

---

---

# BC Green Policy: A 21st Century Vision for the Future

## *Proposed Amendments*

## Our Core Values

Sustainability • Respect for diversity • Participatory democracy • Ecological wisdom  
• Social justice • Non-violence

## Table of Contents

### [Notes](#)

### [Introduction](#)

### [Policy Document Context and Process](#)

#### 1. [Our Environment](#)

- [Addressing the Climate Emergency](#)
- [Carbon Neutrality](#)
- [Ecological Collapse and Protection of Biodiversity](#)
- [Renewable Energy](#)
- [Forest Management](#)
- [Water Management](#)
- [Sustainable Transportation](#)
- [Waste Management and Hazardous Materials](#)
- [Environmental Assessment](#)

#### 2. [Social and Economic Equity](#)

- [Income Security](#)
- [Inclusion and Diversity](#)
- [Children in Care](#)
- [Childcare](#)
- [Lifelong Learning](#)
- [Housing](#)

### 3. [Health](#)

- [Our Healthcare System](#)
- [Early Intervention and Prevention](#)
- [Mental Healthcare](#)
- [Substance Use](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Senior Care](#)
- [End of Life](#)

### 4. [A Sustainable Economy](#)

- [The Framework](#)
- [Green Economy](#)
- [Empowered and Resilient Communities](#)
- [Tourism](#)
- [Creative Economy](#)
- [Value-Added Economy](#)
- [Regenerative Agriculture and Food Security](#)
- [Corporate Social Responsibility](#)
- [Worker Protection](#)

### 5. [Responsible Government](#)

- [Government Relations](#)
- [Indigenous Settler Relations](#)
- [Justice](#)
- [Prudent Fiscal Management](#)
- [Accountability](#)
- [The Electoral Process](#)

## [Conclusion](#)

# Notes

BC Green Policies are written in *italics*.

The structure of the proposed *BC Green Policy: A 21st Century Vision for the Future* for voting at the 2021 AGM is updated from the 2020 document as new policies have been added, language has been streamlined, redundancies removed, and new connections have been introduced. Many of the section and subsection headings have changed as has the order of policies in the document. For example:

- The 2020 document's main headings were named and ordered: Health, Safety, Standard of Living, Ecological Balance, and Responsible Government.
- The 2021 document's main headings are named and ordered: Our Environment, Social and Economic Equity, Health, A Sustainable Economy, and Responsible Government.

New subsections have been added and some existing subsections have been updated and moved to other sections, including subsections that have been renamed or combined with others.

*BC Green Policy: A 21st Century Vision for the Future* has been prepared by the 2021 Interim Policy Committee: Millie Nickason (Chair), Bill Masse (Vice-chair), Michelle Sheardown (Editor), George Hill, Deepshika Kelkar, Frances Kelley, and Hannah Rosenthal.

[2021 Interim Policy Committee Terms of Reference](#)

## Introduction

The BC Green Party is grounded in its environmental beginnings and has evolved to hold a holistic view of life on earth. BC Greens see our environment, social and economic equity, health, a sustainable economy, and responsible government as interconnected. We need all of them; success in one area will lead to benefits in others.

Our core values - sustainability, respect for diversity, participatory democracy, ecological wisdom, social justice, and non-violence - set Greens apart from others and are foundational to our policies.

BC Greens recognize that we must focus on the long term as well as on immediate needs. This necessitates our attention to the utter dependence of human welfare on the welfare of the biosphere.

*BC Green Policy: A 21st Century Vision for the Future* is divided into 5 sections:

1. Our Environment
2. Social and Economic Equity
3. Health
4. A Sustainable Economy
5. Responsible Government

The 21st Century is a journey with constant, rapid, and unpredictable changes as we grapple with an accelerating climate crisis and the need to decarbonize global energy. The implications of the climate emergency are profound for all aspects of our well-being. The most adaptable and resilient societies will fare the best in these challenging times.

Resilience empowers people to overcome the stress and hardship of environmental, economic, and social challenges to survive and thrive. Income insecurity, inequitable treatment, and substandard housing can contribute to the challenges people face, and can pose obstacles to the choices that support a more sustainable future. Adequate support, including access to good healthcare and lifelong learning, are foundational investments in our economic future and key to a resilient and productive society.

As our non-renewable sectors transition to a truly sustainable economy, we must develop and protect clean, green jobs for working British Columbians. Nobody can be left behind. Greater focus should be on cooperation, shared benefit, and stability rather than competition, maximizing profits, and growth. Better stewardship and movement to a sustainable economy are only possible if we work together and learn to live within the planet's ecological ceiling.

Empowered and resilient communities are likely to be more stable, supporting the relationships that hold citizens together. Ensuring infrastructure is low carbon, risk-averse, and meets the needs of the community is hard work that requires collaboration. We need more walkable neighbourhoods, active transportation, and healthy community design. We also need to reconsider how we produce our food and place more value on regenerative agriculture and food security.

Our health is perhaps the most important aspect of life for human beings and it is woven throughout our policies. BC Greens policies promote good health and recognize the benefits that a healthy natural environment, equity, and a sustainable economy provide for physical and mental wellness.

Responsible government refers to a government that is responsible to the people. It is accountable for all matters of government relations, including fiscal management, justice, and the electoral process.

*BC Green Policy: A 21st Century Vision for the Future* now includes a section entitled Indigenous Settler Relations, in recognition of its importance to governance arrangements. This section expands on the following principles:

Establishing relationships with Indigenous peoples in the Province, based on mutual recognition and respect, is critical to our shared success as post-colonial societies. Failure to recognize and implement the rights of Indigenous peoples in BC undermines our ability to move towards reconciliation and a more cohesive society. Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission report with its 94 Calls to Action provides the BC Greens with a framework for beginning this work.

British Columbia's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) must close the socio-economic gaps and result in a standard of living for Indigenous Peoples comparable

to that of settlers. For First Nations, this includes recognition and implementation of aboriginal and treaty rights, restoration of access to traditional territories and resources, and ensuring they receive fair benefits from those resources.

The BC Greens specifically acknowledge the interrelatedness of all ecological, social, health, and economic outcomes. We recognize our responsibility to one another, to nature and the greater community of life, and to future generations. Together, we have the capacity to create a resilient and sustainable 21st Century future: let's get to work and make it happen!

[Table of contents](#)

## Policy Document Context and Process

This document is the current manifestation of an evolving set of ideas and public policy proposals. It is derived from some 400 resolutions passed at general meetings and policy conventions over the history of the BC Green Party, going back to the mid 1980s. The essential principles and values have been distilled from those resolutions. This document is a consolidation of the work of many BC Green members; it is an expression of our collectively held values as applied to specific topic areas. It is intended as a guide for BC Green Party candidates and MLAs, and is the basis of our Party's platforms and public positions.

No major policy amendments have been made since the 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM), until this year. This document represents the initial phase of a major update and restructuring of *BC Green Policy* which will continue to the 2022 AGM and beyond.

The policies set out here include proposals contributed by members in response to the calls for policy motion submissions in the Spring and Summer of 2021. A number have led to the refinement, elaboration, and updating of existing policies, while others are new and fill important gaps. Consistent with our values, principles, and past practices, these policy additions are the product of the good ideas of members and others, polished and improved through consultation, and adopted by the popular vote of BC Green Party members.

The 2021 *BC Green Policy* document contains several updates and new policy statements, and a number of important gaps have been filled. However, not all of the proposals could be incorporated into this document; policy proposals and remaining gaps will be forwarded to the next Policy Committee for their consideration. Several are more appropriately considered as proposals for the next campaign platform and will be forwarded to the responsible committee.

This is a dynamic process. While our policies are intended to be enduring, they are not static and as the evidence changes, so will our approach. We believe in the power of collaboration; the consultative and engaged inputs from our membership were critical in putting this document together.

BC Green Policy will therefore continue to evolve and change over the years, as our collective understanding of environmental, social, and scientific contexts change over time. There are many gaps in this document and, even as we fill gaps, new ones will become apparent as our world presents new and different challenges and solutions.

Together, the membership represents a pool of extraordinary knowledge, talent and commitment - focused on ensuring a healthier planet, and a more just and sustainable society for British Columbians.

[Table of contents](#)

## 1. Our Environment

In order to thrive over the long term, British Columbians must live within the ecological limits of the planet. Yet many seem to have forgotten the interconnectedness between nature and society. BC Greens must tackle the climate emergency head on and this means action - now and by everyone. We need to work towards carbon neutrality at the same time as preventing ecological collapse. Renewable energy is one of the keys to a low carbon world and must be supported accordingly.

Remediation is required when mitigating factors fail to provide adequate protection, or when adverse environmental consequences are deliberately disregarded. Many contaminated sites are a legacy from a time when activities, especially mining, were unregulated. However, new damage and contamination is ongoing and regulatory enforcement has not kept pace. Sound resource management is needed to minimize future negative impacts. Sustainability requires much more than band-aid solutions: protection, restoration, and remediation are the critical focus for the 21st Century.

Underpinning these policies is the recognition that the climate emergency intersects with broader societal injustices which cannot be forgotten.

### Addressing the Climate Emergency

*BC Greens recognize that the climate emergency requires unprecedented societal change to combat its effects. 21st Century goals should be centred in protection, restoration, and remediation, and address the intersectionality between climate justice and social justice.*

*BC Greens recognize that a healthy environment - including clean air, land, and water - is essential to the health and well-being of British Columbians.*

*BC Greens support proactive mitigation strategies to address the adverse risks associated with the climate crisis, such as sea level rise, extreme weather, and an increase in wildfires.*

## **Carbon Neutrality**

*BC Greens support aggressive, transparent, and measurable greenhouse gas reduction targets which are science-based and consider global standards. BC governments, industry, and consumers should be held accountable for their performance against these targets.*

*BC Greens support an end to incentives, including subsidies, for the fossil fuel sector and other industries that cause damage to planetary health.*

*BC Greens recognize that the expansion and development of all fossil fuels, including exploratory fracking, must stop.*

*BC Greens recognize that plant-based diets and regenerative agriculture contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases.*

*BC Greens support initiatives to help communities reduce the use of fossil fuels.*

*BC Greens support expansion of the BC Carbon Tax to include non-combustion sources of greenhouse gas emissions.*

*BC Greens support the implementation of regularly scheduled, substantive increases in the BC Carbon Tax.*

## **Ecological Collapse and Protection of Biodiversity**

*BC Greens support action to address biodiversity loss and ecological collapse.*

*BC Greens recognize the value of maintaining intact ecosystems and expanding protected areas, including Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas, wildlife corridors, and conservation areas.*

*BC Greens support the creation of strong Provincial endangered species legislation.*

*BC Greens support funding for species conservation, and habitat acquisition, restoration, and protection.*

*BC Greens support legislation to protect and restore coastal ecosystems and wild salmon.*

*BC Greens support increased funding and expansion of provincial parks and protected areas that preserve ecological diversity and natural habitats, in addition to providing recreational benefits.*

*BC Greens support hunting for food, but not trophy hunting.*

## **Renewable Energy**

*BC Greens support initiatives to enhance energy efficiency and maximize the use of renewable energy resources.*

*BC Greens support the responsible development of all renewable energy projects, including wind and solar power, from small to large scale.*

*BC Greens support low carbon standards for new buildings, and measures, such as incentives and Property Assessed Clean Energy programs, to reduce the costs of making existing homes and commercial buildings energy efficient.*

## **Forest Management**

*BC Greens support the conservation of healthy BC forest ecosystems on public and private land.*

*BC Greens support establishing a 21st Century regulatory framework for forestry management.*

*BC Greens support best practices in silviculture and zero net deforestation to enhance and protect the complex ecosystems of our forests.*

*BC Greens support a forest management and allocation system that recognizes the standing value of forests as well as timber values.*

*BC Greens support the permanent protection of all remaining high-risk old-growth ecosystems and recognize that protection for these rare ecosystems must be backed by economic support for affected communities and workers.*

*BC Greens recognize that carbon sequestration is an objective of BC forest management. We support the protection and restoration of our forests and wetlands to manage their potential as carbon sinks.*

## **Water Management**

*BC Greens support the principle that access to clean water is a human necessity and that every community should have long-term, reliable, and equitable access to clean water.*

*BC Greens support enhanced local management and protection of BC's watersheds.*

## **Resource Management**

*BC Greens support responsible resource use that will not cause permanent harm to ecological systems and will address the needs of communities and the Province, now and for future generations.*

*BC Greens support improved regulation, enforcement, and compliance of resource extraction industries.*

*BC Greens support decision-making with Indigenous peoples and local governments on resource development.*

*BC Greens recognize First Nations as equals in land management with Provincial resource agencies beyond aboriginal title lands, where there are shared interests in the lands and resources.*

*BC Greens support a co-management stewardship model with First Nations for the development of shared lands and resources in BC.*



## **Sustainable Transportation**

*BC Greens support funding of public transit and active transportation infrastructure in urban and rural communities to enhance quality of life and to discourage fossil fuel-based transportation.*

*BC Greens support education and other measures that protect vulnerable road users while encouraging safe active transportation, including walking and cycling.*

*BC Greens support the development of climate and sustainability criteria, including consideration of cumulative impacts, that will be applied to all future capital projects including transportation infrastructure investments.*

*BC Greens support comprehensive and equitable access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure, including in remote and rural BC, and in multi-family buildings.*

## **Waste Management and Hazardous Materials**

*BC Greens support the goal of zero waste through producer responsibility programs and employing best methods for reducing, recycling, and reusing goods, materials, and waste.*

*BC Greens support innovation that maximizes benefits from waste streams.*

*BC Greens support requirements for businesses and individuals transporting, storing, or producing hazardous materials to demonstrate their ongoing ability to cover the total costs of cleanup and restoration for damage arising from their operations.*

## **Environmental Assessment**

*BC Greens support environmental assessment processes that consider sustainability goals and take full account of greenhouse gas emissions and cumulative impacts.*

[Table of contents](#)

## **2. Social and Economic Equity**

BC Greens support an inclusive society in which everyone has the right to full participation in the economic, social, political, and cultural life of British Columbia. In particular, we agree that no one should be unjustly excluded from such participation due to their race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family status, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political belief, or age.

With these values, we recognize that closing the gap between the haves and have-nots is essential to social cohesion and a sustainable future for all British Columbians. Yet, in recent years, a lack of access to affordable housing coupled with widening income disparities is pushing people to the

margins and leading to deteriorating health outcomes. Moreover, the most vulnerable are more likely to be affected by the climate crisis. As such, we must direct our governments to act to address inequalities because climate justice cannot be achieved without social justice.

From affordable housing to income security, BC Green policies are interconnected and target the root problems in our society. A focus on resilience allows people to overcome the stress and hardship of environmental, economic, and social challenges to better lead happier, more fulfilled, and productive lives. Lack of income security, inequitable treatment, and substandard housing contribute to the challenges people face. Adequate supports, including access to quality healthcare and lifelong learning, are foundational investments for our future and key to a resilient and productive society.

## **Income Security**

*BC Greens support a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy that includes a livable income, low-cost housing, and increased employment opportunities to equalize the opportunities for wellness for all British Columbians.*

*BC Greens support a livable income and appropriate support for all British Columbians, including persons with disabilities.*

*BC Greens support an independent, non-political resolution to the discrepancy between the minimum wage and a livable wage.*

## **Inclusion and Diversity**

*BC Greens support initiatives that enable BC residents of all backgrounds to feel valued regardless of their race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family status, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political belief, or age, and to value each other in an inclusive society.*

*BC Greens support intercultural programs and initiatives led by Black, Indigenous, and people of colour, across public and private sectors, to address racism and improve cross-cultural competency for all British Columbians.*

*BC Greens support better collection of disaggregated race based data as required to understand inequalities in the administration of the criminal justice system.*

## **Children in Care**

*BC Greens believe that all children are entitled to a warm and loving environment and the opportunity to become successful adults.*

## **Childcare**

*BC Greens support affordable childcare.*

## **Lifelong Learning**

*BC Greens support publicly funded quality early learning programs and accommodations to ensure that all students have equal access to education.*

*BC Greens support an education curriculum that prepares students to thrive in a changing world.*

*BC Greens support a public education system with local decision-making power that is inclusive and accessible to British Columbians in all income groups.*

*BC Greens support the development and implementation of a Province-wide plan to address racism in schools.*

*BC Greens recognize the critical need for expanded mental health funding in schools.*

*BC Greens support opportunities for lifelong learning, including access to adaptive skills development.*

*BC Greens support multidisciplinary and multimodal integration of Indigenous history, languages, and culture into our school system in order to strengthen BC's social fabric.*

*BC Greens support the implementation of interdisciplinary, intersectional, and action-oriented climate and ecological education in BC's K-12 curriculum to promote understanding of the complex challenges facing our planet.*

*BC Greens support relevant, accessible, and affordable post-secondary education, including comprehensive trades education, as an investment in developing the adaptive skills necessary for a rapidly evolving world.*

*BC Greens support a school system that is integrated with community centres, recreation facilities, and libraries.*

## **Housing**

*BC Greens support the development of a comprehensive housing strategy, including measures to curb speculation in BC real estate markets, to provide affordable energy efficient housing for all British Columbians.*

*BC Greens support investment and incentives for the provision of affordable social, supportive, co-operative, and rental housing.*

*BC Greens support partnerships with First Nations, non-profit organisations, co-operatives, and private developers for the planning and construction of affordable low carbon housing, including rental units.*

*BC Greens support protection of existing social housing and incentives for construction or conversion of existing buildings to energy efficient supportive and rental housing.*

*BC Greens support strong protections for rental and leasehold tenants.*

[Table of contents](#)

### **3. Health**

Good healthcare, both physical and mental, is essential for the well-being and productivity of everyone in British Columbia and our society as a whole. The BC Greens believe excellent preventative care, that promotes well-being and decreases financial costs and patient load on the system, is a necessary foundation of our healthcare system.

Our approach to healthcare cannot be narrow in scope, and must recognize the strong linkages with socioeconomic factors, including poverty, and environmental factors, such as pollution and environmental degradation. When we do fall ill, or need emergency or long-term care, institutions and providers should be equipped with state-of-the-art resources and techniques to treat patients thoroughly and with dignity. Two of the most serious recent health crises in our Province - the COVID-19 pandemic and the overdose crisis - challenge us to modify and bolster our healthcare system to better equip and support providers and patients. Long-term deficiencies in our healthcare system, including systemic racism, lack of mental healthcare, and poor long-term care options for seniors, require meaningful commitments from both those within systems and those with oversight responsibilities.

#### **Our Healthcare System**

*BC Greens support a community-based, comprehensive, accessible, and publicly funded healthcare system for all BC residents in all regions.*

*BC Greens recognize that all individuals are entitled to safe and culturally appropriate healthcare delivered by staff trained in cultural competencies.*

*BC Greens support an integrated, multidisciplinary healthcare system in which the workload of doctors is reduced by enabling other regulated healthcare professionals to provide appropriate services.*

*BC Greens support a patient-centric healthcare system that is committed to fairness, local control, and accountability.*

*BC Greens support affordable prescription medication.*

## **Early Intervention and Prevention**

*BC Greens support outreach, education, and programs that proactively address the root causes of health problems including poverty, unhealthy lifestyles, and environmental degradation.*

*BC Greens support a healthcare system focused on wellness, the prevention of illness, and reduction of the need for chronic and acute care.*

## **Mental Healthcare**

*BC Greens support treating mental health issues with respect and compassion, with adequate treatment facilities and support, without stigma.*

*BC Greens support fuller regulation of counsellors, therapists, and social workers as part of a push for stronger mental healthcare in British Columbia by increasing public protection, accountability, and oversight.*

## **Substance Use**

*BC Greens support a balanced, evidence-based substance use strategy of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and enforcement.*

*BC Greens support treating problematic substance use as a health issue, providing adequate and voluntary treatment on demand, without stigma.*

*BC Greens support low barrier access to safe supply to reduce the risks to people of the poisoned illegal drug supply.*

*BC Greens support decriminalization for simple possession of illegal drugs.*

## **Accessibility**

*BC Greens believe in providing adequate economic support and accessibility measures for people with disabilities to live with dignity and independence.*

## **Senior Care**

*BC Greens support measures to promote healthy aging to allow seniors to live with dignity and independence.*

*BC Greens support a shift in senior care to a mix of public, not-for-profit, community-based services, and cooperatives.*

## **End of Life**

*BC Greens believe everybody should be empowered to pass their last days in comfort and dignity.*

## 4. A Sustainable Economy

British Columbia must diversify beyond the traditional dependence on resource extraction to participate in the decarbonized economy. Our businesses and industry must be adaptable to new markets, technologies, and social changes. Socio-economic goals must reflect an understanding that societal success requires far more than an increasing GDP. Sustainable enterprises, backed by progressive 21st Century measures, will help to take us more safely into the future. Our standard of living depends upon stable communities with diverse and versatile economies that can weather business cycles and easily adapt to evolving opportunities, technological changes, and the climate emergency.

Businesses depend on stable communities for their workforce, and communities depend on a municipal tax base generated by those businesses. Community planning for environmental, social, and economic sustainability will create a compact, energy-efficient foundation for stable and livable communities in the 21st Century. Maintaining and upgrading ageing municipal infrastructure to address the impacts of the climate crisis adds significantly to their costs, and the BC Greens will work with municipalities as they transition to a de-carbonized society.

### The Framework

*BC Greens support a budgetary process based on sustainability and which considers societal needs within our planet's finite limits.*

*BC Greens support the adoption of government budgets based on health and well-being goals, with progress measured against genuine progress indicators focused on economic, health, social equity, and environmental targets.*

### Green Economy

*BC Greens support fairness, including re-training and transitional support for workers in non-renewable resource industries, their families and communities, to facilitate a transition to a modern green economy.*

*BC Greens support and encourage growth in clean technologies and sustainable industries, with measures such as diverting incentives from the fossil fuel sector to sustainable businesses that do not damage the planet.*

*BC Greens support the use of economic instruments, such as strategic innovation funding and investments, that further the greening of the economy.*

### Empowered and Resilient Communities

*BC Greens support delegation of decision-making power to the lowest practical level.*

*BC Greens support delegation of appropriate funding mechanisms to generate revenues at the regional level to finance regional infrastructure.*

*BC Greens support effective, accountable, and regionally controlled planning for resilient and energy efficient infrastructure including water supply, sewage, local highways, recreation facilities, and public transit.*

*BC Greens support stable ongoing funding to communities and effective collaboration to plan and support major infrastructure development and maintenance which considers climate impacts.*

*BC Greens support community planning to ensure affordable living for all British Columbians, and to encourage the development of more walkable neighbourhoods, complete communities, active transportation, recreation, and healthy community design.*

*BC Greens support investment in public infrastructure in the public interest to benefit current and future generations.*

*BC Greens support low carbon seismically safe public buildings including schools, hospitals, and other healthcare facilities.*

## **Tourism**

*BC Greens support the development of a strong tourism sector while protecting our world-renowned natural assets and developing more diverse tourism experiences.*

## **Creative Economy**

*BC Greens support arts and culture as the underpinning of a vibrant creative economy in BC.*

## **Value-Added Economy**

*BC Greens support the management, harvesting, and processing of BC resources in a way that achieves optimal long-term benefits to British Columbians.*

## **Regenerative Agriculture and Food Security**

*BC Greens support diverse, responsible, and sustainable agricultural stewardship.*

*BC Greens support small-scale, sustainable agriculture and protection of farmland to secure local food supply.*

*BC Greens support rigorous programs to ensure the safety of the food supply for British Columbians.*

*BC Greens support enhancing access to farmland and developing new models of farm tenure such as cooperatives and land sharing agreements.*

*BC Greens support improving the attractiveness of farming as a career in BC.*

*BC Greens support providing information and guidance to the farming industry to adapt to a changing climate.*

*BC Greens support increasing the production of food within BC to enhance food security.*

*BC Greens support the humane and ethical treatment of all animals.*

## **Corporate Social Responsibility**

*BC Greens support the practice of corporate social responsibility towards a sustainable economy which includes reporting that captures the triple bottom line: environmental, social, and economic.*

*BC Greens support seeking consent from First Nations for development proposals within their traditional territories.*

## **Worker Protection**

*BC Greens support good-faith negotiation through fair collective bargaining.*

*BC Greens recognize the need to break down the unjustifiable systemic workplace barriers facing individuals based on their race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family status, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political belief, or age.*

*BC Greens support regulation of sex workers to provide the same work protections as any other worker.*

[Table of contents](#)

## **5. Responsible Government**

Responsible government requires that governments demonstrate to the public how they are managing the public's business. This requires effective systems of accountability and transparency. The BC Greens have a strong record in being open and clear in their policies and platforms, and we continue to work to build strong policies in this area.

Canada comprises several distinct societies, and Canadians generally see themselves as a fair, inclusive, and democratic society. However, for Indigenous people, Canada's history does not support such a view. Canada is a work in progress; for the 21st Century, a key goal must be to move beyond our colonial relations with Indigenous peoples. BC Greens are committed to this goal.

Selection of representatives through democratic elections is a critically important process in establishing and maintaining the legitimacy of governments. BC Greens are committed to the principles of participatory democracy.



BC Greens recognize that the concepts of responsible government must be seen through a green lens and be centred in our six core values.

## **Government Relations**

*BC Greens support effective communication and responsive engagement by the government with British Columbians.*

*BC Greens support the use of citizen assemblies to inform government decision-making.*

*BC Greens support building and maintaining good relationships with stakeholders.*

*BC Greens support responsible empowerment of public servants to effectively carry out their roles as dedicated, non-partisan professionals.*

## **Indigenous Settler Relations**

*BC Greens support full reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, based on respect, inclusion, and recognition of rights.*

*BC Greens support and promote full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*

*BC Greens recognize the right of First Nations to self-determination and self-government, and these rights apply with respect to First Nations' traditional territories, governments, and legal orders.*

*BC Greens support requirements for project proponents and the Province to comply fully with Canadian law, including court decisions, regarding the recognition and protection of aboriginal and treaty rights and title of First Nations.*

## **Justice**

*BC Greens support affordable access to the justice system for all British Columbians.*

*BC Greens support restorative justice and rehabilitative measures for offenders rather than punitive measures that do not address the root causes of criminal acts.*

*BC Greens support strategies targeting all forms of organized crime and the resulting proceeds of crime.*

*BC Greens support initiatives to target white collar crime.*

## **Prudent Fiscal Management**

*BC Greens support a simpler, transparent, and truly progressive tax system by eliminating loopholes and frivolous tax credits.*

*BC Greens support full life cycle costing for all public and private developments, including all direct and indirect costs, over the lifetime of a project.*

*BC Greens support multi-year planning for revenues and expenditures in order to ensure ongoing stability in the delivery of public services.*

*BC Greens support strategic investment and management of public assets including land and infrastructure.*

*BC Greens support the proper recognition of the depreciation of public assets, and adequate budget provision for operations and maintenance.*

*BC Greens support open and transparent financial accounting by the government.*

## **Accountability**

*BC Greens support measures to strengthen conflict of interest and ethics rules for public servants and elected representatives, including shut-out periods for post-employment lobbying, to increase public trust in government and government institutions.*

*BC Greens support the expansion of open data and open information available to the public in a usable form and in a timely manner.*

*BC Greens support initiatives to ensure that government records are maintained and securely stored.*

*BC Greens support comprehensive investigative powers for the Auditor General of British Columbia and other government watchdogs.*

## **The Electoral Process**

*BC Greens support limits on the influence of money in politics.*

*BC Greens support proportional representation at all levels of government.*

*BC Greens support measures to increase the engagement of youth in the political process, including lowering the voting age to 16, and implementing an expanded K-12 citizenship curriculum to foster such engagement.*

[Table of contents](#)

## **Conclusion**

This document is a statement of who we are as BC Greens, expressed in a compilation of historic resolutions going back to the mid 1980s and ideas generated from member engagement since the first version of the document was developed in 2016. We know there is much more work to be done, but *BC Green Policy* provides an important benchmark as we refine our vision of the future. We look forward to many discussions and debates on the issues that are important to British Columbians. BC Greens have energy and motivation to develop practical solutions for the problems of today and a resilient, sustainable future for all British Columbians.