



The following policies were adopted by the Green Party of BC's Provincial Council. Members were notified about the policies on March 26, 2013. Members have until April 16, 2013 to vote on the new policies.

Triple Aim Approach to Healthcare

Resolved provincial health care adopt the 'Triple Aim' approach:

1. Improve population health and reduce health inequities
2. Improve the patient experience and the quality of care
3. Reduce healthcare costs to improving healthcare delivery and outcomes in BC.

Forestry Review

Resolved that the provincial government address forest policies by committing to establish an independent review into the state of British Columbia's forests and their management, focusing on area-based tenure, industrial structure, and sustainability of forests.

Seniors Healthcare

The BC Green Party believes in providing appropriate and affordable community and home based care for all BC seniors. As the population for BC seniors is projected to increase over the next decade, the BC Green Party recognizes the urgent need to address the current inadequacies in seniors' healthcare, focusing on providing a strong foundation for community and home-based care. Taking the BC Northern Health Authority as a model, the BC Green Party aims at improving seniors' healthcare with a fundamental reallocation of existing resources.

Therefore, to improve our senior healthcare system, BC Greens, will as government:

Improve home and community care

- Integrate community, home and primary care services for seniors in order to address their unique, complex needs, focusing on preventative healthcare initiatives.
- Reconfigure services around seniors home-based care needs, provided by an interdisciplinary team (nurses, care aids and community workers) of healthcare professionals, 24/7.



- Increase funding to residential care facilities, increasing staffing levels in order to ensure a higher quality of care.

Give a voice to patients

- Provide transition coaches (specially trained nurses or case managers) to aid seniors in the transition from hospital to home care.
- Expand BC's Chronic Disease Self-Management Program and other educational programs to ensure more accessibility to low income and immigrant seniors as well as those living in rural areas.

Provide social support network

- Establish a community support network to help seniors remain independent, build self-esteem and improve knowledge and understanding of available health and community resources.
- Provide funding to create a broader network of seniors outreach programs in the community and/or seniors centres.
- Encourage the construction of senior-oriented communities, providing housing options to suit all seniors different needs, ensure proper access to healthcare facilities and offer social engagement opportunities.

Improve public reporting

- Follow the BC Ombudsperson recommendations and improve public reporting of key indicators in order to increase accountability and aid in effective planning and health system improvements.
- Provide an independent review of all public reporting to ensure transparency and accountability.

Revoking BC's Alternate Approval Process

The Green Party of BC fully recognizes that civic democratic due process is indispensable for the long term, balanced, and full potential economic and social development of BC's communities. And that forthright civic due process is integral to the mindful evolution of the charter and civic practices of our communities and public institutions.



Unfortunately, in the last several years an increasing number of municipal councils in BC have resorted to the Alternate Approval Process (APP) in order to push forth extraordinary financial community projects without the consent of their constituency.

Under the guidance of the Liberal provincial government, the Alternate Approval Process was introduced within the 2004 local government charter known as the BC Community Charter. The APP however fundamentally contravenes the principles of prudent, democratic, and transparent civic due process. Through the APP, not only are BC's municipal councils legally permitted to presume the consent of constituents for extra ordinary municipal initiatives, municipal councils are also afforded the right to do so entirely at their own discretion and without any actual "alternate approval" mechanism being in place - in practice or theory.

The GPBC however categorically rejects any notion of presumed consent within the administration of public affairs, and therefore we move without qualification to revoke the Alternate Approval Process from BC's Community Charter.

Fracking Policy

The Green Party of BC believes there is increasing and incontrovertible evidence that the use of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) poses risks to human health and the environment. BC Green Party will work with the fracking industry to ensure all environmental liabilities and health concerns are addressed before granting any new tenure agreements for unconventional natural gas development.

Using current practices, fracking has an unacceptable impact on our fresh water resources because of the massive amounts of water used in the fracturing process. In addition, there are concerns about management of the contaminated water that returns to the surface; the impact fracking has on agricultural and forest lands and to wildlife habitat; and the contribution that the mining of unconventional gas makes to climate change. Closely aligned with the latter is the reality that the longer we invest in fossil fuels, the less investment there is in renewable energy. BC Greens know it is urgent that we transition to a low-carbon economy as quickly as possible.

Therefore, the Green Party of BC would do the following to address the issues related to fracking:

- Require full disclosure of all chemicals used in the fracturing process;
- Require detailed mine reclamation plans with adequate bonds to ensure environmental liabilities are not passed onto the province;

- Impose an immediate moratorium on exploration permits and land tenure agreements;
- Provide for the comprehensive mapping of all ground and surface fresh water resources and an improved Environmental Assessment (EA) process prior to any consideration of lifting the moratorium;
- Reform the Environmental Assessment (EA) so that it considers all potential economic, environmental and social impacts as well as the cumulative effects from all industrial activity within a region. The EA process will:
 - Evaluate alternatives to proposed projects;
 - Utilize a Watershed Based approach;
 - Be inclusive of local governments, First Nations and public participation; and
 - Be part of a broader land-use and planning regime;
- Determine the natural limits to fresh water withdrawals from streams, lakes, rivers and underground sources and grant withdrawal permits accordingly;
- Put a fair price on fresh water to be applied to all current projects;
- Require long term monitoring of spent and capped well sites by the company to guarantee public safety;
- Set royalty rates that are fair to both extraction companies and the province while considering comparative rates in other jurisdictions;
- Change the role of the Oil and Gas Commission to that of an oversight regulator required to meet the standards listed herein and not influenced by industry or the government;
- End subsidies to the oil and gas industry;
- Revise the Clean Energy Act to require the gas industry pays for its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.



With a moratorium in place, no new land will be impacted until there has been a comprehensive mapping of our fresh water resources and until the EA process has been strengthened.

Strata Property Policy Preamble:

- 28% of all taxable properties in BC are strata properties (this grew from 25% over 3 years, 2007 to 2010)
- In much of the lower mainland (Burnaby, Langley City, New Westminster, North Vancouver, Port Moody, Richmond, Vancouver, White Rock) and Victoria over 50% of properties are strata properties
- The current Strata Property Act was passed in 1998 and came into effect in 2000
- Since 2000 strata developments have grown enormously in number and complexity and the shortcomings of “old” legislation have become all too apparent based on thousands of complaints from strata owners
- There has been no public review of strata legislation since 1998
- In March 2009 the government tabled a Bill to amend the Strata Property Act based on its private discussions with a few people in the real estate industry – Finance Minister Hansen made the commitment that the Bill would be open to public input after the election of 2009 – this never happened
- In October 2009 the Bill was re-introduced and forced through the legislature by Housing Minister Coleman without either public input or an opportunity for amendment – the government even voted down a “hoist” motion by the opposition that would have enabled 6 months of consultation before the Bill was passed – as enacted the Bill (Strata Property Amendment Act, 2009) is quite limited in scope and appears to centre on changes to: (1) enable developers to build all-rental condo buildings, and (2) require most strata corporations to prepare a depreciation report every few years or specifically opt out of doing so.
- In May 2012 the government passed Bill 44 (Civil Resolution Tribunal Act) which would provide a new alternative for resolving a dispute between a strata owner and a strata corporation but did not address the matter of disputes arising from misconduct by a property manager or developer – the Bill was forced through without opportunity for public input or meaningful review by a legislative committee (only 30 minutes of debate



per Bill was allowed by during the short 2012 session) – no amendments were permitted in spite of many strata owner questions and concerns about the Bill – the government has said that the tribunal to be created under the Bill should be up and running some time in 2014.

Strata Property Policy

A Green Party government would conduct a comprehensive and public review of the Strata Property Act that is focused on (1) protection of the rights of strata owners, and (2) the sustainability of strata communities.

Mineral Tenure Reform Policy

Mineral tenure laws are 100 years old and must be changed to better reflect the expectations of British Columbians. Currently, for a small fee, mineral claims can be staked on-line for the vast majority of land in BC, including private and Crown land. Consent is not required from landowners (including the Crown). Landowners do not have the right to refuse mining on their land, although compensation and notice are required.

Once staked, a claim holder has the right to convert the claim to a mineral lease and the government has no discretion to refuse the conversion to leases. The tenure system interferes with effective land-use planning, community decision-making and environmental stewardship without expropriation, the costs of which fall to BC taxpayers, Mineral Tenure Laws do not provide for the duty to consult with First Nation.

In consultation with First Nations, industry, environmental groups, communities, landowners and other stakeholders, the Green Party of BC would modernize the Mineral Tenure laws to include these considerations:

- Replace free entry with a discretionary licensing and permitting system that requires consideration of environmental and other interests when allocating access to mineral rights. Landowners and other interested parties should have the right to petition government to withdraw lands from mineral tenure availability;
- Legislation should establish no-go zones for mining that include land for unsettled First Nations' land claims, domestic use watersheds, private conservation lands, sensitive lands with poor environmental restoration capability, and fisheries



sensitive watersheds, as well as establishing adequate buffers around areas of cultural and ecological importance and lands that link existing protected areas;

- Require mines to conform to the terms of land use plans and agreements with First Nations. If land use plans and agreements are not completed, any grants of mineral licenses should be made conditional on the terms of plans and agreements;
- Explicitly acknowledge Aboriginal rights and title in new legislation. New legislation should explicitly require consultation with, and consent from, First Nations before mining permits are granted and mining activities begin;
- Require consultation with, and consent from, private landowners before mining activities begin. Compensation awarded to affected landowners must be fair and allow landowners to relocate if they wish; and
- Require comprehensive environmental assessments before significant exploration activity begins.

From MINING: Mineral Tenure Reform by Emma Hume in Maintaining SuperNatural BC for Our Children: Selected Law Reform Proposals, Edited by Calvin Sandborn, Published by Environmental Law Centre, University of Victoria.

Fish Farms Policy Preamble

[Expert opinion] is that it is not possible to implement our policy related to fish farms. Fish farms cannot be removed from migration routes because it takes 18 month to raise a salmon so the pens cannot be closed for the wild fish migration. Our other policy related to closed containment will not work because Marine Harvest simply will not move to closed containment. They will only use open net pens because they do not want to deal with waste.

Therefore, we need to rescind our current policy related to fish farms ([reference has been removed] from the Green Book 2013).

Wild salmon are essential to the health of BC's ecosystems, to the cultural health of our First Nations and to the economic and social health of our coastal communities. The only way to protect wild salmon is to remove fish farms permanently from migration routes. This is essentially the finding of the Cohen Commission. The dramatic decline of our wild salmon started when fish farms were introduced to BC and wild salmon cannot be saved until fish farms are removed because of their deadly role in pathogen



amplification and introduction. And yet both the federal and BC governments are protecting the industry.

In addition, the jobs created (approximately 1,800 in total) and financial benefit derived from fish farming pales in comparison to the jobs and economic benefits derived from our traditional fisheries, sport fishing and eco-tourism. While eco-tourism has growth potential, the three salmon feedlot corporations operating in BC today are experiencing financial difficulties, particularly in Canada.

This is the resolution recommended by [our expert advisor:]

Fish Farm Policy

Be it resolved that once in government, the Green Party of BC will ensure that the BC coast is free of fin fish farms along the length of the east coast of Vancouver Island and the west coast of the mainland from the Fraser River north to the Broughton Archipelago by not renewing the licenses of fin fish farms with annual tenure and by revoking the licenses of fin fish farms with long-term tenure

One benefit of the fish farm industry is that we now have state of the art processing plants. All of these plants are capable of processing soft-fleshed seafood into a high quality product. BC has healthy runs of pink salmon and we have shrimp fisheries that could benefit from local processing and appropriate marketing. We need to ensure that the province benefits from these plants and explores further options for them.

Therefore, be it resolved that once elected, the Green Party of BC will provide transitional money so the processing plants can find alternative sources of soft-fleshed seafood for processing and to establish a market for the products both domestically and internationally.



Columbia River Treaty Background

The Columbia River Treaty is an international treaty between the United States and Canada, implemented in 1964. It resulted in the building of the Mica, Keenleyside, and Duncan dams in Canada and the Libby Dam in the US. The main goals of the treaty were to prevent flooding and to produce hydro electricity. The Columbia River Treaty may be cancelled by either the United States or Canada no earlier than in 2024, with 10 years notice (2014). Public consultation processes have been started in preparation for renewal, re-negotiation, or cancellation of the treaty. Changes to the Columbia River Treaty could have major impacts in the Columbia River basin in BC.

Columbia River Treaty Policy (1)

WHEREAS understanding of the importance of functioning riverine ecosystems to human well-being was not in place when the original Columbia River Treaty was negotiated;

AND WHEREAS the province is currently updating its primary law governing water (the Water Sustainability Act), in recognition that healthy rivers should be prioritized:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Green Party of BC supports re-opening the Columbia River Treaty for negotiation in order to put in place measures that maintain the ecological flow, shape, connections, quality, and life of BC's rivers.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that impacted First Nations and other local communities must be meaningfully involved in this re-negotiation process.

Columbia River Treaty Policy (2)

WHEREAS according to the Columbia River Treaty water flow management decisions are currently determined with two main goals in mind (flood prevention and maximized electricity production), which neglect ecological considerations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Green Party of BC supports updating the Columbia River Treaty in order to add ecological considerations to water flow management, such that decision-making is based on the following (in order of priority): (1) flood prevention, (2) minimizing ecological impacts, and (3) maximizing electricity generation.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Green Party of BC supports diverting some revenues from electricity generation towards restoring or replacing the lost ecological, agricultural, cultural, and fisheries values in the Columbia River basin.



Columbia River Treaty Policy (3)

WHEREAS due to climate change, it is unlikely that the Peace and Columbia River systems could ever be returned to their natural flows (based on a historical benchmarks):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Green Party of BC will update its policy clause 8.1.3.1 to the following (changes in italics): “Support those areas outside of the Kootenay and Peace regions move toward greater energy self-sufficiency through ecologically-friendly, small scale energy production, so that the Peace and Columbia river systems can be gradually returned to their *current* natural flows over the long term (*recognizing that historical flow levels are no longer possible due to climate change*)”.

Columbia River Treaty Policy (4)

WHEREAS when a dam is not at the end of its service life, dam modification may be a better option for the environment than dam decommissioning;

AND WHEREAS dam decommissioning does not seem to have public support in the Kootenays, and is contrary to the need to reduce carbon emissions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Green Party of BC rescinds its current policy clause 8.1.5.1. (“The Keenleyside and Duncan Dams should be de-commissioned.”).

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT for individual dams, the Green Party of BC will develop a sustainability assessment protocol for evaluating the merits of each dam before coming to a position regarding dam service continuation, modification, or decommissioning.

Advancing BC’s Public Information Practices Policy

POLICY PROPOSAL BRIEF

A full and complete framework of oversight checks and balances is essential for a genuinely responsible system of public administration and governance. Advancing the opportunity and the legal statutes that allow the general public, media, and oversight agencies to review or scrutinize the fiscal, operational, or decision making practices of public institutions and agencies is integral to a more evolved and exceptional system of public administration.

Elizabeth Denham, as head of BC's Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, has pointed out a pressing need to improve BC's public information



practices, which were also outlined in the submission of the Special Committee of Review in March of 2010 under the previous commissioner.

The Green Party of BC adopts the following key recommendations in regard to public information practices:

1.6 Public Information

1.6.2 Duty to Document

1.6.2.1 Establish the administrative legal requirement for detailed documentation in key decisions of government

1.6.2.2 Establish appropriate penalties of non-compliance in the duty to document

1.6.3 | Powers of the Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner

1.6.3.1 Amend FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) to empower the Commissioner to investigate the inappropriate destruction of government documents

1.6.4 Duty to Declare Lobby Status

1.6.4.1 All lobbyists must declare their lobby status when providing information and recommendations to public agents.

Bear Smart Policy Preamble

The Green Party of BC Bear Smart program is designed to assist communities in reducing bear-people conflicts.

Bear Smart programs work most effectively when they are approached at a watershed level that includes provincial parks, provincial crown lands, rural private lands, and municipalities. Because bears travel widely throughout a region and don't stop their food-seeking activities at local jurisdictional boundaries, an approach that enables everyone to work cooperatively over the whole "bear landscape" needs to be followed.

The Bear Smart Community status is designed to reduce bear-people conflicts and to increase public safety. The elimination in 2010 of the 50% funding support for Bear Smart and the significant cutbacks to the Conservation Officer Service (COS) has hindered progress in reducing bear-people conflicts.



Grizzly and black bear problems in the backcountry are virtually non-existent. BC Parks and roadside campgrounds are areas of conflict. The lack of adequate bear information at entrance kiosks, including the need for campers to properly store their foodstuffs including coolers, pet food, barbecues, is responsible. Another important factor is the need to step up enforcement through warning and ticketing.

Bear Smart Policy

- Resolved that a BC Green Party government would re-instate funding for the Bear Smart program to provide 50% funding support up to \$10,000 annually for community bear-proofing measures.
- Resolved that a BC Green government would increase funding for the Conservation Officer Service (COS) and provide more training in non-lethal bear aversion strategies, including relocating bears out of communities early rather than waiting until a problem develops and ticketing people who repeatedly attract bears.
- Resolved that a BC Green government would require that BC Parks and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations establish bear information at kiosks at roadside campground entrances and institute penalties for people who leave unattended attractants.

BC Green Party LGBTQ Education Policy

The Green Party of BC supports a diverse and progressive BC society. The BC Green Party believes the BC education system should be inclusive and supportive of all peoples regardless of their sexual orientation.

Therefore, to create a more inclusive education system, the BC Greens, will as government:

Establish antihomophobia policies and action plans

- Build upon the ERASE Bullying program to ensure uniformity in implementation.
- Ensure all policies and action plans are found at the provincial, school district and school level.

Create inclusive K-12 curriculum and learning resources

- Ensure that references to Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer (LGBTQ) people are included in learning resources.



- Provide learning resources that address current issues facing the LGTBQ community, i.e. bullying.

Ensure accurate and inclusive sexual health education

- Provide sexual health education that addresses the needs of the LGTBQ community.
- Establish several educational courses providing a choice for parents about which program their child will attend, aiming to address personal and religious concerns regarding LGTBQ sexual health education.

Provide teacher education programs

- Require education on the needs of LGTBQ youth added to Bachelor of Education programs in BC.
- Ensure that educational information is up to date, accurate and inclusive of the needs of LGTBQ youth.

Work with the LGTBQ community and parents

- Provide inclusive dialogue with LGTBQ community and parent groups to develop best practice guidelines and curriculum.

Developing a Cooperative and Social Economy for BC Policy Preamble

A **cooperative** is an autonomous association of persons who voluntarily cooperate for their mutual, social, economic, and cultural benefit. Cooperatives include non-profit community organizations and businesses that are owned and managed by the people who use its services (a consumer cooperative) or by the people who work there (a worker cooperative) or by the people who live there (a housing cooperative). Hybrids include worker cooperatives that are also consumer cooperatives or credit unions, multi-stakeholder cooperatives such as those that bring together civil society and local actors to deliver community needs, and second and third tier cooperatives whose members are other cooperatives.¹

A **social enterprise** is an organization that applies commercial strategies to maximize improvements in human and environmental well-being, rather than maximizing profits for external shareholders. Social enterprises can be structured as for profit or not-for-profit, and may take the form of a co-operative, mutual organization, a social business or a charity organization.²

Strengthening the cooperative and social economy sector will help diversify the business form and the economic environment in BC. Expedited support for cooperatives

¹ From Wikipedia

² From Wikipedia



and social enterprises in BC will help with the Green Party of BC's objective of developing strong local economies throughout BC.³

Background:

Co-operatives have always been an integral and essential part of BC's economy. In key sectors like agriculture, financial services, retail, housing, and health care, co-ops provide essential goods and services to British Columbians.

Co-ops are very good at the following:

1. Mobilizing and securing community capital for local economic development.
2. Providing goods & services that people need at a cost they can afford, particularly in the area of social care;
3. Empowering ordinary people with modest means to create new wealth through enterprise by sharing risks, skills and resources with others;
4. Diminishing economic inequality and providing stability and resilience, particularly in times of economic crisis.⁴

Social enterprise is a new and powerful concept developing globally. BC is already in a leadership position in this new category of company that aims to achieve social good with at least as much emphasis as return on investment. The spin-off benefits from highlighting social enterprise as a valuable investment, is that the economic and social value they produce is likely to vastly outweigh any cost in tax credits.⁵

Developing a Cooperative and Social Economy for BC Policy

Resolved that when in government, the Green Party of BC will implement strategies to assist in the economic development of co-operatives and social enterprises in BC by:

- Extending to co-operative and social enterprises British Columbia's tax credit for venture capital corporations (VCC's) and eligible small businesses (ESB's) which has been a productive facilitator of equity investment into BC companies.
- Amending the Small Business Venture Capital Act to designate "Social Enterprises" and "Co-operatives" as a new eligible category for VCC's and ESB's.
- Re-allocating \$1 to 2 million from other categories in the Provincial budget to signal our commitment to support these creative new entities that have the promise to deliver so much more to society than pure profit-oriented companies.
- Creating a co-op and social enterprise development and incubation initiative to provide financial and technical support for new co-op and social enterprise start-

³ Social Enterprise information is based on documents provided by Peter Elkin

⁴ Co-operative information is based on information from the BC Cooperative Association

⁵ Social Tax Credit Briefing Note was provided by Jim Fletcher



ups; for further development of existing co-op and social enterprises; and, for assisting in the transition of financially viable but challenged companies to a co-operative or social enterprise form through employee buy-outs.

- Creating tax incentives to promote investment by members and community supporters in co-operative and social enterprises.
- Adopting innovations in the financing of co-operatives and social enterprises by removing barriers to local investing;
- Enhancing job and business retention by providing assistance to employees who want to buy-out;
- Developing an affordable business space strategy that can assist in the incubation, start-up and development of co-operatives and social enterprises throughout BC.

The Green Party of BC believes that the co-operative and social enterprise form will be integral to the more efficient provision of community based health, education and social services. Be it resolved that a Green Government will:

- Establish an initiative to support the development of co-ops and social enterprises for the provision of community-based health, social and education services
- Mandate that Requests for Proposal (RFP) processes and selection criteria by all government bodies will facilitate participation by health, social service and education co-operatives and social enterprises.
- Establish education programs about co-ops and social enterprises in the training and retraining programs of existing health, social service and education professionals; for Health Authorities and social and educational agencies; and, for the governing bodies of these professions.

The Green Party of BC recognizes that co-operatives and social enterprises can provide vital, community-based care to vulnerable individuals and the broader community. Be it resolved that the Green Party of BC will:

- Support co-ops and social enterprises as a means of training and employing marginalized individuals and people with disabilities.
- Remove income and social assistance restrictions to individuals being trained by social co-ops and other social enterprises.
- Promote the use of social co-ops and social enterprises to serve high priority groups, especially the elderly and those living with disabilities.
- Develop a co-operative and social enterprise shared service strategy to support the growth and competitive capacity of small and medium firms in strategic sectors.

The Green Party of BC recognizes that co-operative housing in BC has been successful in providing affordable housing options for lower-income British



Columbians. Therefore, be it resolved that when in government, the Green Party of BC will:

- Partner with the co-op housing sector and other levels of government to:
 - Support the development of new, non-profit housing co-ops for low and moderate-income households, and
 - Explore the potential for using the co-op model to create affordable home ownership opportunities for British Columbians.

To ensure the cooperative and social enterprise economy is developed in BC, the Green Party of BC will assign the Co-operative and Social Enterprise development to a Ministry for Economic Development.