

NELSON, RANA

Electoral District:
Kootenay-Columbia

Political Party:
Green Party of Canada

**CANDIDATE SURVEY
RESULTS**

FEDERAL ELECTIONS 2021



**WEST KOOTENAY
ECOSOCIETY**

QUESTIONS



1 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to stop the use of taxpayer dollars for funding the Trans Mountain Pipeline and the increased tanker traffic on the coast?

The climate crisis is the Number One Issue for humanity. We know that GHG emissions have drastically increased because of human activity, and caused the concurrent increase in planetary temperature. Stopping the extraction and burning of fossil fuels is the best way to combat emissions. Promises to fight climate change and continuing construction of TMX is do not make sense.

2 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to end the tens of billions in annual taxpayer-funded fossil fuel subsidies?

Absolutely. Moving these subsidies over to green energy and including fossil-fuel workers in this shift is crucial to create new and more jobs that will help us all benefit from a healthy planet.

3 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to collaborate with workers and unions to enact federal legislation to support oil and gas workers transitioning out of the fossil fuel industry?

It is crucial that unions and fossil-fuel employees are included in this conversation and planning. They know best how their skills will fit in the new green energy industry.

4 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to ensure Canada meets its commitments to conserve 25% of our lands and oceans by 2025 and further conserving 30% by 2030?

Oceans and forests are crucial carbon sinks; we cannot degrade them any further and legislation to stop further ocean warming and pollution, species extinction, and restoration as much as possible is essential. And of course, we know that natural areas restore us emotionally as well. We must ensure all Canadians have access to greenspace and wilderness.

QUESTIONS



5 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to ensure the last remaining old-growth forest and endangered woodland caribou in BC are protected?

This summer I attended the Revylution march in Revelstoke and the road blockade up at Bigmouth Creek north of Revelstoke and was fortunate to witness a blessing of the movement by Indigenous leaders. This area is the (dwindling) habitat of BC's woodland caribou. Forestry and environmental practices must change to ensure protection of the entire ecosystem.

6 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to invest a minimum of \$300million to support efforts being made by farmers to reduce GHG emissions by 10 megatonnes?

Climate change is a huge threat to our food supply. We saw that this year with the failure of crops in Creston and a shorter growing season due to smoke and early heat. We must strengthen our local food initiatives, which will reduce the GHGs emitted by trucking the majority of our food into our communities. We must also help farmers access land, agricultural training, and succession programs to encourage young people to stay on the land. Returning to a local farming model will also reduce pesticide and other chemical use, the production of which further contributes to GHGs.

7 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to make post-secondary tuition-free for all Canadian students, and cap international student fees who on average pay \$29,714 per year (2019/2020) for undergraduate programs which makes Canada one of the most expensive countries to study in for international students?

When not campaigning for the Green Party, I work with many European high-school-aged international students, and most of them are shocked that Canada does not have free or low-cost post-secondary education, which is the model in many of their countries. Students are emerging from post-secondary with high amounts of debt, and for many international students, their low-income families have gone into severe debt to send their children overseas. Post-secondary international education is now generating huge amounts of money for the agents making these arrangements, rather than benefitting the students or the post-secondary institutions. Regulation is also necessary.

QUESTIONS



8 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to support the implementation of all 94 calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report?

The continued fallout from colonial practices must stop. Indigenous peoples' experiences must be honoured and understood through a trauma-informed lens. Implementing the TRC recommendations is crucial to going forward in Canada with the full participation of Indigenous people as well as their knowledge and ways of being.

9 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to support the implementation of all 46 articles of the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Peoples? (UNDRIP)

I commit to implementing them with the Indigenous nations who want that; we understand that some were not consulted about Canada's plan to do so.

10 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to support additional funding for the protection, preservation, and documentation of Indigenous languages?

Yes, I do. Language is the most important aspect of culture, and supporting languages to flourish results in a ripple effect of other aspects of one's culture regenerating and flourishing as well.

11 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to end poverty in Canada by implementing a Guaranteed Liveable Income?

Yes, and make it region specific. We know a GLI has worked in other jurisdictions. The cost of living has increased so much it is extremely difficult to make ends meet, especially for families with children. A GLI would substitute for patchwork social-program funding and allow people's basic needs to be met so they can concentrate on reaching their full potential.

12 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to ensure tax fairness by supporting a minimum 1% wealth tax on Canada's wealthiest citizens with net

If elected, I would also support closing tax loopholes and havens internationally and ensuring big businesses also pay its fair share of taxes.

QUESTIONS



13 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to work to save LGBTQ2SAI+ lives by supporting legislation to ban the dangerous practice of conversion therapy?

Yes. This bill needs to be revived and redrafted so that it will stand up in court.

14 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to encourage youth participation in Canadian democracy and give youth the opportunity to advocate for their own futures by working within your caucus to lower the voting age to 16?

A resounding Yes! Many youth are very involved in democracy these days, especially around advocating for climate justice, and its frustrating that they cannot express their values at the polls. Those who will be affected in the future by today's decisions should have a say in them.

15 Will you commit to working within your party caucus to make every vote count by ending the outdated First Past the Post voting system and joining roughly 124 other countries in the world by implementing proportional representation?

Another resounding Yes! As I've travelled in the riding for this campaign, I see electoral reform as the biggest issue we are facing next to the climate crisis. Canadians deserve to see their values reflected in who gets a seat in Parliament. We know that when more voices are at the table, elected officials have to work together to find a solution that benefits the most people possible. Although I had voted Green in the past, I voted Liberal in 2015 because Justin Trudeau promised to bring in proportional representation. I felt betrayed when he broke that promise and moved to the Greens for good.

QUESTIONS



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Will you commit to working within your party caucus towards the creation of a fair, sustainable, and equitable national pharmacare program ensuring that no Canadian goes without their prescription medication because of their inability to pay?

We are the only country with a Medicare-type system that doesn't have pharmacare.

17

Will you commit to working within your party caucus to end home insecurity by legislating and funding the development of more affordable and energy-efficient housing?

In addition, I will work to fund retrofitting for existing housing, especially for landlords operating affordable-housing units so that renters can also benefit from lower utility bills and have more money to put into their families instead of throwing it out the window -- literally.

