

RICHARD CANNINGS

Electoral District:

South Okanagan-West
Kootenay

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?

Yes. I stand with the NDP in opposing the Trans Mountain Expansion Project. We have always opposed it. We continue to oppose it. The International Energy Agency has said that we do not need any new oil developments. Our own Canada Energy Regulator has said do not need Keystone XL or Trans Mountain pipeline. Since becoming an MP I have gone on record in the house and committee no less than 39 times to oppose the Trans Mountain Expansion Project. As a candidate, I will proudly do it again to sign Stand Earth's pledge committing that "If elected, I will do everything in my power as a Member of Parliament to fight to cancel the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion and encourage others in my party to do the same.

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

Yes. The NDP has long opposed fossil fuel subsidies. I have stood in the house countless times to urge government to end subsidies for fossil fuels companies. Under Prime Minister Trudeau, the federal government spent \$18 billion to support oil and gas exploration, production, refining, transportation and more in 2020 alone - and that's on top of purchasing the Kinder-Morgan oil pipeline. A far better use of public funds would be to invest in renewable energy. That would be our approach. We would also take much more aggressive steps to support the energy sector workers towards a just transition. The NDP will fulfill Canada's G-20 commitment to eliminate these fossil fuel subsidies and redirect these funds to low carbon initiatives, and make sure that future governments can't reverse this by putting in place legislation to ban any future oil, gas and pipeline subsidies.

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?

The workers most impacted by the changes in our economy cannot pay the price of action on climate change. We must work together with labour, employers and the provinces and territories to find solutions for workers and communities. We need to ensure government invests in overhauling our energy sector to move into the future. Our plan includes a big shift to clean, electrical energy. We will make it easier to purchase electric vehicles and build hydrogen infrastructure for heavy duty transportation. All buildings need to be retrofitted. Fossil fuel subsidies need to end. This is tremendous opportunity for a just transition to provide a million good jobs for energy workers that are feeling anxious about their future. Liberals and Conservatives who double down on pipelines are doing a disservice to these workers who deserve support to enter into the new clean energy global economy. This includes providing dedicated employment support, re-training and job placement services, ensuring companies retain and redeploy their workers when in transition. We will boost clean tech research and manufacturing with new funding, incentives and Buy Canadian procurement of environmentally friendly technologies. This will help bring more innovative Canadian clean technology to market and support Canadian manufacturing of batteries, energy storage solutions and alternative fuels like biofuels made from waste. It will also help keep jobs here in Canada.

QUESTIONS



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?

Yes. Conservation has been at the heart of my work my whole life. Protecting land and waters will help Canada meet its climate change goals. New Democrats are committed to pursuing a Nature agenda, anchored by our commitment to safeguarding ecosystems and biodiversity by protecting 30% of our land, freshwater and oceans by 2030. We will expand urban national parks and restore urban biodiversity, and ensure the Species at Risk Act is enforced. We will launch a 10-year nature plan to reverse species loss and we would curb the import and domestic trade of wild animals. We will further protect our oceans and our freshwater, by reducing emissions from shipping and fishing, expanding marine protected areas, reducing key threats to ocean ecosystems and implementing a national freshwater strategy. We will ensure future protection of our land and water, by bringing in an Environmental Bill of Rights. Conservation of land and water is not only vital in our fight against the climate emergency but it is integral to real acts toward reconciliation.

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?

Yes. We need to do everything possible to protect old growth forests and critical habitat. From the science of carbon sequestration to the valuing forests for more than fibre, advocating for the protection and preservation of old growth has been a key part of my life. Forestry has a future, but its not the forestry we have known, it is high tech, value-added sector that does not include old-growth forests. The BC government isn't moving fast enough on this front and the Federal Gov't should be providing funding to help BC compensate forest industries that have locked in decades old agreements. This is where Federal governments can play a role and where federal funds are better spent, not subsidising the fossil fuel sector The NDP has also committed to protecting 30% of our land, freshwater and oceans by 2030 and ensuring the Species at Risk Act is enforced, including the use of section 80 where necessary.

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?

New Democrats support sustainable agriculture and believe in working with Canadian farmers to promote sustainable land-management techniques and methods to reduce GHG emissions. Before this election was called, I met with my caucus to discuss an exciting plan for how changing our agricultural practises can help us meet our goals. We'll also work with the agricultural sector to help them access low carbon tools and technology, and adapt to climate-induced weather changes and other impacts of the climate crisis, including the associated increase in pests and invasive species.

QUESTIONS



- 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?
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On top of their anxiety about the climate emergency we are facing, young people are stressed about huge debt loads and the rising cost of post-secondary education. Our vision is for every Canadian to have access to post-secondary education, regardless of their income. This means working with the provinces and territories to cap and reduce tuition fees, and building 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 are valuable contributors to our post-secondary institutions and without international enrolment, our small, rural colleges in South Okanagan – West Kootenay could not support the broad and quality programming they offer. We need to value international students and make sure they have the language, health and educational supports they need to succeed. The NDP will give graduates a 5 year break on loan repayment and forgive up to \$20,000 in student debt. And we'll stop the federal government from profiting off student debt by eliminating interest. An education should help young people get ahead, not leave them further behind.

- 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?
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Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples has been deeply troubled. Over the past six years I've listened to government speeches about reconciliation and promises to respect Indigenous rights, but seen our government spend millions of dollars fight First Nations kids in courts or refusing to invest in clean drinking water. A New Democrat government will fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the TRC'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. 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. We will recognize and respect treaties, supporting Indigenous Nations who are building and re-building their governance structures.

- 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)
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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. Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will just be the first step of this process. I am immensely proud of my NDP colleague in the house, Romeo Saganash who was one of the writers of UNDRIP and has worked tirelessly to make it the law in Canada.

QUESTIONS



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

Language as centre of culture and culture at centre of reconciliation. 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. As a personal commitment, I have enrolled in Nsyilxcan classes out of respect and interest in our local First Nations culture.

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

With the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, we have seen what's possible when governments mobilize to make a livable income a priority. But unlike the Liberals, who moved quickly to cut these benefits, New Democrats won't stop there - we'll get to work right away building towards a guaranteed livable income for all Canadians. We'll start this work immediately by lifting every senior and person living with a disability out of poverty, and build from there until every Canadian can count on a basic livable income when they need it.

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

Even before the pandemic, people were working harder than ever to make ends meet, and they just want life to be a little easier. During the pandemic, Canadian billionaire wealth went up by \$78 B. The NDP know that the cost of our recovery from the pandemic should not fall on the shoulders of Canadians that are stills struggling. A New Democrat government will make sure the ultra-rich pay their fair share. Those at the very top -with over \$10 million in wealth - will be asked to pay a 1% wealth tax towards services Canadians need like affordable housing, pharmacare and a just transition for workers. The revenue raised by these measures will kick-start Canada's economic recovery and build a more secure future for everyday families. Trudeau talks a good talk, but he voted with the Conservatives against a 1% tax on wealth over \$20 million and refused to tax companies that have profiteered during the pandemic. The NDP will also move to a fairer tax system that invests in the services people need by getting rid of tax loopholes for the richest and big corporation and getting tough on tax evasion and tax avoidance.

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?

Bill C-6 would have banned conversion therapy, unfortunately it died in the Senate when Justin Trudeau asked for this election. New Democrats are unanimous in their opposition to conversion therapy and have called for an end to this practice for years. Unlike the Liberals, who stalled for six years on this issue, we will immediately legislate a ban on conversion therapy in Canada, and work with provinces and territories to support eliminating this practice in all parts of the country.

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?

Young people are increasingly engaged in the world, and many are worried about facing a future with rising inequality and catastrophic climate change. It's no surprise: often they can see themselves paying the biggest price for the decisions governments are making today. Young people can and should have a say in their future. Simply put, if you are old enough to work and pay taxes, you are old enough to have a say in who forms the government. It's time to lower the voting age to 16.

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?

Two elections ago, Justin Trudeau promised to make 2015 the very last federal election to be held under the first-past-the-post system. Canadians are still waiting for him to deliver on that promise along with many others. Though the Liberals and Conservatives don't want electoral change, New Democrats remain committed to making every vote count. It's time to make our voting system fairer and actually deliver democratic reform to make sure that everyone's vote counts. A New Democrat government will bring in mixed-member proportional representation that works for Canada - and we will do it in our first mandate in government. We'll establish an independent citizen's assembly to recommend the best way to put it in place for the next election to ensure both local representation and a federal government that reflects the voters' choice of parties. Once Canadians have the opportunity to experience the new voting system and compare it to the old one, we will hold a referendum to confirm the choice. Without proportional representation, it means that our riding will be a two-way race, and if this election is like the last which we won by less than 1 percent, it will be a tight two-way race with the Conservatives; the party that continues to deny the climate crisis.

QUESTIONS



16 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've been committed to phamacare since Tommy Douglas first created our universal health care system in 1963. Too many Canadians have to choose between the prescription medication they need and groceries. It's wrong. Trudeau promised Canadians that he would bring in Pharmacare - instead, he voted with the Conservatives against it and walked away from his commitment. Canada is the only wealthy country in the world with a universal health care system that lacks universal prescription insurance coverage. We pay the third highest prices for prescription drugs in the world, straining our health care systems across the country, and have to deal with a patchwork of programs and coverage - if we're lucky enough to have coverage at all. In the face of a global pandemic, the need for a strong, national pharmacare program has never been stronger. New Democrats believe Medicare must be expanded to include quality prescription drug coverage for everyone, regardless of your job, where you live, your age, your health status or how much money you make. We will begin working with the provinces right away to target a 2022 start date, with an annual federal investment of \$10 billion.

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?

Finding affordable housing is one of the biggest concerns for everyone in our riding - individuals, families and businesses struggling to find workers. Consecutive Conservative and Liberal governments have gotten out of the game of building affordable housing for Canadians, leaving us half a million units behind where we should be and local governments over-burdened. The NDP will bring us back to where we should be with 500,000 units of rental, cooperative and social housing while also fighting for immediate rent relief. Energy efficiency and sustainable building practices will be at the core of our national housing strategy. To achieve this we'll improve the National Building Code to ensure that by 2025 every new building built in Canada is net-zero. We will commit federal lands for affordable housing and work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to purchase affordable rental housing to keep rents low. We will implement a 20% levy on home purchases from wealthy foreign speculators who drive up the housing market. By ending this free ride for the ultra-rich, we can fight Trudeau's housing crisis and help ensure everyone has a safe, affordable home.