

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



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October 21, 2026

Dear First Nations Chiefs and Leaders,

The upcoming 2026 provincial snap election comes at a pivotal, and unexpected moment. The outcome of this election can be greatly influenced by First Nations voters, who we deeply encourage to have their voices heard at the ballot box. The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) remains committed to working with the government of the day to drive tangible change for our children, families, and communities.

It is crucial that we collectively encourage First Nations citizens to vote on October 24th, as with the previous election, the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and government-government relationships between First Nations and the provincial government are serious considerations in this election, as well as everyday concerns that disproportionately affect First Nations such as access to healthcare, cost of living, public safety, and the housing crisis.

To assist with your community's participation in the 2026 provincial election, the FNLC has compiled the attached 2026 Provincial Election Package.

The FNLC's 2026 Election Package is being provided to all 204 First Nations communities in BC and includes:

- Questions posed to the Conservative Party of BC, BC Greens, BC NDP, and Centre BC.
- Responses from the parties; and
- Basic voting information related to the 2026 Provincial Election.

It is important to note that given the compressed timeline of this snap election, FNLC was unable to provide as much notice to parties as in previous years, and as such, we only received responses from the Conservative Party of BC and the BC NDP. If Centre BC and the BC Greens provide responses ahead of election day, we will share these separately.

We encourage further distribution of this information to your community members, please note we also encourage each community to pose questions directly to your respective riding candidates, time permitting.

If you have any questions, please contact Colin Braker, Executive Director, FNS at cbraker@fns.bc.ca.

Sincerely,
FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

Robert Phillips

Hugh Braker

Huy'wu'qw Shana Thomas

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



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On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip

Chief Councillor Linda Innes

Chief Marilyn Slett

On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:

Regional Chief Terry Teegee



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2026 Provincial Election – Voter Information Package

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October 2026 FNLC Letter to Provincial Political Party Leaders

October 13, 2026

Via E-mail :

Dear (Party Leader Name),
Ms. Emily Lowan, Leader, BC Greens
Mrs. Elenore Sturko, Leader, Centre BC
Mr. David Eby, Leader, BC NDP
Mr. Lorne Doerkson, Leader, Conservative Party of BC

The BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, collaboratively working together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), have worked with First Nations sectoral organizations to bring forward some key issues and questions of importance to First Nations in BC for consideration and response by each of the provincial political parties.

First Nations in BC have inherent title and rights, and treaty rights, and a unique constitutional government-to-government relationship with the provincial government. The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) was unanimously supported by all parties on November 28, 2019, adopting the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) as domestic law. UNDRIP is a human rights instrument that provides the minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of Indigenous Peoples.

The FNLC remains steadfast in our support of the Declaration Act as it is currently written, and we are committed to working with whichever party forms government to ensure the Declaration Act's full and efficient implementation. We maintain that the Declaration Act is the best path towards certain and predictable government-to-government relationships, and economic prosperity across the entire province. First Nations engage collaboratively with the Province of BC in a collective effort to bridge socioeconomic gaps that remain between First Nations citizens and other British Columbians, including by advancing modern government-to-government relationships based on mutual respect, recognition, and affirmation of our inherent rights.

First Nations remain steadfastly committed to changing the course of First Nation-Crown relations in BC in a positive way that results in transformative change that benefits our children, families, and communities. First Nations' socio-economic successes will undoubtedly benefit all British Columbians.

At a moment of structural inflection for the economic and political climate in BC, a snap election is an opportunity to assess each party's *real* commitments to addressing these matters and affecting long-term, positive change. Recognizing this, First Nations leaders across BC are actively engaging their citizens to encourage and facilitate participation in the upcoming provincial election.

The FNLC is preparing a 2026 BC Election Package to be shared with all First Nations in BC in advance of the provincial election. To inform First Nation voters, we are posing a series of questions to provincial parties on issues of key interest to First Nation voters.



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The questions, along with the responses we receive, will be included in the 2026 BC Election Package for First Nations. The Package will also include basic voting information and the various parties' platforms on First Nation issues.

The following are questions relating to First Nations' key issues, interests, and concerns that we are seeking your response to:

Technology and Energy – Data Governance, AI, Climate

1. British Columbia First Nations Regional Information Governance Centre (BCFNIGC)

- a. Governments make significant policy and funding decisions that affect First Nations, often without adequate distinctions-based evidence to understand whether programs, services and investments are achieving their intended outcomes. At the same time, much of the data required to understand these outcomes are collected and controlled by governments and other institutions rather than First Nations themselves.

If elected, how will your party ensure that major provincial policies, programs and investments affecting First Nations are informed by high-quality, distinctions-based evidence; that First Nations have meaningful access to and governance over the data required to assess outcomes; and that government transparently reports on results and changes its approach where the evidence shows that policies or investments are not working?

2. First Nations Technology Council (FNTC)

- a. As First Nations across BC increasingly engage with, and rely on, digital technologies, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence – much like the rest of British Columbia – access to connectivity is only one part of the challenge. First Nations have long advocated for the resources and capacity needed to ensure these technologies strengthen self-determination, economic participation, and community priorities, in alignment with protecting Indigenous data and knowledge. As technology continues to rapidly evolve and becomes part of BC and Canada's economic plan, First Nations need a role in shaping, governing, and controlling these systems and the data collected.

Beyond access to high-speed internet, what specific, long-term funding commitments would your party make to support First Nations-led organizations to strengthen digital skills, cybersecurity, and AI readiness in First Nations communities across BC, guided by Nations' priorities and supporting their sovereignty and control over data and technology?

3. Energy

- a. The FNLC has a signed Relationship Protocol with the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, supported by resolutions of the Chiefs. The Protocol establishes a framework for the FNLC, FNEMC and the Province to work together on energy and climate-related priorities. However, resources have not



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been provided to FNEMC to support implementation of the Protocol for the current fiscal year.

If elected, will your party commit to implementing and adequately resourcing the commitments made under the signed Relationship Protocol with the FNLC as they relate to energy and climate solutions?



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4. Climate

- a. Recent reports, including ECCC's Canada Changing Climate Report, highlight the imperative of renewing aggressive climate policy to reduce emissions to limit the worst impacts from global warming.

CleanBC is BC's climate plan to reduce emissions and transition to a low-carbon economy, but the 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report confirms the province is not on track to meet its 2030 or 2050 climate targets.

Recommendation #6 of CleanBC's Independent Review Panel report, "Rising to the Moment," recommends deepening partnerships with First Nations and aligning CleanBC implementation with the UN Declaration, as required by DRIPA and continuing the work toward reconciliation. Included in this recommendation are calls to:

- Co-develop, collaborative and resourced process to guide CleanBC policy and program development and implementation with First Nations title and rights holders,
- Establish and resource a BC First Nations Climate Action Fund to support First Nations led planning, capacity building, and action.

Will your party implement this recommendation?

How will your party work collaboratively with First Nations leadership and rights and title holders to develop and implement climate policy, uphold First Nations rights and the UN Declaration, and support First Nations-led climate adaptation?

Industry – Forestry, Fisheries, Mining

5. First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC)

- a. British Columbia's forest sector is entering a period of significant transformation as forest tenures and ownership structures evolve. As the sector undergoes this change, First Nations are seeking a greater role in the oversight and management of forests in their territories.

If elected, what specific actions would your government take to ensure First Nations are direct partners in the transformation of BC's forest sector?

What do you think needs to happen to increase First Nations' role in forest management and decision-making, while supporting long-term investment, economic opportunities, and sustainable forestry?



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- b. First Nations leaders have repeatedly identified that capacity is an ongoing barrier to moving forward their priorities for Early Learning and Child Care. Capacity and infrastructure – including workforce (recruitment, training, retention) and capital (buildings/spaces) – are regularly identified as the most pressing needs. Systemic approaches may be needed, but they must also recognize, reflect and respond to the diversity that exists – there are 204 First Nations in BC, and each has their own context, their own priorities, and their own approaches to this work.

What does your party see as the critical components of both capital and workforce strategies that will support all First Nations in their jurisdiction and in pursuing their goals for quality, accessible, community-based Early Learning and Child Care?

6. First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC)

- a. First Nations have inherent rights, and treaty rights, to the waters within their territories. They have stewarded these watersheds since time immemorial, and fish, food security, culture and community wellbeing all depend on them. This year's wildfire season forced First Nations communities from their homes, damaged critical infrastructure and left burned watersheds open to erosion, debris flows, poorer water quality and harm to wild Pacific salmon habitat. Ongoing drought has also brought record low flows and warm water temperatures, which threaten fish runs and the drinking water, fire suppression capacity and food sovereignty of First Nations. BC's water management system is chronically underfunded. Monitoring, data, planning and infrastructure have not kept pace with climate change and industrial pressures. First Nations are still too often left out of decisions about water allocation, drought response and watershed recovery, even though the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) requires the Province to bring its laws and practices into line with the UN Declaration.

If your party is elected, how will your party prioritize and sustainably fund water management in BC, including watershed monitoring, drought and post-wildfire recovery, and water infrastructure? How will you make sure First Nations are full partners in decision making on water in their territories, consistent with the Declaration Act and First Nations' inherent and treaty rights?



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7. Mining

- a. Action 2.14 of BC's Declaration Act Action Plan commits the Province to modernize the *Mineral Tenure Act* in consultation and cooperation with First Nations and First Nations organizations. The Mineral Claims Consultation Framework is not that solution. FNEMC believes that broader work is still required to address the modernization of the Mineral Tenure Act contemplated by Action 2.14.

If elected, will your party commit to reconvening a table with First Nations leadership to undertake the broader modernization of the Mineral Tenure Act contemplated by Action 2.14 of the Declaration Act?



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- b. Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (ISED) has committed to improving Indigenous access to spectrum through the Indigenous Priority Window (IPW) initiative, which supports Indigenous-led connectivity projects in rural and remote areas. The IPW provides Indigenous communities with priority access to spectrum licenses, and ISED is currently in the engagement phase for this initiative until the fall of 2024.

If elected, how will your government embrace and support ISED Canada 's Indigenous priority window for access to Spectrum?

Social – Children & Families, Justice, Gender Equity

8. Children and Families

- a. While provincial and federal legislation recognize First Nations peoples' inherent jurisdiction in relation to child and family services, law-making authority in relation to those services, and authority to administer and enforce laws made under that law-making authority, First Nations seeking to resume their jurisdiction over child and family services in B.C. continue to be faced with insufficient provincial funding, barriers to accessing government-held information about their children, and unilateral government policy changes that retroactively impact signed coordination agreements between First Nations, the government of B.C., and the government of Canada.

How will your party ensure that First Nations are adequately resourced and supported to exercise their jurisdiction over services for their children and families?

- b. Through the Declaration Act, the Province has committed to implementing the UN Declaration, which recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to be included in decision-making in matters that would affect their rights, including early learning and childcare.

If elected, what specific legislative, policy, and funding changes will your party make to ensure First Nations hold decision-making authority – not only an advisory role – with respect to early learning and childcare? What is your timeline for these changes, consistent with the Declaration Act?



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9. First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC)

- a. First Nations across BC continue to face significant housing needs, including homelessness and housing insecurity, as well as significant infrastructure needs, both on and off reserve. Addressing these needs requires more than short-term project funding; it requires sustained investment, long-term planning, stable capacity within the First Nations housing and infrastructure sector, and First Nations involvement in the design and delivery of programs that affect their citizens.

If elected, how will your party work in partnership with First Nations to establish a long-term, First Nations-led approach to housing and infrastructure in British Columbia, including stable core capacity funding for the First Nations housing and infrastructure sector, sustainable investment in



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communities, and support for First Nations to plan, develop, own and manage housing and infrastructure both on and off reserve?



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10. First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNEESC)

- First Nations have consistently advocated for education systems that reflect their rights and priorities, cultures and aspirations, and for sustained investments that address longstanding inequities. The BCTEA's success depends on meaningful implementation, adequate long-term resources, and accountability to First Nations students.

How do you intend to support the implementation of the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) for a 10-year term?

- First Nations students should have access to education pathways that support their individual aspirations and the priorities of their Nations, whether that means pursuing university, trades, technology, entrepreneurship, or employment. Access to these choices requires addressing barriers across the education system and strengthening supports, career pathways, and opportunities that enable students to succeed.

How can we ensure that all First Nations students have access to a quality education with a full-spectrum of options post-graduation?



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11. Justice – BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC)

- Strategy 11 committed to an Indigenous Women's Justice Plan (IWJP) responding to the National Inquiry into MMIWG Calls for Justice. BCFNJC released the IWJP in 2024. It is endorsed by UBCIC Resolution 2024-21 and BCAFN Resolutions 38/2024 and 29/2025, and UBCIC Resolution 2024-20 calls for a collaborative table with BCFNJC to implement the Calls for Justice. Dr. Kim Stanton's 2025 independent review made 21 recommendations on the legal system's treatment of intimate partner and sexual violence.

If elected to form the provincial government, how will your government commit stable, multi-year provincial funding to implement the IWJP priority strategies?

If elected, what is your government's timeline to implement all 21 Stanton recommendations in partnership with First Nations?

12. MMIWG2S+ and Gender Equity

- The National Inquiry and Dr. Kim Stanton's report clearly define gender-based violence and the MMIWG2S+ crisis as an epidemic and genocide and provide clear actionable frameworks to address systemic violence and support families and survivors.

What new policy or legislative actions will your government take across Ministries to prioritize the urgent prevention of these crises and to ensure specific protections for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples



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who are disproportionately impacted?

Thank you for your consideration and attention to the critical issue of engaging First Nations voters. We are asking for your responses to these questions to be returned by **October 18, 2026**, in order for your responses to be provided to all First Nations communities in BC.

Please reply by email to Colin Braker, A/Executive Director, First Nations Summit, at cbraker@fns.bc.ca.

Sincerely,
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On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT



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Response from the BC NDP



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BC NDP
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October 20, 2026

First Nations Leadership Council
% Danica Dahlin of the First Nations Summit
Re: 2026 Provincial Election - FNLC and FNOs Questions to Party Leaders

Dear First Nations Leadership Council,

Thank you for reaching out to us at the BC NDP during this critical moment for British Columbians. We appreciate the opportunity to respond by way of this letter, and hope that the information provided helps provide your organization and First Nations leadership and members across the province with clarity during the election season.

The BC NDP is deeply committed to working in true partnership with First Nations, and to respecting their inherent rights, title, and treaties. Like any relationship, at times we experience challenges and setbacks that require us to recommit to the relationship, devise protocols to help us work together through disagreements, and collaboratively develop solutions. If re-elected, you can expect that we will continue to treat the relationship between First Nations and the Province as foundational.

The BC Conservatives under Lorne Doerkson will not make these commitments. In fact, at the beginning of this election, he stated that repealing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act was his “top priority”. And in the debate we saw that Doerkson doesn’t appear to have a plan for what would come next. We are deeply concerned that the Conservative Party's plan to repeal DRIPA would turn the clock backwards on reconciliation, cancel projects and cost British Columbians thousands of jobs. It would mean more time and money wasted fighting in court, instead of working together to make life better for your communities and for everyone in B.C.

In addition, it’s becoming clear from the BC Conservatives platform that they are planning deep cuts to healthcare and other services that communities count on - at a time when we know so many communities need us to keep strengthening services for people.

There is an important choice before people in this election, and we hope that the BC NDP's commitment to continuing our work together with First Nations across all ministries and sectors speaks to the values we know we share in common, and the shared future we want to build.

1. British Columbia First Nations Regional Information Governance Centre (BCFNRIGC)

Governments make significant policy and funding decisions that affect First Nations, often without adequate distinctions-based evidence to understand whether programs, services and investments are achieving their intended outcomes. At the same time, much of the data required to understand these outcomes are collected and controlled by governments and other institutions rather than First Nations themselves.

If elected, how will your party ensure that major provincial policies, programs and investments affecting First Nations are informed by high-quality, distinctions-based evidence; that First Nations have meaningful access to and governance over the data required to assess outcomes; and that government transparently reports on results and changes its approach where the evidence shows that policies or investments are not working?

The BC NDP continues to strongly support the Declaration Act, passed unanimously by all parties in the House at the time, which commits government to advance the collection and use of disaggregated demographic data, guided by a distinctions-based approach to Indigenous data sovereignty and self-determination, including supporting the establishment of a First Nations-governed and mandated regional data governance centre in alignment with the First Nations Data Governance Strategy.

This work is led by the Ministry of Citizen Services in sustained consultation and co-operation with Indigenous Government Entities and Indigenous partners on priority data initiatives. It is informed by the Anti-Racism Data Committee, which was created under the Anti-Racism Data Act, passed by the BC NDP in 2022.

The Anti-Racism Data Committee:

- Reviews annual statistics prior to release to prevent community harms, establishes research priorities every two years to understand where the Province should focus its efforts to identify and address systemic racism;
- Develops and implements data standards to determine what type of personal information is collected, used, and shared;
- Delivers data directives to guide how government collects, uses, and shares information.

Changing how government collects data was an important first step. Over 2025/2026, The Ministry of Citizen Services worked with FNLC to co-develop the Indigenous Identity Data Standard, which will enable government to ask about Indigenous identity in a standardized and culturally safer way where needed for program delivery or anti-racism purposes. Implementation will improve the

quality of available evidence. A project is also currently underway to establish a First Nations-controlled membership database system with inputs from Vital Statistics.

We're committed to advancing this work if re-elected.

2. First Nations Technology Council (FNTC)

a. As First Nations across BC increasingly engage with, and rely on, digital technologies, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence – much like the rest of British Columbia – access to connectivity is only one part of the challenge. First Nations have long advocated for the resources and capacity needed to ensure these technologies strengthen self-determination, economic participation, and community priorities, in alignment with protecting Indigenous data and knowledge. As technology continues to rapidly evolve and becomes part of BC and Canada's economic plan, First Nations need a role in shaping, governing, and controlling these systems and the data collected.

Beyond access to high-speed internet, what specific, long-term funding commitments would your party make to support First Nations-led organizations to strengthen digital skills, cybersecurity, and AI readiness in First Nations communities across BC, guided by Nations' priorities and supporting their sovereignty and control over data and technology?

Digital skills start with our youth. Young people growing up in the current context need to be prepared for the future of the job market and information environment we live in today. Under the BC NDP, government has enacted a number of policies and programs to support young people across the province, including First Nations people, to build the digital skills they will need.

The BC Digital Literacy Framework sets out an approach for teachers working with students from kindergarten through grade 12, setting age-appropriate learning goals across all areas where digital skills are relevant. Building on the framework, the Curriculum Connections around Digital Literacy and AI includes specific learning standards for curricular competencies related to technology and AI, and calls on educators to acknowledge diverse perspectives and Indigenous ways of knowing in the use of the framework..

Beyond K-12 education, BC's Post Secondary Digital Learning Strategy, informed by an advisory committee report, specifically engages with commitments in the Declaration Act Action Plan, and has as a primary goal supporting outcomes that are relevant and responsive to post-secondary communities, "including First Nations-mandated institutes, such as the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA) institutes, as well as other Indigenous institutes" and further sets out the commitment to working within a distinctions-based approach. The development of this strategy was informed by consultations with the First Nations Education Steering Committee staff and the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association to ensure recommendations reflected the needs of First Nations and Indigenous learners across the province. One of the core commitments of the Learning Strategy is continued engagement with Indigenous organizations, such as First Nations-mandated and other Indigenous institutes, to ensure work reflects lasting and meaningful reconciliation.

As this strategy is implemented, a re-elected BC NDP government would commit to continuing the work directly with First Nations led organizations to fulfil the recommended actions in alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, specifically those that relate to education and Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods.

Outside the classroom, a re-elected BC NDP government would continue its work to support Indigenous data sovereignty, in alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to work closely with First Nations led organizations, including the First Nations Technology Council and others, to support projects and initiatives within communities that support the adoption of digital technologies, including AI where appropriate, in alignment with the goals of those communities.

b. The rapid growth of AI and data centres is creating new demands for electricity, water, land, and supporting infrastructure across BC. These developments can have significant impacts on First Nations lands, waters, resources, rights, and title, particularly where projects rely on shared energy and water systems.

Will your party commit that no AI data centre in BC proceeds without the free, prior, and informed consent of affected First Nations, including full transparency on its power and water usage?

As across all sectors of our economy, the BC NDP government has worked to ensure that projects in communities are supported by local First Nations, including providing support through various mechanisms to build direct partnerships between proponents of projects and First Nations communities. Where projects move forward, partnership with local First Nations is essential, and programs like the First Nations loan guarantee provide avenues to support equity participation where desired.

Under the BC NDP, the province implemented the Industrial Electricity Allocation Framework that applies to AI data centre projects, to appropriately pace the growth of the data centre sector, specifically recognizing impacts on local communities as a core consideration. As a part of developing this framework, we heard from First Nations participants to the engagement that core principles should include "prioritizing and not restricting First Nation-led or First Nation-partnered AI and data projects, collaborating with First Nations on decision making, mitigating cumulative effects and environmental impacts, promoting climate resilience and efficient water use, implementing revenue-sharing, and economic reconciliation." These principles informed the final development of the regulatory framework.

During the election, the BC NDP made new commitments related to AI data centres, including:

- Capping electricity for new AI data centres: Maintaining BC Hydro's firm limit on the amount of electricity available for new data centres and ensuring that only projects that meet the highest environmental standards are approved.
- Safeguarding our water from AI data centres: Setting strict new water-efficiency standards, mandated public reporting of water use, and requiring engagement with local communities on conservation and drought planning.

3. Energy

a. The FNLC has a signed Relationship Protocol with the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, supported by resolutions of the Chiefs. The Protocol establishes a framework for the FNLC, FNEMC and the Province to work together on energy and climate-related priorities. However, resources have not been provided to FNEMC to support implementation of the Protocol for the current fiscal year.

If elected, will your party commit to implementing and adequately resourcing the commitments made under the signed Relationship Protocol with the FNLC as they relate to energy and climate solutions?

The BC NDP recognizes that communities flourish when the province and First Nations work together as partners – including on projects and initiatives related to energy and climate solutions.

We are proud of the work we have done in partnership when it comes to energy projects in this province. Under BC NDP leadership, the recent BC Hydro Call for Power required that participants in the call for clean energy had a minimum of 25% First Nations equity ownership. Of the resulting projects, average First Nations ownership exceeded 50%. Of the 41 provincial major projects, half have First Nations equity ownership. This is real progress, and comes from deep commitment that First Nations should share in the benefits and the economic opportunities being generated on the land.

As we move forward in this work of partnership, a re-elected BC NDP government would remain committed to continuing the work with the FNLC and FNEMC to advance shared priorities, including as set out in the Relationship Protocol.

4. Climate

a. Recent reports, including ECCC's Canada Changing Climate Report, highlight the imperative of renewing aggressive climate policy to reduce emissions to limit the worst impacts from global warming. CleanBC is BC's climate plan to reduce emissions and transition to a low-carbon economy, but the 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report confirms the province is not on track to meet its 2030 or 2050 climate targets.

Recommendation #6 of CleanBC's Independent Review Panel report, "Rising to the Moment," recommends deepening partnerships with First Nations and aligning CleanBC implementation with the UN Declaration, as required by DRIPA and continuing the work toward reconciliation. Included in this recommendation are calls to:

- **Co-develop, collaborative and resourced process to guide CleanBC policy and program development and implementation with First Nations title and rights holders,**
- **Establish and resource a BC First Nations Climate Action Fund to support First Nations led planning, capacity building, and action.**

Will your party implement this recommendation?

How will your party work collaboratively with First Nations leadership and rights and title holders to develop and implement climate policy, uphold First Nations rights and the UN Declaration, and support First Nations-led climate adaptation?

First Nations communities are on the front lines when dealing with the effects of climate change, that's why the BC NDP government has consistently worked with rural, remote and First Nations communities to respond, mitigate, and adapt to climate realities and ensure stewardship of land and resilient communities.

Under Action 2.12 of the Declaration Act Action Plan, the province commits to collaboratively develop and implement CleanBC and the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy to support resilient communities and clean economic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples that benefit our shared climate and advance reconciliation.

Additionally, the Province supports Indigenous communities with additional climate action funding programs such as:

- CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy
- BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative
- First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund

If re-elected, the BC NDP commits to continued consultation and cooperation with First Nations leadership and communities to develop the programs and policies needed to support climate action and provide opportunities for communities to both lead and benefit from programs that support climate mitigation and adaptation. Part of that ongoing work includes deep consultation and work with First Nations communities on Land Use Planning that can identify culturally and ecologically valuable areas that should be conserved and protected.

All of this work is at risk with a BC Conservative government. They have committed to repealing CleanBC and are running candidates who promote conspiracy theories about climate change. Doerkson's candidate in Esquimalt-Colwood has said things like: "[Turns out the climate always changes with our without humans... who would have thought?](#)" "[This is not a settled debate. Look around you, does it actually look like there's an 'emergency'?](#)" And he's not the only climate denier and skeptic on the [BC Conservative team](#).

First Nations communities see the effects of climate change first hand - including through emergencies like wildfires and floods.

Here at the BC NDP we are committed to advancing our shared work together. And in this election, the BC NDP made specific commitments to protect the environment and respond to climate change, including:

- **Achieving "30 by 30" nature protection:** Partnering with Prime Minister Carney to protect 30% of B.C.'s land by 2030 to conserve the environment and protect wildlife habitat. The Northwest

Critical Conservation Corridor is poised to add protections to 5,000,000 hectares – equivalent to 5% of the province or 12,000 Stanley Parks – by early next year.

- **Strengthening watershed protection:** \$30 million per year to provide the BC Watershed Security Fund with sustainable, long-term funding and secure healthy watersheds and thriving communities for generations.
- **Creating the Clean Futures Fund:** Dedicating a portion of provincial revenue from new oil and gas development to fund climate action programs that help families and businesses choose less costly clean energy and create new jobs, starting with an investment of \$50 million.
- **Capping electricity for new AI data centres:** Maintaining BC Hydro's firm limit on the amount of electricity available for new data centres and ensuring that only projects that meet the highest environmental standards are approved.
- **Safeguarding our water from AI data centres:** Setting strict new water-efficiency standards, mandated public reporting of water use, and requiring engagement with local communities on conservation and drought planning.
- **Protecting B.C.'s coast:** Finalizing the new, historic National Marine Conservation Area Reserve in the Great Bear Sea, announced earlier this year, in partnership with the federal government and six coastal First Nations.
- **Protecting old-growth trees:** \$50 million to convert old-growth deferrals of the most irreplaceable and rarest forests into permanent protections, while supporting mills to retrofit and make more value-added products with second growth.
- **Expanding the Youth Climate Corps:** \$4 million annually to scale up workforce development and training opportunities for young people across BC. From providing FireSmart home assessments to ecological restoration and invasive species removal, the Youth Climate Corps of BC connects youth aged 17-30 with important job opportunities offering a livable wage to help build up climate resiliency.
- **Installing more heat pumps in homes:** More British Columbians are now installing heat pumps to cool and heat their homes instead of gas-fired furnaces, a move that reduces emissions and utility bills. A BC NDP government will build on that momentum with a new \$50 million per year to support even more households to make the switch.
- **Reducing Hydro bills with balcony solar:** A BC NDP government will cut red tape and simplify the process for households to install balcony solar and produce their own clean energy.
- **Building EV charging network:** Significant progress has been made in building the province's public EV charging network but there is much more to do. A new \$16 million per year investment will help us triple the number of charging ports in the province over the next decade.
- **Slashing harmful methane emissions:** BC has made significant progress in our goal of cutting emissions by 75 per cent by 2030, with a 50 per cent cut achieved two years early. A re-elected BC NDP government will refocus its efforts to meet this goal and work to virtually eliminate methane emissions by 2035.

5. First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC)

a. British Columbia's forest sector is entering a period of significant transformation as forest tenures and ownership structures evolve. As the sector undergoes this change, First Nations are seeking a greater role in the oversight and management of forests in their territories.

If elected, what specific actions would your government take to ensure First Nations are direct partners in the transformation of BC's forest sector? What do you think needs to happen to increase First Nations' role in forest management and decision-making, while supporting long-term investment, economic opportunities, and sustainable forestry?

Under the BC NDP government, the growth of First Nations participation, ownership, and leadership in the forestry sector has been remarkable.

We are seeing significant growth in ownership and economic opportunity that's being realized in projects like the La-Kwa sa muqw Forestry partnership between Western Forest Products and the Nanwakolas Council, and in the recent expansion of the McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest. A re-elected BC NDP government would continue to support these kinds of partnerships as the path forward for BC's forestry sector.

We would also continue to support and accelerate the work of Forest Landscape Planning Tables across the province, as a venue where First Nations are meaningfully at the table where planning and decision making about our forests is taking place.

We would continue to pursue opportunities to partner with First Nations on Wildfire Salvage Opportunity Agreements where salvage opportunities can be directly awarded to First Nations and licences for ecosystem recovery, fibre utilization opportunities or other post-fire recovery treatments can be included in that critical work.

Together with the First Nations Forestry Council, which the BC NDP government provided \$5m in Budget 2026, we would build on existing partnerships and work towards further leadership and participation of First Nations in the forestry sector, including by bringing young people into the sector and making sure they have the opportunities and education needed to build careers.

b. First Nations leaders have repeatedly identified that capacity is an ongoing barrier to moving forward their priorities for Early Learning and Child Care. Capacity and infrastructure – including workforce (recruitment, training, retention) and capital (buildings/spaces) – are regularly identified as the most pressing needs. Systemic approaches may be needed, but they must also recognize, reflect and respond to the diversity that exists – there are 204 First Nations in BC, and each has their own context, their own priorities, and their own approaches to this work.

What does your party see as the critical components of both capital and workforce strategies that will support all First Nations in their jurisdiction and in pursuing their goals for quality, accessible, community-based Early Learning and Child Care?

Childcare and early learning are essential for the wellbeing of children and families across the province, and that's why the BC NDP has consistently prioritized childcare as part of its core commitment to people, and invested significantly in building new spaces and bringing down the costs of childcare. We're proud of the results of this investment, including:

- Increasing the number of certified early childhood educators in B.C. by 13,500, with more than 30,200 certified early childhood educators in the province – an 81% increase from 2018; and
- Creating over 65,700 new licensed child care spaces are available for families throughout B.C., with the largest increases outside Metro Vancouver.

In this election campaign, we have made additional commitments to childcare and early learning, including:

- Expanding school-based child care: Adding 7,200 before- and after-school spaces on school grounds to give more families access to seamless child care in places they already know and trust. This will be supported by \$80 million to fund startup costs, renovations, and ongoing costs.
- Strengthening universal child care: Committing \$250 million in new provincial dollars to leverage federal funding in the negotiations and work with the federal government and the childcare sector to:
 - Improve wages and working conditions for early childhood educators, including a provincial wage grid;
 - Expand the number of affordable child care spaces; and
 - Bring in a hard, universal fee cap like Ontario.

In addition to investments in childcare and early learning across the province, a re-elected BC NDP government would also continue working with the FNLC under the existing MOU on Early Learning and Childcare for First Nations in BC, advancing the work on self-determination and self-government. We remain committed to the goals established within the MOU, and will look for opportunities to build on and see those goals meaningfully implemented through existing programs like the Aboriginal Child Care Resource and Referral Program and the Aboriginal Head Start Program and new initiatives as developed collaboratively.

Unfortunately, the BC Conservatives have made it clear that all of our work together on childcare is at risk with their plan. Lorne Doerkson won't say what he'll cut to pay for billions in uncostered promises, and the Conservatives won't commit to a fee cap on fee increases. And just three weeks ago, Conservative Child Care Critic Heather Maahs tweeted "[exactly right](#)" in response to a post calling for subsidized spaces to be replaced with a tax credit for each child. It's clear that working families would pay the price for Conservative childcare cuts and higher costs."

6. First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC)

a. First Nations have inherent rights, and treaty rights, to the waters within their territories. They have stewarded these watersheds since time immemorial, and fish, food security, culture and community wellbeing all depend on them. This year's wildfire season forced First Nations communities from their homes, damaged critical infrastructure and left burned watersheds open to erosion, debris flows, poorer water quality and harm to wild Pacific salmon habitat. Ongoing drought has also brought record low flows and warm water temperatures, which threaten fish runs and the drinking water, fire suppression capacity and food sovereignty of First Nations. BC's water management system is chronically underfunded. Monitoring, data, planning and infrastructure have not kept pace with climate change and industrial pressures. First Nations are still too often left out of decisions about water allocation, drought response and watershed recovery, even though the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) requires the Province to bring its laws and practices into line with the UN Declaration.

If your party is elected, how will your party prioritize and sustainably fund water management in BC, including watershed monitoring, drought and post-wildfire recovery, and water infrastructure?

In this election we have committed to providing annual, stable funding for watershed security, through a commitment to provide \$30 million per year to the Watershed Security Fund. We have also committed to safeguarding our water from AI data centres, setting strict new water-efficiency standards, mandated public reporting of water use, and requiring engagement with local communities on conservation and drought planning.

Additionally, as climate change brings more frequent droughts, we have increasingly been activating tables in drought situations with the explicit goal of bringing together all water users around a table to make shared decisions to serve the needs of communities in times of scarcity. An example of where this work has been successful includes the province's work with the Koksilah Watershed group.

Additional actions the province has taken under BC NDP leadership in collaboration with First Nations to support water conservation and long term water security includes:

- Expanding water storage capacity through reservoir, lake storage and dam upgrades
- Supporting nearly 700 projects to improve water storage and supply in drought prone areas
- Helping farmers improve irrigation and build water storage
- Upgrading drinking water and wastewater systems in communities province-wide, and
- Funded watershed restoration to protect natural water sources.

We know that water sustainability will continue to be a pressing issue for First Nations and we will continue advancing shared priorities and projects if re-elected.

How will you make sure First Nations are full partners in decision-making on water in their territories, consistent with the Declaration Act and First Nations' inherent and treaty rights?

Under the BC NDP the province has moved towards collaborative management of shared resources, recognizing we all have a stake in the land and the waters that sustain us. We will continue to engage with First Nations on water governance, and to create partnerships where possible that allow for shared work – using successful examples like the Nicola Water Governance Partnership to guide that work. By bringing together First Nations, local governments, the province, community members, all key decision makers in communities to ensure watersheds and water are stewarded in the best interests of all people in a community.

7. Mining

a. Action 2.14 of BC's Declaration Act Action Plan commits the Province to modernize the Mineral Tenure Act in consultation and cooperation with First Nations and First Nations organizations. The Mineral Claims Consultation Framework is not that solution. FNEMC believes that broader work is still required to address the modernization of the Mineral Tenure Act contemplated by Action 2.14.

If elected, will your party commit to reconvening a table with First Nations leadership to undertake the broader modernization of the Mineral Tenure Act contemplated by Action 2.14 of the Declaration Act?

BC has seen significant expansion in the mining sector over the last two years, and much of that work is owed to the close collaboration between the province, project proponents, and First Nations. We are proud of the two section 7 agreements signed with the Tahltan First Nation on the Eskay Creek and Red Chris mines. It's been disappointing to see the BC Conservatives criticizing and spreading misinformation about these kinds of agreements that serve as examples of how mining can be responsibly advanced and jobs created in partnership with First Nations.

These partnerships take time but demonstrate that work to create alignment and partnership can lead to good outcomes with benefit sharing that helps lift up communities and ensure that they see reinvestments in community infrastructure that support good lives for people. Reconciliation is one of the three pillars of the Northwest Critical Conservation Corridor, and as mining advances in the BC's northwest, a re-elected BC NDP government would continue to advance the three pillar approach to this work, recognizing that economic development goes hand in hand with reconciliation and conservation.

On reform to the Mineral Tenure Act, the BC NDP recognizes that the legislation is not reflective of the current approach of collaboration and rights recognition and must be reformed. Working together to reform the Mineral Tenure Act has been identified as a priority between the FNLC and the province, and if re-elected the BC NDP would continue this work in partnership with First Nations, industry, community and other stakeholders.

The BC Conservatives would bring us backward in their approach to resource development. With their promise to repeal DRIPA, the province and First Nations would be deprived of tools like the Section 6 and 7 agreements that can support close collaboration and shared decision making, and would return the province to adversarial approaches to resource management, stewardship and development.

b. Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (ISED) has committed to improving Indigenous access to spectrum through the Indigenous Priority Window (IPW) initiative, which supports Indigenous-led connectivity projects in rural and remote areas.

The IPW provides Indigenous communities with priority access to spectrum licenses, and ISED is currently in the engagement phase for this initiative until the fall of 2024. If elected, how will your government embrace and support ISED Canada Indigenous priority window for access to Spectrum?

The BC NDP has led the way on expanding connectivity for rural, remote and Indigenous communities, recognizing that we live in a digitally connected world, and that more needs to be done so that all communities can benefit from reliable internet access.

88 percent of homes in First Nations communities now have access compared to only 66% in 2017.

This year, the seventh intake of the Connecting Communities BC funding program opened for applications – continuing provincial support for expanding access in communities across BC.

A re-elected BC NDP government would work with First Nations and the Federal government to support Indigenous-led connectivity projects in rural and remote areas, including supporting projects to access the Federal Indigenous Priority Window for spectrum access.

8. Children and Families

a. While provincial and federal legislation recognize First Nations peoples' inherent jurisdiction in relation to child and family services, law-making authority in relation to those services, and authority to administer and enforce laws made under that law-making authority, First Nations seeking to resume their jurisdiction over child and family services in B.C. continue to be faced with insufficient provincial funding, barriers to accessing government-held information about their children, and unilateral government policy changes that retroactively impact signed coordination agreements between First Nations, the government of B.C., and the government of Canada.

How will your party ensure that First Nations are adequately resourced and supported to exercise their jurisdiction over services for their children and families?

The BC NDP recognizes that Indigenous children are still subject to unacceptable rates of children in foster care, and this problem needs dedicated attention and partnership to continue to implement Indigenous jurisdiction over children and family services.

BC was the first province in Canada to recognize the inherent rights of Indigenous communities to provide their own child and family services through the Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act.

We are now leading the country in agreements to return jurisdiction over these critical services - and we agree that we have much more work to do together to move this work forward and ensure it is supported.

We are fully committed to co-developing a funding model to support this. That work is underway and a re-elected BC NDP government is committed to completing that work.

A re-elected BC NDP government will continue this work to ensure that First Nations and Indigenous jurisdiction over children and families is supported and that communities that are ready to take the next step in exercising that jurisdiction have the support from the relevant ministries and work towards agreements and funding approaches.

b. Through the Declaration Act, the Province has committed to implementing the UN Declaration, which recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to be included in decision-making in matters that would affect their rights, including early learning and childcare.

If elected, what specific legislative, policy, and funding changes will your party make to ensure First Nations hold decision-making authority – not only an advisory role with respect to early learning and childcare? What is your timeline for these changes, consistent with the Declaration Act?

The BC NDP supports self-government efforts of First Nations and under our leadership the province has continued to negotiate self-government agreements, including over early learning and childcare, through modern treaties and other agreements.

In addition to investments in childcare and early learning across the province, a re-elected BC NDP government would also continue working with the FNLC under the existing MOU on Early Learning and Childcare for First Nations in BC, advancing the work on self-determination and self-government. We remain committed to the goals established within the MOU, and will look for opportunities to build on and see those goals meaningfully implemented through existing programs like the Aboriginal Child Care Resource and Referral Program and the Aboriginal Head Start Program and new initiatives as developed collaboratively.

9. First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC)

a. First Nations across BC continue to face significant housing needs, including homelessness and housing insecurity, as well as significant infrastructure needs, both on and off reserve. Addressing these needs requires more than short-term project funding; it requires sustained investment, long-term planning, stable capacity within the First Nations housing and infrastructure sector, and First Nations involvement in the design and delivery of programs that affect their citizens.

If elected, how will your party work in partnership with First Nations to establish a long-term, First Nations-led approach to housing and infrastructure in British Columbia, including stable core capacity funding for the First Nations housing and infrastructure sector, sustainable investment in communities, and support for First Nations to plan, develop, own and manage housing and infrastructure both on and off reserve?

Under the BC NDP, BC has funded and supported the construction of thousands of units of housing for Indigenous people. BC was the first province in Canada, under BC NDP leadership, to fund housing projects on-reserve, despite this work being properly in the jurisdiction of the federal government. This approach was taken because the BC NDP recognizes that housing is essential to human dignity, and more needs to be done to support Indigenous and First Nations housing needs across the province.

Through the Indigenous Housing Fund program, launched in 2018, thousands of affordable rental homes have been funded, working in partnership with Indigenous non-profit housing providers, First Nations, and other Indigenous organizations.

The work is far from done, and if re-elected, the BC NDP would continue its work to fund and build necessary housing and infrastructure with First Nations and Indigenous people – in partnership with nations and Indigenous organizations that best know the needs of their communities.

10. First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)

a. First Nations have consistently advocated for education systems that reflect their rights and priorities, cultures and aspirations, and for sustained investments that address longstanding inequities. The BCTEA's success depends on meaningful implementation, adequate long-term resources, and accountability to First Nations students.

How do you intend to support the implementation of the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) for a 10-year term?

b. First Nations students should have access to education pathways that support their individual aspirations and the priorities of their Nations, whether that means pursuing university, trades, technology, entrepreneurship, or employment. Access to these choices requires addressing barriers across the education system and strengthening supports, career pathways, and opportunities that enable students to succeed.

How can we ensure that all First Nations students have access to a quality education with a full-spectrum of options post-graduation?

Education is paramount to ensuring that young people have the opportunities and skills they need to thrive. Under BC NDP leadership, significant work has happened in collaboration with First Nations students to prioritize education and good outcomes for students – and it is showing results. Indigenous high school completion rates are at an historic high of 77%, an increase of 11 percentage points from 66% in the 2016-17 school year.

As an essential step toward reconciliation and building a more inclusive education system in B.C. education, in 2026 and 2026, BC invested \$5.4 million to support community-based First Nation teacher education. This supports the government's commitment under the Declaration Act Action Plan to develop and implement an effective recruitment and retention strategy to increase the number of Indigenous teachers in the K-12 public education system. This work included providing \$1 million to 3 First Nations communities to support delivery of Bachelor of Education programs, and additionally, six First Nations and organizations designated by First Nations were awarded \$50,000 grants for partnership and/or program development, including Ktunaxa Nation Council, Fort Nelson First Nation, Lax Kw'alaams Band, W̱SÁNEĆ College, Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute.

We believe in the importance of local education agreements between the school boards and local First Nation as a means of ensuring accountability and clear expectation setting for students, families and communities. We recognize the important work that is happening at the table for the Tripartite Education Agreement between Canada, BC and First Nations, and will continue to work at the table in good faith with Canada and First Nations to negotiate, conclude and implement an agreement that results in sufficient and stable funding.

11. Justice – BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC)

- a. Strategy 11 committed to an Indigenous Women’s Justice Plan (IWJP) responding to the National Inquiry into MMIWG Calls for Justice. BCFNJC released the IWJP in 2024. It is endorsed by UBCIC Resolution 2024-21 and BCAFN Resolutions 38/2024 and 29/2025, and UBCIC Resolution 2024-20 calls for a collaborative table with BCFNJC to implement the Calls for Justice. Dr. Kim Stanton's 2025 independent review made 21 recommendations on the legal system's treatment of intimate partner and sexual violence.**

If elected to form the provincial government, how will your government commit stable, multi-year provincial funding to implement the IWJP priority strategies?

As First Nations and Indigenous women see disproportionate impacts of sexual and intimate partner violence, working closely with First Nations leadership organizations, including the First Nations Justice Council, is essential to addressing the harms of abuse, and of the harms created by the legal system’s treatment of survivors of violence.

The actions we have already taken demonstrate our commitment to rooting out and addressing gender-based violence in our communities, including:

- Strengthening crucial supports for families experiencing violence as they navigate separation and divorce, including supports available through legal aid services and family court support workers;
- Advancing civil law reforms that make it easier for victims to seek justice when intimate images are shared without consent; and
- Advocating consistently for changes to the Criminal Code, where many of the changes we have advocated for have recently become law.

This summer, the Attorney General released an update on the progress towards the Stanton Report’s recommendations. This progress report notes that coordinated action from BC’s Gender Equity Office, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is ongoing to provide direct services to survivors and implement strategies and actions to address gender-based violence. Working with Indigenous partners and the federal government, \$36.2 million over four years was committed to support Indigenous-led responses under BC’s Gender Based Violence Action – including funding for the BC First Nations Justice Council’s Indigenous Women’s Justice Plan, cultural competency training and Aunties Program. In 2026, the federal government committed to a further four years of funding, and the BC NDP would continue its work on the Indigenous Women’s Justice plan in collaboration with the First Nations Justice Council to ensure these funds support the goals of the strategy.

b. If elected, what is your government's timeline to implement all 21 Stanton recommendations in partnership with First Nations?

Under the BC NDP, this work is being prioritized because of the significant impact on people in communities – we know that victims and survivors can't wait.

If re-elected, the BC NDP would bring forward legislation to address the recommendations in the Stanton Report, and continue working with the FNJC and other Indigenous-led organizations and partners to implement additional recommendations that require policy and program changes.

12. MMIWG2S+ and Gender Equity

a. The National Inquiry and Dr. Kim Stanton's report clearly define gender-based violence and the MMIWG2S+ crisis as an epidemic and genocide and provide clear actionable frameworks to address systemic violence and support families and survivors.

What new policy or legislative actions will your government take across Ministries to prioritize the urgent prevention of these crises and to ensure specific protections for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples who are disproportionately impacted?

Under a BC NDP government, the collaboratively developed Gender-Based Violence Action Plan, along with the Stanton Report recommendations, guides government's actions to address systemic violence and support families and survivors, including against 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples.

But there is much more work to do. If re-elected, the BC NDP would bring forward legislation to address the recommendations in the Stanton Report, and continue working with the FNJC and other Indigenous-led organizations to implement additional recommendations that require policy and program changes.

-End-

Response from the Conservative Party of BC

Received Via Email:

Please see the responses below to your questions on behalf of Lorne Doerkson and the Conservative Party of BC.

First Nations Questionnaire – Responses

Overarching Statement – Reconciliation and DRIPA

We are committed to advancing reconciliation through respectful relationships, meaningful engagement and practical partnerships with First Nations.

We have been clear about our intention to repeal the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). That position does not diminish our recognition of Aboriginal and treaty rights, or our commitment to working constructively with First Nations.

We believe British Columbia needs a clear, consistent and predictable approach to decision-making that provides greater certainty for First Nations, communities, businesses and all British Columbians. We would work respectfully with First Nations leadership on the path forward, recognizing the importance of established rights, existing agreements and opportunities for shared economic prosperity.

Our objective is to build stronger relationships, support meaningful First Nations participation in decisions affecting their communities and create the conditions for lasting reconciliation and prosperity.

Technology and Energy – Data Governance, AI, Climate

1. British Columbia First Nations Regional Information Governance Centre (BCFNRIGC)

Question:

Governments make significant policy and funding decisions that affect First Nations, often without adequate distinctions-based evidence to understand whether programs, services and investments are achieving their intended outcomes. At the same time, much of the data required to understand these outcomes are collected and controlled by governments and other institutions rather than First Nations themselves.

If elected, how will your party ensure that major provincial policies, programs and investments affecting First Nations are informed by high-quality, distinctions-based evidence; that First Nations have meaningful access to and governance over the data required to assess outcomes; and that government transparently reports on results and changes its approach where the evidence shows that policies or investments are not working?

Response:

Good decisions require reliable evidence and meaningful participation by the people affected. We recognize the importance of distinctions-based data, First Nations' access to information and appropriate governance over information concerning their communities. We would work collaboratively with First Nations to strengthen transparency, accountability and evidence-based decision-making, while respecting legitimate data sovereignty and privacy considerations.

2. First Nations Technology Council (FNTC)

Question:

As First Nations across BC increasingly engage with, and rely on, digital technologies, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence – much like the rest of British Columbia – access to connectivity is only one part of the challenge. First Nations have long advocated for the resources and capacity needed to ensure these technologies strengthen self-determination, economic participation, and community priorities, in alignment with protecting Indigenous data and knowledge. As technology continues to rapidly evolve and becomes part of BC and Canada’s economic plan, First Nations need a role in shaping, governing, and controlling these systems and the data collected.

Beyond access to high-speed internet, what specific, long-term funding commitments would your party make to support First Nations-led organizations to strengthen digital skills, cybersecurity, and AI readiness in First Nations communities across BC, guided by Nations’ priorities and supporting their sovereignty and control over data and technology?

Response:

First Nations must have meaningful opportunities to participate in British Columbia's growing digital economy. We recognize the importance of digital skills, cybersecurity, connectivity and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence. We would engage First Nations leadership and organizations on practical approaches to building capacity, supporting economic opportunities and respecting First Nations' interests in the governance of their data and technology.

3. Energy

Question:

The FNLC has a signed Relationship Protocol with the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, supported by resolutions of the Chiefs. The Protocol establishes a framework for the FNLC, FNEMC and the Province to work together on energy and climate-related priorities. However, resources have not been provided to FNEMC to support implementation of the Protocol for the current fiscal year.

If elected, will your party commit to implementing and adequately resourcing the commitments made under the signed Relationship Protocol with the FNLC as they relate to energy and climate solutions?

Response:

We recognize the importance of constructive relationships with First Nations leadership on energy development and climate priorities. Existing agreements and protocols deserve careful consideration and respectful engagement. We would work with the parties to understand implementation priorities, available resources and opportunities to advance shared objectives, including greater First Nations participation in energy development and the economic benefits it can provide.

4. Climate

Question:

Recent reports, including ECCC’s Canada Changing Climate Report, highlight the imperative of renewing aggressive climate policy to reduce emissions to limit the worst impacts from global warming.

CleanBC is BC’s climate plan to reduce emissions and transition to a low-carbon economy, but the 2025 Climate Change Accountability Report confirms the province is not on track to meet its 2030 or 2050 climate targets.

Recommendation #6 of CleanBC's Independent Review Panel report, "Rising to the Moment," recommends deepening partnerships with First Nations and aligning CleanBC implementation with the UN Declaration, as required by DRIPA and continuing the work toward reconciliation. Included in this recommendation are calls to:

- Co-develop, collaborative and resourced process to guide CleanBC policy and program development and implementation with First Nations title and rights holders,
- Establish and resource a BC First Nations Climate Action Fund to support First Nations led planning, capacity building, and action.

Will your party implement this recommendation?

How will your party work collaboratively with First Nations leadership and rights and title holders to develop and implement climate policy, uphold First Nations rights and the UN Declaration, and support First Nations-led climate adaptation?

Response:

First Nations are essential partners in environmental stewardship, climate adaptation and responsible resource development. We recognize the importance of First Nations knowledge, leadership and participation in decisions affecting their territories.

Our approach to climate policy would emphasize practical outcomes, affordability, environmental responsibility and economic opportunity. We would engage First Nations directly on climate priorities, adaptation and opportunities for First Nations-led initiatives, including consideration of the recommendations identified.

Industry – Forestry, Fisheries, Mining

5(a). First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC)

Question:

British Columbia's forest sector is entering a period of significant transformation as forest tenures and ownership structures evolve. As the sector undergoes this change, First Nations are seeking a greater role in the oversight and management of forests in their territories.

If elected, what specific actions would your government take to ensure First Nations are direct partners in the transformation of BC's forest sector?

What do you think needs to happen to increase First Nations' role in forest management and decision-making, while supporting long-term investment, economic opportunities, and sustainable forestry?

Response:

First Nations have an important role in the future of British Columbia's forest sector. We support greater opportunities for First Nations participation in forest management, ownership, investment and economic development.

A sustainable forestry sector requires meaningful partnerships, responsible stewardship and a clear, predictable framework for decisions and investment. We would work with First Nations and industry to strengthen those foundations, support employment and create lasting economic opportunities for communities.

5(b). Early Learning and Child Care – Capacity

Question:

First Nations leaders have repeatedly identified that capacity is an ongoing barrier to moving forward their priorities for Early Learning and Child Care. Capacity and infrastructure – including workforce (recruitment, training, retention) and capital (buildings/spaces) – are regularly identified as the most pressing needs. Systemic approaches may be needed, but they must also recognize, reflect and respond to the diversity that exists – there are 204 First Nations in BC, and each has their own context, their own priorities, and their own approaches to this work.

What does your party see as the critical components of both capital and workforce strategies that will support all First Nations in their jurisdiction and in pursuing their goals for quality, accessible, community-based Early Learning and Child Care?

Response:

We recognize that First Nations communities have distinct needs and priorities in delivering early learning and child care. Access to qualified staff, appropriate facilities and sustainable services is essential.

We would work with First Nations leadership to better understand local workforce and infrastructure challenges and identify practical approaches that support accessible, culturally appropriate child care while respecting community priorities and available resources.

6. First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC)**Question:**

First Nations have inherent rights, and treaty rights, to the waters within their territories. They have stewarded these watersheds since time immemorial, and fish, food security, culture and community wellbeing all depend on them. This year's wildfire season forced First Nations communities from their homes, damaged critical infrastructure and left burned watersheds open to erosion, debris flows, poorer water quality and harm to wild Pacific salmon habitat. Ongoing drought has also brought record low flows and warm water temperatures, which threaten fish runs and the drinking water, fire suppression capacity and food sovereignty of First Nations. BC's water management system is chronically underfunded. Monitoring, data, planning and infrastructure have not kept pace with climate change and industrial pressures. First Nations are still too often left out of decisions about water allocation, drought response and watershed recovery, even though the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) requires the Province to bring its laws and practices into line with the UN Declaration. If your party is elected, how will your party prioritize and sustainably fund water management in BC, including watershed monitoring, drought and post-wildfire recovery, and water infrastructure? How will you make sure First Nations are full partners in decision-making on water in their territories, consistent with the Declaration Act and First Nations' inherent and treaty rights?

Response:

Healthy watersheds are fundamental to First Nations communities, British Columbia's environment and our shared prosperity. We recognize the importance of First Nations knowledge and participation in watershed management, drought preparedness and recovery following wildfires.

We would work collaboratively with First Nations and other partners to strengthen water stewardship, improve planning and establish clearer, more predictable decision-making processes that respect Aboriginal and treaty rights and provide certainty for communities and resource users.

7(a). Mining – Mineral Tenure Act

Question:

Action 2.14 of BC's Declaration Act Action Plan commits the Province to modernize the Mineral Tenure Act in consultation and cooperation with First Nations and First Nations organizations. The Mineral Claims Consultation Framework is not that solution. FNEMC believes that broader work is still required to address the modernization of the Mineral Tenure Act contemplated by Action 2.14.

If elected, will your party commit to reconvening a table with First Nations leadership to undertake the broader modernization of the Mineral Tenure Act contemplated by Action 2.14 of the Declaration Act?

Response:

We recognize the importance of meaningful engagement with First Nations on mineral exploration and development, including decisions affecting their rights and territories.

British Columbia needs a mineral tenure framework that respects Aboriginal and treaty rights, supports responsible development and provides greater certainty for First Nations, communities and investors alike. We would engage First Nations leadership and industry in reviewing the existing framework and identifying practical improvements that support these shared objectives.

7(b). Indigenous Priority Window – Spectrum

Question:

Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (ISED) has committed to improving Indigenous access to spectrum through the Indigenous Priority Window (IPW) initiative, which supports Indigenous-led connectivity projects in rural and remote areas. The IPW provides Indigenous communities with priority access to spectrum licenses, and ISED is currently in the engagement phase for this initiative until the fall of 2024.

If elected, how will your government embrace and support ISED Canada's Indigenous priority window for access to Spectrum?

Response:

Reliable connectivity is essential to economic opportunity, education, health care and community development, particularly in rural and remote British Columbia. We recognize the potential of Indigenous-led connectivity initiatives and would work with First Nations and the federal government to understand how provincial policies and partnerships can support improved access to telecommunications infrastructure and emerging digital opportunities.

Social – Children and Families, Justice, Gender Equity

8(a). Children and Families – First Nations Jurisdiction

Question:

While provincial and federal legislation recognize First Nations peoples' inherent jurisdiction in relation to child and family services, law-making authority in relation to those services, and authority to administer and enforce laws made under that law-making authority, First Nations seeking to resume their jurisdiction over child and family services in B.C. continue to be faced with insufficient provincial funding, barriers to accessing government-held information about their children, and unilateral government policy changes that retroactively impact signed coordination agreements between First Nations, the government of B.C., and the government of Canada.

How will your party ensure that First Nations are adequately resourced and supported to exercise their jurisdiction over services for their children and families?

Response:

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable and supportive environment connected to family, community and culture. We recognize the importance of First Nations jurisdiction in child and family services and the need for respectful cooperation between governments.

We would engage First Nations leadership on implementation challenges, information sharing, funding arrangements and ways to improve outcomes for children and families, while respecting applicable legal obligations and existing agreements.

8(b). Early Learning and Child Care – Decision-Making Authority**Question:**

Through the Declaration Act, the Province has committed to implementing the UN Declaration, which recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to be included in decision-making in matters that would affect their rights, including early learning and childcare.

If elected, what specific legislative, policy, and funding changes will your party make to ensure First Nations hold decision-making authority – not only an advisory role – with respect to early learning and childcare? What is your timeline for these changes, consistent with the Declaration Act?

Response:

We recognize that First Nations must have a meaningful role in decisions affecting early learning and child care in their communities. Different Nations have different priorities, capacities and approaches. We would work directly with First Nations leadership to understand existing arrangements and identify opportunities for stronger participation and locally appropriate decision-making, while ensuring changes are developed through respectful engagement and provide clarity for families, providers and governments.

9. First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC)**Question:**

First Nations across BC continue to face significant housing needs, including homelessness and housing insecurity, as well as significant infrastructure needs, both on and off reserve. Addressing these needs requires more than short-term project funding; it requires sustained investment, long-term planning, stable capacity within the First Nations housing and infrastructure sector, and First Nations involvement in the design and delivery of programs that affect their citizens.

If elected, how will your party work in partnership with First Nations to establish a long-term, First Nations-led approach to housing and infrastructure in British Columbia, including stable core capacity funding for the First Nations housing and infrastructure sector, sustainable investment in communities, and support for First Nations to plan, develop, own and manage housing and infrastructure both on and off reserve?

Response:

Access to safe, affordable housing and reliable infrastructure is essential to healthy, thriving communities. We recognize the significant housing and infrastructure challenges facing many First Nations.

We would work collaboratively with First Nations leadership, housing organizations and other governments to identify practical solutions that support community priorities, strengthen local capacity

and create opportunities for First Nations ownership, development and long-term economic participation.

10(a). First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) – BCTEA

Question:

First Nations have consistently advocated for education systems that reflect their rights and priorities, cultures and aspirations, and for sustained investments that address longstanding inequities. The BCTEA's success depends on meaningful implementation, adequate long-term resources, and accountability to First Nations students.

How do you intend to support the implementation of the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) for a 10-year term?

Response:

Every First Nations student deserves access to a quality education that supports their aspirations, culture and future opportunities. We recognize the importance of the BC Tripartite Education Agreement and the relationships that support its implementation.

We would engage First Nations education leadership and federal partners to understand implementation priorities, strengthen accountability for student outcomes and support stable, effective educational opportunities over the long term.

10(b). Education and Post-Graduation Opportunities

Question:

First Nations students should have access to education pathways that support their individual aspirations and the priorities of their Nations, whether that means pursuing university, trades, technology, entrepreneurship, or employment. Access to these choices requires addressing barriers across the education system and strengthening supports, career pathways, and opportunities that enable students to succeed.

How can we ensure that all First Nations students have access to a quality education with a full-spectrum of options post-graduation?

Response:

First Nations students should have the opportunity to pursue the futures they choose, whether through university, skilled trades, technology, entrepreneurship or employment.

We would work with First Nations education leaders, institutions and employers to strengthen pathways between education and opportunity, address barriers to participation and support programs that reflect the distinct aspirations and priorities of First Nations students and communities.

11. Justice – BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC)

Question:

Strategy 11 committed to an Indigenous Women's Justice Plan (IWJP) responding to the National Inquiry into MMIWG Calls for Justice. BCFNJC released the IWJP in 2024. It is endorsed by UBCIC Resolution 2024-21 and BCAFN Resolutions 38/2024 and 29/2025, and UBCIC Resolution 2024-20 calls for a collaborative table with BCFNJC to implement the Calls for Justice. Dr. Kim Stanton's 2025 independent review made 21 recommendations on the legal system's treatment of intimate partner and sexual violence.

If elected to form the provincial government, how will your government commit stable, multi-year provincial funding to implement the IWJP priority strategies?

If elected, what is your government's timeline to implement all 21 Stanton recommendations in partnership with First Nations?

Proposed Response:

Violence against Indigenous women and girls demands sustained attention and meaningful action. We recognize the important work undertaken by the BC First Nations Justice Council, including the Indigenous Women's Justice Plan, and the recommendations arising from Dr. Kim Stanton's review.

We would engage the Justice Council, First Nations leadership, survivors and service providers to review implementation priorities, assess existing resources and identify practical measures to improve safety, access to justice and accountability.

12. MMIWG2S+ and Gender Equity

Question:

The National Inquiry and Dr. Kim Stanton's report clearly define gender-based violence and the MMIWG2S+ crisis as an epidemic and genocide and provide clear actionable frameworks to address systemic violence and support families and survivors.

What new policy or legislative actions will your government take across Ministries to prioritize the urgent prevention of these crises and to ensure specific protections for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples who are disproportionately impacted?

Response:

We recognize the importance of listening to survivors, families and Indigenous leadership. We would work across government and with community partners to strengthen prevention, improve access to culturally appropriate supports, enhance accountability and address the circumstances that place vulnerable people at risk.

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Election Day Information

A provincial election has been called in British Columbia. Final Voting Day is **October 24, 2026**, advance voting took place from October 16-21, 2026.

Voters will elect 93 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). Each member represents an electoral district/riding and has a seat in the provincial Legislature. You can find your electoral district/riding [here](#).

[See Appendix B](#) for a comprehensive list of 2026 Provincial Election candidates.

To be eligible to vote in the upcoming election, you must be:

- A Canadian citizen;
- 18 years of age or older **on** October 24, 2026; and
- A resident of BC since **April 13, 2026**.

Important Dates

Writ Day (election called)	September 22, 2026
Campaign period begins	

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (district electoral offices closed)	September 30, 2026
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Register or update your voter information to make sure you receive a Where to Vote card	October 1, 2026
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Candidate nominations close at 1pm Pacific time	October 3, 2026
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Thanksgiving Day (district electoral offices closed)	October 12, 2026
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Advance voting	October 16-21, 2026
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Last day to request a vote-by-mail or by phone	October 18, 2026
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Final Voting Day	October 24, 2026
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Final count	November 6-10, 2026 (planned/tentative)
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Return Day	November 18, 2026
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Voter Registration

Registering to vote in advance of election day makes the voting process faster and easier on the day of the election. You are not required to register ahead of time, you can do this on election day with the staff.

You can register to vote the following ways:

- Online via Elections BC website: <https://eregister.electionsbc.gov.bc.ca/ovr/>
- By phone at 1-800-661-8683 (Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm PST)
- By mail, fax, or email by filling out and sending this form: <https://elections.bc.ca/docs/forms/200A.pdf>
- In person at the Elections BC office at #100 – 1112 Fort St, Victoria, BC, V8V 3K8

Voter ID

Before voting, all voters must prove who they are and where they live. You can show:

- A BC Driver's licence;
- A BC Identification card (BCID);
- A BC Services Card (with photo); or
- A Certificate of Indian Status.

You can also show two documents, both with your name and at least one with your current home address.

Voters who don't have ID can be vouched for. Visit elections.bc.ca for more information about vouching and a complete list of acceptable ID.

Voters without Fixed Address

If you don't have a permanent residential address, you can use the address of a social services agency where you regularly receive services as your address when you vote. Visit the agency and ask to complete a confirmation of residence form before you go vote.

Services for Voters with Disabilities

Elections BC has services available for voters with disabilities, and election officials are trained on how to assist voters with accessibility challenges to vote.

Voting Place Accessibility

All advance voting places and most final voting places are wheelchair accessible. Voters who can't enter a voting place can vote outside the building at the curb or in the parking lot. Ask the election official at the door if you need assistance with voting.

Translators

Voters can bring a translator to help them at the voting place. The translator must make a declaration that they are able to act as a translator and will do so to the best of their abilities.

Assistance marking the ballot



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Voters who have difficulty reading, writing, or marking their ballot can ask for assistance from election officials in voting places.

Assistive technology

Assistive equipment will be available in district electoral offices to allow voters to mark their ballot independently. Voters can listen to an audio recording of candidate names and affiliations and indicate their vote by using a hand selector device, sip-and-puff straws or paddles. The voter's ballot paper will be printed and fed into the tabulator, just like any other ballot.

Resources for voters with sight loss

Braille candidate lists, large-print ballot posters and plastic ballot templates are available at all voting places.

Assisted telephone voting

Assisted telephone voting is available to voters with sight loss, disability, or an underlying health condition that prevents them from voting independently or that would make it unsafe or impossible to vote in person. For more information about assisted telephone voting, contact Elections BC at 1-800-661-8683.

Future Voters

If you are too young to vote in this provincial election, you can still register yourself on the list of eligible future voters, who will be automatically added to the Provincial Voters List when you turn 18. This makes it easier for young voters to receive information about voting from Elections BC and will speed up the voting process.

To register as a future voter, you must be:

- 16 or 17 years old,
- A Canadian citizen, and
- A BC resident

Find more information about future voters [here](#).

See [Appendix A](#) for Future and First-time voters FAQs.



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First Nations Candidates & Bios

Candidate bios were gathered via respective party websites.

Name	Electoral Riding & Political Party	Biography
Leah Ballantyne, Mathias Colomb Cree Nation (Pukatawagan), MB	Abbotsford South – BC NDP	“Leah Ballantyne (Mikisew Iskewew) is a community leader and the first member of her Cree Nations to become a lawyer. Her family lives in Abbotsford South. She attended Abbotsford Senior Secondary, worked on farms across the valley and later practiced law in downtown Abbotsford, helping local families. She spent eight years on Sumas Mountain protecting the watershed, river, and salmon. A graduate of Douglas College and UBC Law, Leah completed a Masters of Law at the University of Hawai’i as class valedictorian. In nearly two decades of practice, she has advised First Nations, local, provincial, and federal governments and international bodies, testified before Parliament and worked with Senators, and led community engagement on a national trade corridor. She has served as vice-chair of a health authority board and on the BCIT board.”
Frankie Abel, Gitxsan First Nation	Bulkley Valley-Sitkine – BC NDP	“Frankie Abel is a Gitxsan woman, mother, and advisor who grew up in northern BC. She brings lived experience of the challenges facing northern families, alongside her work in cultural safety, Indigenous governance, and public policy. Guided by her family and Wilp’s teachings, Frankie carries a responsibility to give back to her community and region. Her experience walking in two worlds – within Gitxsan governance and provincial institutions – has taught her to build relationships, speak up, and keep the people she serves at the centre of her work.”
A’aliya Warbus, Skowkale First Nation/Sto:lo Nation (Incumbent)	Chilliwack-Cultus Lake – Conservative Party	“Á’a:liya Warbus is the MLA for Chilliwack-Cultus Lake. She was first elected in 2024. Á’a:liya has a background in film, storytelling and communications on behalf of Indigenous peoples. She served as the Director of Cultural Communications at Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Government, and as a Professor at Capilano University - Indigenous Digital Film Department. She is a multifaceted artist, and a community engagement advocate.



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		She is a young mother of three school-aged children and a proud member of the Stó:lō Nation. Á'a:liyais the daughter of former Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia Steven Lewis Point, OC OBC (Xwě li qwěi tēl), who also served as Tribal Chair of the Stó:lō Nation and Grand Chief of Stó:lō Tribal Council."
Patrick Michell, Former Chief Nlaka'pamux Nation (Kanaka Bar Indian Band)	Fraser-Nicola – BC Green Party	"Patrick Michell is the retired Chief of T'eqt'aqtn'mux (Kanaka Bar Indian Band) and a lifelong resident of the Fraser Canyon. His career spans law, Indigenous governance, renewable energy, economic development, community safety and climate resilience. Patrick graduated from the Administrative Management program at Douglas College in 1989 and from the University of British Columbia's law program in 1993. He began his professional career working on Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy agreements and later served as a Lands Officer with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. After completing his legal articles, he practised law in Lytton from 1997 to 2005."
Gloria Morgan, Splitsin First Nation	Salmon Arm-Shuswap – BC NDP	"Gloria Morgan is a member and former Chief of the Splitsin First Nation and a survivor of the Indian Residential School and Sixties Scoop systems. She spent 11 years as an RCMP officer before becoming a lawyer. She was called to the bar in 1995, had a private practice, and worked as Duty Counsel, Circuit Counsel, Crown Counsel, and a Federal Adjudicator in the Indian Residential School Independent Assessment Process conducting residential school hearings. Morgan has served on numerous regional and provincial boards in health, education, post-secondary education and justice, and remains active in her community."

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Appendix A - Future & First-Time Voters Information on Core Structure of BC Government and BC's Electoral System

The provincial government is divided into three main branches:

Executive Branch

- Head of State: King Charles III, represented provincially by the Lieutenant Governor
- Head of Government: The Premier, who acts as Chief Executive Officer and President of the Executive Council (Cabinet)
- Cabinet (Executive Council): Composed of the Premier and Cabinet Ministers. Cabinet Ministers are chosen from the elected members to run individual government ministries and set provincial policy.
- BC Public Service: Non-political (i.e., not elected and non-partisan) civil servants who implement laws, public policies, and public services.

Legislative Branch (Legislative Assembly)

- Consists of the Lieutenant Governor and **93 elected** Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), each representing a specific electoral district.
 - On election day, you are voting to elect a local MLA in your electoral district
- Responsible for passing provincial laws, approving budgets, and scrutinizing the actions of the executive branch.

Judicial Branch

- Independent provincial courts responsible for interpreting laws and ensuring legal compliance, separate from executive and legislative control (i.e., independent judiciary).

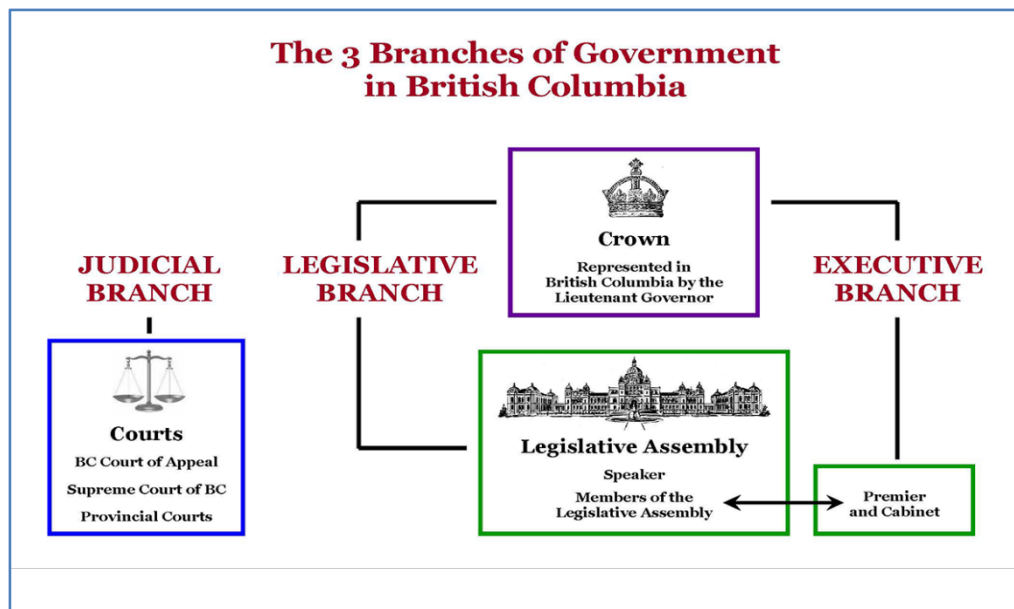


Figure 1. Three Branches of BC Government

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How often are provincial elections held?

- Typically, provincial elections are held every four years, but there are circumstances where a government calls an early election, or a 'snap' election. There are two primary circumstances where an early election can be called:
 - a) The government loses a vote of confidence – in this circumstance, it is a Constitutional requirement to call an early election.
 - b) The Premier advises the Lieutenant Governor to dissolve legislature early – this is up to the Premier's political discretion and is the circumstance that led to the 2026 Early Election.

2. What is the difference between a majority and a minority government?

- In a **majority government**, the governing party wins more than half of the total seats in the Legislative Assembly. This means that in BC, to form a majority government, a party needs to win **47 seats** out of the total 93 seats in the Legislative Assembly.
- In a **minority government**, the governing party wins fewer than half of the total seats in the Legislative Assembly and must rely on the support of other MLAs or opposition parties to pass bills and maintain confidence.

3. What is an electoral system and what system does British Columbia use?

- An electoral system is the way citizens' choices (i.e., votes) are translated into legislative seats. BC uses a system called a **Single-Member Plurality** or **First-Past-the-Post** (FPTP).
- In FPTP, voters are only allowed to choose a single candidate on the ballot, this is called an exclusive ballot, and the candidate with the most votes wins. The successful candidate does not need more than 50 per cent of the vote, they only need one more vote than any of the other candidates.

4. How are electoral districts/electoral ridings divided?

- The size of an electoral district is determined by factors like population size, demographic make-up, and geography. Urban electoral districts are often smaller geographically, but more densely populated, while rural electoral districts are typically larger geographically with less dense populations.

5. Who can run to become an MLA?

- Generally, any Canadian citizen who is 18 years or older on election day and has lived in BC for at least six months may be nominated as a candidate for election as an MLA.
- Typically, candidates have also been actively involved in their constituency. Candidates can run as the official candidate for a registered political party or as an independent. Becoming a candidate requires submitting a nomination form signed by at least 75 eligible voters in their constituency and paying a \$250 nomination deposit. Candidates are not required to reside in their constituency.



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Appendix B – Full Candidate List, by Riding



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Electoral District	Candidate Ballot Name	Party / Affiliation
Abbotsford South	Leah Ballantyne	BC NDP
	Bruce Banman	Conservative Party
	Robin Roy	OneBC
Abbotsford West	Gurpreet Chahal	CentreBC
	Jules Côté	BC NDP
	Korky Neufeld	Conservative Party
Abbotsford-Mission	Pam Alexis	BC NDP
	Virender Dass	OneBC
	Lakhwinder Jhaj	CentreBC
	Darryl Kropp	Conservative Party
	Jeff Monds	Libertarian
Boundary-Similkameen	Keith Pomeroy	OneBC
	Roly Russell	BC NDP
	Donegal Wilson	Conservative Party
Bulkley Valley-Stikine	Frankie Abel	BC NDP
	Ed Ewald	Christian Heritage Party of BC
	Sharon Hartwell	Conservative Party
Burnaby Centre	Joshua Domnich	Conservative Party
	Vikas Gautam	CentreBC
	Anne Kang	BC NDP
	Shila Taheri	BC Green Party
Burnaby East	Rohini Reah Arora	BC NDP
	De Ding	OneBC
	Javad Shushtarian	BC Green Party
	Peter Si	Conservative Party
Burnaby North	Simon Chandler	Conservative Party
	Maddy Kennedy-Parrott	BC Green Party
	Janet Routledge	BC NDP
	Paul Choi	BC NDP
Burnaby South-Metrotown	Bryan Fockler	BC Green Party
	Andrew Rose	OneBC
	David Xie	Conservative Party
	Raj Chouhan	BC NDP
Burnaby-New Westminster	Greg DePaco	BC Green Party
	Joe Latam	Conservative Party
	Kathryn Askew	BC NDP
Cariboo-Chilcotin	Lorne Doerkson	Conservative Party
	Douglas Gook	BC Green Party
	Dan Grice	CentreBC
Chilliwack North	Heather Maahs	Conservative Party
	Adila Shaukat	BC NDP
	Kelli Paddon	BC NDP
Chilliwack-Cultus Lake	A'aliya Warbus	Conservative Party
	Andrea Dunlop	BC NDP
Columbia River-Revelstoke	Andrea Dunlop	BC NDP

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	Scott McInnis	Conservative Party
	Rana Nelson	BC Green Party
Coquitlam-Burke Mountain	Kaden Mann	CentreBC
	Valerie Morrison	BC Green Party
	Ryan Peterson	Conservative Party
	Jodie Wickens	BC NDP
Coquitlam-Maillardville	Jennifer Blatherwick	BC NDP
	Matt Liang	Conservative Party
	Nicola Spurling	BC Green Party
Courtenay-Comox	Will Cole-Hamilton	BC NDP
	Jason Cook	CentreBC
	Brennan Day	Conservative Party
	Jay Van Oostdam	BC Green Party
Cowichan Valley	Bert Chen	Conservative Party
	James Chumsa	Communist Party of BC
	Justin Douglas	BC Green Party
	Debra Toporowski	BC NDP
Delta North	Monica Mohan	Conservative Party
	Kuldeep Rangi	CentreBC
	Todd Schierling	BC NDP
Delta South	Skadi Green	BC Green Party
	Jason McCormick	BC NDP
	Jim McMurtry	OneBC
	Ian Paton	Conservative Party
Esquimalt-Colwood	Sidney Coles	BC Green Party
	Dave Johnston	Conservative Party
	Darlene Rotchford	BC NDP
	Sid Tobias	CentreBC
Fraser-Nicola	Jason Leboe	BC NDP
	Tony Luck	Conservative Party
	Patrick Michell	BC Green Party
Juan de Fuca-Malahat	Jeff Brown	Christian Heritage Party of BC
	David Evans	BC Green Party
	Shane Friesen	OneBC
	Mike Hicks	Conservative Party
	Dana Lajeunesse	BC NDP
Kamloops Centre	Annelise Beach	BC Green Party
	Rocky McAfee	OneBC
	Peter Milobar	Conservative Party
	Thaelo Proctor	Independent
	Mike Wisla	BC NDP
Kamloops-North Thompson	Kory Clark	BC NDP
	Deborah Friesen	OneBC
	Ward Stamer	Conservative Party
Kelowna Centre	Bill Desrosiers	OneBC
	Kristina Loewen	Conservative Party
	Loyal Wooldridge	BC NDP
	Binny Boparai	BC NDP

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Kelowna-Lake Country-Coldstream	Carter Mochinski	BC Green Party
	Pavneet Singh	Conservative Party
	Alexandra Wright	OneBC
Kelowna-Mission	Gavin Dew	Conservative Party
	Saoirse MacKinnon	BC Green Party
	Abraham Nordine	OneBC
	Miriam Rycroft	BC NDP
Kootenay Central	Brittney Anderson	BC NDP
	Nicole Charlwood	BC Green Party
	Hunter Corrigan	OneBC
	Gordon Skulnec	Conservative Party
Kootenay-Monashee	Stephen Hill	OneBC
	Connie Larochelle	BC Green Party
	Warren Mirko	Conservative Party
	Steve Morissette	BC NDP
Kootenay-Rockies	Norma Blissett	BC NDP
	Pete Davis	Conservative Party
	Keenan Dennehy	BC Green Party
	Paul Heywood	CentreBC
	AJ Wolfe	OneBC
Ladysmith-Oceanside	Stephanie Higginson	BC NDP
	Kris McNichol	Conservative Party
	Charlene Smylie	BC Green Party
Langford-Highlands	Sean Flynn	CentreBC
	Christian McCay	Christian Heritage Party of BC
	Christopher Moon	BC Green Party
	Ravi Parmar	BC NDP
	Cindy Scott	Conservative Party
Langley-Abbotsford	Alex Thurlborn	Independent
	Harman Bhangu	Conservative Party
	Shelly Jan	OneBC
	Alex Joehl	Libertarian
	Erin Osborne	BC NDP
	Melissa Snazell	BC Green Party
Langley-Walnut Grove	Holly Isaac	BC NDP
	Sam Meyer	BC Green Party
	Kyle Stevenson	CentreBC
	Misty Van Popta	Conservative Party
Langley-Willowbrook	Shubham Joshi	OneBC
	Andrew Mercier	BC NDP
	Jody Toor	Conservative Party
Maple Ridge East	Hudson Campbell	BC NDP
	Chris Hatchwell	Independent
	Daniel Kite	BC Green Party
	Lawrence Mok	Conservative Party
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	Lisa Beare	BC NDP
	Susan Einarsson	OneBC
	Doug Morneau	Conservative Party

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	Jordan Simmons	CentreBC
Mid Island-Pacific Rim	Joshua Dahling	Conservative Party
	Gracie MacDonald	BC Green Party
	Josie Osborne	BC NDP
Nanaimo-Gabriola Island	Mark MacDonald	Conservative Party
	Sheila Malcolmson	BC NDP
	Anna Mary McKenzie	BC Green Party
Nanaimo-Lantzville	George Anderson	BC NDP
	Kelsey Pringle	Conservative Party
	Pepper Saltman	Communist Party of BC
	Sharleen Weatherley	BC Green Party
Nechako Lakes	Diane Black	Conservative Party
	Jesse Gervais	BC NDP
	Clint Lambert	Unaffiliated
New Westminster-Coquitlam	Maureen Curran	BC Green Party
	Michele Lau	Conservative Party
	Gerry Lenoski	Unaffiliated
	Jennifer Whiteside	BC NDP
North Coast-Haida Gwaii	Tamara Davidson	BC NDP
	Rodney Proskiw	Conservative Party
	Francis Racy	BC Green Party
North Island	Anna Kindy	Conservative Party
	Richard Lambert	Independent
	Sara Lopez	BC NDP
	Benjamin Olsson	BC Green Party
North Vancouver-Lonsdale	Joshua A Singer Johnson	BC Green Party
	Bowinn Ma	BC NDP
	Trevor Withers	Conservative Party
North Vancouver-Seymour	Lynne Block	Conservative Party
	Susie Chant	BC NDP
	Lori Climenhaga	CentreBC
	Ben Holt	BC Green Party
Oak Bay-Gordon Head	Frederick Thiele	OneBC
	Andrew Appleton	BC Green Party
	Diana Gibson	BC NDP
	Stan Sipos	Conservative Party
Peace River North	Andrew Weaver	CentreBC
	Jordan Kealy	Independent
	Curtis Whitford	Conservative Party
Peace River South	Marsha Rose Dufresne	BC NDP
	Larry Neufeld	Conservative Party
	Helen Scott	Unaffiliated
Penticton-Summerland	Bradley Sean Bartsch	BC Green Party
	Warren Hamm	OneBC
	Tina Lee	BC NDP
	Tracy St Claire	Conservative Party
Port Coquitlam	Keenan Adams	Conservative Party
	Lee-Ann Bates	Unaffiliated
	Lewis C. Dahlby	Libertarian

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	Mike Farnworth	BC NDP
	Stephanie Hendy	BC Green Party
Port Moody-Burquitlam	Wei Chou	BC Green Party
	Rick Glumac	BC NDP
	John McEwen	Conservative Party
	Freddy Rawji	CentreBC
Powell River-Sunshine Coast	John Henderson	Conservative Party
	Griffin Leonard Lea	BC Green Party
	Randene Neill	BC NDP
Prince George-Mackenzie	Kiel Giddens	Conservative Party
	Ian McMahon	BC NDP
	Teri Young	BC Green Party
Prince George-North Cariboo	Denice Bardua	BC NDP
	Sheldon Clare	Conservative Party
	Randy Thompson	BC Green Party
Prince George-Valemount	Rosalyn Bird	Conservative Party
	Carol Bourque	BC NDP
	Jodie Capling	BC Green Party
	Mitchell Lukoni	OneBC
Richmond Centre	Lawrence Chen	CWP
	Calvin Dang	BC Green Party
	Sacha Peter	Conservative Party
	Henry Yao	BC NDP
Richmond-Bridgeport	Linda Li	BC NDP
	Teresa Wat	Conservative Party
Richmond-Queensborough	Luc Burns	BC Green Party
	Dhar Grewal	BC NDP
	Steve Kooner	Conservative Party
Richmond-Steveston	Robert Evans	Independent
	Bruce Kong	BC NDP
	Barry Wosk	CentreBC
	Keenan Yang	CWP
	Gordon Zhang	Conservative Party
Saanich North and the Islands	Kala Bryson	BC NDP
	Emily Lowan	BC Green Party
	Richard Smith	CentreBC
	Ryan Windsor	Conservative Party
Saanich South	Lisa Lapointe	BC Green Party
	Cathie Ounsted	Conservative Party
	Richard Zussman	BC NDP
Salmon Arm-Shuswap	Gloria Morgan	BC NDP
	Barbara Presch	OneBC
	Denise Reimer	CentreBC
	Jed Wiebe	BC Green Party
	David L Williams	Conservative Party
Skeena	Nick Gottlieb	BC Green Party
	Claire Rattée	Conservative Party
	Larry Eugene Taylor	OneBC
	Sarah Zimmerman	BC NDP

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Surrey City Centre	Amna Shah	BC NDP
	Raman Sharma	CentreBC
	Zeeshan Wahla	Conservative Party
	Oliver Wildfong	OneBC
Surrey North	Jag Bhandari	Unaffiliated
	Parm Bhandol	CentreBC
	Mandeep Singh Dhaliwal	Conservative Party
	Yudhbir Gill	BC Green Party
	Tanya Gupta	OneBC
	Sahib Thind	BC NDP
Surrey South	Denis R Hurtubise	Unaffiliated
	Megan Knight	Conservative Party
	Bill McConnell	BC Green Party
	Elenore Sturko	CentreBC
	Parik Tahlan	BC NDP
Surrey-Cloverdale	Nicholas Cartmell	Conservative Party
	Sargy Chima	CentreBC
	Stephen Dooley	BC NDP
	Travis Marchenski	OneBC
	Pat McCutcheon	BC Green Party
Surrey-Fleetwood	Tim Binnema	BC Green Party
	Jagrup Brar	BC NDP
	Paul Brar	CentreBC
	Carolyn Hofbauer	OneBC
	Garry Purewal	Conservative Party
Surrey-Guildford	Garry Begg	BC NDP
	Jodi Murphy	BC Green Party
	Garry Thind	Conservative Party
	James Yaroshuk	Unaffiliated
Surrey-Newton	Harj Dhaliwal	Conservative Party
	Harman Preet Singh	CentreBC
	Jessie Sunner	BC NDP
Surrey-Panorama	Manav Manro	CentreBC
	Nolen Scott	BC Green Party
	Jinny Sims	BC NDP
	Bryan Tepper	Conservative Party
Surrey-Serpentine River	Judy Higginbotham	CentreBC
	Todd Holowchak	OneBC
	Sikander Kang	BC NDP
	Errol Povah	Freedom Party of BC
	Jessy Sahota	Conservative Party
Surrey-White Rock	Kevin Diakiw	Independent
	Trevor Halford	Conservative Party
	Amanda James	OneBC
	Christine Kinnie	BC Green Party
	Waqas Rana	CentreBC
	Darryl Walker	BC NDP
Vancouver-Fraserview	Francoise Raunet	BC Green Party
	Deep Sandhu	Conservative Party

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Vancouver-Hastings	Christian Bosio	CentreBC
	Kimball Cariou	Communist Party of BC
	Kyra Philbert	BC Green Party
	Niki Sharma	BC NDP
	Phyllis Tang	Conservative Party
	Phil Webb	Libertarian
Vancouver-Kensington	Mable Elmore	BC NDP
	Adam Hawk	BC Green Party
	Aron Lageri	Conservative Party
Vancouver-Langara	John Atoyebi	BC Green Party
	Alan Beesley	CentreBC
	Sunita Dhir	BC NDP
	Jaime Stein	Conservative Party
Vancouver-Little Mountain	Christine Boyle	BC NDP
	Sarah MacLeod	BC Green Party
	Alex Muir	Conservative Party
Vancouver-Point Grey	Michael Davis	CentreBC
	David Eby	BC NDP
	Alex McMillan	Conservative Party
	Beatrice Sharpe	BC Green Party
Vancouver-Quilchena	Carson Binda	Conservative Party
	Dallas Brodie	OneBC
	Douglas Courtemanche	BC Green Party
	Petra Kuret	CentreBC
	Callista Ryan	BC NDP
Vancouver-Renfrew	Adrian Dix	BC NDP
	Rebecca Haber	BC Green Party
	Tom Ikonmou	Conservative Party
	Lisa Prescott	CentreBC
Vancouver-South Granville	Maria J Cruz	BC Green Party
	Lara Honrado	BC NDP
	Lisa Phillips	Conservative Party
	Colin Smith	CentreBC
	Salvatore Vetro	OneBC
Vancouver-Strathcona	Amanda Burrows	BC NDP
	Robert Crooks	Communist Party of BC
	Jordan Zheng McIntosh	Conservative Party
	Tanya Webking	BC Green Party
Vancouver-West End	Spencer Chandra Herbert	BC NDP
	Scott MacDonald	BC Green Party
	Dion Weisner	Conservative Party
Vancouver-Yaletown	Sam Chandola	CentreBC
	Margareta Dovgal	Conservative Party
	Priyan Samarakoone	BC Green Party
	Timothy Webster	Unaffiliated
	Terry Yung	BC NDP
Vernon-Lumby	Kevin Acton	Conservative Party
	Chantel Gibbs	OneBC

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	Harwinder Sandhu	BC NDP
	Blair Visscher	BC Green Party
Victoria-Beacon Hill	Joachim Agou	Conservative Party
	Grace Lore	BC NDP
	Rajinder S. Sahota	BC Green Party
Victoria-Swan Lake	Carolyn Howe	BC Green Party
	Nina Krieger	BC NDP
	Tim Taylor	Conservative Party
West Kelowna-Peachland	Adam Frank	BC Green Party
	Macklin McCall	Conservative Party
	George Morgan	BC NDP
West Vancouver-Capilano	Honieh Barzegari	BC NDP
	Naomi Chocyk	OneBC
	Caroline Elliott	Conservative Party
	Arwa Shurab	BC Green Party
West Vancouver-Sea to Sky	Ayla Dumais	Conservative Party
	Michelle Livaja	BC NDP
	Jeremy Valeriote	BC Green Party
	Dan Wood	CentreBC