful products
- Exempt smaller producers from the *Meat Inspection Act* and re-establish regional independence and authority in setting regulations for slaughtering to enable smaller producers to slaughter on-site under conditions inspected by local health officers
- Work with the federal government to change regulations on slaughterhouses and food processing facilities so as to encourage small community-owned and operated facilities, through interest-free loans, and tailored inspection and safety measures

## Education and Expertise

- Provide technical expertise with respect to standards and best practices, supported in part by local experimental farm research
- Set up a heritage seed bank and seed exchange program and heritage botanical gardens on Vancouver Island, in the Fraser Valley, and in the Okanagan
- Implement consumer-focused and school-based education designed to
  - Change behaviour by emphasizing the relationship between good nutrition and good health
  - Foster preference for and a market for local, in-season food grown without pesticides using biodynamic or organic farming methods
  - Develop a school curriculum that provides children with farming and food production experience
  - Support university-based programs in sustainable food production and agriculture, including seed saving and preservation of bio-diverse, non genetically modified food varieties, and traditional farming methods

"Greens favor local power generation over the need to build expensive and fundamentally inefficient transmission systems. In BC we have an abundance of geothermal power close to population centers that we have not seriously begun to tap. The problem is we have spent the last three generations training hydro engineers, so most proposed power projects are hydro-based. We need the expertise to explore new forms of clean and green energy."

-Jim Stephenson  
Candidate, West Vancouver-Sea to Sky



## Managing Responsible Mining

For a number of years, mining has been a significant source of investment, jobs, and revenue in BC. In order for us to continue to profit from our resources, changes in our practices are necessary. Mining need not come with the high environmental and social price tag it has had in the past. With a responsible government providing appropriate oversight, many of the negative impacts can be avoided and proper mitigation employed.

The Green Party is dedicated to ensuring British Columbians will benefit from the work of the mining industry for years to come. We will improve the legislative framework and make changes as to how mineral exploration and development are financed and carried out. Reform in mining policy will be coupled with changes in two other areas of public policy - environmental assessment and the recognition of First Nations title and rights.

### Key Goals

- Reduce the impact of mining on the environment
- Share profits from mining

### BC Greens Will

- Maintain the regulations that prohibit all mining of uranium, radioactive elements, and minerals found in association with radioactive elements
- Eliminate all subsidies for mining and mineral developments including the Mining Exploration BC tax credit and the New Mine Allowance exception to the *Taxation Act*
- Establish a tax on mining profits that gives the people of BC, the owners of the resource, a fair return on their investment when profits in metal prices sky rocket
- Require that mining proposals incorporate triple-bottom-line accounting (calculating environmental, social and economic costs and benefits) and full environmental assessments, including public hearings, regardless of the scale of the mine
- Ensure that reclamation plans, including plans to deal with acid mine draining, are in place before active mining begins

- Expand the Mine Reclamation Fund with monies garnered from increased taxes on the profits of active mining operations and use these funds to clean up and reclaim old and recently abandoned mine sites and decommission mine access roads
- Move to cost-based compensation (based on the monies actually spent on developing the property - not possible future profits) in cases where mineral claims are expropriated in the public interest, such as for parks or drinking water watersheds
- Require any third party applying for an exploration or development permit within a designated exploration to submit a consent document issued by the affected First Nation as part of its application
- Review and upgrade current reclamation security and bonding provisions of the Reclamation Code to ensure greater certainty for the Crown that reclamation and closure funding is available in the event of a default by a mining operator

## Redesigning the Wood Products Industry

The impact of the global economy has affected the forest industry dramatically, partially due to the public-private forest tenure model. The evidence includes recent deletions of private forest lands from Tree Farm Licenses, mill closures, raw log exports, equipment supplier receivership, removal of appurtenance rules, corporate amalgamations and control, and massive job loss. Industrial forestry as practiced in BC since the 1950s has mined the quality and squandered the value of our forests. As a result BC has seen a flight of forest industry capital to the US and other jurisdictions.

It is time for something better.

The Green Party is dedicated to strategies that will shift forestry from an industrial model to an ecologically-based model. This means pursuing the protection of ecological integrity as well as the sustainable production of high quality, profitable forest products.

### Key Goals

- Manage our forest resources for present and future generations
- Create long-lasting, wood industry employment in communities throughout BC
- Preserve ecosystem biodiversity
- Eliminate old-growth harvesting

### BC Greens Will

#### Stimulate Local Industry

- Encourage the development of value-added, second-growth processing facilities through tax-shifting
- Provide low-interest start-up loans to encourage small, labour-intensive eco-forestry logging companies and value-added forest product firms
- Ensure small and value-added BC-based forest businesses have access to a reliable wood supply through regional log markets

- Develop a licensing system and enforceable rules for sustainable commercial harvest of non-timber forest products by local people
- Increase small-scale forest tenure such as community forests and woodlots
- Support companies that want Forest Stewardship Council eco-certification for their wood products and help market eco-certified BC wood products internationally
- Establish post secondary programs and professional development opportunities for training and skills upgrading to ensure professional foresters are competent in all aspects of sustainable forest practice, stewardship, and management
- Provide extension services for preparation of management plans, forest valuation, capacity building, etc.

### Reform Log Markets and Improve Oversight

- Set up a formal inquiry into stumpage manipulation, reinstate government log scalers, and set stumpage rates at fair market value
- Establish locally elected Regional Resource Management Boards with the mandate to incrementally achieve green forest policy goals and play a stewardship role over local forests
- Accelerate tenure reform to require no less than fifty per cent of public forest tenures be held by First Nations, woodlots and communities by the year 2015
- Establish competitive regional log markets that sell all logs from public land through open auction, and in the interim replace the current stumpage tax system with the payment of a percentage tax on the logs sold

### Wisely Conserve and Manage Our Forest Resources

- Institute watershed-by-watershed ecosystem-based management plans and rate of cut determinations based on ecologically sustainable forestry principles that enhance and protect all timber and non-timber forest values, including, cultural, environmental, tourism, recreational, and fishery values
- Maintain natural (fire, wind, insects, etc.) and human (logging) disturbances within the historic range of natural variability
- Phase out clear cutting in second-growth stands replacing this practice with frequent light commercial thinning and longer rotations to produce high quality wood resulting in more revenue from less wood and sustainable, continuous forest harvesting
- Designate as off-limits to logging our remaining intact watersheds, domestic drinking water watersheds, endangered ecosystems, habitats of endangered species, and First Nations lands on which approval to log has not been granted
- Ban the use of pesticides and synthetic chemical fertilizers in publicly owned forests
- Eliminate coastal old-growth logging
- Maintain the ecological integrity and resilience of forests to reduce vulnerability to natural and human caused stresses
- Set the same standards of environmental protection for logging on private lands over five hectares, as established for public lands
- Establish a reserve fund to enable increased forest restoration activities during times when the forest economy experiences a downturn



"First Nations' special historic and culturally significant relationship to the land and resources in BC continues to be undervalued and ignored. The Green Party of BC recognizes First Nations as autonomous partners in managing and sharing the lands and resources in their territory."

- Liz Logan  
Candidate, Peace River North



## Reforming Government

### Give Citizens a Voice and Improve Public Oversight

The Green Party has witnessed British Columbians' growing frustration with a political system that is much too inaccessible. We will restore integrity and accountability to our government through increased public oversight for ministries, Crown corporations, and public appointments.

Greens will re-architect the structure of our government to reflect what we want to build, not simply what we have. We will create new ministries and combine existing ones to build a new structure that can achieve the values and priorities of British Columbians. Green MLAs will work hard to decentralize decision-making and strengthen the role of local government and the autonomy of First Nations.

### Green Party Reforms Will:

- Encourage greater participation in our democracy
- Recognize Aboriginal and Treaty Rights
- Reduce the influence of special interest groups in governing
- Strengthen public oversight of government bodies and policing

## Valuing First Nations as Partners

While aboriginal rights, aboriginal title, and treaty rights are enshrined in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, these rights continue to be denied. The BC government has been negotiating modern treaties through the BC Treaty Commission since 1992 but this process has resulted in only two treaties. The citizens of BC understand that this process is taking too long, costing too much, and is not adequately addressing First Nations' needs.

First Nations with historic treaties continually struggle to have their existing treaty rights recognized by the BC government. For example, most of the Treaty 8 First Nations in northeast BC have outstanding reserve land entitlements owing to them for almost 100 years. The Treaty 8 First Nations are surrounded by oil and gas development and are losing cultural and spiritual lands at an alarming rate.

In 1996 the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) published a report of recommendations to improve the lives of aboriginal people. Little progress has been made since this report was published. Aboriginal peoples continue to be denied their aboriginal rights and treaty rights. While government-to-government agreements have been formed (e.g., the Kelowna Accord and the New Relationship), both BC and Canada have either reneged on the agreements or taken minimal steps to reach their objectives. The Green Party believes that these agreements and RCAP's recommendations must be implemented from the ground up in a timely manner.

The Green Party recognizes the need to improve the quality of life of First Nations peoples through improved housing conditions, better education, more employment opportunities, and increased access to health programs, including traditional medicines.

Partnering with First Nations in resource management and economic development will assist First Nations in building greater capacity for self-government and actualizing their aspirations for healthy communities.

## Key Goals

- Recognize and affirm aboriginal and treaty rights in a fair, efficient, and respectful manner

## BC Greens Will

- Honour BC's fiduciary duty to aboriginal people by defining aboriginal title and rights in partnership with First Nations
- Honour existing treaty rights and work in good faith with Canada to settle the outstanding claims of First Nations with historic treaties
- Implement the spirit of the Kelowna Accord, "The New Relationship" and RCAP
- Work with First Nations as partners to ensure just consultation and accommodation of First Nations' aspirations, and co-management and equitable sharing of BC's natural resources on traditional territories
- Work with First Nations peoples so that they develop economic capacity for their communities
- Invest in First Nations economic development
- Support First Nations to find solutions to eliminate the disparity in the quality of life experienced by First Nations communities and non-First Nations communities in BC using quality of life indicators as defined by First Nations
- Enhance the First Nations component in the education system curriculum
- Train educators to include materials and methodologies that better inform people on the history of First Nations peoples in BC and Canada, the continuing impacts of colonization on First Nations peoples, and the necessity of recognizing aboriginal and treaty rights

## Building a Better Democracy

The citizens of BC are eager to participate in making our democracy work better. However, dishonest politicians, the excessive influence of narrow interest groups, corruption, and strict party control have led to distrust and disillusionment among citizens. Quite simply, BC can do better.

The Green Party has a comprehensive program to restore participatory democracy in BC and build a more cooperative and effective government that works for the benefit of all British Columbians.

### Key Goals

- Ensure that voters receive fair election results
- Reduce the influence that special interest groups can gain over government with their campaign contributions
- Encourage free votes in the Legislature
- Reduce the concentration of power in the Premier's office

### BC Greens Will

- Vote Yes for BC-STV  
Greens have promoted fair voting and cooperative politics since our inception over twenty-five years ago. We fully support the Citizens' Assembly recommendation to implement the Single Transferable Voting system for BC. This assembly of ordinary citizens determined, after one year of study, that the BC-STV system does the best job of delivering:
  - Fair election results
  - Effective local representation
  - Greater voter choice
- Require by law that political parties use democratic means to nominate candidates and that these democratic rules be publicly registered and available for inspection
- Institute a system of free votes in the Legislature for all matters, including the budget, except explicit votes of confidence in the government

- Initiate a one-hour question period every day the Legislature sits
- Require that all-party parliamentary committees hold public hearings on draft legislation and provide that these committees be delegated the power to modify the legislation under consideration as well as have their modified version voted on in the Legislature
- Amend the *Recall and Initiatives Act* to make citizen-initiated referenda practical and fair. Initiatives receiving 7% of the registered voter endorsement over a six-month period should go directly onto the ballot at the next provincial election and, if passed by a 50% plus one majority, become law.
- Reduce the power of the Premier's office
- Review executive and MLA wage increases and set those wages to reflect the expectations of the citizens of BC
- Establish fixed dates for sittings of the Legislature
- Strengthen and support the *Freedom of Information Act* to make information accessible in a timely manner
- Strengthen the *Societies Act* to make societies more accountable and their operations more transparent
- Introduce effective "whistle-blower" legislation
- Implement campaign finance reform to eliminate corporate and union donations, to cap the amount of individual donations, and to restrict individual donations to residents of BC



"The Citizens Assembly was a purely unbiased group of ordinary citizens from every corner of BC who recognized the lack of local and effective representation. The current system empowers political parties not the voters, encourages strategic voting and has helped cause historically low voter turnout.

BC-STV offers the potential for more balanced and proportional representation that will result in policy that better reflects the will of British Columbians."

- Damian Kettlewell  
Candidate, Vancouver-False Creek



### Decentralizing Decision Making

The Green Party is committed to returning and expanding the authority of municipal and regional governments in the areas of energy development, social services, and transportation. It is important that decisions be made in consultation with First Nations and in keeping with regional growth strategies, urban containment boundaries, climate change goals, zero waste principles, and agricultural, forested and recreational land protection.

Green MLAs will propose new funding formulas for municipal and regional governments to ensure there is sufficient financial support for these new decision-making and programming responsibilities.

#### BC Greens Will

- Implement elected Regional Resource Management Boards, Regional Health Trusts, Local Social Trusts.
- Expand recall legislation to municipal officials
- Repeal Bill 30 in order to restore local land-use decision making

### Restoring Confidence in Law Enforcement

It is a fundamental principle of a free and democratic state that its police remain exemplary and above reproach. They must be independent of the political powers and entirely committed to enforcing the law in an impartial and professional manner.

The Green Party supports a professional police force that has the highest conduct standards and commands the respect of all British Columbians. We believe that, as with all public bodies, law enforcement must be subject to reasonable limits and undergo periodic review if police are to maintain the highest level of service.

#### Key Goals

- Bring public oversight to internal police investigation
- Rebuild public trust in our police
- Set community supported guidelines on appropriate tools police employ in their duties

#### BC Greens Will

- Establish a provincial police force
- Appoint an independent Provincial Police Commissioner to oversee investigations of police conduct and process for all jurisdictions
- Remove electric stun devices from all law enforcement agencies within BC
- Establish a citizen's assembly to make recommendations on policing and law enforcement models for British Columbia

"It is difficult for organizations to impartially investigate themselves and the police are no different. The only way to ensure transparency and unbiased results is to form an independent group. Internal investigations can be complex and controversial. Relieving forces of this work allows them to focus on their first priority, which is public protection."

-Jane Sterk  
Leader, Green Party of BC

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When you read the Green Party platform we believe you will agree that our values reflect your values, and that they are shared by your friends and many other British Columbians. We all want a stronger British Columbia that offers prosperity and health.

We all want more effective, representative and accountable government that makes sensible decisions for the future so that our children can grow and flourish.

BC Greens have:

***A Better Plan for BC***

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