

# FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

September 15, 2021

Dear First Nations,

## Re: Information for Federal Election 2021

The First Nations Leadership Council is committed to changing the course of First Nation-Crown relations in BC in a way that empowers First Nations and results in real, concrete change to our children, families, and communities. First Nation voters have the potential to significantly the outcome of the September 20, 2021, Federal Election.

In order to assist you and your community's participation in this year's federal election, the FNLC has compiled the attached 2021 Election Package.

The FNLC's 2021 Election Package is being provided to all 204 First Nations in BC. Included in the package are:

- Questions posed to all federal parties;
- Responses (1-NDP) from the parties who replied;
- Basic voting information from Elections Canada;
- Copy of each party's platform on Indigenous issues;
- Copy of bios of Indigenous candidates in BC

The FNLC encourages all First Nations voters to cast their ballots in the federal election.

If you have any questions, please contact Morris Prosser (morris@ubcic.bc.ca), Colin Braker (cbraker@fns.bc.ca) or Maureen Buchan (maureen.buchan@bcafn.ca).

Sincerely,

**FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

**On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT**



Cheryl Casimer



Robert Phillips



Lydia Hwitsum

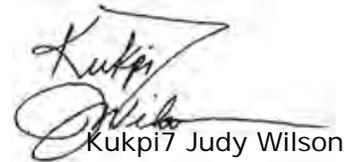
**On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS**



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip



Chief Don Tom



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

**On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:**



Regional Chief Terry Teegee



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# Questions posed to the four federal political parties in advance of Election 2021

## 1. Reconciliation, Recognition and Affirmation:

- a. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (the UN Declaration) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2007 after more than 20 years of discussions. In 2016, Canada officially adopted and promised to implement the UN Declaration fully and in 2021 Parliament passed Bill C-15 - *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

While the UN Declaration contains preambular paragraphs and 43 Articles, following are three Articles of great importance to Indigenous peoples in BC.

### Article 26

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

### Article 27

States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

### Article 28

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.
2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

***If elected, how will your government work to implement the Act Respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular the above three articles, including working meaningfully and in partnership with Indigenous peoples?***

- b. The ground-breaking SCC *Tsilhqot'in* decision, which reaffirmed the existence of First Nation Title in Canada, reinforced the need for a reconstituted consent-based Crown-First Nations relationship, one which needs to address Aboriginal Title and Rights in a real and meaningful way. This relationship needs to be based on the

negotiation, conclusion, and implementation of Treaties and other agreements. The decision also confirmed that establishing Aboriginal Title happens two ways: 1) Court Declaration, or 2) Negotiations. In September 2014, following the SCC decision in *Tsilhqot'in*, First Nations Chiefs and Leadership in BC identified "Four Principles" as the basis of recognition and reconciliation work, which have been endorsed through resolution. The Four Principles state:

- Acknowledgement that all our relationships are based on recognition and implementation of the existence of Indigenous Peoples' inherent title and rights, and pre-confederation, historic and modern treaties throughout BC.
- Acknowledgement that Indigenous systems of governance and laws are essential to the regulation of lands and resources throughout BC.
- Acknowledgement of the mutual responsibility that all of our government systems shall shift to relationships, negotiations and agreements based on recognition.
- We immediately must move to consent based decision-making and title based fiscal relations, including revenue sharing, in our relationships, negotiations and agreements.

***In light of Parliament's passage of the Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adoption of the UN Declaration, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) 94 Calls to Action, if elected, how will your government work to transform the current relationship between First Nations and the Government of Canada in the implementation, negotiation and conclusion of Treaties, Agreements and other constructive arrangements, inside the current BC Treaty negotiations framework, as well as outside of that process?***

## **2. Residential Schools**

- a. It is urgent that the federal government take leadership to ensure that appropriate and comprehensive steps are put in place to establish a proper response and legal framework governing the protection and investigation of the unmarked mass burial sites that have been discovered, as of now and in future, at former Indian Residential School sites across Canada. This framework must also be appropriately designed to be able to address all mass burial sites.

It is urgent that such a framework be co-developed with First Nations survivors and First Nations governments. Such a framework must ensure that the identification, preservation, and investigation over time of these mass burial sites occurs according to human rights standards with proper legal protection, documentation, and accountability.

The loss of life of students at the schools, disappearances, and instances where there was a failure to document or protect the deceased children, are matters of national and international concern. Victims' families, survivors and First Nations governments must be actively involved and supported through this process. While legal protections for the exhumation and identification of the remains will be one concern for the Government of Canada, a sole focus on this is clearly too narrow. There must be a proper focus on restorative justice and protecting the memory of the lives of the children and families. Every step from here forward must actively and respectfully empower and permit the survivors and our First

Nations communities to be culturally safe, free from continued discrimination based on racism and denigration of our culture and language. We must be supported to document and share the impact this is having on us today and into the future, with full support from the Government of Canada, so that we do justice to this travesty.

***If elected, how will your government work with First Nations governments and residential school survivors to co-develop a framework that ensures that the identification, preservation, and investigation over time of these mass burial sites occurs according to human rights standards with proper legal protection, documentation, and accountability.***

### **3. Justice and Policing:**

- a. The justice system, as it currently exists in BC, often results in the systemic, cultural discrimination of First Nations. The system does not recognize that differences in culture, values, language and traditions directly impact the experience and treatment of First Nations in the justice system, including in court appearances, defense case reasoning, choosing pleas of defense, confronting accusers, and showing emotion in court – the system assumes that punishment equally affects all persons regardless of background or culture. There are many reports illustrating that First Nations people are disproportionately represented at all levels of the criminal justice system.

***If elected, how will your government challenge current approaches that contribute to the growing overrepresentation of Indigenous men and women in incarceration, and in particular, the alarming and drastic increase of Indigenous women being incarcerated as the fastest growing incarcerated population?***

***Will your government commit to implementation of an Indigenous-led National Indigenous Justice Strategy?***

- b. Unlike all other policing institutions in Canada, First Nations police services are not all governed by legislation. First Nations police services are funded as programs through agreements with the federal and provincial governments and can be cancelled at any time. The Auditor General of Canada has reported that policing services on First Nations reserves fail to meet the standards applying to police services in non-aboriginal communities.

***If elected, will your government commit to co-developing legislation with Indigenous communities to recognize and fund First Nations Policing as an essential service and not a program and satisfy all the recommendations made by the Auditor General to ensure that First Nations policing services meet the same standards applied to police services in non-aboriginal communities.***

### **4. Children and Families:**

- a. Better supports are required for First Nations children and youth in care, along with stronger enforcement of policies meant to protect the vulnerable. This includes the application of Jordan's Principle, which is a child-first principle that applies equally to all First Nations children, whether resident on or off reserve.

Jordan's Principle makes sure all First Nations children living in Canada can access the products, services and supports they need, when they need them. Evidence shows that, once a person has been involved in the child welfare system in their youth, the chances are higher that they will be involved in the criminal justice system, and that their own children will be involved in the child welfare system. Statistics show that while Aboriginal people account for 4.3% of the Canadian population, nearly 50% of the 30,000 children and youth in foster care are Indigenous. On January 1, 2020, Bill C-92, *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* received Royal Assent, recognizing and affirming the inherent jurisdiction of Indigenous peoples over child and family services. This *Act* recognizes and affirms the inherent jurisdiction that Indigenous peoples have over their children and provides a legislative framework to begin to address the over-representation of Indigenous children in care. Since the *Act* coming into force, First Nations have continued to express concerns with adequate funding and the ability to access funding has remained a barrier to being able to meaningfully stand up their laws and jurisdiction over child and family services.

***If elected, what will your government do to ensure that a funding regime based in the principles of substantive equality is developed and implemented immediately for First Nations child welfare?***

***If elected, how will your government ensure that Jordan's Principle is immediately implemented and adopted, equally, in all Provinces and Territories?***

- b. The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) has found funding allotted to child welfare and health services for First Nations children to be discriminatory and has ordered Canada to immediately cease and address this issue in a matter that is consistent with the principles of substantive equality. Despite this ruling, and numerous non-compliance orders issued since, including a recent ruling on September 6, 2019, that Canada must compensate First Nations Children and Families who have been unfairly discriminated against, including being denied essential services, Canada continues to fight First Nations children and families in court.

***If elected, how will your government respond to the CHRT rulings and ensure that children and families are adequately compensated for this ongoing discrimination?***

- c. Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework. Political support for federal implementation of the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Framework is crucial. The federal government must be held to its commitments to continue the work of implementation of First Nations-led affirmative early learning and child and family supports without delay. The Framework, which was endorsed by Canada, and National Indigenous Organizations, in October 2018, is the product of extensive First Nations engagement and consultation. First Nations communities feel their leadership in First Nations ELCC is long overdue and culturally vital.

***If elected, how will your party work in partnership with First Nations to support ongoing implementation of the Framework which is intended to build capacity of First Nations to support children and families directed by First Nations authorities, values and practices?***

**5. Education:**

- a. **BC Tripartite Education Agreement** – In July 2018, BC, Canada and the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) signed a renewed BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) to advance First Nations Control of First Nations Education, and to support system changes that will improve outcomes for First Nation students, wherever they attend school in BC. Regional Education Agreements for First Nations across Canada represent a commitment set out in the jointly developed (AFN and Canada) Policy Proposal, Transforming First Nations Education, which was approved by Cabinet in 2018.

**Given the diversity of First Nations across Canada, do you support full regionalization of all national First Nations education programs?**

BCTEA promotes increased achievement for all First Nation learners in BC, regardless of where they attend school. However, the federal government funds k-12 students living on reserve inequitably, depending on whether they attend an on-reserve First Nations school or an off-reserve public school. For example, support funding may be provided for those attending a First Nations school that isn't available to those attending public schools.

**What will your party do about this inequitable and discriminatory funding model?**

**6. Action Plan to implement the Final Report and Recommendations of the *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*:**

- a. The National Inquiry's Final Report reveals that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people. The two-volume report calls for transformative legal and social changes to resolve the crisis that has devastated Indigenous communities across the country. The Final Report delivered 231 individual *Calls for Justice* directed at governments, institutions, social service providers, industries and all Canadians. Recently, following over two years of consultations, a National Action Plan was announced by the federal government. This long-drawn-out process and the lack of clear and concrete accountable timelines in the Action Plan has been cause for serious concern.

***If elected, what actions will your government take to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples to ensure all 231 Calls to Justice are implemented through a transparent, timely and accountable process?***

**7. Fisheries:**

- a. In 1990, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) issued a landmark ruling in the *Sparrow* decision, confirming First Nations' aboriginal right to fish for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes, and that this right takes priority, after conservation, over all other uses of the resource. First Nations in many parts of BC have expressed continuing frustration

at their inability to meet their food, social and ceremonial fish needs, particularly when DFO does not respect the priority of Indigenous fisheries and provides opportunities for commercial and recreational fisheries before some First Nations are able to access their constitutionally protected fisheries. Furthermore, the inability to meet these FSC needs may be the result of insufficient allocations, low returns, environmental conditions or other factors that hinder the ability to fish for preferred species, at preferred times and locations using preferred methods, as well as other barriers. Rising conservation and environmental pressures will likely exacerbate the challenge of ensuring First Nations' food fish access into the future. Increasingly, DFO cites "conservation concerns" as rationale to limit or close fisheries; however, there is no consultation with First Nations and no agreed upon standard or threshold to determine what constitutes a conservation closure. First Nations are overwhelmingly bearing the brunt of conservation. Direct engagement between First Nations and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is required to inform and improve the federal government's approach to fisheries management and implementing First Nations' Constitutional priority to fisheries.

***If elected, how will your government uphold the mandate letter to the current Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the 10 Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous Peoples, ensuring that the laws, policies, and practices relating to fisheries management are consistent with the UN Declaration and Canadian case law, and that the priority of access to fisheries resources be upheld and implemented for First Nations in BC to exercise their rights to fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes?***

- b. Following the SCC *Sparrow* decision, Fisheries and Oceans Canada introduced the *Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy* (AFS) in 1992. One element of the AFS was the *Aboriginal Fisheries Guardian Program* (Guardian Program), intended to build capacity in First Nation communities to manage and monitor FSC fisheries in coordination with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Guardian Program was initially embraced by many BC First Nations, who viewed the program as an opportunity to build capacity to manage their food, social and ceremonial fisheries and to assume their inherent role in fisheries management. However, over time, the original purpose and objectives of the Guardian Program were neglected, and the program became vague, unstructured, and was poorly resourced. This shortfall was recognized in 1999, when the program underwent a review and again, in 2007, when the program was evaluated. Despite the inability for the Guardian Program to live up to the high expectations of both First Nations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, both parties are aware of the existing and potential benefits of the Guardian Program. Recently, through a national program review, First Nations expressed the need for the recognition of jurisdiction and authority of designated Indigenous fishery guardians to manage, conserve and protect the resources in their traditional territories, to ensure an enforcement presence in territorial waterways with recognized authority, to receive respect and recognition for the fishery guardian role and position, and to be sufficiently funded to create and retain meaningful employment with career path options.

***If elected, how will your government commit to re-working the Guardian Program to provide capacity and resources for First Nations to exercise their jurisdiction and authority to manage, conserve and protect the resources in their traditional territories?***

- c. The federal government committed to implementing the *Wild Salmon Policy* through its *Wild Salmon Policy Implementation Plan 2018-2022*. A significant hurdle to protecting and restoring wild Pacific salmon continues to be major data deficiencies and the lack of government funding to assess biological statuses of Pacific salmon at the Conservation

Unit levels. While many First Nations are ideally located and interested to take on increased fisheries responsibilities, they are challenged by the lack of funding and capacity to carry out new monitoring and assessment programs.

***Consistent with Canada's commitment to new fiscal relationships, if elected, how will your government dedicate new long-term funding to support First Nations to design and implement new stock assessment and fish habitat monitoring programs and help Canada meet its commitments to the Wild Salmon Policy?***

- d. Fisheries harvest has been a foundation for many Indigenous economies through both trade and participation in the commercial fisheries industry. The existing Aboriginal right to fish as quoted in the SCC *Sparrow* decision did not explicitly limit the right to exclude fishing for economic purposes, yet Indigenous peoples are made to participate through the costly and competitive broader commercial fishery in order to access fisheries resources for economic purposes, limiting Indigenous access to successful and self-sufficient fisheries economies.

***If elected, how will your government ensure the Aboriginal right to fish affirms and enables Indigenous access to fishing for economic purposes?***

- e. First Nations have expressed concern regarding the lack of consultation on existing open net-pen finfish farm operations in Pacific coastal waters. BC First Nations aspire to move towards a meaningful engagement process, based on their free, prior and informed consent, to guide decision making with respect to the development of the aquaculture industry and its operations in the Pacific. For many years, First Nations have identified serious concerns relating to finfish aquaculture regarding potential negative environmental impacts and interactions with wild salmon species, particularly the potential transfer of disease or pathogens from farmed fish to wild salmon.

***If elected, will your government commit to developing and implementing policies and regulations to transition all existing open net-pen finfish facilities along the Pacific Coast to land-based closed containment facilities?***

- f. The Pacific Salmon Treaty is an agreement between Canada and the United States on Pacific salmon management at the international level. First Nations in BC participate at the Pacific Salmon Commission through the Pacific Salmon Commission's First Nations Caucus and participate to help advance Canada's interests. In recognizing First Nations self-government as part of Canada's evolving system of cooperative federalism and distinct orders of government, BC First Nations' place at the Pacific Salmon Commission must include effective decision-making and governance mechanisms as part of Pacific salmon management and bilateral negotiations between Canada and the United States.

***If elected, how will your government empower BC First Nations to advance First Nations fisheries rights at the international scale, including protecting food security for BC First Nations at the Pacific Salmon Commission?***

## **9. Emergency Management:**

- a. As we have once again witnessed in the devastating 2021 BC wildfire season, many First Nations are often underserved and lacking basic infrastructural amenities. These shortfalls increase the risks of injury and death during unforeseen emergencies, unnecessary risks that could be easily mitigated. In 2019, a tripartite MOU was signed by Canada, BC and the FNLC to try to, in part, address some of these important issues.

***If elected, what initiatives will your government undertake to ensure comparable levels of servicing for addressing (ongoing and continuing) critical foundations of Emergency Management?***

***If elected, will your government commit to BC First Nations' direct inclusion (partnership) in all agreements related to the provision of Emergency Management (preparedness and response) Services?***

#### **10. Climate Emergency:**

- a. The climate emergency endangers the security and way of life of Indigenous peoples throughout British Columbia and the world. The effects of the warming climate, such as rampant forest fires, flooding, drought, and elevated air and water temperatures, are impacting First Nations, their traditional territories and food sources, and ways of being that have been practiced since time immemorial. First Nations are seriously threatened by the climate emergency but are also essential drivers of effective climate change action. Indigenous ecological knowledge, authority and deep responsibilities to traditional lands and waters are critical to achieving world targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions and developing effective climate adaptation strategies. Several recent reports, such as the *Special Report on Global Warming under 1.5°C* by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and *Canada's Changing Climate Report (CCCR)*, have articulated the current state of crisis facing the world. In Canada, the climate has warmed 2.3 degrees and is projected to warm, on average, at double the magnitude of the rest of the world. On June 17, 2019, the federal House of Commons adopted the following motion: "*Canada is in a national climate emergency which requires, as a response, that Canada commit to meeting its national emission target under the Paris Agreement and to making deeper reductions in line with the agreement's objective of holding global warming below two degrees Celsius and pursuing efforts to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius.*"

***If elected, how will your government safeguard the inherent, Treaty and constitutionally protected rights of First Nations, respect Indigenous knowledge, and uphold Treaties, Agreements and other constructive arrangements between First Nations and the Crown, and take urgent and transformative climate action that meets the requirements outlined in the reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Canada in a Changing Climate to reduce emissions in Canada by 60% below 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050?***

#### **11. Indigenous Culture and Heritage**

- a. While many acknowledge and celebrate Canada's rich and diverse cultural heritage, this diversity, as it relates to Indigenous Peoples, is under threat, and has been since contact. Colonial policies and practices have led to intergenerational trauma and hardships in maintaining and transmitting cultural knowledge and values to future generations. Existing heritage paradigms themselves are often exclusionary of Indigenous concepts of heritage and history, taking a compartmentalized view of typologies and human/land relationships. This point of view results in heritage protection

priorities favouring built heritage – imbued with colonial values and meanings – over Indigenous cultural heritage, which does not fit within this framework. Moreover, Indigenous cultural heritage is often inaccurately interpreted and narrowly presented to the public, with inequitable funding and support compared to settler heritage.

***Given the urgent need to recognize and protect Indigenous heritage, if elected, how will your government ensure sustainable funding and support of an oversight Indigenous organization to carry out this important and complex work in Canada, the provinces and territories?***

- a. For decades, much energy and resources have been invested in studies and inquiries, and First Nations people have generously shared their stories related to the impacts of the residential schools' system, and other damaging vehicles of colonization imposed on our ancestors, us, and future generations. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, TRC Report, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, all provide Calls to Action related to the rebuilding of our disrupted languages and cultures, the core of our very identities. In addition, the UN Declaration supports these recommendations.

***If elected, how will your government commit to honour this work, implement meaningful financial reparations, and provide resources to Indigenous organization and communities to continue and increase our efforts to remedy the damage done to our societies?***

## **12. Access to Broadband and Mobile Connectivity**

- a. In the past, the BC First Nations Technology Council hosted regional engagement sessions across British Columbia. The roundtables were comprised of Indigenous leaders, elders, staff, youth, entrepreneurs, and other community and Indigenous organizations. Discussions, survey questions and breakout activities focused on how nations would like to use technology to advance self-determination as well as accessing career opportunities in the rapidly growing technology sector. Many Indigenous communities are unfortunately without equitable, affordable or sustainable access to internet connectivity. This reality was emphatically confirmed through the regional engagements as a barrier to economic development, training opportunities and efficiency and effectiveness of various governance initiatives.

***If elected, what will your government do to ensure all Indigenous peoples have equal and affordable access to internet and mobile connectivity, considering the majority of Nations in BC are excluded from accessing the world's most powerful economic and social platform?***

***If elected, how will your government ensure that mandated Indigenous organizations, such as the First Nations Technology Council, and our emerging Indigenous Innovation Institute, are directly funded so that we can move the dial on Indigenous representation in tech, where representation is currently less than 1.2% nationally?***

## **NDP Response to FNLC Questions (2021)**

## **NDP Response: First Nations Leadership Council of BC**

Dear Members of the First Nations Leadership Council,

Thank you for your letter dated September 1, 2021 outlining the election priorities of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs. Please accept the following answers on behalf of Canada's NDP.

**If elected, how will your government work to implement the Act Respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular the above three articles, including working meaningfully and in partnership with Indigenous peoples?**

In partnership with Indigenous Peoples, a New Democrats government will fully implement the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Through legislation, we will co-develop a National Action Plan for Reconciliation to ensure that Canada's laws, policies, and practices are consistent with Canada's human rights commitments.

**In light of Parliament's passage of the Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adoption of the UN Declaration, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) 94 Calls to Action, if elected, how will your government work to transform the current relationship between First Nations and the Government of Canada in the implementation, negotiation and conclusion of Treaties, Agreements and other constructive arrangements, inside the current BC Treaty negotiations framework, as well as outside of that process?**

New Democrats know that we can't just pick and choose which rights we will uphold. We will work to harmonize Canada's laws with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and establish a National Council for Reconciliation to provide oversight and accountability for this process. We will implement a standard of free, prior and informed consent for government policies, recognize and respect Treaties, and support Nations who are building and re-building their governance structures.

**If elected, how will your government work with First Nations governments and residential school survivors to co-develop a framework that ensures that the identification, preservation, and investigation over time of these mass burial sites occurs according to human rights standards with proper legal protection, documentation, and accountability.**

We are committed to finding every child and bringing them home. A New Democrat government will fully fund the search for grave sites at former residential schools, as well as the maintenance, commemoration, reburial and protection of residential school cemeteries according to the wishes of Indigenous families, Survivors and communities. We will work with nations and Survivors to establish memorials to those lost at residential schools.

**If elected, how will your government challenge current approaches that contribute to the growing overrepresentation of Indigenous men and women in incarceration, and in particular, the alarming and drastic increase of Indigenous women being incarcerated as the fastest growing incarcerated population?**

New Democrats believe government must work to end systemic discrimination against Indigenous people in the justice system. We will remove most mandatory minimums, increase the discretion of judges during sentencing, ensure bail programs are culturally appropriate, bolster funding for

## **NDP Response: First Nations Leadership Council of BC**

community justice programs that focus on healing and restorative justice rather than incarceration, and uphold the use of Gladue principles in court proceedings.

### **Will your government commit to implementation of an Indigenous-led National Indigenous Justice Strategy?**

Yes – we are committed to working with Indigenous communities to enhance community safety and develop a First Nations justice and policing strategy.

### **If elected, will your government commit to co-developing legislation with Indigenous communities to recognize and fund First Nations Policing as an essential service and not a program and satisfy all the recommendations made by the Auditor General to ensure that First Nations policing services meet the same standards applied to police services in non-aboriginal communities.**

Yes – We will make First Nations Policing an essential service with long-term, sufficient and equitable funding while taking steps to end discriminatory policing practices like carding.

### **If elected, what will your government do to ensure that a funding regime based in the principles of substantive equality is developed and implemented immediately for First Nations child welfare?**

Indigenous children have the right to culture, language and to be raised in their own communities – all of which are vital to overall well-being. New Democrats will take immediate action to respect, support and resource First Nations jurisdiction over child welfare systems and we will back this commitment with long-term, predictable funding guaranteed in legislation so that First Nations can exercise their jurisdiction and authority over matters involving their own children and families.

### **If elected, how will your government ensure that Jordan's Principle is immediately implemented and adopted, equally, in all Provinces and Territories?**

A New Democrat government will fully implement Jordan's principle, working with the provinces and territories to end delays and ensure equitable access to health services and educational supports for Indigenous children from coast to coast to coast. We will also create a Spirit Bear Day to promote awareness of Jordan's principle and of challenges faced by First Nations children when accessing government services.

### **If elected, how will your government respond to the CHRT rulings and ensure that children and families are adequately compensated for this ongoing discrimination?**

New Democrats will end the court challenges, provide compensation to children and families, and ensure that Jordan's principle applies to children off-reserve. We will fully implement the CHRT orders to stop chronically underfunding child welfare services on reserve, and work with the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society to implement the Spirit Bear plan.

### **If elected, how will your party work in partnership with First Nations to support ongoing implementation of the Framework which is intended to build capacity of First Nations to support children and families directed by First Nations authorities, values and practices?**

New Democrats will work hard to create new agreements, while respecting existing agreements, with First Nations to build capacity within communities over First Nations child and

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family services. By implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and supporting self-determination, we will make sure Indigenous children, young people and families are treated with the justice, respect and care that they deserve.

**Given the diversity of First Nations across Canada, do you support full regionalization of all national First Nations education programs? What will your party do about this inequitable and discriminatory funding model?**

New Democrats believe that all children should be able to get an education in a culturally-appropriate way, in their own community, and in the language of their community. In government, we will support initiatives that build capacity and support self-determination in Indigenous-led education systems. We will implement Shannen's dream of equitable access to education, backed by federal investments and infrastructure to close the inequitable and discriminatory funding that leaves Indigenous children behind.

**If elected, what actions will your government take to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples to ensure all 231 Calls to Justice are implemented through a transparent, timely and accountable process?**

The report from the National Inquiry must not sit on a shelf. New Democrats will work in partnership with Indigenous women, the families of the missing and murdered, and communities to implement the Inquiry's Calls for Justice and the calls to action brought forward by communities. This includes establishing a comprehensive plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA People – ensuring that all those fleeing violence have access to culturally appropriate programming, emergency shelters and transitional housing.

**If elected, how will your government uphold the mandate letter to the current Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the 10 Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous Peoples, ensuring that the laws, policies, and practices relating to fisheries management are consistent with the UN Declaration and Canadian case law, and that the priority of access to fisheries resources be upheld and implemented for First Nations in BC to exercise their rights to fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes?**

For too long, Indigenous fishers have had to fight for their rights in court. In government, New Democrats will harmonize Canada's laws with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and work on a nation-to-nation basis with coastal First Nations to improve the government's approach to fisheries management and implement First Nations' constitutional and treaty rights to fish.

**If elected, how will your government commit to re-working the Guardian Program to provide capacity and resources for First Nations to exercise their jurisdiction and authority to manage, conserve and protect the resources in their traditional territories?**

We will expand the Indigenous Guardians Program, invest in Indigenous-led science and support the creation of Indigenous-managed protected areas. We'll make sure that species recovery efforts respect Indigenous rights and embrace traditional knowledge to increase biodiversity. This includes working hand-in-hand to advance the protection and restoration of wild Pacific salmon populations on the west coast.

## **NDP Response: First Nations Leadership Council of BC**

**Consistent with Canada's commitment to new fiscal relationships, if elected, how will your government dedicate new long-term funding to support First Nations to design and implement new stock assessment and fish habitat monitoring programs and help Canada meet its commitments to the Wild Salmon Policy?**

New Democrats know that coastal First Nations and regional communities are best placed to do the work needed to save wild salmon. In government, New Democrats will work with First Nations and Indigenous salmon advocates to develop assessments and best practices for salmon habitat restoration, conservation and protection.

**If elected, how will your government ensure the Aboriginal right to fish affirms and enables Indigenous access to fishing for economic purposes?**

New Democrats know Indigenous fishers should not have to fight for their rights in court. We will work on a nation-to-nation basis to enable Indigenous access to fishing.

**If elected, will your government commit to developing and implementing policies and regulations to transition all existing open net-pen finfish facilities along the Pacific Coast to land-based closed containment facilities?**

New Democrats are committed to removing open net-pen fish farms from Pacific Coast communities. We will work with the province and First Nations on strong transition plan for workers and their families, and provide the assurances that the current federal government has failed to deliver on.

**If elected, how will your government empower BC First Nations to advance First Nations fisheries rights at the international scale, including protecting food security for BC First Nations at the Pacific Salmon Commission?**

New Democrats are committed to supporting the self-determination of First Nations people. We are committed to being more transparent in our trade deals, providing people in Canada with the costs and benefits of our international agreements, and ensuring that our agreements are consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. As such, we recognize that First Nations must be involved in negotiations affecting them, including the Pacific Salmon Commission.

**If elected, what initiatives will your government undertake to ensure comparable levels of servicing for addressing (ongoing and continuing) critical foundations of Emergency Management?**

Too many Indigenous communities are still waiting for basic emergency services, sometimes with tragic consequences. We will fund on-reserve emergency management and prevention, including fire-fighting training and equipment.

**If elected, will your government commit to BC First Nations' direct inclusion (partnership) in all agreements related to the provision of Emergency Management (preparedness and response) Services?**

New Democrats will work in partnership with BC First Nations' in the provision of emergency management services.

## **NDP Response: First Nations Leadership Council of BC**

**If elected, how will your government safeguard the inherent, Treaty and constitutionally protected rights of First Nations, respect Indigenous knowledge, and uphold Treaties, Agreements and other constructive arrangements between First Nations and the Crown, and take urgent and transformative climate action that meets the requirements outlined in the reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Canada in a Changing Climate to reduce emissions in Canada by 60% below 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050?**

Without a doubt, we are living through an environmental emergency that is threatening the very survival of Indigenous communities. We must move past the delays and inaction of previous governments and take a fundamentally different approach to our future. New Democrats will put reconciliation at the core of our efforts to reverse and mitigate the impacts of climate change. We will uphold Indigenous knowledge and respect inherent sovereignty. As the original peoples of this country, Indigenous peoples have intimate connections to their homelands, territories and resources and have provided stewardship since time out of memory.

**Given the urgent need to recognize and protect Indigenous heritage, if elected, how will your government ensure sustainable funding and support of an oversight Indigenous organization to carry out this important and complex work in Canada, the provinces and territories?**

New Democrats know that cultural heritage is often overlooked in public funding for Indigenous heritage. In partnership with First Nations communities, nations, and other Indigenous stakeholders, we will work to ensure that public heritage dollars to respect and fund cultural heritage initiatives.

**If elected, how will your government commit to honour this work, implement meaningful financial reparations, and provide resources to Indigenous organization and communities to continue and increase our efforts to remedy the damage done to our societies?**

New Democrats are committed to ensuring that Indigenous communities see the justice they have been repeatedly promised. In order to provide accountability and oversight for our commitments on reconciliation, New Democrats have proposed a National Council for Reconciliation that will report to Parliament on the progress that the federal government makes. We are further committed to ensuring that the federal government stops fighting Survivors and families affected by residential schools in court, and ensuring that families can receive the documents they need to get fair compensation for the harm that was and continues to be done.

**If elected, what will your government do to ensure all Indigenous peoples have equal and affordable access to internet and mobile connectivity, considering the majority of Nations in BC are excluded from accessing the world's most powerful economic and social platform?**

New Democrats believe that the economic recovery from COVID19 must further reconciliation and economic justice for Indigenous peoples. In government, we will work with Indigenous communities to support locally-driven economic development and create good jobs through infrastructure and public service investments, and expanded access to broadband internet and cell service for rural and remote communities. This includes a specific fund to help Northern communities to focus on improving much-needed infrastructure like rural broadband. For smaller Indigenous communities, we will support regional, dedicated economic development that reflects the community's social and cultural values.

**NDP Response:** First Nations Leadership Council of BC

**If elected, how will your government ensure that mandated Indigenous organizations, such as the First Nations Technology Council, and our emerging Indigenous Innovation Institute, are directly funded so that we can move the dial on Indigenous representation in tech, where representation is currently less than 1.2% nationally?**

New Democrats are committed to working with Indigenous entrepreneurs, small businesses, and mandated Indigenous organizations to find solutions to access capital and scale up, invest in Indigenous social enterprise projects and in entrepreneurship. We will ensure that the federal government prioritizes procurement from Indigenous companies where possible.

## **Liberal Response to FNLC Questions (2021)**



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September 16, 2021

First Nations Leadership Council

Via email: [cbraker@fns.bc.ca](mailto:cbraker@fns.bc.ca)

Dear First Nations Leadership Council,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party of Canada's formal response to your questionnaire.

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

Liberal Party of Canada



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**If elected, how will your government work to implement the Act Respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular the above three articles, including working meaningfully and in partnership with Indigenous peoples?**

The adoption of Bill C-15 on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples marks an important step forward for Canada, for Indigenous People and for reconciliation. We are committed to fully implementing the Act in partnership with Indigenous partners. We know that it is the collaborative work ahead where real progress on achieving the Declaration's objectives will be made. That is why we committed \$31.5 million to support the co-development of an Action Plan with Indigenous partners to implement and achieve the objectives of the Declaration. The Act is about legislating our country's commitment to reconciliation and the affirmation of the human rights of Indigenous peoples. We know that full implementation of the Declaration requires a whole-of-government approach. That is why a re-elected Liberal government will include, in all cabinet ministers' mandate letters, the requirement to implement UNDRIP, and ensure their offices and ministries work alongside Indigenous peoples to advance their rights.

**In light of Parliament's passage of the Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adoption of the UN Declaration, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) 94 Calls to Action, if elected, how will your government work to transform the current relationship between First Nations and the Government of Canada in the implementation, negotiation and conclusion of Treaties, Agreements and other constructive arrangements, inside the current BC Treaty negotiations framework, as well as outside of that Process?**

We commit to continue to support Indigenous-led processes for rebuilding and reconstituting nations, advancing self-determination and work in partnership on implementation of treaties, land claim and self-government agreements with appropriate oversight mechanisms to hold the federal government accountable. In 2019, working with the First Nations Summit and the British Columbia government, we were able to sign the *Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia*. We will continue to work inside and outside the current BC Treaty negotiations framework, as determined by partners, to advance self-determination.

**If elected, how will your government work with First Nations governments and residential school survivors to co-develop a framework that ensures that the identification, preservation, and investigation over time of these mass burial sites occurs according to human rights standards with proper legal protection, documentation, and accountability.**



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We have and we will continue to support and provide funding to Indigenous communities: in their work to uncover burial grounds; for commemoration ceremonies, honouring memorials, and re-burial in their home communities; and to manage the buildings of former residential schools, such as demolition, rehabilitation, or construction of new facilities. We will also move forward on work with Indigenous partners to appoint a Special Interlocutor who will work with Indigenous communities, provincial and territorial governments, to develop the necessary legal and regulatory framework to advance justice regarding unmarked graves and make recommendations relating to federal laws, regulations, policies, and practices surrounding unmarked and undocumented graves and burial sites at residential schools.

**If elected, how will your government challenge current approaches that contribute to the growing overrepresentation of Indigenous men and women in incarceration, and in particular, the alarming and drastic increase of Indigenous women being incarcerated as the fastest growing incarcerated population? Will your government commit to implementation of an Indigenous-led National Indigenous Justice Strategy?**

Moving forward on reconciliation requires dealing with both systemic racism and the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in the criminal justice system. In the Fall Economic Statement 2020, we committed to \$49.3 million over five years to support the application of *Gladue* Principles and integration of *Gladue* report writing in the justice system. This would help to address systemic barriers for Indigenous peoples in the criminal justice system by ensuring the background and systemic factors that bring Indigenous peoples into contact with the justice system are taken into account at sentencing, and to help inform reasonable alternatives to sentencing for Indigenous accused. We introduced Bill C-22 that would reform mandatory minimum sentences that have a disproportionate effect on Indigenous peoples. We commit to re-introduce Bill C-22 within the first 100 days.

In Budget 2021 we provided \$24.2 million to support engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations on the development of legislation and initiatives that address systemic barriers in the criminal justice system, including collaboration on an Indigenous justice strategy. We look forward to working with the First Nations Leadership Council on this important work.

**If elected, will your government commit to co-developing legislation with Indigenous communities to recognize and fund First Nations Policing as an essential service and not a program and satisfy all the recommendations made by the Auditor General to ensure that First Nations policing services meet the same standards applied to police services in non- aboriginal communities.**



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We have committed to co-develop a legislative framework for First Nations policing, which recognizes First Nations policing as an essential service, and work with interested communities to expand the number of communities served by First Nations policing. In Budget 2021 we committed \$861 million over five years, beginning in 2021-22, and \$145 million ongoing, to support culturally responsive policing and community safety services in Indigenous communities. This includes:

- \$43.7 million over five years, beginning in 2021-22, to co-develop a legislative framework for First Nations policing that recognizes First Nations policing as an essential service.
- \$540.3 million over five years, beginning in 2021-22, and \$126.8 million ongoing, to support Indigenous communities currently served under the First Nations Policing Program and expand the program to new Indigenous communities.
- \$108.6 million over five years, beginning in 2021-22, to repair, renovate, and replace policing facilities in First Nation and Inuit communities.
- \$64.6 million over five years, beginning in 2021-22, and \$18.1 million ongoing, to enhance Indigenous-led crime prevention strategies and community safety services.
- \$103.8 million over five years, beginning in 2021-22, for a new Pathways to Safe Indigenous Communities Initiative to support Indigenous communities to develop

**If elected, what will your government do to ensure that a funding regime based in the principles of substantive equality is developed and implemented immediately for First Nations child welfare?**

We have worked with First Nations partners to co-develop and pass *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families*, which affirms the inherent right of First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services. A principle of this Act is that of substantive equality. We will continue to fund actuals in programming. Budget 2021 proposes to provide \$1 billion over five years, starting in 2021-22, with \$118.7 million ongoing to increase funding under the First Nations Child and Family Services Program which would provide among other things, increased support to First Nations communities not served by a delegated First Nations agency for prevention activities and permanently ensure that First Nations youth who reach the age of majority continue to receive supports for an additional two years.

**If elected, how will your government ensure that Jordan's Principle is immediately implemented and adopted, equally, in all Provinces and Territories?**

First Nations children deserve the same access to health care, social services, and education as every other child in Canada. We will continue to fully fund Jordan's Principle.



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**If elected, how will your government respond to the CHRT rulings and ensure that children and families are adequately compensated for this ongoing discrimination?**

We agree that First Nations children who suffered harms under the First Nations Child and Family Services program deserve fair and just compensation. We will continue to work with Indigenous partners to ensure fair and equitable compensation for those harmed by the First Nations Child and Family Services program.

**If elected, how will your party work in partnership with First Nations to support ongoing implementation of the Framework which is intended to build capacity of First Nations to support children and families directed by First Nations authorities, values and practices?**

We are committed to continuing to move forward with implementation of the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework. In Budget 2021, we committed \$2.5 billion over five years to build on the existing distinctions-based approach to Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care, with a long-term investment in Indigenous-led programming.

**Given the diversity of First Nations across Canada, do you support full regionalization of all national First Nations education programs?**

**What will your party do about this inequitable and discriminatory funding model?**

We support continued regionalization of First Nations education programs. That is why in Budget 2021 we commits \$726 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, and \$181.8 million ongoing, to enhance funding formulas in critical areas such as student transportation; ensure funding for First Nations schools remains predictable from year to year; and increase First Nations control over First Nations education by concluding more Regional Education Agreements.

Through the co-developed new approach to First Nations elementary and secondary education in 2019, we have been able to bring in line on and off-reserve education funding for elementary and secondary First Nations students. We will continue to work and review the funding model with all partners to ensure that funding is equitable for all First Nations students.

**If elected, what actions will your government take to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples to ensure all 231 Calls to Justice are implemented through a transparent, timely and accountable process?**



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National Inquiry Call for Justice 1.1 recommended the federal, provincial, territorial and First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments work together to develop a National Action Plan in partnership with Indigenous Peoples. On June 3, 2021, along with families and survivors, Indigenous partners, provinces and territories, we released, the 2021 National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, And 2SLGBTQQA+ People was released, which included the Federal Government's contribution, the Federal Pathway. We have committed substantial investments of \$2.2 billion for implementation in partnership with Indigenous partners, and with families and survivors at the centre. Part of the implementation work will be to develop a transparent, timely and accountable process and mechanism to measure real results. It is why we have included specific funding of \$20.3 million over 5 years to work with Indigenous partners to ensure that appropriate monitoring mechanisms are in place to measure progress and to keep the government accountable, now and in the future on implementing the Calls for Justice.

**If elected, how will your government uphold the mandate letter to the current Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the 10 Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous Peoples, ensuring that the laws, policies, and practices relating to fisheries management are consistent with the UN Declaration and Canadian case law, and that the priority of access to fisheries resources be upheld and implemented for First Nations in BC to exercise their rights to fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes?**

**Consistent with Canada's commitment to new fiscal relationships, if elected, how will your government dedicate new long-term funding to support First Nations to design and implement new stock assessment and fish habitat monitoring programs and help Canada meet its commitments to the Wild Salmon Policy?**

**If elected, how will your government ensure the Aboriginal right to fish affirms and enables Indigenous access to fishing for economic purposes?**

We are committed to recognizing and implementing Aboriginal and treaty rights, including those related to fisheries, oceans, aquatic habitat, and marine waterways, in a manner that is consistent with section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the Declaration, and the Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples. We are also committed to advancing relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations. We have developed a Reconciliation Strategy which is a long-term evergreen approach to advancing meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the areas of fisheries, oceans, aquatic habitat, and marine waterways. An example of our work together with British Columbia First Nations was the signing of the historic Coastal First Nations Fisheries Resources Reconciliation Agreement with Heiltsuk Nation, Kitsoo/Xai'xais First Nation, Metlakatla First Nation,



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Nuxalk Nation, Wuikinuxv Nation, Gitga'at First Nation, Gitxaala Nation and Haida Nation. This agreement advances economic opportunities and collaborative governance, as well as expands community-based commercial fishing access in traditional territories for the eight Nations represented by Coastal First Nations.

First Nations have an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes. A re-elected Liberal government will always recognize and respect this right and will work with First Nations when it comes to supporting their communities and FSC access.

In June, we launched the \$647 million Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative which represents the largest-ever Government investment in efforts to save Pacific salmon, and is aimed at stopping the declines now while helping rebuild populations over the longer term. We will be working closely with First Nations, to advance actions under each pillar, to stabilize the species, and to support a more modern, sustainable, and economically resilient sector.

**If elected, how will your government commit to re-working the Guardian Program to provide capacity and resources for First Nations to exercise their jurisdiction and authority to manage, conserve and protect the resources in their traditional Territories?**

In 2017, we launched and committed \$25 million over 4 years for the Indigenous Guardians pilot. We further commit to work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners to support new Indigenous Guardians programs and establish new Indigenous Guardians Networks.

**If elected, what initiatives will your government undertake to ensure comparable levels of servicing for addressing (ongoing and continuing) critical foundations of Emergency Management?**

**If elected, will your government commit to BC First Nations' direct inclusion (partnership) in all agreements related to the provision of Emergency Management (preparedness and response) Services?**

We know climate change is making natural disasters more damaging, more frequent, and more expensive and we're committed to investing in the resources to mitigate the impact of future disasters, as well as supporting communities to implement or revise their emergency management plans where necessary. Through Budget 2019, we also committed \$211 million over five years for:

- Enhancing EMAP's existing First Nation-led emergency preparedness and non-structural mitigation.
- First nations-led engagement on emergency management service agreements.



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- First nation emergency management capacity building.

In addition, to prepare for the next wildfire season, we commit to support and expand Indigenous-led fire crews and build capacity to better incorporate Indigenous traditional knowledge strategies in fire management.

**If elected, how will your government safeguard the inherent, Treaty and constitutionally protected rights of First Nations, respect Indigenous knowledge, and uphold Treaties, Agreements and other constructive arrangements between First Nations and the Crown, and take urgent and transformative climate action that meets the requirements outlined in the reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Canada in a Changing Climate to reduce emissions in Canada by 60% below 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050?**

The Liberal Party of Canada understands the need to move forward with an even more ambitious plan to tackle climate change. That is why experts have across the board rated the Liberal Party of Canada's climate change plan with the highest marks in this election. We commit to deliver on all policy and fiscal measures outlined in our Strengthened Climate Plan from December 2020, implement the recently passed Net Zero Emissions Accountability Act, and advance new measures to achieve an ambitious 40-45% reduction in emissions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. In addition, we will work with all Canadians and the Net Zero Advisory Body to identify ways to further accelerate climate action that will put us on trajectory to achieve netzero emissions as soon as possible and no later than 2050.

**Given the urgent need to recognize and protect Indigenous heritage, if elected, how will your government ensure sustainable funding and support of an oversight Indigenous organization to carry out this important and complex work in Canada, the provinces and territories?**

**If elected, how will your government commit to honour this work, implement meaningful financial reparations, and provide resources to Indigenous organization and communities to continue and increase our efforts to remedy the damage done to our societies?**

We understand that language is essential to Indigenous identity and culture and the urgency to support the reclamation, revitalization, maintaining and strengthening of Indigenous languages across British Columbia and Canada. That is why we introduced and passed the Indigenous Languages Act and are committed to continue to work with First Nations to ensure that the Indigenous Languages Act continues to be fully implemented supported with long-term, predictable and sufficient funding. We recently celebrated the naming of the first Indigenous Languages Commissioner, Dr. Ronald E. Ignace, as well as the first directors of the Office of the Indigenous Languages Commissioner.



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We have further invested in Indigenous language and culture through Budget 2021 with \$275 million over 5 years to support the reclamation, revitalization and strengthening of Indigenous languages; \$108.8 million over two years to reestablish and revitalize Indigenous cultural spaces.

**If elected, what will your government do to ensure all Indigenous peoples have equal and affordable access to internet and mobile connectivity, considering the majority of Nations in BC are excluded from accessing the world's most powerful economic and social platform?**

We announced in 2019, the Universal Broadband Fund which supports broadband infrastructure projects bringing high-speed internet and rural and remote households in areas that lack service. Since Budget 2021, there is now \$2.75 billion committed for the fund. We will be working with partners on supporting projects to close the connectivity divide. Recently, we announced \$17.3 million in funding for 4 projects that will bring high-speed Internet to over 2,000 households in Cariboo regional district and in Indigenous communities of the Thompson-Nicola regional district in rural British Columbia.

**If elected, how will your government ensure that mandated Indigenous organizations, such as the First Nations Technology Council, and our emerging Indigenous Innovation Institute, are directly funded so that we can move the dial on Indigenous representation in tech, where representation is currently less than 1.2% nationally?**

We commit to continue to work in partnership with First Nations through the economic recovery to support the growth of First Nations economies and businesses, including First Nations technology business. In Budget 2021 we provided \$42 million over 3 years to expand the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship program to directly support Indigenous-led business. Additionally, we created the Indigenous Growth Fund, which has an initial amount of \$150 million to provide Indigenous-led financing support to Indigenous businesses.

We have worked to mandate that at least 5% of federal procurement contracts go to First Nations, Inuit and Métis businesses. In addition, we are committed to removing barriers for Indigenous businesses, especially for microbusinesses who face challenges in federal procurement contracts. We are committed to enabling these businesses to access new, zero-interest loans when a 10% advance is required, create a navigator position to help Indigenous entrepreneurs find programs that apply to their unique situation and work across government departments to adjust eligibility criteria to ensure programs are inclusive and supportive as possible for Indigenous businesses, including Indigenous technology businesses.

# **Green Platform on Indigenous Issues**

# RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Canada has a profound legal and moral obligation to reconcile and provide restitution for the colonial relations – marked by violent expropriation, displacement, and forced assimilation – that have undermined the cultural, governance and economic foundations of the Indigenous Peoples of this land.

The Green Party of Canada recognizes the ongoing leadership, resistance and resilience of Indigenous Peoples in the face of systemic oppression and intergenerational trauma. **A Green government will support all Indigenous Peoples' efforts to emerge from the positions of disadvantage in which Canada has placed them**, including support for cultural revitalization and healing.

The Green Party of Canada reaffirms its support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Greens are committed to implementing UNDRIP for those First Nations who support it. The Green Party believes that every nation has a right to decide who will speak on its behalf, and the government of Canada must be led by Indigenous Peoples with respect to designing any UNDRIP legislation. We heard from several First Nations who told us that they had not been consulted on Bill C-15.

**A Green government will ensure that all First Nations are thoroughly involved in the development and design of UNDRIP implementation legislation.** Greens would also ensure that any Nations who do not support UNDRIP would not have it imposed upon them.

**The Green Party of Canada is committed to Reconciliation, Nation-to-Nation engagement and self-determination for Indigenous Peoples**, and believes that any meaningful path towards reconciliation in Canada must ensure that First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation leaders are leading the decisions about the future of their people, their lands and their territories.

A Green government will:

- Provide sustainable funding for new and existing Indigenous Healing Centres to address the harms caused by residential schools;
- Increase funding to Friendship Centres across Canada providing critical social services off-reserve;

- Honour the original request from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for funding for work on the Missing Children and Unmarked Burials Project;
- Call on the Pope to apologise on behalf of the Catholic Church for its involvement in residential schools;
- Recognize that Indigenous children in residential schools have been replaced by Indigenous children in foster care; Indigenous children account for 7.7 per cent of children in Canada, but 52.2 percent of children in care;
- Stop fighting the Canada's Human Rights Tribunal orders requiring the government to compensate the child and family victims of Canada's discrimination; and ensure non-status First Nations' children living off reserve have access to Jordan's Principle.

A Green government will respect Indigenous sovereignty over self-defined and self-governed lands – whether First Nations, Métis Nation or Inuit – and respect all rights that their title to land entails, including the right to stewardship. We respect Inuit sovereignty over Inuit Nunangat. We support the full implementation of treaties and other self-government agreements between Canada and Indigenous governments. A Green government will welcome a genuine nation-to-nation engagement with Indigenous Peoples in Canada that is truly grounded in the UNDRIP doctrine of free, prior and informed consent.

## Treaties and Land Claims

1. Uphold fiduciary responsibilities, honour treaties, and respect all rights of Indigenous Peoples.
  - Uphold Canada's fiduciary responsibility, fulfill Canada's responsibilities in agreements, honour treaties, and respect all rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their inherent rights of self-government.
2. Work towards the creation of an Indigenous Lands and Treaties Tribunal Act.
  - In partnership with Indigenous Peoples, work towards the creation of an Indigenous Lands and Treaties Tribunal Act to establish an independent body that will decide on specific claims, ensuring that treaty negotiations are conducted and financed fairly and that treaty negotiations and claims resolutions do not result in the extinguishment of aboriginal and treaty rights.
3. Immediately implement the land claims agreements already negotiated and languishing for lack of funding, particularly for First Nations in the territories.
  - Ensure that negotiations of treaties and self-government are not based on the extinguishment of Indigenous title and rights, and on assimilation, but on reconciliation of rights and title, and that negotiations recognize the diversity of traditional self-governance.

# Respecting Indigenous Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and Nation-to-Nation relationships

1. Formally repudiate the doctrine of *terra nullius*, the doctrine of discovery, and other doctrines of superiority.
2. Guided by Indigenous leadership, establish a process to transition out from under the *Indian Act*.
  - With Indigenous leaders at the helm, establish processes for self-governing Indigenous Peoples and nations to transition out from under the Indian Act, grounding this in the doctrine of free, prior, and informed consent.
3. Implement the recommendations of the 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.
4. Affirm the inherent right of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation to determine child and family services.
  - Support kinship ties and ensure sufficient funding and resources so that families are kept together.
5. Work with First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit and their governing institutions on a nation-to-nation basis.
  - Advance and implement agreements, and work in collaboration with nations to co-develop and co-design policy and programs that will benefit First Nations, Métis Nation, and Inuit.
6. Recognize the rights of non-status and Métis as “Indigenous.”
  - Accept CAP-Daniels recognition of non-Status and Métis as “Indigenous”
  - Accept UNDRIP recognition of the rights that Indigenous people possess, applying equally to all Indigenous people regardless of distinction, residence or status.
  - Work towards the settlement of community land and resource rights for Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) communities
  - Respect and act on 2018 CAP-Canada Political Accord
  - Include off-reserve Status, non-Status, Métis and Southern Inuit in the implementation of calls to action in Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & 2SLGBTQIA+.

# Cultural Revitalization and Healing

1. Implement all 94 of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
2. Implement all of the Calls for Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
3. Build community capacity to support exercising self-determination.
  - Support self-determination with effective, fully-funded organizations to represent and provide services to communities by expanding Basic Organizational Capacity (BOC) funding for Indigenous representative organizations.
  - Representation of youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQQA+, and distinct identities among off-reserve Indigenous people must be adequately funded to ensure those perspectives are included.
  - Support research and identification of off-reserve Indigenous communities across Canada, with registration and membership systems.
    - Support the application of trusted research and data on urban Indigenous populations to acknowledge under-counting.
4. Ensure access to quality education for every First Nations, Métis Nation, and Inuit child.
  - Ensure that every First Nations, Métis and Inuit child has access to quality educational opportunities based on the expressed cultural, political and social priorities of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit governments, following meaningful consultation.
  - Support the development of Indigenous education curricula that are language and culture-specific.
  - Increase access to post-secondary education for Indigenous youth by removing the two per cent funding cap, as well as fully funding the program backlog.
  - Support and sustain the transmission, proliferation, and regeneration of Indigenous cultural works and languages.
  - Educate non-Indigenous Canadians on the histories, customs, traditions and cultures of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples of Turtle Island.
5. Honour the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling to compensate every child and family who was taken from their home on reserve.
6. Adopt recommendations on funding for First Nations Child and Family Services from the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracy's 2020 report.
  - Adopt a results framework for the well-being of children, families, and communities, such as the Measuring to Thrive framework proposed in the report.

- Budget for results with a block funding approach<sup>13</sup> that addresses gaps and is linked to the results framework.
  - Undertake a full assessment of current capital stock.
- Establish a non-political First Nations policy and practice secretariat to support First Nations and First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) agencies to transition to First Nations governance.
- Establish a group of FNCFS agencies and First Nations willing to be early adopters of the new performance and funding approach to model implementation.

## Health and Wellness

1. End all drinking water and boil water advisories.
  - Invest in and upgrade critical infrastructure to ensure safe water access and to be able to lift boil water advisories in every community.
  - Support Indigenous-led processes to implement safe drinking water and wastewater management systems
2. Ensure access to high-quality safe and affordable housing.
  - See “Life with Dignity - Ensure access to housing for Indigenous Peoples”
3. Improve food security in northern communities.
  - Consulting with residents on Arctic farming, working with non-profit groups to build greenhouses or hydroponic towers and funding education programs in nutrition and horticulture.
4. Increase access to high-quality health care services.
  - Support healthcare services that incorporate traditional practices and recognize the role of extended families and elders.
  - Devote sufficient resources for maternal and infant care, and culturally appropriate reproductive health services that uphold reproductive autonomy.
  - Increase investments in Indigenous-led mental health (See “Life with Dignity - Expanded and enhanced mental health support”)
  - Sustain the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative to continue capacity building in the healthcare profession for Indigenous communities.
  - Expand access to non-insured health benefits (NIHB) to all Indigenous people, regardless of Status, residency, membership or any other factors.
  - Ensure that compensation funds are made available to the spouses and families of all Aboriginal veterans.

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13 Funding First Nations child and family services (FNCFS): A performance budget approach to well-being (July 2020) -

[https://www.ifsd.ca/web/default/files/Blog/Reports/2020-09-09\\_Final%20report\\_Funding%20First%20Nations%20child%20and%20family%20services.pdf](https://www.ifsd.ca/web/default/files/Blog/Reports/2020-09-09_Final%20report_Funding%20First%20Nations%20child%20and%20family%20services.pdf)

- Allocate dedicated funding to support communities providing culturally appropriate home and community care for seniors, ensuring that Elders remain connected to their communities and culture.

## **DISMANTLING SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

There is no singular catch-all solution to ending the systematic oppression that Black people, Indigenous Peoples, people of colour, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and members of other equity-seeking groups face. There are, however, steps that the federal government can and must take to address these long-standing injustices.

The Green Party of Canada is deeply committed to immediate as well as long-term actions that will truly address systemic racism in our public institutions, and will continue to propose bold, just, and necessary solutions.

**A Green government will:**

**Take action on recommendations, calls to action, and calls for justice.**

1. Implement recommendations to begin dismantling systemic racism in Canadian institutions.
  - Implement all of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
  - Implement all of the Calls for Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
  - Implement the recommendations of the Report of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its Mission to Canada

# **NDP Platform on Indigenous Issues**



# Reconciliation in action

Indigenous peoples have lived with the impact and legacy of colonialism for decades. Their resilience in the face of genocide is why Indigenous people, language and culture survive. Canadians are reckoning with the theft of children from families and land from Indigenous communities. New Democrats believe that the time has come for a fundamentally different approach to Crown-Indigenous relations in Canada, one based on the recognition of the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples and self-determination. At the heart of our vision of a better Canada is the need for concrete, specific actions that **advance Indigenous peoples and all Canadians down the path of reconciliation**. The time for good words and promises is over – we need to work to build a new nation-to-nation relationship now.

Successive federal governments have denied the basic human rights of Indigenous peoples, stolen children from their parents, forced Indigenous

peoples off their homelands and territories, and claimed lands without consent or compensation. We have witnessed governments spend millions of taxpayer dollars fighting Indigenous peoples in court over lands, trying to overturn human rights rulings to compensate Indigenous children for chronic underfunding of child welfare and health care services and litigating against residential schools Survivors seeking accountability and redress for past harms. Most recently, we have seen successive governments chronically underfund vital services like water and housing, and even child welfare services on reserve, all of which have resulted in the COVID-19 pandemic having a disproportionately high impact on Indigenous peoples.

New Democrats are committed to undertaking the important work of reconciliation in good faith, and in true and equal partnership with Indigenous communities across the country. We believe that the Crown's relationship to Indigenous peoples must be based on an acknowledgement of our country's **colonial history** of genocide and stolen lands – and include legally binding commitments to fair and equitable redress going forward.



## Upholding Indigenous rights and advancing self-determination

New Democrats believe the federal government should not be able to pick and choose which Indigenous rights they will uphold, and which ones they will ignore. In line with recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which sets out minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous peoples, is the framework for reconciliation.

In partnership with Indigenous peoples, a New Democrat government will **fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** and the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action**.

New Democrats will work with Indigenous peoples to co-develop a **National Action Plan for Reconciliation**, drawing directly from the Calls to Action and the Declaration to ensure that Canada's laws, policies, and practices are consistent with Canada's human rights commitments – including cultural rights, land rights, and rights to self-determination and self-government.

Through legislation, we will establish a **National Council for Reconciliation** to provide oversight and accountability for this process, reporting regularly to Parliament and Canadians.

A New Democrat government will replace mere consultation with a standard of **free, prior and informed consent** for Indigenous communities affected by government policies – including for all decisions affecting constitutionally protected land rights, like energy project reviews. We are committed to good-faith, consent-based engagement and negotiations consistent with the *Tsilhqot'in* decision, an approach that honours Canada's legal and constitutional obligations.

We will recognize and **respect treaties**, supporting Indigenous Nations who are building and re-building their governance structures.

We will also respect **Inuit self-determination** by co-developing the federal government's *Arctic Policy Framework* through shared governance within the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, including through the adoption of an Inuit Nunangat policy in full partnership with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. We will support the economic and social self-reliance of Inuit by addressing the massive infrastructure deficit in Northern communities, including housing, access to high-speed broadband, and airports, and ensuring that federal election ballots include Indigenous languages like Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

New Democrats recognize **Métis self-determination** and in government, we will respect the path forward established by the Métis National Council and its governing members. We will pursue government-to-government negotiations on issues including self-government, education, housing and health.

A New Democrat government will work in partnership with Indigenous communities across the country to help protect and revitalize the incredible diversity of **Indigenous languages** in Canada with new legislation and stable funding. In response to Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 80, we will ensure there are funds to communities to commemorate a **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** to acknowledge the painful legacy of colonization, honour the Survivors of residential schools, and help communities across Canada commit to meaningful reconciliation.



## Justice and healing – addressing the harms of residential schools

A vital part of reconciliation is fully acknowledging the horror and harm caused to Indigenous children, their families and communities by the residential school system. These institutions systemically removed children from their families and inflicted abuse, sickness and death. The recent revelations of thousands of mass and unmarked graves at residential school sites across the country underlines the depth of horror that this genocidal policy inflicted for more than 160 years.

It's time to **find every child**, and bring them home.

A New Democrat government will fully fund the search for grave sites at former residential schools, as well as the maintenance, commemoration, reburial and protection of residential school cemeteries according to the wishes of Indigenous families, residential school Survivors and communities. We will also work with nations and Survivors to establish memorials to those lost to residential schools.

In order for there to be reconciliation, New Democrats recognize that there must also be **truth, accountability and justice**. We will ensure the appointment of a **special prosecutor** to pursue those who inflicted great harm on Indigenous children in Canada's residential school system. We will require that churches and governments **hand over any and all records** that could be helpful in identifying the children who lay buried in unmarked graves, or in finding individuals who were involved in their deaths.

Finally, recognizing the need for special supports to address the inter-generational impacts of colonialism and residential schools, a New Democrat government will support and fully fund **community-driven solutions for healing**, including projects similar to the former "Aboriginal Healing Foundation".

# Investing in children and ending funding discrimination

Children deserve the very best start in life. Every single child in Canada should have the care and opportunities that they need to succeed and thrive – without exception.

But for generations, the Canadian government’s treatment of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children has been a national disgrace and an unspeakable tragedy. While residential schools no longer operate, the intergenerational trauma caused by them is felt every day. And despite the apologies from political leaders, the reality is that systemic discrimination against Indigenous children continues today.

Indigenous children and young people have the right to culture, language and to be raised in their own communities – all of which are vital to overall well-being. By implementing the United Nations Declaration, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action and supporting self-determination, New Democrats will make sure that all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, young people and families are treated with the justice, respect and care that they deserve.

New Democrats will take immediate action to respect, support and resource Indigenous jurisdiction over **child welfare systems**, and will back this commitment with long-term, predictable funding guaranteed in legislation so that Indigenous peoples can exercise their jurisdiction and authority over matters involving their own children and families.

We also commit to **ending discrimination** against Indigenous children, young people and families by fully implementing the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal orders which ordered the Canadian government to stop chronically underfunding child welfare services on reserve, and working with the *First Nations Child and Family Caring Society* to implement the *Spirit Bear Plan*. We will put an immediate end to government litigation against Indigenous children.

A New Democrat government will also fully implement **Jordan’s Principle**, working with the provinces and territories to end the delays and ensure equitable access to health services and educational supports for Indigenous children from coast to coast to coast. We’ll end the court challenge and ensure that Jordan’s Principle applies to children off-reserve. And we will create a Spirit Bear Day to promote awareness of Jordan’s Principle and of the challenges faced by First Nations children when accessing government services.



## Safe, quality housing for all

New Democrats believe that everyone in Canada should be able to find a safe and affordable place to call home. And no one in this country should be forced to live in housing that makes them sick.

But, today, decades of colonialism perpetrated by the federal government has resulted in a devastating housing crisis for many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis families. The Liberal government has failed to help people, leaving communities with long waiting lists for housing, and overcrowded, dilapidated homes. The mold crisis continues to harm people's health. And chronic overcrowding is hurting people in Indigenous communities across the country, including by creating the conditions for rapid transmission of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Conservatives have an even worse record from their time in government: they announced a fund for 25,000 homes, yet six years later, fewer than 100 homes had been built.

It's time to end the housing crisis for good – with **safe and affordable housing** in every Indigenous community, on and off reserve.

New Democrats will address the Indigenous housing crisis and put an end to chronic overcrowding and long-wait lists by working with Indigenous communities to implement co-developed, fully funded **Indigenous National Housing Strategy** within our first 100 days in office. This innovative, ground-up strategy will mean sustainable and dedicated funding to meet the needs of Indigenous peoples, whether in urban, rural or remote communities.

We believe that the federal government must immediately step up to tackle the **mold crisis** affecting tens of thousands of homes, and provide support for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to ensure that their **homes are safe and healthy**. We will also ensure that Indigenous communities have the resources to make homes greener and more **energy efficient**, working to keep the benefits of good jobs, training and investment close to home.

## Closing the education gap

Under the Liberal and Conservative governments, too many young people in Indigenous communities don't have access to a quality education. Successive governments have failed to provide core funding for on-reserve education, failed to adequately support Indigenous post-secondary students and failed to deliver a plan for how the government will bring all schools on reserve up to provincial standards – despite Parliament committing to this when they passed the *Shannen's Dream* motion in 2012.

In government, New Democrats will ensure that **every child** is provided a **safe place to learn** and an opportunity to succeed, whether on or off reserve. We will implement *Shannen's Dream* of equitable **access to education**, backed by federal investments and infrastructure, so no student will be forced to learn in dangerous environments, as we have witnessed in Kashechewan First Nation.

Recognizing that barriers to **post-secondary education** and training continue, we will support Indigenous youth and help them bridge the gap to post-secondary education through expanded financial assistance and increased educational opportunities for children who grew up in care, and distance education for rural and remote students.

And we believe that all Canadians should be aware of the contributions and history of Indigenous peoples and understand the legacy of residential schools. We will work with the provinces to establish **Indigenous history education programs** for all Canadians, based on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action 62 and 63 – and ensure that the development and implementation of these programs are led by Indigenous peoples.



# Fostering thriving and resilient communities with clean water and strong public services

For communities to thrive, it takes strong public services that families can count on. It takes safe, reliable infrastructure, and opportunities for young people to build a good life.

But today, too many Indigenous communities across the country are still waiting for clean drinking water, basic emergency services, secure public transportation or help with environmental initiatives – sometimes with tragic consequences.

The Liberals promised to lift all **drinking water advisories** by 2021, and failed, even after the PBO warned them years ago that they were under-funding their promise by billions of dollars<sup>10</sup>. Now, the Liberals are telling Indigenous communities that they have to wait until 2026 for this clean water promise to be fulfilled. It's shameful, and we must do better.

New Democrats believe that it is past time for the federal government to step up and fully fund the services and infrastructure that Indigenous communities need to thrive – it is an important part of the responsibility that Canada owes to Indigenous peoples given the deep and intergenerational impacts of colonialism.

This means making the full investments required to ensure clean water and lift all drinking water advisories for good right now, not years from now, and supporting Indigenous-led water management training programs and water system operations as an immediate priority. And this means funding on-reserve emergency management and prevention, including **firefighting** training and equipment. It also means ensuring safe **public transportation**, by resuming and expanding rural and remote bus routes and passenger rail service.

Strong communities are sustainable communities, and many Indigenous communities have been at the forefront of the move towards renewable energy.

We will work with them to protect infrastructure from **climate change** and increase the use of **renewable energy**. New Democrats will help expand community-owned renewable energy projects – and support efforts to transition remote communities away from polluting diesel and harmful fumes, towards reliable and clean energy alternatives.

<sup>10</sup> Parliamentary Budget Officer. "Budget Sufficiency for First Nations Water and Wastewater Infrastructure," December 2017. Accessed online at: [https://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/web/default/files/Documents/Reports/2017/FN%20Water/FN\\_Water\\_EN.pdf](https://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/web/default/files/Documents/Reports/2017/FN%20Water/FN_Water_EN.pdf)

## Nurturing healthy communities

Health care is one of the basics that every family needs. No matter who you are or where you live, you need to know that you can count on quality medical help when you and your loved ones need it, particularly in a public health crisis like COVID-19.

But today, a shocking number of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities do not have access to reliable health care services. People cannot get the mental health care they need. Residents of remote communities are forced to live with just a few days per month of medical care. And the crumbling and out-dated infrastructure at many federal nursing stations is simply inadequate for the needs of the communities.

After four years in government, the Liberals have failed to invest adequately in Indigenous health care to fix the problems – Inadequate funds for suicide prevention in the North, for medical clinics, for universal pharmacare and for traditional ways of healing. Meanwhile, when they were in government, the Conservatives not only failed to invest in health care; they cut funding for Indigenous-led health initiatives.

New Democrats will make sure that the federal government steps up to **close the health gap** in Indigenous communities, and supports Indigenous health self-determination. We recognize that healing the ongoing trauma caused by colonialism and residential schools will require long-term partnership and reliable, ongoing funding.



**Joyce's Principle** will be the basis for a new approach to tackling systemic racism in health care under a New Democrat government. This principle is named for Joyce Echaquan, an Atikamekw woman who died tragically in hospital after suffering racist care. Joyce's Principle demands that all Indigenous people have an equal right to the highest standard of physical and mental health, with a right to access traditional medicines.

We will make sure that people can get the **treatment they need** in their community through investments in Indigenous health care infrastructure, medical supplies and diagnostic equipment. We will work in partnership with Indigenous communities to improve access to **mental health** and **addiction treatment** services both on and off reserve – including an evidence-based **action plan to prevent suicide**, backed by dedicated federal resources, fully implementing the New Democrat motion on suicide prevention passed by the House of Commons.

A New Democrat government will also work with communities and care providers to ensure that Indigenous-led, culturally appropriate home care and long-term care is available for **Elders**, in their home communities and languages.

We will support Indigenous **food sovereignty**, and reform the **Nutrition North** program to improve families' access to food, including country and traditional food. New Democrats will work with northerners to turn Nutrition North into a social program that benefits communities in the North directly, rather than simply subsidizing companies.

Finally, we will build a treatment centre for residents affected by long-term **mercury exposure** and compensate families affected by the inter-generational problem of mercury poisoning in Grassy Narrows.

In every community, New Democrats are committed to delivering better access to health care. It's who we are.

## Supporting Indigenous employment and economic development

For decades now, Indigenous peoples have been seeking a **new fiscal relationship** with the Crown that respects the existence of inherent title and rights. A new fiscal relationship means secure funding to support programs and services, and access to revenue streams to help close the socio-economic gap and support self-government.

Making sure that Indigenous communities thrive also means working in partnership with Indigenous peoples to expand economic opportunities and create good jobs in Indigenous communities all across the country. In the wake of the pandemic, it's essential that Indigenous communities have a seat at the table to co-develop and benefit from the government's economic recovery efforts.

We believe that the economic recovery from COVID-19 must further reconciliation and economic justice for Indigenous peoples. A New Democrat government will work with Indigenous communities to support locally-driven **economic development** and **create good jobs** through infrastructure and public service investments, and expanded access to broadband **internet and cell service** for rural and remote communities. We commit to working with **Indigenous entrepreneurs** to find solutions for accessing capital and scale up, investing in Indigenous social enterprise projects and entrepreneurship, and to ensure that the federal government prioritizes procurement from Indigenous companies where possible.

Smaller Indigenous communities left behind by the current funding model need **dedicated regional economic development support** to help expand economic opportunities in a way that reflects the community's social and cultural values.

A New Democrat government will also create a **Northern Infrastructure Fund** to fast-track investment and focus on improving much-needed infrastructure like roads and broadband internet for communities in the north.

## Honouring Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people

Respect for Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people must be at the core of a new Crown-Indigenous relationship. But for too many Indigenous women systemic discrimination and violence continues to be a reality.

After the Conservatives refused to address the tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women for almost a decade, the Liberal government finally launched a long-overdue inquiry – but then set it up with a limited mandate, and failed to adequately care for the families who courageously shared their stories. The Inquiry's finding of a genocide against Indigenous women in Canada demands action from all Canadians.

The report from the National Inquiry must not sit on a shelf. New Democrats will work in partnership with Indigenous women, the families of the missing and murdered, and communities to **implement the Inquiry's Calls for Justice** and the calls to action brought forward by communities. This includes establishing a comprehensive, plan to **address violence against Indigenous women, girls and LGBTQI2S+ People** – ensuring that all those fleeing violence have access to culturally appropriate programming, emergency shelters and transitional housing.

We believe it's wrong that Indigenous women, and their children, still do not have **equal status rights** – including the right to pass on the ability to qualify for Indian status registration. Successive Conservative and Liberal governments have failed to fix this gross inequality. New Democrats will act to ensure full gender equality for First Nations status as a matter of priority, consistent with Canadian and international court rulings.

New Democrats acknowledge that respect for Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people must be made real by ensuring equitable access and **self-determination** over land, culture, language, housing, child care, income security, employment, education, and physical, mental, sexual, and spiritual health.

## Reconciliation and justice

Everyone should be able to count on the justice system to keep them safe and treat them fairly. But today, Indigenous peoples are disproportionately over-represented in Canada's prison system, and experience discrimination from police from coast to coast to coast. Tragically, many Indigenous people have experienced violence or even been killed by police: since 2017 an Indigenous person in Canada is more than 10 times more likely to have been shot and killed by a police officer in Canada than a white person<sup>11</sup>.

This must end.

New Democrats believe government must work to **end systemic discrimination** against Indigenous peoples in the justice system. In accordance with Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action 30, 31 and 32, we will remove most mandatory minimums, increase the discretion of judges during sentencing, ensure bail programs are culturally appropriate, bolster funding for community justice programs that focus on **healing and restorative justice** rather than incarceration, and uphold the use of Gladue principles in court proceedings.

We will work with Indigenous communities to enhance community safety and develop a **First Nations justice and policing strategy**. We will make First Nations Policing an essential service with long term, sufficient and equitable funding, while taking steps to end discriminatory policing practices like carding. New Democrats also believe that Inuit should have control over policing in their own communities, and we will allow the Inuit to independently oversee policing in Nunavut. We will also work with the Inuit to develop a long-term strategy for recruiting and retaining Inuit and Inuktitut speakers to work in community safety roles.

A New Democrat government will uphold and strengthen the *Directive on Civil Litigation Involving Indigenous Peoples* that puts an end to costly and adversarial legal battles with Indigenous communities. We will also keep **residential school Survivors** at the heart of decisions around justice for their experiences, ensuring fair compensation for St. Anne's residential school Survivors, Métis Survivors, and those who survived abuse in day schools.

<sup>11</sup> CTV News. "Why are Indigenous people in Canada so much more likely to be shot by police?" June 2020. Available online at: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/why-are-indigenous-people-in-canada-so-much-more-likely-to-be-shot-and-killed-by-police-1.4989864>

## Protecting the environment together

The climate crisis is not just an environmental emergency – it also threatens traditional food sources and the very survival of many Indigenous communities. We must move past the delays and inaction of past Liberal and Conservative governments and take a fundamentally different approach to our future – one that recognize a holistic definition of sustainability.

New Democrats will put reconciliation at the core of this effort, upholding **Indigenous knowledge** and respecting inherent sovereignty. We recognize that as original peoples of this country, Indigenous peoples have intimate connections to their homelands, territories and resources and have provided stewardship since time out of memory. Indigenous peoples are best placed to protect **cultural and biological diversity** through control over their territory – and so the recognition of inherent rights, title and treaty rights will be at the heart of our approach to addressing climate change. We will support the creation and expansion of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in all areas of the country.

To make full and equal partnership the basis of Canada's efforts, New Democrats will ensure that First Nations, Inuit and the Métis leadership have a seat at **high-level decision-making** tables to help direct climate change efforts in Canada.

We will also expand the **Indigenous Guardians Program**, invest in Indigenous-led science and support the creation of Indigenous-managed protected areas – and make sure that species recovery efforts respect Indigenous rights and embrace traditional knowledge to increase biodiversity. This includes working hand-in-hand to advance the protection and restoration of wild Pacific salmon populations on the west coast.

Indigenous communities are not only stewards of their territories – they are also on the front lines dealing with the **impacts of climate change** every day. New Democrat government will work jointly with Indigenous leadership and communities to develop coordinated action plans to respond to climate change **emergencies like wildfires and floods**. This work will be informed by Indigenous traditional and ecological knowledge and legal systems, and include improving existing infrastructure, developing new infrastructure and supporting response efforts to keep people safe.

First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples need to be partners in the development of **job creation**, employment training and infrastructure investments that flow from federal efforts to address climate change, ensuring that they are implemented in ways that fit the needs and priorities of local communities.

# **Liberal Platform on Indigenous Issues**

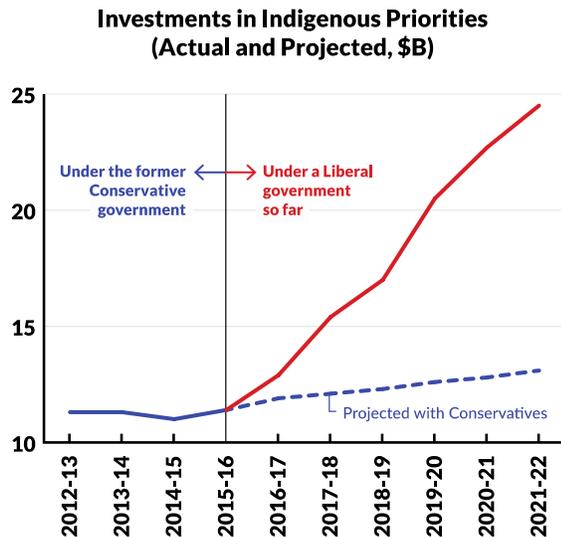


**CHAPTER SIX**

**Moving Forward on Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples**

## Key Actions to Support Indigenous Peoples Since 2015

- ✓ Made historic investments to support Indigenous Peoples from coast to coast to coast.



Source: Budget 2021, *A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience*

- ✓ Worked across the federal government, and with our partners, so that 80% of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action involving the Government of Canada are now completed or well underway.
- ✓ Working with residential school survivors, Indigenous Peoples, provinces, territories, and educators to incorporate aboriginal and treaty rights, the history of residential schools and Indigenous contributions into the school curricula.
- ✓ Introduced Bill C-15 to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which received Royal Assent on June 21, 2021, National Indigenous Peoples Day.
- ✓ Passed the *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families*, which affirms the inherent right of First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services.
- ✓ Built and refurbished almost 200 schools so that tens of thousands of Indigenous kids have a better education.

- ✓ Continued to invest in Child and Family Services including an additional \$3 billion to support communities in providing child and family services.
- ✓ Launched the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Released Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People this June, which outlines concrete actions we will take to end systemic racism, sexism, and economic inequality that has perpetuated violence against Indigenous women and girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
- ✓ Invested in Violence Prevention to provide shelter and support for Indigenous women, children and 2SLGBTQIA+ People facing gender-based violence.
- ✓ Accelerated the government's 10-year commitment to close the infrastructure gap in Indigenous communities.
- ✓ Invested over \$4 billion in 535 water infrastructure projects, including 99 new plants and 436 upgrades.
- ✓ Lifted 109 long-term water advisories, including reaching the milestone of lifting 105 water advisories this past April, matching the number in place when Liberals committed to eliminating all long-term drinking water advisories on public systems on reserves, a testament to five and a half years of real progress.
- ✓ Prevented 188 short-term drinking water advisories from becoming long-term.
- ✓ Invested to help Indigenous women and girls participate in sports.
- ✓ Made sure First Nations, Inuit, and Métis were prioritized for vaccination in all jurisdictions and supported engagement and vaccination campaigns.
- ✓ Announced \$5.4 billion of targeted COVID-19 support for Indigenous and Northern communities and organizations since March 2020.
- ✓ Committed to making high-quality health care designed to meet the unique needs of Indigenous communities a reality.

# Moving Forward on Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed fundamental gaps in our society. Challenges that existed before the pandemic remain and others have been exacerbated. These are especially felt by Indigenous peoples who face overcrowded housing, lack of access to health services, and systemic discrimination. Recent events have shone a light on the tragic legacy of colonialism. We must work to address these difficult issues and move forward on the path of reconciliation, together.

## Addressing the Legacy of Colonialism and Residential Schools

The legacy of residential schools is a dark chapter in Canada's history. Thousands of children were sent to these schools, ripped from their homes and communities, deprived of their cultures and robbed of their languages. Tragically, many of these children never came home.

While we cannot bring back those who were lost, we can—and we will—tell the truth of these injustices, support communities and survivors, and forever honour their memory.

We have and we will continue to support and provide funding to Indigenous communities: in their work to uncover burial grounds; for commemoration ceremonies, honouring memorials, and re-burial in their home communities; and to manage the buildings of former residential schools, such as demolition, rehabilitation, or construction of new facilities.

### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Continue work to build a national monument in Ottawa to honour residential school survivors and all the children who were taken from their families and communities.
- Move forward on work with Indigenous partners to appoint a Special Interlocutor who will work with Indigenous communities, provincial and territorial governments, to develop the necessary legal and regulatory framework to advance justice regarding unmarked graves and make recommendations relating to federal laws, regulations, policies, and practices surrounding unmarked and undocumented graves and burial sites at residential schools.

## Support for Mental Health

A critical component of our continued support will be expanding the availability of culturally appropriate, trauma-informed mental health support and services.

### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Commit an additional \$1.4 billion for a distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategy with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation, expanding on our recent commitment of \$597.6 million, for a total investment of \$2 billion over five years.

We understand that this work will take time and will need to be guided by communities, survivors, and their families.

## Uncovering Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites at Other Federally Run Institutions

Residential schools were not the only federal institutions Indigenous peoples were forced to attend. Institutions such as Day Schools and Indian Hospitals also furthered colonial and racist policies of assimilation. These sites should also be explored to uncover remains of ancestors and loved ones.

### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Provide the necessary supports for communities who wish to continue to undertake the work of burial searches at the former sites of these institutions.

## National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation was established in response to the *Calls to Action* of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The Centre is a critical hub for research, teaching, and healing, particularly in light of the recent findings of unmarked graves at sites of former residential schools.

### To support the continued work of the Centre, a re-elected Liberal government will:

- Provide funding towards the construction of a permanent home for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

- Provide sustained financial support for the Centre for core operations in fulfilling the mandate issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with dedicated support for the work on Missing Children and Unmarked Graves.

We will also continue to accelerate implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action*.

## Protecting the Wellbeing of Indigenous Children

Protecting the well-being of Indigenous children has always been a top priority for us. For far too long, Indigenous children have been overrepresented in the child welfare system—part of the troubling legacy of colonialism. All children in Canada deserve to grow up in their communities, immersed in their cultures, and surrounded by loved ones

### Supporting Indigenous Children and Families

Over the last six years, we worked to reduce the number of Indigenous children in care and make sure Indigenous communities have the support they need to keep families together.

#### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Continue to fully implement the *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families* and continue to support communities looking to lift up jurisdiction over child and family services.
- Continue to reform child and family services in Indigenous communities.
- Continue to work with Indigenous communities to help children and families stay together.
- Permanently ensure that First Nations youth who reach the age of majority receive the supports they need for up to two additional years and implement the orders of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

As Liberals, we agree that First Nations children who suffered harms under the First Nations Child and Family Services program deserve fair and just compensation.

#### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Continue to work with Indigenous partners to ensure fair and equitable compensation for those harmed by the First Nations Child and Family Services program.

### Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care

In 2018, we co-developed Canada's Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework because we believe that programs for Indigenous communities are developed by Indigenous communities, especially when it comes to

children. Every child in Canada should have the best possible start in life. But there is still progress to be made.

#### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Move forward on building an Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care system that meets the needs of Indigenous families, wherever they live.
- Ensure more Indigenous families have access to high-quality programming.
- Create 3,300 new spaces.
- Invest in Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern communities.
- Continue to support before and after school care for First Nations children on reserve.

### Making Sure Indigenous Children Get the Care They Need

First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children deserve the same access to health care, social services, and education as every other child in Canada.

#### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Continue to fully fund Jordan's Principle.
- Continue to fully fund Inuit Child First Initiative.
- Continue to work with the Métis Nation to fund the unique needs of Métis children.

### Clean Water

Decades of neglect led to the unacceptable reality of the people who live on First Nations' reserves not having access to safe, clean, and reliable drinking water.

We have taken strong action and invested over \$4 billion in 535 water infrastructure projects, including 99 new water plants and 436 plant upgrades. As a result, Indigenous communities have been able to lift 109 long-term water advisories, which includes lifting all advisories in British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada; prevent 188 short-term advisories from becoming long term ones; provide communities with funding to cover up to 100% of the costs, of maintaining their water infrastructure and ensure clean water for their communities. In every community with a long-term drinking water advisory, there is a project team and action plan in place to resolve it.

We cannot, and will not, abandon our obligation to ensure First Nations peoples on reserve have safe and clean drinking water.

#### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Make any investments necessary to eliminate all remaining advisories.

- Make sure that resources and training are in place to prevent future ones.
- Continue to move forward on our agreement in principle to resolve national class action litigation related to safe drinking water in First Nations communities.
- Maintain our commitment to invest \$6 billion to ensure sustainable access to clean water for First Nations.

## Continuing Progress on Reconciliation and Self-Determination

Since day one, we have been committed to working with Indigenous peoples to build a nation-to-nation, Inuit-Crown, government-to-government relationship that is based on respect, partnership, and the affirmation and recognition of rights. We have made good progress with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation. But this work must continue.

### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Continue to support Indigenous-led processes for rebuilding and reconstituting nations, advancing self-determination and work in partnership on implementation of treaties, land claim and self-government agreements with appropriate oversight mechanisms to hold the federal government accountable.
- Continue to support First Nations-led processes to transition away from the *Indian Act*.
- Accelerate resolution of outstanding land claims.
- Continue to advance the priorities of Indigenous communities to reclaim full jurisdiction in the areas that matter to them such as child and family services, education, health care, policing, tax, and the administration of justice.
- Further support and fund the revitalization of Indigenous laws, legal systems, and traditions.
- Host a First Ministers Meeting on First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation priorities.

## Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, or UNDRIP, provides a road map to advance lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. That's why we made sure to pass legislation to implement the Declaration here in Canada. But full implementation of the Declaration requires a whole-of-government approach.

### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Include, in all cabinet ministers' mandate letters, the requirement to implement UNDRIP, and ensure their offices and ministries work alongside Indigenous peoples to advance their rights.

## Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People

The violence endured by generations of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is a national tragedy. We understand that addressing this tragedy requires a new approach that recognizes the full breadth of the problem and addresses root causes. This year, we released the federal portion of the 2021 National Action Plan, the Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People, and have made significant investments to support its implementation.

### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Accelerate the implementation of the Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People with Indigenous partners.
- Accelerate our work with all partners in our collective and shared priorities in the 2021 National Action Plan.
- Create a standing Federal-Provincial-Territorial table on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People to facilitate and coordinate this work.

## Better Housing for Indigenous Peoples

COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed the acute need for safe and affordable housing in Indigenous communities that were already facing housing shortages, overcrowding, and a critical need for repairs.

### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Invest a further \$2 billion in Indigenous housing for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation, with over half of the funding available by the upcoming summer construction period.
- Co-develop a new Indigenous Urban, Rural, and Northern Housing Strategy with Indigenous partners and organizations that will be a stand-alone companion to the National Housing Strategy, supported by a \$300 million initial investment.
- Co-develop and fund Canada's first-ever National Indigenous Housing Centre, through which Indigenous people will fully oversee federal Indigenous housing programs once fully realized.

- Continue to support the establishment of Indigenous-led institutions in housing and infrastructure, such as the First Nations Infrastructure Institute, that assists First Nations with their infrastructure needs.

### Fair Access to Health Care

Joyce's Principle aims to guarantee to all Indigenous peoples the right of equitable access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services, as well as the right to enjoy the best possible physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.

#### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Fully implement Joyce's Principle and ensure it guides our work in co-developing distinctions-based Indigenous Health legislation to foster health systems free from racism and discrimination where Indigenous peoples are respected and safe.

### A New Framework for Indigenous Long-term Care

The pandemic has widened existing health gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and highlighted the lack of long-term care services in or near Indigenous communities. In addition, COVID-19 made it even more difficult for Indigenous peoples to access culturally appropriate programming and services. Furthermore, the complexity of various health systems can further impede Indigenous peoples' ability to access the care they deserve. But we know more work is necessary to close the gap.

#### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Co-develop a distinctions-based, community-led, Indigenous Long-term and Continuing Care Framework that prioritizes ensuring Indigenous peoples can receive long-term and continuing care services in or near their own communities and culturally appropriate care and programming, whether they are in urban, rural, and northern areas.
- Bolster Indigenous health system navigators so they can provide dedicated support to Indigenous people and their families to specifically help them navigate services related to long-term and continuing care.

### Helping Indigenous Businesses Grow

We are committed to renewing and strengthening Canada's economic relationship with Indigenous communities including by mandating that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis businesses and entrepreneurs hold at least 5% of the total value of federal procurement contracts.

But often Indigenous businesses face barriers.

#### A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Expand the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program to enable businesses to access a new, zero-interest loan when a 10% advance is not possible.
- Create a navigator position to help Indigenous entrepreneurs find programs that apply to their situation.
- Work with all government departments to analyze and, as appropriate, adjust eligibility criteria to ensure that programs are as inclusive as possible.

### Supporting First Nations Priorities

Co-developing and continuing to invest in a distinction-based Mental Health and Wellness Strategy that meets the deep and unique needs of all First Nations to address the ongoing impacts of colonization and residential schools. A co-developed mental health and wellness strategy could also respond to the prevalent opioid crisis, include culturally appropriate wraparound services for addictions and trauma, suicide and life promotion, and the building of treatment centres based on the priorities of First Nation communities.

Working with First Nations to ensure that the *Indigenous Languages Act* continues to be fully implemented, in order to preserve, promote, and revitalize Indigenous languages in Canada, supported with long-term, predictable, and sufficient funding.

Working with First Nations to continue to fully implement *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families* with long-term, predictable, and sufficient funding to support its full implementation.

Continuing – in close collaboration with First Nations – to deliver distinctions-based support in response to COVID-19.

Continuing to develop a new national benefits-sharing framework to ensure that First Nations communities directly benefit from major resource projects in their territories.

We will continue to work in partnership with First Nations through the economic recovery to support the growth of First Nation economies.

Continuing ongoing work with First Nations to redesign federal policies on additions-to-reserves, and the Specific Claims process to provide just and timely resolution.

Fully implementing *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and co-developing the Action Plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.

Continuing to work in partnership with First Nations on addressing climate change, specifically in tracking the impacts of climate change on their traditional lands and waters and charting collaborative strategies forward.

Working with First Nations to implement \$2.2 billion over 5 years beginning in 2021-22, and \$160.9 million ongoing, to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people through implementation of the Federal Pathway and the 2021 National Action Plan.

As set out in our permanent bilateral process, we commit to meet regularly with the Assembly of First Nations to make progress on First Nations priorities.

### **Supporting Inuit Priorities**

Work with Inuit to finalize a co-developed Inuit Nunangat Policy and accelerate its implementation.

Co-developing and continuing to invest in a distinction-based Mental Health and Wellness Strategy that meets the deep and unique needs of all Inuit to address the ongoing impacts of colonization and residential schools. A co-developed mental health and wellness strategy could also respond to the prevalent opioid crisis, include culturally appropriate wraparound services for addictions and trauma, suicide, and life promotion, and the building of treatment centres based on the priorities of Inuit communities.

Continuing—in close collaboration with Inuit—to deliver distinctions-based support in response to COVID-19.

Work to establish a new national benefits-sharing framework to ensure that Inuit communities directly benefit from major resource projects in Inuit Nunangat.

We will continue to work in partnership with Inuit through the economic recovery to support the growth of Inuit economies.

Continuing work to fully implement Inuit land claims agreements.

Fully implementing *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and co-developing the Action Plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.

Working with Inuit to implement \$2.2 billion over 5 years beginning in 2021-22, and \$160.9 million ongoing, to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people through implementation of the Federal Pathway and the 2021 National Action Plan.

Continuing to support Inuit-specific approaches on the elimination of tuberculosis in Inuit Nunangat.

Continuing to fully implement the *Indigenous Languages Act*, in order to preserve, promote, and revitalize Indigenous languages in Canada, supported with long-term, predictable, and sufficient funding.

Working with Inuit to continue to fully implement *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families* with long-term, predictable, and sufficient funding to support its full implementation.

Continuing to work in partnership with Inuit on addressing climate change, specifically in tracking the impacts of climate change on their traditional lands and waters and charting collaborative strategies forward.

Continuing to work with Inuit to improve food security in Inuit Nunangat, including through the Harvester Support Grant, and amending the Nutrition North Canada program to make the program more transparent and responsive to Inuit needs.

As set out in our permanent bilateral process, we commit to meet regularly through the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee to make progress on Inuit priorities.

### **Supporting Métis Nation Priorities**

Continuing to move forward on self-government with Métis Nation partners to implement their visions of self determination by:

Continue working with the Manitoba Métis Federation to move forward on their Manitoba Métis Self Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement.

Continue working with the Métis Nation of Alberta to move forward on their Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement.

Continue working with the Métis Nation of Ontario to move forward on their Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government.

Continue working with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan to move forward on their Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government.

Moving forward on the Self Government Framework Agreement with the Northwest Territory Métis Nation.

Co-developing and continuing to invest in a distinction-based Mental Health and Wellness Strategy that meets the deep and unique needs of all Métis Nation to address the ongoing impacts of colonization and residential schools. A co-developed mental health and wellness strategy could also respond to the prevalent opioid crisis, include culturally appropriate wraparound services for addictions and trauma, suicide, and life promotion, and the

building of treatment centres based on the priorities of Métis Nation communities.

Working with Métis Nation to ensure that the *Indigenous Languages Act* continues to be fully implemented, in order to preserve, promote, and revitalize Indigenous languages in Canada, supported with long-term, predictable, and sufficient funding.

Working with Métis Nation to continue to fully implement *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families* with long-term, predictable, and sufficient funding to support its full implementation.

Continuing—in close collaboration with Métis Nation—to deliver distinctions-based support in response to COVID-19.

Continuing to develop a new national benefits-sharing framework to ensure that Métis Nation communities directly benefit from major resource projects in their territories.

We will continue to work in partnership with Métis Nation through the economic recovery and to support the growth of Métis Nation economies.

Fully implementing *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and co-developing the Action Plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.

Working with Métis Nation to implement \$2.2 billion over 5 years beginning in 2021-22, and \$160.9 million ongoing, to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people through implementation of the Federal Pathway and the 2021 National Action Plan.

Continuing to work in partnership with Métis Nation on addressing climate change, specifically in tracking the impacts of climate change on their traditional lands and waters and charting collaborative strategies forward.

As set out in our permanent bilateral process, we commit to meet regularly with Métis Nation partners to make progress on Métis priorities.

### Gender and Diversity Impact Summary

In 2016, close to 5% of Canada's population self-identified as Indigenous. The Indigenous population is the fastest growing in Canada and is also the youngest population with 44% under the age of 25 in 2016. Our approach to reconciliation takes into account the different lived experiences of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities and key socio-economic indicators like income, education, employment, housing, gender, geography, health, and justice.

Indigenous children are significantly overrepresented in the child welfare system. In 2016, Indigenous children represented 7.7% of all children ages 1-14, but they represented 52.2% of children in foster care. The measures to protect the wellness of Indigenous children will most benefit Indigenous children from low-income families and single parent—majority women-led—households.

Intimate partner violence is more prevalent for Indigenous women (61%) and even more prevalent for LGBTQ2 Indigenous women (86%). Additionally, they face challenges in securing housing due to financial insecurity. The lack of accessible and affordable housing means Indigenous women in abusive relationships may choose to stay in an unsafe environment.

# **Conservative Platform on Indigenous Issues**

# A Detailed Plan to Secure the Future of Canada's Indigenous Peoples



Indigenous peoples and all Canadians should expect their government to recognize Indigenous and treaty rights and to work together with Indigenous peoples as nation-to-nation partners to resolve long-standing challenges. Recent events have illustrated the scale of the obstacles that Indigenous peoples have faced throughout Canada's history, and Canadians are more determined to move forward with reconciliation than ever before. At this singular moment in Canada's history, it is crucial that our efforts are focused on durable solutions that make a real and meaningful impact on the quality of life of Indigenous peoples.

Recent reports, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, have identified significant gaps in opportunity and outcome between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. All levels of government need to engage with Indigenous peoples to make meaningful progress in closing these gaps.

Canada's Conservatives believe in building a true partnership to ensure a just and secure place for thriving, self-determining Indigenous nations within the fabric of Canada. That starts with making the recognition of Indigenous rights a top priority and that is the lens through which we will approach all Indigenous issues. It also begins with making serious efforts to listen, learn, understand, and demonstrate our enduring commitment through our actions.

## Making Amends for Past Injustices

Canadians' consciences were shocked at the revelation of unmarked graves at the sites of former residential schools. These discoveries were a heartbreaking reminder of the pain Indigenous children, their families, and their communities were subjected to. While the path of reconciliation is long and difficult, we must act now to make amends for past injustices perpetrated by and on behalf of the Government of Canada.

Canada's Conservatives will:

- Develop a comprehensive plan to implement TRC Calls to Action 71 through 76.
- Fund the investigation at all former residential schools in Canada where unmarked graves may exist, including the sites where children have already been discovered.
- Ensure that proper resources are allocated for communities to reinter, commemorate, and honour any individuals discovered through the investigation, according to the wishes of their next of kin.
- Develop a detailed and thorough set of resources to educate Canadians of all ages on the tragic history of residential schools in Canada.
- Build a national monument in Ottawa that honours residential school survivors and all the children who were lost.

## Prosperity through partnership

Recognition of Indigenous rights has been hard-won after decades of struggle by First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people, both in the courts and through treaty negotiations. It has been a long and challenging journey as Canadians have sought to understand and give life to these rights. This journey is far from over.

Indigenous people want a say in what happens on their traditional territories. They want to be true partners in the responsible development of those lands, including through equity opportunities and timely access to capital to support their involvement. The Liberal government has paid lip service to this partnership, but they have repeatedly failed to consult with First Nations and Territorial governments before cancelling projects and shutting down opportunities that would have directly benefited Indigenous communities.

Canada's natural resource industries have led the way in developing new ways to partner with First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples. Natural resource industries are significant employers of Indigenous peoples. In many regions, these industries provide the best chance for lifting rural, remote, and isolated communities out of poverty. Many First Nations and other Indigenous rights holders have pioneered world-leading benefit agreements and equity partnerships with private companies that have led to better projects and increased opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities alike.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) has affirmed the right of Indigenous communities to pursue economic opportunities and benefit from the development of resources on their traditional territories.

A Conservative government will respect and uphold these rights by:

- Working with Indigenous-led organizations, such as the First Nations Major Project Coalition, the Indigenous Resource Network, the Indian Resource Council, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers, the National Coalition of Chiefs, and First Nations LNG Alliance, to support communities that wish to become partners in good projects that meet high environmental standards.
- Creating the Canadian Indigenous Opportunities Corporation that will support First Nations and Inuit organizations seeking to purchase an equity stake in major projects.
  - Based on the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, it will apply rigorous market analysis to guarantee loans to Indigenous groups so they can invest in natural resource and infrastructure projects.
  - We will provide an initial \$5 billion of capital for investment in projects across the country.
- Requiring future governments to consult with Indigenous Communities before cancelling approved projects when they have signed or are negotiating benefit agreements or partnerships.
- Implementing Article 18 of UNDRIP by working with First Nations to develop a transparent process that communities can use to identify who represents them in consultations if it is to be someone other than elected Chiefs.
- Working with First Nations and other Indigenous rights holders to develop a consultation process that allows for more meaningful dialogue.
- Creating a streamlined environmental review process for major projects that partner with

First Nations during the environmental assessment phase.

- This will encourage early partnerships, allow the incorporation of traditional knowledge, and build confidence in the assessment process.
- For clarity, such agreements will not be prejudicial to First Nations consultation.
- Supporting Indigenous Protected Areas that safeguard culturally significant areas without alienating future benefits that may accrue to the impacted Indigenous community if used in a way that maintains those safeguards.
  - Support an Indigenous Guardians program that will support communities in developing and maintaining protected areas, among other things.

## Levelling the playing field

The success of Indigenous businesses is vital to the success of Canada. Indigenous businesses in Canada can thrive and support healthy communities but face many barriers that are unique to Indigenous peoples, such as paternalistic legislation like the Indian Act, isolated communities, a lack of infrastructure, fewer networking opportunities, and the need for capacity building and community supports.

To level the playing field and encourage Indigenous business success in Canada, Canada's Conservatives will:

- Provide \$4 million over three years in targeted funding for the hiring and training of local and regional economic development officers.
- In collaboration with municipal and First Nations organizations, promote mechanisms that foster relationships between municipalities and neighbouring First Nations.
- Utilizing the existing infrastructure of Indigenous national organizations (NACCA & CCAB), provide capacity building and business education to enhance and promote Indigenous business success and success stories.
- Develop an Indigenous Business Mentorship Program where Indigenous communities and entrepreneurs can connect with and receive guidance from others who have succeeded.
- Modernize the First Nations Land Management Act to bring it more in line with the Framework Agreement.
- Commit \$25 million to a national police support and community training program to reduce the incarceration rates of Canada's Indigenous communities.
- Working with Indigenous community groups, establish a national working group in the Canadian public service to encourage applications from Canada's Indigenous communities.
- Improve opportunities for Indigenous businesses to receive government contracts by:
  - Setting active targets and accountability mechanisms for departmental procurement officers.
  - Ensuring procurement rules don't unnecessarily exclude legitimate Indigenous businesses.
  - Providing constructive feedback to unsuccessful bidders.
  - Working with ISED, investigating new measures (or enhancing previous measures) through the Industrial and Technological Benefits policy to increase Indigenous business involvement in the defence and security industries.

## Pursuing Self-Determination

Canada's Conservatives believe that service delivery on First Nation reserves is ultimately best managed by First Nations themselves. Many successful models show that devolving control of service delivery to First Nations can work well. We have seen it work with education, health, and child and family services.

We will:

- Increase Indigenous governance capacity by training young Indigenous leaders including through the Institute of Corporate Directors.
- Empower the First Nations Finance Authority to monetize government funding, leveraging the market to supercharge First Nations infrastructure.
- Remain open to exploring innovative new models to fund and deliver social services and critical infrastructure.
- Develop, in collaboration with Indigenous groups, a National Action Plan that addresses violence against Indigenous women and girls.
- Consult with First Nations on overhauling the current funding models, with the goal of making it easier for First Nations to escape Third-Party Management, reducing red tape, and providing a clearer path with better incentives for moving towards block funding.

## Drinking Water

The fact that many Indigenous communities still lack safe drinking water is a national shame. Clean water is essential to human health and well-being and making meaningful progress must be a priority for any government.

Canada's Conservatives will:

- Recognize safe drinking water as a fundamental human right and end long-term drinking water advisories.
- Target high-risk water systems.
- Work with Indigenous communities to find new approaches, such as regional or coalition-based governance, that will help ensure water systems investments are protected and continue providing clean drinking water in the long term.

## Mental Health

Tragically, Indigenous people die by suicide at much higher rates than non-Indigenous people. Driven by a combination of intergenerational trauma, poverty and many other factors, this ongoing crisis in mental health has only been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing poverty and infrastructure gaps will help improve risk factors for mental health in the medium to long term, but there is no question that help is needed now.

Canada's Conservatives will:

- Provide \$1 billion over five years to boost funding for Indigenous mental health and drug treatment programs.
- Support innovative approaches to address the crises of mental health and addiction, such as land-based treatment programs and programs delivered in Indigenous languages.
- Support the development of mental health and drug treatment programs by Indigenous people to develop capacity at the community level and allow for the delivery of culturally appropriate programs delivered in the appropriate Indigenous language.

## Introducing Stability to Urban Indigenous Assistance

Canada's Conservatives will negotiate longer-term funding contracts with urban indigenous organizations to provide stability and better planning opportunities.

## A Skilled Indigenous Workforce

Indigenous economic development will mean increased opportunity for Indigenous people in the skilled trades. Unfortunately, there are several barriers that have led to an underrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in these jobs.

Canada's Conservatives will:

- Work with Indigenous groups, provinces, territories, and trade organizations to identify opportunities to increase access for Indigenous workers and youth to apprenticeship programs.
- As part of our investment in jobs training, invest in trades training programs designed in partnership with the private sector, Indigenous organizations, and provincial/territorial governments to maximize opportunities for employment.

## Broadband in Rural Indigenous Communities

Indigenous peoples living in rural and remote regions of Canada face a significant connectivity gap, even compared to other Canadians living in rural and remote areas. Only 24% of households in Indigenous communities have access to high-speed internet compared to 37% for rural households and 97% for urban ones. Because of this, Indigenous peoples will be significant beneficiaries of our plan to connect all Canadians to high-speed internet by 2025.

However, Indigenous communities face additional challenges when it comes to navigating existing broadband programs. For example, complex application processes pose a barrier to small, isolated communities. It can be more difficult for Indigenous communities to access the funding they need.

To deal with these issues, Canada's Conservatives will:

- Streamline application processes for Indigenous communities.
- Provide more support and develop more flexible funding arrangements.
- Provide technical support during the application process.

**Profiles of Indigenous Candidates in BC ridings  
in the 2021 Federal Election**

## 2021 Federal Election Indigenous Candidates in BC

Name	Party	Riding
<a href="#"><u>Adeana Young</u></a>	Green Party	Skeena-Bulkey Valley
<a href="#"><u>Cheryl Mathew</u></a>	Green Party	Vancouver East
<a href="#"><u>Joan Phillip</u></a>	NDP	Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola
<a href="#"><u>Sean McQuillan</u></a>	NDP	Vancouver South
<a href="#"><u>Breen Ouellette</u></a>	NDP	Vancouver Centre
<a href="#"><u>Cade Desjarlais</u></a>	NDP	Kelowna-Lake Country
<a href="#"><u>Michelle Corfield</u></a>	Liberal	Nanaimo-Ladysmith
<a href="#"><u>Jesse McCormick</u></a>	Liberal	Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo
<a href="#"><u>Kelsey Shein</u></a>	Conservative	Burnaby North-Seymour

# Skeena—Bulkley Valley



(<https://www.greenparty.ca/sites/default/files/styles/original/public/externals/ce1368069cb4f0f645d04d279110e510.jpg?itok=194rvQHp>)

**Full resolution image (<https://www.greenparty.ca/sites/default/files/styles/original/public/externals/ce1368069cb4f0f645d04d279110e510.jpg?itok=194rvQHp>)**

## Adeana Young

✉ [adeana.young@greenparty.ca](mailto:adeana.young@greenparty.ca) (mailto:adeana.young@greenparty.ca)

☎ 2509224393

f (<https://www.facebook.com/adeana.young>)

**How to vote Green (<https://www.elections.ca/scripts/vis/FindED?L=e&PAGEID=20>)**

Adeana Young is of Haida descent and grew up on Haida Gwaii, where she still lives today. She's a School Board trustee, director on several boards within her community and has been involved with local politics for 10 years. She's a fisherman's wife and mother of four. She can also be found in the feature length Haida film, SGaawaay K'uuna/Edge of the Knife.

Adeana comes from a place where solutions to social, ecological and economic issues are meaningful and impactful. Raised to be a steward of the air, land and sea, she sees an opportunity to push for a Green economy. Adeana is a spokesperson for a group called Gaandlee Guu Jaalang/Daughters of the Rivers who occupy the land, practise food sovereignty and safety alongside their allies.

Adeana wants to act as a safeguard for her people, community and country and offer a bridge to overcome the misunderstandings we experience today. She's solution-driven and is active in the journey of reconciliation that has started throughout the nation. With much work to do, she's ready to take a seat in government.

Become a member and help shape your local Greens while voting on national decisions.

Join locally (</en/civCRM/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=6&source=FSA.W.2013-59028&ridingtitle=Skeena%E2%80%94Bulkley%20Valley>)

Help us build this grassroots movement by supporting your local riding association.

Donate locally (</en/civCRM/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=103&source=FSA.W.2013-59028&ridingtitle=Skeena%E2%80%94Bulkley%20Valley>)

Find out how you can get involved with the Greens in your community.

Volunteer locally (</en/volunteer?riding=2013-59028&ridingtitle=Skeena%E2%80%94Bulkley%20Valley>)

Help show Green support in your neighbourhood in the next election.

# Vancouver East



(<https://www.greenparty.ca/sites/default/files/styles/original/public/externals/f8dd7e9fd47aa6f5a0291e626fa681f1.jpg?itok=j5FJlQBt>)

**Full resolution image (<https://www.greenparty.ca/sites/default/files/styles/original/public/externals/f8dd7e9fd47aa6f5a0291e626fa681f1.jpg?itok=j5FJlQBt>)**

## Cheryl Matthew

✉ [cheryl.matthew@greenparty.ca](mailto:cheryl.matthew@greenparty.ca) (mailto:cheryl.matthew@greenparty.ca)

f (<https://www.facebook.com/votedrcheryl>) t (<https://twitter.com/cherylmatthew>)

**How to vote Green (<https://www.elections.ca/scripts/vis/FindED?L=e&PAGEID=20>)**

Dr. Cheryl Matthew is a member of the Simpcw First Nation who has worked her entire life to end inequality, and to create paths to understanding between Indigenous, BIPOC and settler communities.

An accomplished executive, public servant and consultant on Indigenous rights, community engagement and public administration, Cheryl has a long history of community involvement, advocacy and leadership in Vancouver East.

She sold her condo on Commercial Drive and moved to Ottawa in 2007 to work with the federal government. She returned in 2012 to find that she was priced out of the housing market and that gentrification of the neighbourhood had placed many people in the same situation. This spurred her on to run in Van East to work toward an equitable, safer, affordable and greener city for families.

After 12 years as a manager with the federal government, Cheryl has returned to consulting work with Indigenous communities for territorial stewardship – protecting land, fish, and wildlife.

She has served on many boards including: Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre in the Downtown Eastside, Protect Our Indigenous Sisters Society, UNYA and CCPA - BC Office. She has a PhD in anthropology from Carleton, an MA in leadership from Royal Roads and a BA in anthropology and sociology from SFU.

Become a member and help shape your local Greens while voting on national decisions.

Join locally (</en/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=6&source=FSA.W.2013-59035&ridingtitle=Vancouver%20East>)

Help us build this grassroots movement by supporting your local riding association.

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Find out how you can get involved with the Greens in your community.

Volunteer locally (</en/volunteer?riding=2013-59035&ridingtitle=Vancouver%20East>)

Help show Green support in your neighbourhood in the next election.

# Joan Phillip

Central Okanagan—Similkameen—Nicola



The last year has shown that when you send New Democrats to Ottawa, we get results. Jagmeet and I will keep *fighting for you*.

Joan Phillip has years of experience fighting to make life better for the people of British Columbia and to protect our environment, alongside her husband, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip from the Syilx Nation. Joan has extensive political experience with the Penticton Indian Band and the Okanagan Nation Alliance, and through her ongoing position as a Lands Manager.

Joan understands the challenges facing the working people of BC and knows firsthand about the terrible losses from the pandemic, residential schools, and forest fires. She listens carefully to people in the Central Okanagan–Similkameen–Nicola district – youth, elders, families, workers, and business owners.

She has seen lives being put on hold during the pandemic, small business owners facing severe economic hardship, the discovery of unmarked graves on residential school grounds sending shock waves through the country, and forest fires exploding through our province. She is ready to tackle the challenges of climate change, reconciliation, and economic reform.

The NDP has made life better for millions of people during this pandemic. Joan knows there is plenty more to be done and is standing with Jagmeet Singh and the NDP team to fight for a real recovery from COVID-19 that makes medications and dental care more affordable, works towards reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and takes bold action on the climate crisis.

Joan pledges to support people in need, especially those who often go unnoticed. She will make sure the voices of people across the Central Okanagan–Similkameen–Nicola district are heard in Ottawa. Throughout this pandemic, Trudeau's Liberals and the Conservatives have been looking out for the ultra-rich. Joan, Jagmeet, and the NDP are fighting for families and workers.



Sean  
**McQuillan**  
Vancouver South



The last year has shown that when you send New Democrats to Ottawa, we get results. Jagmeet and I will keep *fighting for you*.

Sean McQuillan is a Cree Metis labour activist who is focused on helping to create a people-first society – one that provides affordable housing and pathways to home ownership for all families as well as creating ample access to flexible childcare and reducing the cost of medications and dental care.

For years, life has been getting harder for working Canadians. Now, many families are struggling to get through the COVID-19 pandemic. As a labour activist with IATSE and a member of the BC Federation of Labour's Indigenous caucus, Sean's top priority is making life better for working people and their families.

Sean knows that Trudeau's government only provided meaningful help to these families when the NDP pressured them to act. He is ready to join Jagmeet Singh's team in the fight for bold, meaningful action that creates safe, thriving communities and a secure future for working people across Canada.

He is a firm believer in common-sense policy making, based on real-world data, which helps everyday people. As your Vancouver South MP, he will work with experts who have studied the numbers and listen to people who have lived experiences of the big issues facing our community, to get insight into how government can make a real difference.

Sean understands that access to affordable housing is one of the biggest issues facing families in South Vancouver and he believes in strengthening our co-op housing system while ensuring that it is affordable for the people who rely on it. He is ready to fight at the federal level to get lease extensions and make sure housing costs align with wages.



**Are you ready to take action?**





# Introducing Breen

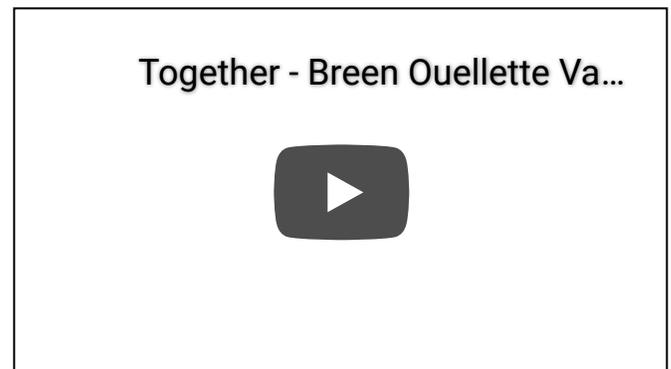
Hello! My name is Breen Ouellette. I am the NDP candidate for Vancouver Centre in the 2021 federal election.

I would like to share with you some of the highlights of my life that establish why I am uniquely qualified to represent Vancouver Centre and the NDP.

**First**, I was nominated as the 2019 NDP candidate for Vancouver Centre only 12 weeks before election day.

I worked hard with our Vancouver Centre NDP election team every single day of those 12 weeks. Together, we made significant gains on the incumbent. The NDP in Vancouver Centre are building from the solid foundation of a known and experienced candidate.

While our lives has changed immensely in the last two years, the core challenges that we face as a riding and a country have remained the same. My 2019 campaign video remains relevant as we face another election.



## Family History

I am a 44 year old Métis man born and raised in Saskatchewan. My European ancestors have been living on Turtle Island as far back



as the 1600s, while my First Nations ancestors have been here since time immemorial.

My Métis ancestors ranged over almost the entire Métis Nation Homeland, from Red River to Peace River and down into parts of Montana and North Dakota.

## Happily Married

Cammy and I have been married for nearly 20 years. Cammy was born in mainland China and lived in Hong Kong for several years before immigrating to Canada in 2001. She speaks four languages fluently.

In 2014, Cammy and I made Metro Vancouver our home together. We both live and work in Downtown Vancouver.



## Pursuit of Reconciliation

I was the first Métis lawyer in BC to be granted permission to wear a Métis sash when called to the bar. It was a great honour to wear my regalia during the ceremony, as this represented a moment of

reconciliation between the Courts, the Law Society, and the Métis Nation as represented by myself.

I am very grateful to the Law Society of British Columbia and to the Honourable Mr. Justice Randall S.K. Wong (retired) for accepting my request to wear my regalia during my call to the bar.

## Empathetic Lawyer

I was one of the Commission Counsel lawyers for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (and Two-Spirit People). I conducted the examination of testimony for over 60 witnesses in nationally televised public hearings and in-camera private testimony.

I have advocated for immediate action to end the genocide being committed against Indigenous people, as found by the National Inquiry in its Final Report.



## Selfless Activist

I had a career in IT before I became a lawyer. Over part of this career, I was a union activist with CEP 1-S while employed at SaskTel. I was an elected union steward and an elected OH&S committee member.



I also took union counsellor training at the Canada Labour Congress Spring School in Saskatoon. Pictured here with my class, I am in the front row, first from the left.

As a union activist, I also engaged in a dangerous work refusal on behalf of my fellow workers. The investigating OH&S Officer came to a decision that I could not refuse the dangerous work because it was a “normal condition of employment”. I appealed this decision to the Occupational Health and Safety Tribunal of Canada.

Rounding out my work experience, I previously held the role of Director of IT for the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan. I also co-founded two computer retail businesses in Saskatoon.

**Community involvement** has always been a key part of my life: mentoring students interested in becoming lawyers; helping elderly neighbours with their yard work or legal matters; door knocking for the NDP in previous elections since 2004; and volunteering for eight years as the computer network administrator for CFCR 90.5 FM - Saskatoon Community Radio.

I have focused my life on demonstrating the highest integrity in the service of others. I have pursued the greater good and stood by my principles, even when it meant that I suffered a personal loss. I have made regular positive change in the communities I serve, from lending a helping hand to fighting for the rights of others. These are the qualities of honest leadership.

Please take a moment to review my election commitments to see how I transform honest leadership into innovative leadership. Also consider filling out the form below to learn more about

opportunities to meet me, or come to one of my speaking events. Please allow me the opportunity to prove to you that I am the right person to lead Vancouver Centre as your Member of Parliament.

**New Deal → Breen's Commitments**



Our roaming office schedule will be posted on social media and our campaign blog.



office@  
electbreen.ca



M-F — 9:00 am to 9:00  
pm  
Sat — 12:00 pm to 9:00  
pm  
Sun — 12:00 pm to 6:00  
pm



778-853-  
1008



The last year has shown that when you send New Democrats to Ottawa, we get results. Jagmeet and I will keep *fighting for you*.

Cade is a student leader at UBC Okanagan and a dedicated mental health activist. He is a political science major entering his second year at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. Cade has fought for social justice and more inclusive communities as a member of the Student Union Board of Directors.

Cade saw young people and working families struggle during the pandemic. Balancing school with a job in the hospitality sector, Cade saw big businesses and Canada's ultra-rich make record profits while working people struggled to make ends meet. Cade knows that we need meaningful support for local businesses, workers, and our tourism industry as part of Canada's pandemic recovery. He's ready to stand up for good jobs that pay a living wage and make sure that small businesses have support during, and beyond the pandemic. He knows that everyone should be able to access a good post-secondary education and start their career without the burden of thousands of dollars in student debt.

Cade is standing with Jagmeet Singh and New Democrats to help build a better future where no one is left behind. Cade is passionate about mental health awareness and ensuring mental health resources are more accessible. He's worked on the Youth Action Advisory Council at the Foundry, the Canadian Mental Health Association, and Bell Let's Talk to get help to more people. He believes everyone should be able to access dental care, mental health services, and their prescription medication with their health card – not their credit card. Cade understands that taking care of people and our environment go hand in hand. He's fighting to make sure we tackle the climate crisis with bold emissions reduction targets and investments in good, sustainable jobs.

Cade has always worked hard to listen to people in his community and make sure everyday people get the help that they need. Born and raised in Kelowna, he's ready to work for our community as your Member of Parliament for Kelowna–Lake Country.



#TEAMTRUDEAU



**MICHELLE CORFIELD**  
**NANAIMO-LADYSMITH**

I'm running for the Liberal Party of Canada because they best represent our shared values of: inclusiveness, multiculturalism and equality.

**#MAKINGITHAPPEN**

Authorized by Official Agent for Michelle Corfield

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Michelle Corfield is a devoted community volunteer, mother, and local business leader with a proven commitment to making life better for families in Nanaimo—Ladysmith. She knows what it takes to strengthen our middle class, create good new jobs right here in our community, and protect a clean environment for our kids and grandkids.

Michelle was raised in Nanaimo and has always been a tireless advocate for people in our community, in addition to creating jobs and opportunity as an entrepreneur. She has served as both Chair and Vice-Chair of the Nanaimo Port Authority, Chair of the Legislative Council of the Ucluelet First Nation, and she is a founding member of the Ucluelet First Nation Settlement Trust.

She facilitated the conclusion of the Colliery Dam remediation for the City of Nanaimo, was a leader in the Save Nanaimo Harbour campaign, and has served on several non-profit community boards. As a director for the Stevie Smith Legacy Foundation, Michelle worked tirelessly to help ensure that Nanaimo's Stevie Smith Bike Park was completed in 2017 - a project which also provided bicycles and basic riding essentials to underprivileged children in our community.

She holds a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership Management, a Master of Arts in Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution, and a Bachelor of Arts in First Nations Studies.

Michelle Corfield has always believed that everyone in our community should have a real and fair chance at success. As the Team Trudeau candidate for Nanaimo—Ladysmith, Michelle will work closely with Justin Trudeau to create good new jobs, strengthen our middle class, protect a clean environment for our kids and grandkids, and build a better future our families.



Jesse McCormick is honoured to seek the support of the people of Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo as your Liberal candidate. We are facing the unprecedented challenge of keeping our families and communities safe from extreme wildfires during a global pandemic. The impacts affect us all on various levels.

Jesse is passionate and dedicated to hearing your vision for our communities and country. We need a thriving economy while ensuring that we leave a positive legacy of environmental protection and climate action for future generations.

He is devoted to building a better Canada - one that is inclusive, fair, and responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable. A Canada that embraces change and fosters strong relationships with Indigenous Peoples. Jesse is proud to be Anishinaabe and is extremely dedicated to advancing reconciliation in our time.

As a devoted partner to a Kamloops emergency physician and a true believer in the power of human rights, Jesse understands how important events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, are to the physical and mental health, and well being of Canadians. Kamloops is home for him and he feels privileged to have the opportunity to contribute to this amazing community. Strong communities are the foundation of a healthy and prosperous Canada and, as the father of young children, Jesse is committed to taking action to improve the lives of families in our riding.

Jesse's experience is extensive and diverse, having worked at the Federal Court of Canada, the United Nations and at the heart of decision making on Parliament Hill. He knows and understands how to make change happen. He has also worked as a labourer, manufacturer, dishwasher, and Zamboni Driver.

Jesse is committed to moving forward, for everyone and making our riding a more prosperous place for all.



Ken Robertson is a dedicated husband and father of four. He is Secwepemcúl'ecw from Neskonlith Indian Band, located in the south-central part of British Columbia. Ken is a passionate community leader and proud to be the Liberal Candidate for South Okanagan—West Kootenay.

Ken has dedicated his career in the public service to advocating for all children with autism spectrum disorder. He is a former Board Member of Autism Ontario, Implementation Working Group with the Province of Ontario, and Social Inclusion Working Group with the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS). In addition, he has experience speaking in conferences and committees on the needs-based approach to Autism services. He is also a volunteer with the Giiwedin Anang Council, which provides a traditional approach to guiding the families towards the best possible outcome for the children.

Ken is passionate about investing in a fairer, greener economy that empowers future generations and making life better for families right here in our community.

Ken's hobbies include fishing, playing basketball and cooking.

Alongside Justin Trudeau and the Liberal team, Ken is ready to move South Okanagan—West Kootenay forward.

# Meet Kelsey

Kelsey Shein knows recovering from the COVID pandemic is going to be a huge challenge for Canada.

We need to get it right. We need people with the experience and passion of Kelsey Shein working for us to ensure we do.

Kelsey was raised in and shaped by British Columbia. She is a proud member of Métis Nation BC. She cut her political teeth volunteering at the grassroots level at UBC Okanagan in Kelowna. She moved to Ottawa and continued her journey in politics, still working for British Columbians in her role on Parliament Hill, before joining the Canadian Medical Association as a member of the Political and Grassroots Advocacy team, working with physicians across the country.

Kelsey has spent years managing her family's North Vancouver small business. The Sheins were founding members of the Lower Lonsdale Business Association and advocated to the City of North Vancouver for the development of the Shipyards District.

She always maintained her passion for politics and the opportunity to change lives for the better. Over those years, she has become adept at collaborative policy making, grassroots engagement, and data driven advocacy.

Here in Burnaby North-Seymour, Kelsey is our Conservative candidate for the coming federal election. She brings the skills she acquired through these small business and political experiences, and her passion, to serve our community.

