

HOWSE, TARA

Electoral District:

South Okanagan-West
Kootenay

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?

I have signed Stand.Earth's pledge to halt Trans Mountain and am part of a Party who's (former) leader, Elizabeth May, was arrested as she stood up for her values on this. The Green Party has been clear and consistent: there is no room for a new pipeline in a Green Economy.

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

This includes Trans Mountain, currently costing approximately \$12.5 billion, where that funding could have gone to any other issue: addressing boil water advisories, investing in long-term care, or providing subsidies to homeowners for energy efficiency installations, such as solar. In addition to the subsidies is the massive economic loss flowing out of Canada as 70% of oil and gas companies are foreign-owned: not only are we dealing with economic devastation but we are not even reaping the full economic benefits.

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?

Mission Possible is the Green Party plan for reducing emissions and has clear steps that include a Just Transition for fossil fuel industry workers. By working with organizations, such as Iron and Earth, and following industry-developed recommendations, such as the Canadian Coal Power Workers and Communities Task Force, we can ensure that no worker is left behind.

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, this was a platform plank in 2019 and remains true today. We need to increase protections of our lands and waters alongside supporting Indigenous-led conservation and protection efforts.

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?

It's highly disappointing that the no NDP supported Green Party MP, Paul Manly, petition to immediately halt old-growth logging in the province. Under the declared climate emergency, the federal government has this jurisdiction. The federal government could also halt logging in zones where known endangered species are under the Species At Risk Act, such as caribou. Paul Manly also attempted this but was not supported

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?

In theory, yes, but I would need to see a further breakdown of what this budget is and be priced out, ideally passing a motion to the Parliamentary Budget Office for such costing. In general, I and the Green Party support funding the shift of industrial agricultural practices to organic and regenerative practices.

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?

The Green Party is the first, and presently only, Party to promote abolishing tuition for Canadians. 1 in 6 bankruptcies are attributed to student debt and 39% of students are food insecure. Abolishing tuition will allow young Canadians to enter the workforce without being \$30K-\$50K in debt, alleviating poverty anxiety.

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 Green Party was the first party to endorse all TRC calls and MMIWG recommendations. I am personally committed to this and have been a leader in speaking up and for Indigenous rights, both personally and professionally.

QUESTIONS



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)

UNDRIP legislation was passed in June 2021 in Parliament. I am committed to working across all parties and with Indigenous leaders, governments, and organizations to further ensure articles aren't held up unnecessarily. Many of the solutions have to address the significant power imbalance that exists between Indigenous governments and colonial governments.

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

Yes - this is part of TRC Calls to Action #13-17

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

Yes - the Green Party was the first party to promote Guaranteed Liveable Income. I have worked with Green MP Paul Manly on his efforts in the House of Commons and, in my professional capacity, have conducted Living Wage work within the Lower Columbia Region, which included research on basic and guaranteed incomes.

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 have a full review of our tax system. The last Tax Commission existed in the 1960s so a review and reform is needed. Tax loopholes must also be closed as well as addressing offshore tax havens. Canada Revenue Agency needs to be adequately supported to focus on people who are hiding vast amounts of wealth, rather than ordinary Canadians

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?

I am horrified that the combined political power of the NDP and Liberals did not ensure this was passed. The only reason Bill C-6 did not pass is due to political will: delays held the bill until shortly before the summer break and the probability of election, which now will have to be reintroduced and start over.

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?

Greens have continuously supported lowering the voting age to 16, with Elizabeth May introducing petitions many times. After the 2019 election, I reached out to the schools who voted Green and visited the classrooms because engaging youth in the civic process is something I truly value.

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?

Until we address electoral reform, change will be near impossible. Our FPTP systems results in scare-mongering and bullying tactics by other parties, repressing voices and subverting our democracy. The Liberals promised it in 2015. In 2019, the NDP talked a lot about it yet never made it an issue this past session, despite holding the balance of power.

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?

Pharmacare was talked a lot about in the 1960s but was ultimately dropped by all parties. In 2015, the Green Party reinvigorated that conversation and was the only party to have it in their platform.

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?

Affordable housing is borne on the backs of volunteers. Having recently completed research on rural housing issues, I understand the barriers to developments in rural communities. This includes local builders acting as developers but not able to carry the financial capital risk; increased distances for infrastructure (or a lack of suitable infrastructure, e.g., well water or septic systems); lack of data; and fewer municipal resources (e.g., planners on staff). The federal government created the CMHC to address and support returning veterans from WWII and incentivized over 200,000 units of housing from 1973 to 1992, incl market rentals. Solutions include supporting cooperative and cohousing housing models; allowing mortgages for tiny homes; assisting small municipalities and RDs with financial supports on infrastructure for identified needs; data collection; community engagement processes; local government staff supports; and alternative finance models

