



The
WATERWEALTH
Project

B.C. Election 2013 Report Card – Chilliwack Riding

The WaterWealth Project Candidate Report card is a tool for voters in the Fraser Valley to use to select the candidate that will do the most to protect our home waters. This report card was generated using three sources: 1) Candidates' responses to a questionnaire sent to the candidates by the WaterWealth Project; 2) The transcript from the WaterWealth Project's All Candidates Conversation; and 3) Each party's official platform. Where relevant, the party positions as outlined in the official platforms are described underneath the candidates' positions. The candidates, along with the party platforms, are graded according to the following scale:

A – Excellent B – Good C – Poor D – Very Poor E/F – Fail

The WaterWealth Project's position is drawn from the WaterWealth Declaration, which almost 1,500 people living in the Fraser Valley have signed since the writ was dropped. You can sign the [WaterWealth Declaration](#) online. For more information on the WaterWealth Project's positions, please visit our website and refer to our [Policy Document](#). Detailed information on the various threats facing our shared home waters are available on our [website](#).

	WATERWEALTH PROJECT Position Statement	CHAD EROS Conservative Party of BC	MICHAEL HALLIDAY Excalibur Party	KIM REIMER Green Party of BC	JOHN MARTIN Liberal Party of BC	PATTI MACAHONIC BC NDP
1. COMMITMENT TO WATER						
Priority of Water to Candidates	Our wealth is in our water. Healthy home waters are essential for community prosperity.	High priority.	High priority.	High priority.	Strongly agrees water should be a priority.	High priority.
Priority Given to Water Protection in Party Platforms	Long-term plans for community well-being must place water sustainability at forefront.	No specific commitments for water protection. Support for Regional Agricultural Water Management Plans.	Emphasis on individual/local control over water; opposes water metering for residential use.	Water protection is threaded through green economic vision, but not an individualized topic of concern.	Commitment to modernizing BC Water Act.	Commitment to modernizing BC Water Act, implementing Cohen Commission recommendations, reviewing fracking impacts on water.
GRADE		B-	B+	A-	C	A-
COMMENTS		Eros has shown a strong commitment to water and local control. Unfortunately, his party's platform is weak on water.	Halliday has strong values and ideals, but Party makes few concrete policy commitments outside of residential water metering.	Reimer has a strong vision for water protection and commitment to community engagement. Lack of specific commitments in party platform.	Martin was only candidate not to participate in WaterWealth Candidates' Debate. Party commits to new Water Act but status quo on other water protection issues.	MacAhonnic has a long history of advocating for water protection. Party commits to water protection but not local control.

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2. ACCOUNTABILITY TO COMMUNITY						
Aboriginal Rights and Title	Recognition of Aboriginal Rights and Title is fundamental to the long-term protection of our shared home waters.	Position on Rights and Title cannot be addressed in blanket statement. Party: Does not recognize Rights and Title, except to extent where courts deem that Aboriginals are entitled to private property ownership.	General appreciation for rights of First Nations peoples. Party: No mention.	Supports Rights and Title, consent for development on First Nations lands. Party: Supports treaty and other processes, right to consultation.	Supports the BC treaty process. Party: Proclaimed "A New Relationship" but Liberal government criticized by First Nations for failing to live up to spirit and intent of policy statement.	Supports implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Party: Will develop four year action plan to "improve relationships" and "work towards reconciliation."
Local Watershed Governance	A body co-chaired by local representatives and First Nations with legal responsibility for ensuring the health and well-being of home waters.	Proponent of watershed-based governance modeled on EU, Ontario approaches. Party: No mention.	Supports idea of local watershed governance. Party: No mention.	Supports development of a Local Water Authority. Party: Expanded authority of local governments in consultation with First Nations.	Views local watershed boards as positive developments to inform provincial policy on water, but not to hold local authority. Party: No Mention	Commitment to establishing advisory group on developing local community-based watershed authority board for Lower Fraser Valley. Party: No Mention
Community Consent in Water-Related Decisions	Communities that are most directly impacted should set the direction of long-term water plans and have	Watershed Authorities to protect and allocate water, regulate industry; community	Supports idea of community consent.	Meaningful community consultation about major proposals. Party: Local land-	Encourages community to 'take an interest' and 'express views' but no commitment to processes that	Supports the principle of local watershed boards or citizen round-tables.

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	authority to say “yes” or “no” to projects that impact them.	consultation on key water issues. Party: No mention.		use decision-making.	ensure community consent.	Party: No mention.
GRADE		B-	B	A-	C	A
COMMENTS		Eros has concrete understanding of Watershed Authorities, unclear on Aboriginal Rights and Title; Party does not recognize Aboriginal Rights and Title.	Halliday has good principles, but few concrete proposals in terms of Aboriginal Rights and Title, watershed governance or community consent.	Reimer and Party have strong principles, but some concrete proposals missing.	Martin and his party fail to recognize deficiencies in BC Treaty process, which majority of BC First Nations consider “dysfunctional.”	MacAhonic has good appreciation of the need to improve relationships with First Nations communities. Lack of firm commitment to local control.
3. RESPONSE TO MAJOR THREATS						
Kinder-Morgan Pipeline	Heavy oil (bitumen) from Alberta should not be transported through the Fraser Valley in the existing or a new pipeline. The costs of a bitumen pipeline spill into our home waters are too high.	Unclear position. Seeking “rational discussion” and involvement of province in decision. Party: No mention.	Opposes Kinder-Morgan pipeline.	Opposes transport of diluted bitumen through both present pipeline and proposed expansion.	Supports 5 point plan outlined by Party to determine pipeline feasibility. No mention of addressing existing risks. Maintains environmental assessment on new pipelines with Federal Gov’t.	Will establish 'made-in-BC' environmental assessment process for Kinder Morgan proposal; no mention of addressing existing risks.

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Gravel Mining, including Aggregate Pilot Project (APP) and in-river gravel removal	APP has deficiencies in consultation and inadequate environmental assessment; In-river gravel mining requires a long-term plan with input/direction from scientific experts, consent from First Nations and local communities.	Opposes APP until new Water Act in place; opposes in-river gravel removal due to risks to fish habitat and sport fishing industry. Party: Emphasis on promoting extractive industries.	Opposes APP due to inadequate public input, in favour of collaborative expert panel for in-river gravel removal.	Opposes APP due to lack of public consultation and environmental risk; supports collaborative expert panel for in-river gravel removal.	Supports APP process. Supports long term gravel removal plan involving Fed Gov't, local municipalities.	Opposes APP. Supportive of aggregate development plan based on science.
Independent Power Projects (IPPs)	All proposals should require evaluation based on cumulative watershed-level environmental assessments (EAs), consent from First Nations and directly impacted residents.	Undecided. Would consult with experts. Party: Opposes BC Hydro's contractual obligation to IPPs.	Requires cumulative EA.	Requires cumulative EA. Party: Conditional support if IPPs are community-driven, meet local needs and pass rigorous EA process.	Supports existing process as thorough, but 'always open to suggestions that can strengthen any existing process.'	Need for improved EA process for IPPs. Does not mention the need to look at cumulative effects.
Positions on Other Threats		Decentralized watershed boards to help overcome inefficiencies in central government.	Opposition to fish farms and failure of current EA system; opposition to privatization and sale of water.	Opposition to fish farms; opposition to liquified natural gas (LNG).	Supports LNG as source of 'green jobs'.	Implement Cohen Commission recommendations to protect wild salmon; independent review of risks to water from fracking.

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GRADE		B	A -	A	F	A-
COMMENTS		Eros has strong understanding of role of minimum protection and watershed governance in decision-making; Party does not.	Halliday demonstrates that water protection at forefront of thinking.	Reimer and Party give strong consideration to protecting water from major threats.	Martin and Party fail to recognize risks from major industrial development projects and deficiencies in existing review processes. Little mention of ensuring needs of local residents or First Nations in development decisions.	MacAhonic is former chair of Fraser River Gravel Removal and has strong personal background in advocating for health of local waters. Party platform is lacking in clear commitments to address threats.
4. PROPOSED SOLUTIONS						
A new B.C. Water Act	A new Water Act should prioritize water for fish and ecosystem needs, regulate groundwater withdrawals, allocate water rights fairly, uphold Aboriginal Rights and Title, and create framework for local	New Water Act administered through "small non-intrusive government." Party: No mention.	New Water Act to protect individual and community needs. Party: No mention	Supports new Water Act. Party: No mention.	Supports new Water Act. Party: Commits to Water Act Modernization. Would bring in protection for in-stream flows, regulations on groundwater, and incentives for more	Supports new Water Act and groundwater regulation. Opposed to weakening of federal water laws. Party: Water Act Modernization with protection for in-stream flows, regulations on

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Drinking Water Protection	watershed governance. Comprehensive source water protection legislation that empowers local communities, provides expertise and resources to develop source protection plans.	Requires consultation and establishment of Watershed Authorities.	No mention.	Chlorination issue was catalyst for political involvement, but no concrete proposal/plan. Party: No mention.	efficient water use by business. Supports reform of BC Water Act to protect B.C. aquifers and drinking water resources. Authority must remain with provincial body.	groundwater and reform to water allocation system. Interested in pursuing further conversation about process for source protection planning. Party: No mention.
Environmental Assessment (EA)	Province should reform provincial EA legislation to include Cumulative Water Risk Assessments and withdraw from Environmental Assessment Equivalency Agreement with the Federal Government.	Not discussed. Party: No mention.	Strengthened EAs. Party: No mention.	Will reform EAs to include cumulative impacts. Party: Strengthened process using Watershed-based Approach, inclusive of local governments, First Nations and public participation.	No planned reform for EAs.	Reform to EAs but no commitment to ensure assessment of cumulative impacts. Party: Recognizes deficiencies in existing EAs and plans to improve process to ensure rigorous, science-based environmental standards and meaningful consultation with First Nations.

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						Commits to withdraw from EA equivalency agreement and develop made-in-BC EA of any heavy oil pipelines.					
GRADE		B-	B+	B+	D-	A-					
COMMENTS		Eros supports new Water Act but smaller government may not have capacity to implement; EA not addressed.	Candidate strong on most points; No mention of Water Act, source protection, or EAs in party platform.	Candidate strong on most points; No mention of Water Act or source protection in party platform.	Party commitment to modernize Water Act but failure to pursue EA reform or source protection.	Party commitment to Water Act and reform to EA process. No mention of cumulative impacts or source protection.					
Did the candidate sign the WaterWealth Declaration?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>YES</td> <td>YES</td> <td>NO</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> </table>						NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
NO	YES	YES	NO	NO							
NOTES		Eros has attended every WaterWealth Project Lunch n' Learn, demonstrating a willingness to learn. His responses reflect a strong understanding of key water	Halliday and the Party are strong in their commitment to water and community control. Some more concrete, actionable policies in the Party platform would reflect stronger	Reimer and the Party are strong on most issues. Reimer could develop stronger understanding of First Nations Rights and Title; The Party shows a lack of specifics on	Martin failed to attend WaterWealth Candidates Debate and shows little awareness about the major issues and processes that impact our home waters.	MacAhonic expressed a desire to better understand WaterWealth's position on community control. In principle, she supports community rights					

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		protection issues. His party platform reduced his grade significantly.	implementation capacity and improve his impressive performance.	solutions, particularly with policy commitments and the Water Act.		and better fresh water protection.
FINAL GRADES		B	B+	A-	D	A-