

# Our Water BC

Waters in British Columbia--our life source--are facing unprecedented threats from industrial activity, population pressures and a changing climate. Together we have the power to defend our shared waters.



## Conserve British Columbia's Environment

- Encourage conservation of water taken from lakes or rivers for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes.
- Encourage local management of watersheds where feasible. Where a long-term, sustainable local Watershed Management Board is in place, with participation from appropriate stakeholders group and levels of government, provincial funds which would ordinarily be expended for watershed management would be diverted to the local watershed management board for local control of watershed issues.
- Ensure that public health is always the first priority with respect to watershed management issues, particularly with respect to the disposal of industrial and other waste into riparian areas.

## Renewable Resources

- Maintain and protect the integrity and productivity of the Crown forest land base to generate wealth through forest products including wood for industrial uses, wildlife, water, fisheries range and recreation.

## Agricultural Water Management

- A BC Conservative government will address agricultural land and water use issues by providing provincial leadership and fostering cooperation with farmers, ranchers and other land users especially fisheries.
- Regionally based Agriculture Water Management Plans to ensure continuing water access and efficient water utilization by farmers and ranchers.
- Common sense approaches to the authority of federal, provincial and municipal jurisdictions over streams and water sources so that unreasonable and costly regulations can be avoided for landowners.
- Promoting the widespread application of advanced water utilization and conservation technologies.

[You can view the BC Conservative Platform here](#)



## Develop Resilient Water Infrastructure

- Work with professional associations and local governments to ensure that the design of stormwater, wastewater and drinking water infrastructure fully accounts for the risks of a changing climate.

## Ensure A Sustainable Water Supply

- Review the water allocation and licensing provisions of the Water Sustainability Act to ensure that they fully protect BC's water quality and quantity, so that it is sustainable for future generations.
- Initiate comprehensive, province-wide water and watershed planning in collaboration with local governments, First Nations, and other government agencies, stewardship organizations, water use sectors and community stakeholders. The plans will address water supply and demand, protect drinking water quality, integrate land use planning with water and watershed planning, and address conflicting water use demands.
- Enhance data gathering and analysis of water quantity and quality to enable science - based decision-making.

[You can view the BC Green platform here](#)



## The Site C dam project is expected to contribute:

- \$35 million in annual water rental payments to the province

## Cleaning up and protecting our environment

- Continue to strengthen the mussel defense program to keep quagga and zebra mussels out of B.C.
- Develop a plan to protect Steelhead Trout to preserve the species and their spawning grounds, including reaching out to the federal government to develop a collaborative approach.

## Vancouver Island Platform

- \$248 million for the Capital Regional District Wastewater Project.

*\*The BC Liberal Party platform details accomplishments it has made when it comes to each of its platform areas. This review specifically focuses on commitments moving forward.*

[You can view the BC Liberal Platform here](#)



## Clean, safe drinking water and healthy communities

- All British Columbians have the right to clean, safe drinking water, and a safe environment. Christy Clark and the BC Liberals repeatedly refused to take action against cosmetic pesticides, and have left British Columbians in dozens of communities under ongoing boil water advisories.
- We will keep cancer-causing chemicals out of our lawns, and out of our parks, gardens and places where children play by banning cosmetic pesticides.
- We will commit to and recognize the right to clean, safe drinking water through a renewed environmental assessment process that works with First Nations and communities to address the cumulative effects of development on ecosystems and watersheds.
- We will work with the federal government to improve drinking water quality in BC communities and ensure our permitting process prioritizes local drinking water needs.
- We will review the Water Sustainability Act to ensure that high volume water users are paying for access fairly, and that drinking water sources are protected.

## The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- As a priority, we will work with First Nations to improve relations, to reduce conflict on the ground and in the courts by ensuring decisions affecting land, air and water respect the law, and allow all British Columbians to benefit from the sustainable development of natural resources while also preserving healthy lands, resources and ecosystems for present and future generations.

## Environmental decisions you can trust

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

[You can view the BC NDP Platform here](#)

