

STETSKI, WAYNE

Electoral District:

Kootenay-Columbia

Political Party:

New Democratic Party

**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?

I was committed to stopping the TMP when I was your Member of Parliament from 2015 - 2019 and remain committed to stopping the pipeline today. Building it is wrong from an environmental, economic and indigenous perspective and also because it signals we are committed to an oil and gas future for decades to come. We must commit to a green energy future and that must start now!

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

Yes and I would advocate that we commit that same amount of money to supporting the development of geothermal, solar, wind and tidal energy. This would include significant funding into companies undertaking research and development of green energy, manufacturing green energy products in Canada including eBikes and eAutomobiles, and providing grants and other incentives to consumers purchasing greener products.

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?

Transition is the key, and it starts with having conversations with oil, gas and coal workers so that they can see that they themselves and their children can have good, well paying, meaningful jobs in the future. It will require planning, funding, training and commitment. When I was your MP I met with national unions who showed me their Green Plans for the Future. They were excited about the hundreds of thousands of good jobs coming with a greener economy ranging from green infrastructure to manufacturing to renovating homes and businesses. Better is possible!

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?

During my career I worked with National Parks, Manitoba Parks and BC Parks. As your MP I was the NDP's Critic (Shadow Cabinet) for National Parks meeting regularly with the Liberal Minister of the Environment. I helped to develop the Report issued by the House of Commons Environment Committee on how to increase Canada's protection of our land and our marine areas and became Vice-Chair of the Committee. Expanding the concept of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas is one of the best ways to move forward with additional protection.

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?

While managing forests and wildlife is primarily a provincial responsibility (I was the Kootenay Regional Manager for the BC Ministry of Environment responsible for Fish and Wildlife, Ecosystems and BC Parks from 2002 - 2009) they fall under the Federal Species at Risk Act once they become rare or endangered. Caribou already fall under the Act. We need to determine at what point BC's remaining old growth forest ecosystems will fall under the Act. We need a paradigm shift in how we think about, and "manage" our forests.

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?

We absolutely must find ways to support our food producers to not only reduce their GHG emissions but also to ensure their financial survival. The climate crisis is further endangering both our water security and our food security. Without water and food we do not have life! As your MP I sponsored a private members bill to create a National Local Food Day in Canada to highlight the importance of local food. It received 100% support at every vote in the House of Commons, which almost never happens. Supporting our farmers remains a priority for me. Our Environment Committee produced a report on how agriculture can reduce their emissions - Clean Growth and Climate Change in Canada : Forestry, Agriculture and Waste - 42nd Parliament - April 2019.

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?

We are committed to making post secondary education more affordable for our youth by: Interest free federal student loans. A debt forgiveness program that will forgive up to \$20,000 in student debt. Doubling non-repayable student grants. Our vision is for every Canadian to have access to quality post-secondary education by working with provinces and territories to cap and reduce tuition fees and build towards making post-secondary education part of our public education system so kids can go from kindergarten to a career without the barrier of cost. International students contribute a lot financially to both College of the Rockies and Selkirk College, so we would have to look at the impact of reducing costs for international students. Canadian students attending post-secondary schools in other countries pay similar costs in other countries.

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 NDP, are committed to implementing all of the 94 calls of the TRC report, UNDRIP and the recommendations from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report. These are all part of true reconciliation with our indigenous friends and neighbours.

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)

Yes. It was the NDP's Romeo Saganash who first tabled a private members bill in parliament to try to force the federal government to officially endorse UNDRIP. It was four and a half years later when the Senate passed a Liberal version of the Bill into law - June 2021.

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

Yes.

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

Yes. A Guaranteed Liveable Income would alleviate poverty experienced by seniors, people with disabilities, and people living in poverty.

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

We also need to ensure that corporations pay their fair share! Implementing fair taxes on both the wealthiest people and on corporations will provide revenue needed for affordable housing, free dental and prescription medications and other social programs like a Basic Income.

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?

Rather than loving people for who they are our current Conservative MP Rob Morrison voted against the Bill to ban conversion therapy. Shame on him!!

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?

This is an important part of our platform, as well as committing to a Proportional Representation democracy in the future.

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?

Yes. A priority for me. Felt totally betrayed when the Liberals walked away from this promise in the 42nd parliament

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?

Yes. Free fair pharmacare has been a priority for me and the NDP for several years, including when I was your MP. Free dental and eye care also need to be included to complete Medicare in Canada.

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?

Yes. Important to both personal well-being and local businesses being more successful. We are committed to retro-fitting all homes and businesses.

