



# SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE

Our way of life depends on strong institutions and thriving businesses. We know that effective governance and sustainable economic growth are intertwined—and that both are essential for a prosperous future.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the resilience of our institutions. It reminded us that government can rise to meet our biggest challenges, bringing us together to protect the most vulnerable and safeguard our way of life. At the same time, the pandemic exposed ways in which government is lacking in many areas of our lives. It showed how a lack of transparency and inefficiency in addressing critical issues is eroding trust in our institutions and creating space for populism to grow.

We envision a democracy and a government that prioritizes people—a system where every person can be heard and seen and involved. We want a tax system that promotes fairness and efficiency, incentivizes lowering emissions and helps prevent climate disaster.

Equally vital is a vibrant business sector. A strong economy not only creates jobs, but also drives innovation and raises living standards. By supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses, we can harness the creativity and ambition of our citizens. A flourishing business sector drives investment, fosters competition and ultimately leads to better products and services. When businesses succeed, they generate revenue that funds education, healthcare and infrastructure.

The BC Greens are committed to a future built on robust institutions and dynamic businesses. We believe in policies that promote transparency, foster economic opportunity and empower individuals. Together, we can create a society where good governance and entrepreneurial spirit work hand in hand, driving progress and improving lives for everyone.

# Democracy

**Trusted, effective, representative government.**

## HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Trust in government is built on seven factors: reliability, responsiveness, openness, integrity, fairness, commitment to addressing long-term and global challenges, and effectiveness in dealing with these challenges.

For a government to be seen as legitimate, it must be representative, trustworthy, and effective. Trust in government is crucial for it to effectively implement its agenda and be recognized as legitimate. For a democracy to work effectively, the government must be accountable to the public, reflect voters' choices and respond to the challenges we as a province and global community face.

## PROBLEM DEFINITION

Our democracy is in trouble. Successive governments are viewed as more accountable to industry than to the public. There's a perception that the government lacks both the intent and the inclination to address the pressing issues people are facing. We can see the effects of declining trust in institutions through low voter turnout, a rise in personal security systems and a growing focus on alternative media sources.

Governments in British Columbia tend not to be representative of the voters' decisions. In the 2020 election, the NDP gained 66% of seats with only 48% of the vote, forming a majority government with only minority support. The BC NDP have subsequently embraced the worst parts of that majority, ignoring oversight, silencing committees and calling for closure on multiple Bills as they pass through the Legislature.

Successive governments in British Columbia have fallen short in addressing major challenges like climate change and rising inequality. Additionally, instead of being transparent about these issues, there has been a decrease in openness, including the introduction of fees for accessing government information. Instead of a commitment to addressing emissions, the BC NDP has approved new LNG

terminals and pipelines, while pretending to be acting on climate change. Instead of being a reliable partner, the government has failed to deliver solutions to the healthcare crisis, the toxic drug crisis, or the lack of infrastructure in education. Together, these failures have eroded trust in Government, contributing to a rise in right-wing populism.

## POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

**We will enhance public trust in the political process.**

- Within the first 100 days of being elected, the BC Greens will introduce legislation to implement a Proportional Representation system for the 2028 election. This will ensure that every vote counts and supports a truly democratic, multi-party system.
- A referendum will be held after the second proportional representation election to confirm whether the system aligns with voter interests.

**Lower the Voting Age to 16**

- The BC Greens will lower the voting age to 16 and introduce civics and voting education in schools, empowering young people to participate actively in democracy.

**Implement a Standing Citizens' Assembly**

- We will establish a biennial Citizens' Assembly, with topics selected by the Legislative Assembly. This Assembly will ensure ongoing citizen participation in major policy discussions and decision-making.

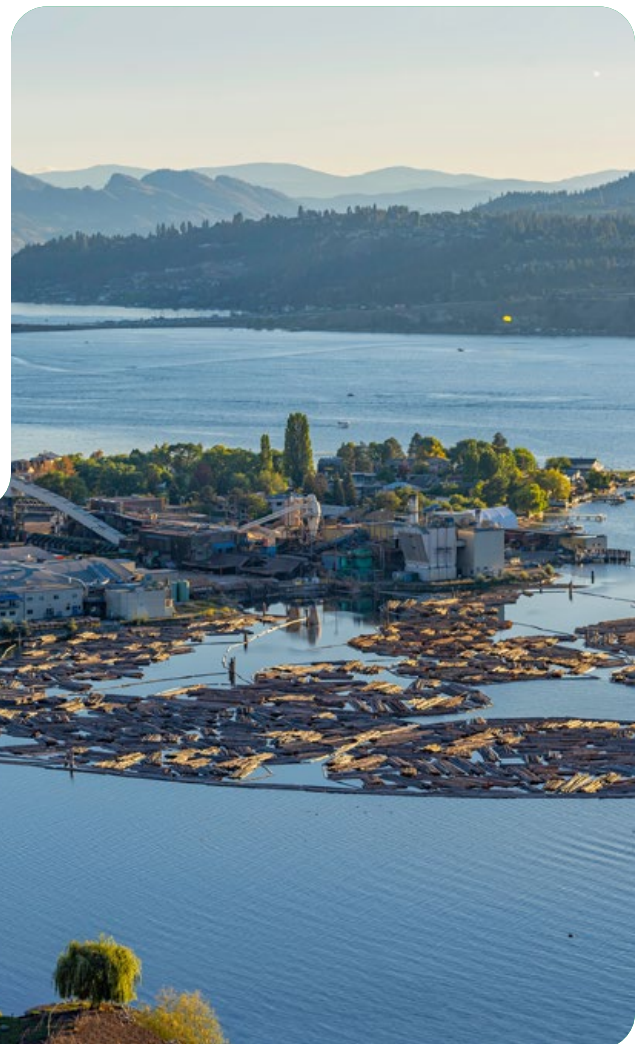
**We will reform parliamentary practices to promote transparency, ensure thorough legislative scrutiny, and foster collaboration among all political parties.**

- The BC Greens will commit to never using closure in bill debates, ensuring that all legislation receives adequate scrutiny. House Leaders will collectively develop a legislative calendar that provides enough time for debate and consideration of all bills.

- The BC Greens will establish all-party caucuses based on geography, common interests, and background. These caucuses will be mandated and supported to work collaboratively on shared priorities.
- We will commit to thoroughly considering Private Members' Bills and amendments from all Legislative Assembly members, fostering a more inclusive and participatory legislative process.
- We will strengthen the role of Legislative Assembly Committees as an oversight function, with responsibilities for keeping track of whether recommendations from oversight agencies, such as the Auditor-General and Representative for Children and Youth, are being implemented.
- The BC Greens will support Indigenous communities in meaningful consultation by providing appropriate resources and ensuring their input is thoroughly considered in government decision-making.
- To avoid conflicts of interest, we will enforce a minimum two-year stand-down period between holding a designated office in government and working in a lobbying role.
- We will implement a ceiling on public servant salaries, so that no staff member can earn more than five times the lowest-paid staff member. This will be implemented over time, to ensure no employment contract laws are broken.

**We are dedicated to improving transparency and accountability in government operations by reforming executive practices, ensuring proactive information release, and supporting meaningful consultation.**

- The BC Greens will remove the fee for Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and require all government departments and ministers to respond to requests within the legislative timeframes.
- We will proactively release government materials, including ministerial calendars and briefing notes, to promote greater transparency and public accountability.



# Justice and Public Safety

**A British Columbia that is safe and secure for all people.**

## HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

A fair and equitable society relies on a justice system that not only keeps people safe, but ensures that people feel safe. Everyone should feel that they can go about their lives freely and without a sense of fear, in the knowledge that they will be looked after should something happen to them. The justice system should be demonstrated to enable access to justice, and should treat all people equally.

## PROBLEM DEFINITION

The experience of justice and public safety looks very different for different communities in British Columbia. We must acknowledge that systemic racism exists in policing in British Columbia. 41% of women in the provincial custody system are Indigenous—and Indigenous women and girls in Canada have been murdered or gone missing at a rate four times higher than their rate of representation in Canada. Black men are incarcerated at almost three times their share of the population. The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations has stated that First Nations people find themselves simultaneously over-policed and under-protected.

We need to do more to address the underlying causes of crime—such as poverty, homelessness, colonization, the rolling back of drug decriminalization, and lack of access to basic services and supports. The Canadian Mental Health Association BC Division states that one in five interactions with Police in British Columbia involves someone with a mental health or substance use problem.

We must ensure that the right services are available to deal with each problem. Police have been tasked with responding to issues for which they are not the appropriate service provider, causing distress to both the public and to the officers. This is due, in part, to a lack of alternatives and insufficient health, mental

health and social supports.

The Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act did an excellent job of depoliticising this issue—bringing experts together, and of creating an action plan to create “policing and community safety rooted in decolonisation, anti-racism, community and accountability”. It is a pity and an insult to that Committee that the NDP has not progressed their work.

## POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

When elected, the BC Greens will:

**We will transform the policing and justice systems to prioritize accountability, equity and community safety.** These changes will focus on addressing systemic racism, enhancing transparency, and ensuring fair treatment for all citizens, with particular attention to Indigenous peoples, racialized communities, and marginalized groups.

- The BC Greens will disband CIRG, the Community Industry Response Group, a branch of the RCMP tasked with protecting industrial interests at the expense of public and Indigenous rights. This group has caused significant harm to police-community relationships and must be dismantled to rebuild trust.
- We will create a specialized taskforce to investigate cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, children, and two-Spirited people. This taskforce will operate under civilian oversight from Indigenous communities, with a strong focus on women’s leadership, and follow the guidance of the *Red Women Rising* report.
- A Parliamentary Committee will be established to examine how the justice system treats Indigenous peoples, racialized communities, and homeless individuals. The goal is to identify and address systemic inequities and improve access to justice

for all.

- We will formally recognize the Conservation Service as a Law Enforcement Service and apply the same oversight mechanisms as other policing bodies to ensure accountability and public trust.
- We will repeal Bill 21, which disrupted the role of the Law Society of BC. In its place, we will reinstate the Law Society and launch a comprehensive review of access to justice in accordance with the *Futures Task Force Report* to ensure fairness and professional integrity in legal practice.

**We will implement new laws and structures that promote accountability, equity and cultural competence within the police force, while ensuring public safety and mental health services are adequately supported.**

- We will carry out the recommendations from the *Transforming Policing and Community Safety in British Columbia* report, which includes enacting a new *Community Safety and Policing Act*. This will lay the groundwork for a reformed policing structure and set clear guidelines for community safety and accountability.
- We will establish a new provincial police service governed by the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, ensuring that Indigenous communities have direct input into the structure and governance of their

police services.

- We will create and fund a comprehensive response system for mental health, addiction, and other complex social issues. This initiative will ensure a continuum of care and support that reduces reliance on policing for non-criminal matters.
- BC Greens will commission an independent review of prison conditions, including the use of solitary confinement, to ensure that they meet humane standards and respect human rights.
- Police education and training will be enhanced and standardized across the province to reflect key values such as cultural competence, de-escalation, and mental health awareness. This training will be integral to shifting police culture toward community-based service.
- We will require all police services to collect and publicly report disaggregated race-based and other demographic data. Comprehensive reviews of policies and procedures will be conducted to address systemic racism within policing.
- We will appoint an all-party parliamentary committee to review and modernize the *Mental Health Act*. This will ensure alignment with the recommendations of the *Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act* and better protect individuals experiencing mental health crises.
- An all-party select standing committee will be created to oversee policing and community safety in British Columbia. This committee will ensure ongoing scrutiny and continuous improvement in police practices and public safety strategies.



## ICBC AND NO-FAULT INSURANCE

**The BC Greens believe that people who have been injured in a car crash should be able to access care and support without having to fight the system that is meant to provide it.**

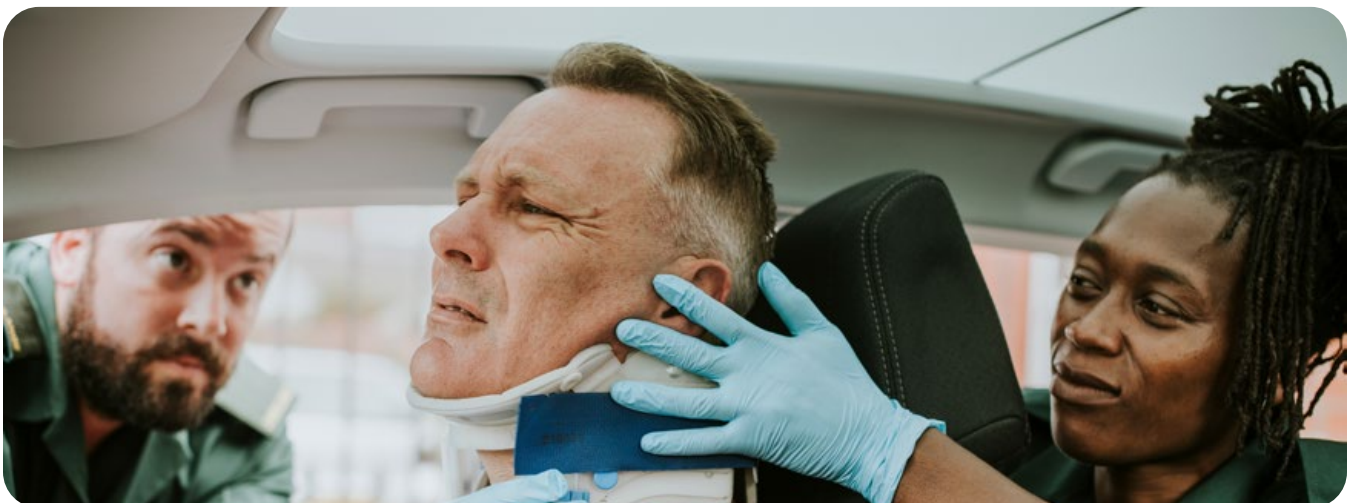
The enhanced care model has not lived up to what was promised. People who have been injured in vehicle accidents should be able to rely on a system that puts their wellbeing and recovery first.

The current no-fault system is not providing this level of care. We see too many cases where people cannot access necessary medical care, or return to their study and careers, because of limitations in ICBC policy. ICBC must be empowered to focus on providing care to victims (rather than ICBC has been used as a political tool by the NDP). Anyone injured in an accident in BC should be assured that they will be treated with respect, and not subject to undue administrative burdens and barriers.

The BC Greens would amend the Legislation governing ICBC, to make clear that all reasonable costs relating to an accident should be covered. We would also amend the income replacement sections, to take into account not only current income, but earning potential, so that students and people temporarily out of the workforce are not penalized.

The BC Greens would reorient the culture of ICBC, to require it to focus on care, rather than minimizing payouts. We would require full transparency from ICBC, including having all client notes be proactively shared with the client so that people can trust the processes and the outcomes.

**BC Greens would also ensure that pedestrians, cyclists and any other vulnerable road users injured by vehicles are considered fully covered by the care system.**



# Small business and community economic development

**British Columbia is the best place in the world to make a living - and a life.**

## HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

The government must create conditions for people—and businesses—to thrive. This means ensuring that employees and customers have access to essential services like healthcare, education, reliable public transit, affordable housing and a strong social safety net. We need a province where businesses feel secure to invest—and individuals have the confidence to spend and innovate.

We must change the narrative about who we are and what we do. British Columbia has traditionally viewed itself as a resource-based economy, where jobs and productivity rely on natural resources—but this view is outdated. Service industries now account for over three-quarters of the province's economic activity, with less than two percent of jobs tied to oil and gas extraction, mining and related activities.

We need to build a new economy, one that supports small businesses rather than undermines them, placing people and communities at the centre while protecting our ecosystems.

British Columbia has unique advantages we can leverage. Our proactive approach to carbon pricing has led to a thriving clean tech industry, with seven of the world's top 100 cleantech companies based here. By effectively pricing pollution and incentivizing green business, we can continue this progress.

## PROBLEM DEFINITION

It's been a tough few years for many businesses. Inflation has driven up input costs, while high interest rates have restricted consumer spending. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted supply chains and global demand, while geopolitical tensions, particularly the Russian invasion of Ukraine, have further strained European supply chains. Uncertainty around election outcomes, including in the United States, is undermining business confidence.

Canada is experiencing declining productivity, largely due to insufficient investment and market consolidation among a smaller number of larger players. Just as individuals struggle to invest in themselves while worrying about rent, small and medium businesses find it difficult to invest in capital and personnel amid rising costs and uncertainty around consumers' ability to afford their products.

We continue to subsidize highly profitable, polluting industries at the expense of small and knowledge-based businesses. For instance, fracking receives water licenses at more favourable rates than domestic consumption, and the province is directly providing power lines for LNG Canada.

Key local industries, such as hospitality and construction, are facing challenges in attracting skilled labor, while young people are struggling to find meaningful employment that offers a good standard of living.

We know that there is a growing demand for incentives beyond financial compensation, with many seeking better work-life balance, support for caregiving and increased leisure time.

## POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

**Provide meaningful employment opportunities for youth, fostering environmental stewardship and green skills development.**

- We will increase support for the Youth Climate Corps, connecting young people with meaningful jobs across the province, restoring the environment, building resilient infrastructure, and fostering connections with communities and nature.
- We will work with the construction industry to create a program for young people and apprentices to upskill in retrofitting and improving the environmental sustainability of existing buildings.

**Create sustainable career opportunities and workforce development.**

- We will introduce a careers program for the food, beverage, and hospitality sector, providing jobseekers with training, mentorship, and job placements in British Columbia's food manufacturing and hospitality businesses.

**Prioritize local businesses and resources to boost the provincial economy.**

- We will update procurement policies to ensure local contractors and resources benefit first in public projects and government contracts.
- We will expand the InBC Investment opportunity with an additional focus on supporting rural British Columbia, ensuring equitable access to investment resources.
- We will amend and expand the community grants program funded by the Carbon Tax, limiting eligibility of businesses headquartered outside British Columbia to prioritize local business support.

**Expand support for electric vehicle (EV) initiatives.**

- We will expand the Clean Incentive Vehicle (CIVC) program to allow retrofitted electric vehicles to be eligible for grants, incentivizing the transition to greener transport options.

**Support early-stage innovators to advance green and commercial technologies.**

- We will expand the Advanced Research and Commercialization program to provide support and mentoring to innovators at the early stages of development (levels 2 and 3 of the Technology Readiness Index), before they reach proof of concept.





# Human Rights

**All people are free to be themselves, to thrive**

## HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

The freedom to be yourself and express yourself in a manner that aligns with your identity is fundamental. We are committed to shaping a province where human rights are upheld—and where everyone, regardless of their identity or background, can fully participate and belong in our communities.

We know that racism and discrimination continues in British Columbia. This can be overt, or it can present in subtle ways, where people don't feel safe to be present in the ways that are true to them.

We affirm that abortion is healthcare, that conversion 'therapy' is abhorrent, and that trans women are women, and trans men are men.

All people in BC should have the ability to safely access essential services and public spaces – free from hate and discrimination. The BC Greens commit to defending and advancing human rights in BC. Our province is diverse, and we all thrive when our rights are upheld by decision-makers.

Our work in British Columbia is to create the conditions where people are safe, where people are free from discrimination and hatred, where people can fully participate in our society.

We need to renew our commitment to fighting for inclusion and equity across our province and in every aspect of our society.

## PROBLEM DEFINITION

Despite federal legislation, conversion therapy is still being practiced in British Columbia. This practice harms young people in particular, with victims describing the lifelong impact that this has had on them.

Access to abortion and reproductive healthcare is not just about the legislative settings, it's also about service availability. We need to ensure that these services are available to people across the country, in settings that align with preferences and cultural safety needs.

People experiencing poverty and homelessness can be discriminated against, without recourse to the Human

Rights Code. For some of the most vulnerable British Columbians, we need to extend the protections of this code, to make sure they can access services and opportunities.

Too many people continue to experience sexual harassment and discrimination, and then are silenced through unfair non-disclosure agreements. Non disclosure agreements are contracts that were created to protect trade secrets but when used wrongly become secret settlement contracts used to buy the silence of a victim or whistleblower. They have become the default solution for organisations, corporations and public bodies to settle cases of sexual misconduct, racism, pregnancy discrimination and other human rights violations.

## POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

### Protecting Social Condition

- We will add 'social condition' as a protected ground under the Human Rights Code to prevent discrimination based on socioeconomic status.

### Better Data

- We commit to using disaggregated data to eliminate barriers that racialized, Indigenous, and 2SLGBTQ+ people face in accessing public spaces and essential services.

### Protecting youth

- We will re-introduce legislation to ban conversion therapy in BC.

### Protecting reproductive rights and freedoms

- We commit to ensuring that all people can access reproductive health services, at a time and a place that meets their needs.

### Protecting victims, not harassers

- Introduce legislation to prevent the misuse of non-disclosure agreements in cases of sexual assault and harassment

# Tax

## A British Columbia that is prosperous, fair, and ready for the future

### HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Tax policy is essential in shaping our society and economy, enabling the government to fund vital services like education, healthcare and infrastructure necessary for a functioning society. Moreover, tax policy creates the economic landscape by establishing incentives, influencing demand and supply, and signaling to both domestic and international audiences that British Columbia is a secure place for investment.

The design of our tax system can either enhance or undermine equity and social justice. It is essential that people have confidence that our tax system is fair and treats everyone and their contributions equally.

An effective tax system should be efficient, easy to navigate and difficult to manipulate.

### PROBLEM DEFINITION

Our tax system is overly complicated, fails to set the right incentives and does not treat all forms of money equally.

Currently, the system misaligns with our values and priorities, placing excessive emphasis on taxing earned income while taxes on pollution and excise taxes shrink as a proportion of overall tax revenue. This focus on income rather than wealth contributes to extreme economic inequality, with the richest 1% in Canada controlling 25% of the nation's wealth—much of which is inadequately taxed. Additionally rising house prices have significantly increased wealth for homeowners, often at the expense of renters and non-homeowners.

BC's tax system is also overly complex, featuring seven different marginal income tax brackets, various grants and credits, and confusion surrounding carbon taxes. This complexity undermines the system's ability to provide the incentives and efficiency needed. If taxpayers are unaware of potential tax breaks, they cannot adjust their behaviour to benefit from them.

The corporate tax structure is similarly flawed. For instance, businesses earning up to \$499,999 are taxed at 2%, while income above that threshold is taxed at

12%. There are no additional marginal tax rates beyond this point, allowing large corporations to operate unchecked due to their economies of scale and price-setting powers.

The government must take an active role in addressing this imbalance, and the tax system is a key tool for doing so. We are witnessing too many billionaires and corporations extracting wealth without paying their fair share or reinvesting in the province. A fairer, more efficient tax system will help reduce inequality and ensure that the wealth generated in British Columbia benefits everyone.

### POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

#### The BC Greens would undertake a systematic review of British Columbia's entire tax and transfer system.

- This would look not just at what is and isn't taxed and to what extent, but also how the system treats different groups, including both census families and individuals.
- It would consider where our tax take is on the Laffer curve, and what the incentives are for both high income individuals and companies.

#### Enhancing progressiveness in income tax.

- The BC Greens would introduce an additional marginal tax rate of incomes over \$350,000 per year, of 22.5%. This would impact 39,936 tax filers, with an average income of \$935,090. The additional revenue raised is \$394.5 million.

#### Taxing windfall profits and make corporate tax fair

- The BC Greens would introduce an additional marginal tax rate for corporate revenue above \$1 billion per year, of 18%. This would impact approximately 35 companies, with an average income of \$4.75 billion per year. The additional revenue raised is approximately \$4.1 billion per annum.

**Taxing property wealth effectively**

- The BC Greens will increase the taxes paid on the most expensive properties in British Columbia. We will double the existing provincial property tax rates (the ‘School Tax’) on residential property valued above \$3 million to 0.4%, above \$4 million to 0.8%, and add a new bracket for properties valued above \$7 million at 1.5%.

- We will also apply these brackets to the total property holdings of a household, rather than assessing on a per-property basis.
- These changes will impact approximately 3.7% of British Columbian households with significant wealth. The additional revenue raised is approximately \$938 million per year.

## CARBON TAXES

The BC Greens understand that climate change is an existential threat, and that emissions of carbon dioxide and methane are the cause of climate change.

We believe that we all have a right to a future, and that industries who are putting that future at risk should be held responsible for their emissions.

British Columbia’s price on carbon pollution is not perfect. But it is necessary, and a crucial step in ensuring British Columbia meets our greenhouse gas reduction goals, while safeguarding our environment, our health, and our economy.

The BC Greens are committed to having a price on pollution, and to improving the system such that there is a price on every tonne of carbon dioxide and methane emitted.

**The BC Greens will:**

- Continue with planned increases to the price of emissions, by \$15 per year. The price is currently \$80 per tonne. We will increase this to \$95 in 2025, \$110 in 2026, \$125 in 2027, etc.
- Remove the annual emissions limits for industry, established under the output-based pricing system. Every tonne (or liter) emitted will be subject to the same fee regime.
- Include emissions relating to venting and non-compression and non-processing activities in the oil and gas sector.
- Continue the oversight of emissions through the GGIRCA, including the requirement for third-party verification of emissions from industrial polluters.
- End the use of compliance mechanisms and carbon offsets.

**The fossil fuel industry was responsible for**

**14.8**

**million tonnes of emissions in 2021**

Under the current model, most of these emissions were exempt from the carbon tax. The BC Greens would ensure that these emissions were treated the same as all other emissions in British Columbia.

The revenue from these taxes will continue to be rebated to British Columbians, who are already paying the price of a changing climate.

We will also use the revenue to fund mitigation and response activities in communities, including providing funding to municipal and Indigenous governments. We will continue this scheme even if a future Federal Government walks back their commitments on pricing pollution.