



Policy Declaration of the Conservative Party of British Columbia

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Policy Declaration

ARTICLE 1 – Guiding Principles

- 1.01 The Conservative Party of BC is founded on, and will be guided by, these principles:
- (a) Good government: Ethical, accountable, and fiscally responsible, ensuring the rule of law, individual freedoms, and minimal taxation.
 - (b) Individual liberty: Recognizing the inherent value of every person, upholding their fundamental rights to life, liberty and freedom of expression.
 - (c) Social responsibility: Providing a strong safety net for the vulnerable while encouraging self-sufficiency.
 - (d) Free-enterprise economy: Championing a competitive economy with private property rights to foster prosperity and entrepreneurial spirit
 - (e) Collaboration: Supporting like-minded organizations and elect representatives at other levels of government.

ARTICLE 2 – Democratic Reform and Accountable Government

Provincial Government

- 2.01 We believe that Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) should be empowered to best represent the interests of their Constituents.
- 2.02 The Conservative Party of BC will abolish all Freedom of Information request fees, with the exception of fines for individuals or organizations who attempt to abuse the system.
- 2.03 The Conservative Party of BC believes in the principles of equality for all British Columbians, with special privileges for none. This principle includes the protection of private property, life, liberty and the inalienable right of freedom of speech, worship and lawful assembly.
- 2.04 The Conservative Party of BC recognizes freedom of speech is a hallmark of a free society. Compelled speech in any form is a violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Individual freedoms of thought, belief, opinion, and expression supersede all compelled speech.
- 2.05 The Conservative Party of BC will ensure that there are no impediments to free and full participation for British Columbians in the economic, social, political and cultural life of British Columbia.
- 2.06 Conservatives Will Ban ‘In-the-Family Lobbying’: The Conservative Party of BC will ban and penalize in-the-family lobbying to prevent the immediate relatives of MLAs or senior government officials registering to lobby their own spouses or relatives for personal or familial profit.
- 2.07 Specifically, the Conservative Party of British Columbia will amend the Lobbyist Transparency Act and the Members’ Conflict of Interest Act to explicitly prohibit any immediate family member—defined as a spouse, sibling, parent, or child—of an MLA, Cabinet Minister, or the Premier from engaging in registered lobbying activities directly (i.e. lobbying ‘In-the-Family’).

Municipal Government

- 2.08 The Conservative Party of BC will work to delegate and devolve powers and authorities away from the provincial government and towards local governments where appropriate, practical, and in the best interests of British Columbians.

ARTICLE 3 – Economic Prosperity and Incentives

Protecting BC from Government Overreach: Opposing Legislation Similar to Bill 12

- 3.01 The Conservative Party of British Columbia opposes any future attempts by the BC NDP Government or any other government to reintroduce legislation resembling or replicating the provisions of Bill 12.
- 3.02 The Conservative Party of British Columbia further commits to advocating for balanced, fair, and transparent legislative practices that respect the rights of businesses, individuals, organizations, and communities across the province. The Conservative Party of BC believes that a government should:
 - (a) Recognize that the role of the Provincial Government is primarily to ensure delivery of essential services.
 - (b) Restore and maintain competitive personal and business tax rates to encourage investment, wage growth, and job creation in all regions of British Columbia.
 - (c) Cut red tape and regulatory burdens by implementing a systematic review, simplification, reform of - or in many cases repeal - Governmental regulations and similar requirements.
- 3.03 “Made in British Columbia”: The Conservative Party of BC will revive manufacturing in British Columbia, creating jobs with powerful paychecks in the BC manufacturing sector. and increase the volume of goods that are “Made in British Columbia”.

- (a) Conservatives will support a Made-In-BC manufacturing boom by addressing the shortage of industrial land and end the unfair and outdated practice of “taxes on taxes” which inhibits the development of supply chains in BC.
- 3.04 Support Small Business: Work to ensure that businesses of all sizes have equal opportunities for growth and success. Larger businesses should not be able to use their size or market share to give themselves unfair advantages over smaller businesses.
- 3.05 Work to streamline regulatory requirements and cut red tape so as to support current and future small business owners in British Columbia and allow them to invest more time and resources to the services that their business provides to British Columbians in every town, city, and community in the province.

ARTICLE 4 – Financial Management

Accountability

- 4.01 Every tax dollar collected from British Columbians is received in trust. This trust must be managed and accounted for according to the highest standards of integrity and transparency. The people’s scrutiny of all spending decisions should be encouraged and welcomed.
- 4.02 Dollar-for-dollar legislation: the Conservative Party of BC will legislate a dollar-for-dollar requirement that any new non-essential spending must be matched dollar-for-dollar with cost savings in other areas of government.

Fix the Budget

- 4.03 The Conservative Party of British Columbia commits to supporting a return to balanced provincial budgets at the earliest practical opportunity.
- 4.04 The Conservative Party of British Columbia will maintain balanced budgets over the long term, except in times of extraordinary circumstances such as provincial emergencies or economic recessions, with a clear plan for recovery to fiscal balance in such cases.
- 4.05 Program Review: All existing or planned programs administered by the government, Crown corporations and other organizations owned, controlled or supported by the Government of British Columbia must be reviewed to determine if they are meeting performance and accountability benchmarks, adhering to best practices, and respecting the tax dollars of hard-working British Columbian taxpayers.

Taxation

- 4.06 The Conservative Party of BC will:
 - (a) Scrap the Carbon Tax.
 - (b) Repeal all harmful taxes, licenses, fees and permits created or increased by the NDP.

ARTICLE 5 – Health Care

- 5.01 Recognizing that, despite spending more than 27 comparable countries, British Columbia trails far behind when it comes to the number of acute care beds, doctors, nurses, MRI machines and other health care resources, the Conservative Party of BC will review all aspects of health care policy, service and delivery.
 - (a) Such a review should examine opportunities for increased efficiency and to develop mechanisms to ensure health care decisions are made in the best interests of patients and taxpayers, based on population and demographics, cost effectiveness and patient outcomes.
- 5.02 Support the basic principles of the Canada Health Act of Universality, including accessibility,

comprehensiveness and portability; with the full understanding the delivery of health care is a provincial responsibility in accordance with the Constitution of Canada.

- 5.03 Support the principles of public accountability and transparency in the delivery of health care services and ensure health care boards reflect regional population distribution and consider the local and regional health care needs.
- 5.04 Implement a new 'Patients First' Healthcare Model: universal healthcare for everyone under a single-payer system that increases spending each year and delivering care through both public and non-governmental facilities.
- 5.05 Implement major and meaningful healthcare system reform to:
 - (a) Expand Access to Care, End Long Wait Times, and Stop the ER Closures
 - (b) Help British Columbians Get a Family Doctor
 - (c) Protect and Support Front Line Staff
 - (d) Address Healthcare Workforce Retention and Recruitment Issues
 - (e) Create a Modern, Transparent, and Accountable Healthcare System

A New 'Patients First' Healthcare Model

- 5.06 Put BC Patients First: Ensure health care funding is focused on the best interests of patients and patient care, above all other interests.
- 5.07 Support the concept of a strong publicly-funded health system as the primary facilitator of health care services in British Columbia.
- 5.08 Ensure that all British Columbians have access to quality care, regardless of their ability to pay.
- 5.09 Support the principle that the citizens of British Columbia need to have input into the type of health care system they want.
- 5.10 A Conservative Party of BC government will put patients first by shifting to a new 'Patients First' Healthcare Model (Activity Based Funding) whereby hospitals, Regional Health Authorities, and/or other non-government facilities will receive public funding based on when they treat patients for specific diagnostic and priority procedures versus the current model of providing a standard "block grant."
- 5.11 A Conservative government in BC will implement the *Patients First Wait Time Guarantee* for select diagnostics and surgical procedures. Should diagnostics or medical procedures exceed medically recommended wait times, a doctor would be able to recommend that patients should be authorized and able to access care and/or treatment at a pre-approved clinic out-of-province and be reimbursed according to a set fee schedule.
- 5.12 The Conservative Party of BC will advance Patient-Based Funding (Activity Based Funding) models by expanding publicly funded partnerships with non-governmental clinics for specific priority procedures and diagnostic services. We will get people off waiting lists and into operating rooms and diagnostic clinics for services like MRIs and priority surgeries.
- 5.13 The Conservative Party of BC will work with physicians and other primary healthcare providers to reduce administrative burden, implement best practices for staffing, and encourage the use of modern tools and technologies to increase the number of patients a family physician's office can care for.
- 5.14 To improve retention of staff within BC's healthcare system, the Conservative Party of BC will:
 - (a) Immediately rehire the thousands of healthcare professionals that were forced out-of-work due to personal healthcare decisions.
 - (b) Fill positions in high need communities and incentivize doctors and nurses who choose to work in the communities that need them most.

Protect and Support Front Line Staff: Safe Hospitals

- 5.15 Protect BC Nurses: Increase security to protect BC healthcare workers and patients.

- 5.16 Immediately ban weapons and all illicit drug use and dealing in BC's emergency rooms and hospitals.

Protect and Support Front Line Staff: Upskilling in the BC healthcare system

- 5.17 The Conservative Party of BC will ensure that front line staff like Healthcare Assistants and Licensed Practical Nurses that want to upskill their credentials have a path that ensures they can both support our healthcare system and advance their careers.
- 5.18 The Conservative Party of BC will eliminate parking fees for staff, patients, and patient visitors at all public hospitals.

Train More Doctors in British Columbia, For British Columbians

- 5.19 Expand capacity in the BC post-secondary education system, by increasing the number of graduates from BC medical programs.
- 5.20 Present early offers and enter in multi-year employment contracts with BC educated medical professionals (pending successful program completion) to incentivize and encourage graduates to remain in the province.
- 5.21 Increase the number of residency spots available for BC medical students that commit to practicing in high need areas upon graduation.
- 5.22 Create new spots in BC medical schools reserved specifically for BC students.

Reduce Medical Red Tape

- 5.23 Replicate and implement a BC version of the Atlantic Physicians Registry.
- 5.24 Take all constitutionally permitted steps within the immigration system to nominate and accelerate applications for medical professionals seeking to live and work in BC.
- 5.25 Expand both domestic and international medical recruitment efforts by strengthening financial incentives.
- 5.26 Conduct a Health Services Performance Review to identify administrative efficiencies, and efficiently increase investment in front line staffing, services, and care.
- 5.27 Reduce Physician Paperwork: Invest in technology that simplifies and streamlines reporting requirements also offers opportunities to reduce administrative overhead.

Defend Medical Privacy for British Columbians

- 5.28 Prioritize the importance of protecting privacy relating personal to health data and ensure health data cannot be disclosed without an individual's full consent.

Creating a Modern, Transparent, and Accountable BC Healthcare System

Healthcare Accountability: Repeal the Health Professions and Occupations Act (Bill 36)

- 5.29 Immediately repeal the Health Professions and Occupations Act (Bill C-36) to reduce the unnecessary red tape, political and ideology control that the NDP have imposed on the healthcare system. Conservatives will establish legislation that ensures that the oversight of medical professions is neither politicized, nor overreaching.

Modernization, Transparency, and Accountability in BC Healthcare

- 5.30 Ensure full transparency by requiring regional health care authorities to publish, annually, a

breakdown of all costs, including administrative costs and salaries and that this be made readily available to the public.

- 5.31 Ensure that more British Columbians in rural areas are able to access updated types of care like telehealth and digital diagnostic tools.
- 5.32 Work with partners and post-secondary institutions to support BC's participation in the Artificially Intelligent Health Technologies (AIHTs) marketplace.
- 5.33 Create a framework for AIHT in BC that ensures all usage improves the care of patients either directly or indirectly by using health service resources more productively and reinvest any and all cost savings into BC's public healthcare system.
- 5.34 Leveraging the lessons learned from the Topol Review in the United Kingdom to prepare BC's workforce to deliver the digital healthcare future, focusing on Genomics, Digital Medicine, AI and Robotics (and in consultation with industry and care providers), conduct a review on the impact that artificial intelligence, digital medicine, and genomics can have on improving efficiency and precision in healthcare. The review will focus on the extraordinary opportunities to leverage these technologies for the healthcare workforce and power a sustainable and vibrant healthcare system.
- 5.35 The Conservative Party of BC recognizes the right of health care service providers (including Long term care, and palliative-care hospices) to operate in accordance with their objectives, mandates and by-laws and no other Act, policy, or regulation can usurp that right, specifically those facilities that oppose the practice of euthanasia/medical assistance in dying (MAiD). To that end, the Conservative Party believes that care providers should have the right to opt out of any program that deliberately hastens the death of any persons.
- 5.36 A Conservative Party will not fund any program that deliberately hastens the death of any persons with mental illness.
- 5.37 Health-care providers shall respect their patients' judgments on matters of conscience and shall not override, compel, dissuade or provoke them from, the decisions that proceed therefrom, or seek to do so.

Training

- 5.38 Expand training and post-secondary programs to graduate more health care professionals.
- 5.39 Develop and implement a training, retention and recruitment program in consultation with health care providers and local stakeholders that would offer significant economic benefits to medical personnel to work in remote areas.

ARTICLE 6 – Parental Rights and Child Protection

- 6.01 The Conservative Party of BC supports and recognizes that:
 - (a) Parents have the right and responsibility to protect their children and must be protected when exercising those rights.
 - (b) Healthy family units benefit the whole of the province.
 - (c) Parents are the most important and significant factor in a child's upbringing, and as such must have a protected sphere, without interference, to nurture and make decisions involving the child's medical care, education, religious beliefs and moral upbringing.

ARTICLE 7 – Education

- 7.01 The Conservative Party of BC supports the immediate removal of all SOGI materials, programs, and activities from BC's primary and secondary schools.
- 7.02 Conservatives believe that the Ministry of Education should focus on core educational

priorities, including literacy, numeracy, and science, while promoting respect and safety for all students through a comprehensive, neutral, and universal anti-bullying policy.

7.03 The Conservative Party of BC supports:

- (a) The principle that parents are the child's first and most important teachers.
- (b) Adding the protection of parental rights as a new responsibility of school trustees under the British Columbia School Act. This would complement their current mandate involving financial matters and academic performance. Moreover, we are committed to enhancing parental involvement in the local governance of the school that their children attend.
- (c) That by assigning financial resources, where possible, directly to the students approved education plan, that financial barriers are eliminated and the opportunity for student success is optimized.

Provincial Standards and Testing

7.04 Restore academic standards by ending descriptive grading and returning to including letter and percentage grades in BC schools.

Post-Secondary Education

7.05 Give qualified British Columbian students priority for admission to the province's post-secondary educational institutions.

7.06 Increase training and apprenticeships in the trades and technical sectors.

7.07 Increase merit-based scholarship opportunities for students.

ARTICLE 8 – Justice and Public Safety

8.01 The Conservative Party of BC will restore law and order by reversing the reckless NDP policies that have put criminals first and British Columbians last. The Conservative Party of BC is committed to restoring public safety and rebuilding confidence in our justice system – a justice system that will once again be made to serve the rights of law-abiding citizens and victims of crime.

Stop the Crime

8.02 The Conservative Party of BC will:

- (a) Defend our police who risk their lives to keep us safe.
- (b) Hire more front-line officers in provincially funded forces.
- (c) Expand our capacity to train new police officers.
- (d) Hire more Sheriffs and Judges to clear the massive court backlog. Increase Sherriff's pay and fully fund essential equipment, including safety and protective equipment that are essential for Sheriff Deputies in their day-to-day duties.
- (e) End "Catch-and-Release": Crack-down on bail offenders by toughening the Charge Assessment Guidelines.
- (f) Fight for mandatory minimum sentences for violent offenders to put them behind bars where they belong.
- (g) Create a new statutory court to hold trials for small criminal offences within 1 week of arrest, instead of 12-18 months at present. The right to choice of counsel will be upheld.
- (h) Make audio recordings of all eligible court proceedings available online.
- (i) Strengthen legislation to streamline our justice system to promote timely access to

justice for all individuals, families and businesses in British Columbia.

- (j) Ensure the rights of victims of crime take precedence over those of criminals.
- (k) Strengthen legislation requiring compensation from convicted persons to the victims of their crimes.

8.03 The Conservative Party of BC will repeal the Legal Professions Act (2024).

ARTICLE 9 – Stop the Drugs, Start the Treatment

Treatment and Recovery

- 9.01 End drug decriminalization and reject the dangerous Eby-Trudeau legalization experiment.
- 9.02 Enforce mandatory mental health treatment for those who pose a danger to themselves and others.
- 9.03 Remove dangerous tent cities that have plagued communities across BC, by moving occupants to the appropriate support services and by having zero tolerance for tent cities on provincially-owned properties.
- 9.04 Have zero tolerance for criminal and nuisance behavior related to government-funded housing facilities – social housing facilities will either be good neighbours, or have their funding revoked.
- 9.05 Ensure sufficient funding for municipal policing to allow for effective policing and protection of British Columbians.

Stop the Drugs, Start the Treatment.

The Conservative Party of BC will:

- 9.06 End decriminalization: The NDP's reckless decriminalization experiment has failed. It has only worsened drug problems across BC and only the Conservative Party of BC will stop it.
- 9.07 Stop drug legalization: The Conservatives will reverse the NDP's harmful policies that normalize and perpetuate opiate addiction.
- 9.08 Comprehensive drug awareness education: We will introduce province-wide, robust drug education programs, focusing on children, youth, and young adults.
- 9.09 Cutting-off drug supply: No more deadly drugs from "safe supply" sources. We will halt the government-sanctioned distribution of drugs and go after illegal sources with new urgency.
- 9.10 Fund abstinence-based treatment and recovery as an option available to anyone.
- 9.11 Ensure wide availability of Nasal Naloxone: Free and accessible, province-wide, because saving lives must come first.
- 9.12 Cut wait time to voluntary addiction treatment by making the largest-ever investment in care capacity.
- 9.13 Integrate treatment into the correctional healthcare systems: When someone with a debilitating addiction problem arrives at a hospital or is taken into custody, we will offer or require immediate access to evidence-based addiction treatments.
- 9.14 Remove financial barriers to detox and treatment: Years of inaction has forced families to remortgage their homes to save loved ones. Conservatives will ensure that people who need treatment can access it without financial hardship.
- 9.15 Close the gap between detox and care: The current system lets people fall into dangerous gaps between detox and treatment. We will provide seamless and monitored transitions from detox to outpatient or inpatient care.
- 9.16 Housing with treatment: No more warehousing or tent cities. Current and future supportive housing facilities must be integrated with healthcare services as an integral part of their programming, not as an afterthought or absent altogether.
- 9.17 Build recovery communities: We will build regional recovery communities – and government will provide professional care and guidance to those recovering from addictions. The program will allow up to 12-month

live-in participation as well as a subsequent guidance program to assist in post treatment housing, career, and personal counseling.

- 9.18 Safe transition to treatment, not “Safe Supply”: The Conservatives will end the Eby/Trudeau “safe supply” experiment, which has caused more harm than good. We will help addicts transition safely to treatment medications, instead of perpetuating their reliance on dangerous street drugs.
- 9.19 Enact “Christian’s Law” for compassionate intervention: We will introduce involuntary treatment legislation for individuals with addiction who are unable to make life-saving decisions on their own. After consultation with his family, the law will be named after Christian DeSousa, a young man who lost his life to drugs after struggling with addiction since age 13. The NDP government refused to place Christian in involuntary treatment that his mother pleaded for, repeatedly.
- 9.20 Build specialized housing for complex needs: We will establish housing for those with anoxic brain injuries due to drug use, who cannot thrive in traditional treatment environments.

ARTICLE 10 – Private Property Rights

- 10.01 Strengthen legislation for the protection of private property rights for all British Columbians.
- 10.02 Review the administration, application and interpretation of the Firearms Act with the goal of reducing paperwork and legal hurdles for firearms owners in BC.

ARTICLE 11 – Natural Resources

- 11.01 In recognition of the government’s responsibility to facilitate proper stewardship of both renewable resources (forestry, fisheries, wildlife, etc.) and non-renewable resources, the Conservative Party of BC supports the actions listed below.

General Principles

- 11.02 Acknowledge the prosperity of many BC communities and the provincial economy is dependent upon the responsible utilization of our abundant natural resources.
- 11.03 Balance responsible environmental and taxation policies to encourage those activities best able to thrive and prosper in the diverse regions of our province.

Renewable Resources – Forestry

- 11.04 **Save the Mills:** Since the softwood lumber dispute began, the US has collected a staggering \$9 billion in duties from Canadian producers, much of it from British Columbia. These funds are being held in deposit while the dispute continues. These duties, coupled with disastrous NDP forestry policies has left BC’s forestry industry struggling to survive, with communities and workers across the province bearing the brunt of this economic strain.

- (a) A Conservative government in BC will not stand by as forestry jobs are jeopardized. Conservatives will push the federal government to provide loans against the \$9 billion in duties held by the US to keep our forestry industry, mills, and jobs alive and ensure that BC’s forestry workers have the resources they need to weather this dispute.

- 11.05 The Conservative Party of BC is committed to:

- (a) Increasing Certainty for BC’s Forest Sector: The Conservative Party of BC will: Define the land area that will be prioritized for the harvest of primary forest products and also define the land area that will be prioritized for meeting biodiversity goals, where sourcing forest products will be of secondary value.
 - (b) Modernizing Stumpage: Replace stumpage with a value-added end product tax.

- (c) Implement a “One Project, One Permit” process.
- (d) Undertake a core review of all factors contributing to BC’s uncompetitive cost structure.
- (e) Support utilization of wood fibre for power generation and other secondary products.
- (f) Valuing all Fibre: Change the annual allowable cut from a sawlog AAC to a fibre AAC.
- (g) Support workers and contractors through these difficult times and help to bridge people through the changes so they can continue to build a future in the forest sector.
- (h) As the forest sector revives, invest in workforce training for the forest sector, so British Columbians can access the expanded opportunities that will be created.

Landscape Management

11.06 The Conservative Party of BC will:

- (a) Re-introduce the option of using controlled burns for prevention and containment.
- (b) Maximize the use of wetter species within ecosystems historically dominated by wildfires - helping to keep wildfires on the ground and allow for more opportunities to stop wildfires from spreading.
- (c) Implement more selective logging, fuel load management, and species mix in interface areas. The objective is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires in areas adjacent to communities.
- (d) Focus harvesting on areas damaged by wildfires or forest health issues. By responding quickly, we can better-utilize the damaged fibre while doing the necessary work of rehabilitation and accelerated reforestation.
- (e) To create healthier habitats, stop all aerial spraying of glyphosate.

Wildfire Management

11.07 The Conservative Party of BC will:

- (a) Undertake a complete review of how wildfires are managed in BC.
- (b) Work with contractors and the private sector to empower them to be able to act quickly in response to emerging wildfire issues.
- (c) Provide local people and communities with training and equipment.
- (d) Ensure local volunteers and contractors are be able to call-in to support their efforts.
- (e) Work with universities to support the research and implementation of new technologies and methods for firefighting.
- (f) Encourage forestry practices that reduce wildfire risk and ensure that the BC Wildfire Service has sufficient resources to protect communities and natural resources from wildfire dangers.
- (g) Maintain and protect the integrity and productivity of the Crown forest land base to generate wealth through forest products including wood for industrial uses, wildlife, water, fisheries range and recreation.
- (h) Invest in forest research and restore established forest management procedures including prompt reforestation, tree quality improvement via breeding programs and silviculture practices.
- (i) Encourage further value-added uses of British Columbia’s forest resources through product research, innovation and development.

Renewable Resources – Fisheries

11.08 The commercial and sports fisheries are a crucial component of the British Columbian economy and the government must be an advocate for BC Fisheries.

11.09 The regulation of the fish farming industry is a federal responsibility, but the provincial government should take every means necessary to ensure that the federal government fulfills its mandate in this area, and must be

conducted in a manner compatible with preservation of wild fisheries stocks.

- 11.10 Because of the value to British Columbians that the sports fishery brings through both resident and tourist activities, the government must closely monitor our lakes and rivers to ensure that our aquatic resources are enhanced and preserved for future generations.
- 11.11 To achieve this end, the government must promote cooperation between our universities, scientific communities, the public and all other stakeholders engaged in fisheries harvesting, production and research to achieve an environmentally responsible balance of this valuable resource.

Renewable Resources – Wildlife

11.12 Our Conservative principles for wildlife management are:

- (a) Public Access: British Columbians deserve guaranteed access to public lands and wild areas, including hunting and fishing rights. It's part of who we are.
- (b) Transparency and Inclusivity: We will ensure Indigenous peoples and stakeholders — hunters, fishers, recreationists, and conservationists — are not just “at the table,” but actively shaping BC's wildlife management practices.
- (c) Science-Based Decisions: The future of BC's wildlife is too important for ideological meddling. To make sure wildlife ecosystems remain healthy and sustainable, policy decisions will always put science first.

11.13 The Conservative Party of BC will:

- (a) Recognize hunters and fishers as key partners in conservation efforts.
- (b) Dedicate revenue from tags and fees associated with hunting to go to a 3rd party entity dedicated to wildlife management and enhancement.
- (c) Protect BC's biodiversity by clearly designating the areas of our forests that will be prioritized for ecology and biodiversity, forever.
- (d) Strengthen programs that engage hunters in wildlife data collection, such as population counts and habitat health monitoring.
- (e) Increase funding for conservation officers, expanding their ability to combat poaching and protect wildlife.
- (f) Conservatives will introduce made-in-BC Species at Risk legislation so wildlife protections are shaped by BC-based experts - not Ottawa - and are reflective of our unique ecosystems.
- (g) Recognize the importance of hunters, trappers and fishermen for B.C.'s conservation, economy and tourism and will undertake to protect hunters, trappers and fishermen's rights to ensure that, in co-operation with the BC Forest Service, there is open access through a variety of methods for hunting, fishing and trapping on all provincial Crown lands.
- (h) Recognize the important health values derived from participating in hunting and fishing activities and will explore ways to increase such participation, especially by seniors and youth, including simplification of Regulations.
- (i) Encourage an increase of habitat improvement projects aimed at increasing wildlife population levels in relation to habitat carrying capacity.

Renewable Resources – Hydroelectric Energy

11.14 BC needs a common sense approach to power production centered around affordability, reliability, and independence. To achieve this, the Conservative Party of BC will:

- (a) Reverse the NDP's radical plans to ban natural gas heating and non-electric vehicles.
- (b) Accelerate BC Hydro's 10-year transmission and distribution capital plan to keep pace with population growth and proactive maintenance needs.
- (c) Support BC Hydro's drought resilience efforts, which include capital projects and improved forecasting and monitoring technology.

- (d) Get the most out of our hydroelectric dams by supporting BC Hydro in capital upgrades that add capacity and extend lifespans.
- (e) Consider all power sources that could keep BC's energy mix independent, low cost, and green.
- (f) Work with First Nations as partners in BC's energy future.

Non-Renewable Resources – Oil and Gas

- 11.15 The Oil and Gas industries are important to BC's economy, and these sectors should be developed for the benefit of all British Columbians through a fair, stable and predictable royalty regime.
- 11.16 Support the construction or upgrading of pipelines or other movement corridors to primarily facilitate domestic use for natural gas and secondarily the export of oil and natural gas through BC ports.

Mining

The Conservative Party of BC will:

- 11.17 Ensure an internationally competitive fiscal regime that attracts and retains investment.
- 11.18 Enact One Project, One Permit: Lack of coordination within the bureaucracy will no longer be an excuse to delay getting critical projects to approval.
- 11.19 Identify redundant regulations: We will conduct a full review of mining regulations – including the NDP's changes to the Mining Act - with the aim of removing unnecessary or duplicative requirements that do not meaningfully contribute to safety or environmental protection.
- 11.20 Review tax competitiveness: To attract and retain investment, we will ensure a fair and competitive tax structure so BC remains a strong investment destination.
- 11.21 Encourage exploration: Mining begins with exploration, which itself supports thousands of professional jobs We will reverse the NDP's unprecedented March 2024 cabinet orders which make exploration effectively impossible in certain areas of BC.
- 11.22 Champion value-added activities: Our resources have the potential to add even more value for British Columbians through refining and processing facilities – we will champion every realistic opportunity to expand BC's capacity at the secondary stage of the supply chain.
- 11.23 Establish BC as a global hub for critical minerals: We commit to “getting to yes” in as timely a manner as possible – working with, not against, project proponents to satisfy all environmental and safety requirements.
- 11.24 Invest in rural BC's infrastructure: Instead of NDP neglect, we will identify gaps in rural BC's public infrastructure and make targeted investments that unlock opportunity.
- 11.25 Strengthen Indigenous partnerships: We will work closely with Indigenous communities to build strong, mutually beneficial partnerships. As Minister of Reconciliation, John Rustad signed more deals with First Nations than any other Minister in BC history, and knows what it takes to build trust.
- 11.26 Clear and transparent consultation: Ambiguous expectations around consultation requirements can create an atmosphere of mistrust and frustration. Clarity and transparency will help all parties move forward together.
- 11.27 Make sure that if you build it, you clean it: We will design tougher and smarter protections to ensure that those who build mines are truly responsible for all remediation costs at closure – not taxpayers.
- 11.28 Maintain BC's high environmental and safety standards: No compromises, no shortcuts, no excuses.
- 11.29 Streamline the regulatory application and approval processes to expedite investment without excessive expense or delay while still protecting the public and the environment.

Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources – Alternative Energy

- 11.30 Amend the Clean Energy Act to allow for nuclear power in the province's energy mix.
- 11.31 Put safety first by conducting a comprehensive review of small modular reactor (SMR) seismic hazard resilience.
- 11.32 Expand the British Columbia Energy Regulator's mandate to include nuclear power.
- 11.33 Become a partner in Canada's Small Modular Reactor Action Plan alongside Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon,

Ontario, New Brunswick and PEI.

- 11.34 Objectively determine the viability of alternative energy generating systems (wind, solar, geothermal, tidal, run of the river) for the provision of electrical power to British Columbians at a reasonable cost.
- 11.35 Encourage research and development of alternative energy methods by BC scientists and companies.
- 11.36 Conduct a thorough review of options for alternate fuel sources for road and rail transportation to include hydrogen, ethanol, natural gas and electricity with the goal of determining the end cost of such options.

ARTICLE 12 – Agriculture

- 12.01 A competitive and sustainable agricultural sector is integral to the future of our province. Not only does agriculture and agri-business provide our families and communities with food and other farm products from local farms and ranches, but it is also a major employer and economic generator across the province. The Conservative Party of BC will focus on specific initiatives that will make a real difference for this and future generations of farmers. Agriculture must be viewed as a foundational component of the BC economy, with needs varying from sector to sector and region to region.
- 12.02 The Conservative Party of BC will Support BC Farmers by:
 - (a) Investing in agricultural research and development to support innovative, climate-resilient farming practices, and disease-resistant crops.
 - (b) Provide financial support for yield-increasing measures including both conventional and alternative practices such as crop rotation, organic farming, and regenerative agriculture.
 - (c) Increasing access to advanced agricultural technologies by streamlining grant programs for small and medium-sized farmers, ensuring they can adopt cutting-edge tools and practices.
 - (d) Helping farmers recover from extreme weather events like floods and heatwaves by increasing replanting support and disaster recovery funds.
 - (e) Enhancing pollinator populations through improved stewardship of crown land and supporting farmers' use of pollinator-friendly practices.

Reducing the Costs of Growing Food

- 12.03 The Grown in BC Plan will:
 - (a) Scrap the carbon tax, which has increased operational costs across the entire agricultural supply chain, making local food more expensive
 - (b) Launch land access incentives, providing tax relief for small farmers renting land and making it easier for new entrants to start farming
 - (c) Establish a microloan program offering low-interest loans to help small farmers purchase equipment, seeds, and livestock, overcoming financial barriers to growth.
 - (d) Cut red tape on farm housing for agricultural workers and support increased access to temporary labour.

Expanding Infrastructure and Market Access

- 12.04 Expanding the Buy BC program to prioritize locally-produced food and beverages in stores, giving British Columbians better access to home-grown products.
- 12.05 Increasing local food processing capacity by creating tax incentives for food manufacturing, reducing reliance on imports, and creating local markets for BC farmers.
- 12.06 Improving rural transportation infrastructure to ensure farmers can get their goods to market safely and efficiently.
- 12.07 Opening new international markets for BC agrifood products where opportunities exist to help farmers get ahead.

Restoring Accountability and Cutting Red Tape

- 12.08 Slash red tape and unnecessary regulations, allowing farmers to focus on growing food rather than navigating government hurdles.

Agricultural Land Reserve

- 12.09 Review the Agricultural Land Commission to ensure that farmers have cost-effective access to the processing and distribution supply chain.
- 12.10 High farmland prices due to speculation for alternative uses are detrimental to agriculture. Agriculture needs a stable land base for long term viability. A BC Conservative government will review the Agricultural Land Commission and ensure that it is free from improper political interference and inappropriate influence. It is essential that the ALC is independently and freely able to work with local governments and other agencies in a manner that fully respects the mandate and intent of the Agricultural Land Reserve legislation.
- 12.11 The Conservative Party of BC will protect Heppell's Potatoes for the long term by adding the farm to the Agricultural Land Reserve.

Securing BC's Water Supply for Agriculture

- 12.12 A Conservative Party of BC government will address agricultural land and water use issues by:
- (a) Investing in flood mitigation infrastructure in high-risk agricultural areas like the Sumas Prairie to protect farms from future disasters.
 - (b) Expanding water storage capacity on farms through increased funding for on-farm reservoirs and irrigation systems, reducing dependence on fluctuating water sources.
 - (c) Protecting agricultural water rights in legislation to ensure farmers have protected and long-term access to water for irrigation and livestock.

ARTICLE 13 – Transportation

The Conservative Party of BC commits to the following actions:

- 13.01 Bridges, not bottlenecks. To make common sense upgrades to our infrastructure, the Conservative Party of BC will:
- (a) Commit to a new bridge across Okanagan Lake.
 - (b) Replace the aging Taylor Bridge across the Peace River.
 - (c) Rebuild the Red Bridge in Kamloops.
 - (d) Upgrade Highway 19 in Nanaimo with grade separation at the most dangerous and congested intersections.
 - (e) Upgrade Highway 97.
 - (f) Expand Highway 1 to six lanes to Chilliwack.
 - (g) Identify and rebuild outdated Hwy 1 exits and interchanges that are past their useful life, are unsafe, and responsible for bottlenecks, such as Brunette Ave. in Coquitlam.
 - (h) Expand the new Patullo Bridge to six lanes as soon as possible.
 - (i) Build a new Ironworkers Memorial Bridge with expanded capacity for both cars and public transit services. Additionally, we will immediately reverse plans to remove the Main St. eastbound dedicated to local traffic.
 - (j) Replace the George Massey Tunnel as soon as possible. We will commit to the course of action that results in a new high-capacity opening at the earliest possible date.
 - (k) Invest in additional and local infrastructure upgrades throughout BC.
- 13.02 The Conservative Party of BC believes that the development and maintenance of British Columbia's transportation systems must be affordable, while keeping pace with the province's expanding connectivity

requirements.

- 13.03 The party is committed to providing safe, reliable transportation corridors throughout the province for the economic benefit of the people of British Columbia and the rest of Canada.
- 13.04 The Conservative Party of BC recognizes that the BC Ferry Services is an integral link in the province's transportation system and must be affordable, reliable, safe and efficient.

Public Transit and Passenger Rail

- 13.05 To build the public transit BC needs, the Conservative Party of BC will:
- (a) Extend SkyTrain to Newton in Surrey. (North-south SkyTrain along the King George corridor).
 - (b) Fund key projects in the Transport 2050 plan, working with municipal leaders and TransLink to identify the highest-priority projects which may include expansions of SkyTrain, Bus Rapid Transit, Rapid Bus, and express and local bus services.
 - (c) Develop a business case to analyze Fraser Valley regional rail between Chilliwack, Abbotsford, the Langley SkyTrain, and Surrey.
 - (d) Expand regional transit service in the Sea-to-Sky corridor and consider extending TransLink services to Squamish.
 - (e) Work with TransLink and the City of Surrey to address the longstanding issues and service deficits being ignored by the NDP.
 - (f) Implement a zero-tolerance policy for drug use, threats, and violence on public transit. Offences against both riders and operators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, and we will work with TransLink and the Transit Police to make sure they have all tools needed to keep the system safe.
 - (g) Invest in BC Transit services across the province, focusing on high-growth areas where services just haven't kept up.
 - (h) Expand HandyDART services to areas of greatest need, and strictly enforce quality standards for contractors providing the service.

Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC)

- 13.06 The Conservative Party of BC will:
- (a) Ensure rate fairness for younger and older drivers, who are sometimes priced-out of the market on the basis of age. We will make sure rates are fair for everyone.
 - (b) End the ICBC monopoly on basic auto insurance. Drivers should be able to choose the insurance plan that works best for them, and the sector desperately needs competition to lower prices and improve service.
 - (c) Restore Rights for Accident Victims (No-Fault): Make sure individuals with life-altering injuries receive proper representation to fight for what they need to get their lives back on track.

Reliable funding for reliable transit

- 13.07 The Conservative Party of BC will:
- (a) Fully fund TransLink for two years to maintain uninterrupted, reliable service.
 - (b) Audit and reform TransLink's financial model to ensure the long-term availability of funding that not just maintains service, but fuels expansion for the future.

ARTICLE 14 – Defending Religious Freedom & Combatting Antisemitism

- 14.01 A Conservative Government of British Columbia will ensure that British Columbia remains a place where everyone, regardless of faith or background, can live free from fear and discrimination.

Defending Religious Freedom

- 14.02 The Conservative Party of British Columbia commits to the following actions to defend religious freedom:
- (a) The Conservative Party of British Columbia will defend the right of individuals and communities to freely practice their faith without government interference, ensuring policies that uphold the fundamental freedoms of all religious groups.
 - (b) The Conservative Party of British Columbia will end discrimination against faith-based organizations in funding and public policy, ensuring that religious charities, places of worship, and cultural centers have equal access to government programs, grants, and community spaces without ideological bias.

Combatting Antisemitism

The Conservative Party of British Columbia commits to the following actions to combat antisemitism:

- 14.03 Day One Vote on Legislation to Adopt the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism: A Conservative Government in British Columbia will immediately bring the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism to the floor of the Provincial Legislature for a vote.
- 14.04 Link Funding for BC Universities to Upholding Student Safety: Universities must be held accountable for the safety of all their students, including Jewish students. Provincial funding will be tied directly to ensuring universities protect their students from antisemitic harassment, intimidation and violence on campus.
- 14.05 Investigate Extremist Antisemitic and Terror-Affiliated Groups: Launch a comprehensive investigation into the activities of Samidoun and other organizations with ties to extremism and violent antisemitism, and take appropriate legal action to ensure public safety.
- 14.06 Support the JWest Project: Increase provincial funding for the JWest Project to create a thriving cultural and community hub for British Columbia's Jewish population.
- 14.07 Creation of a Special Advisor on Antisemitism and Jewish Community Affairs: A dedicated Special Advisor will be appointed to monitor and combat antisemitism. This Special Advisor will liaise with law enforcement, educational institutions, and communities to implement strategies to fight antisemitism at every level and will work with the Premier in the Premier's Office.
- 14.08 Long-Term Financial Commitment to Increased Security for the Jewish Community: Implement a long-term funding plan for increased security for the Jewish community in BC, ensuring Jewish institutions, synagogues, schools, and cultural centers have the resources to keep their members safe. No Jewish person in BC should have to fear for their safety or the safety of their loved ones while going to pray, learn, or gather in community.
- 14.09 Mandatory Antisemitism Training: Partner with the Simon Wiesenthal Center and organizations in the Jewish community to implement mandatory antisemitism training programs for all law enforcement personnel and elected officials.
- 14.10 Address Bias in Education via an Inquiry into the Conduct of the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and Directive on Israel-Palestine Guide: On the first day of a Conservative Provincial Government in BC, launch a public inquiry into the BC Teachers' Federation's role in pushing biased materials that promote a one-sided views on the Israel-Palestine conflict. A directive will be issued from the Ministry of Education to cease the use of the current Israel-Palestine teachers' guide.
- 14.11 Strengthen Prosecution Powers: Enhance the authority of the BC Prosecution Service and the Attorney General's office to pursue cases involving terror-affiliated and extremist antisemitic organizations and their members.
- 14.12 Prevent Pro-Terror Protests: Develop clear policies to address public demonstrations that promote or glorify violent acts of terrorism or engage in and/or encourage criminal harassment of Jewish British Columbians. The policies will focus on ensuring that public demonstrations comply with public safety standards and hate speech laws.

ARTICLE 15 – Standing Up for BC Seniors

- 15.01 The Conservative Party of BC will implement 'Standing Up for Seniors' policies:

Enhancing Home Care Services and Support

- 15.02 Boost tax credits for family caregivers, alongside expanding respite care options and caregiver training programs to reduce burnout and stress.
- 15.03 Increase funding for home support services, eliminate daily user fees, and address the Better at Home program's extensive waitlists.
- 15.04 Expand access to home care as the preferred alternative to long-term care, improving seniors' quality of life.
- 15.05 Seniors should have access to in-home care if they choose to remain at home.

The Conservative Party of BC will:

Improving Long-Term Care Facilities

- 15.06 Deliver 5,000 long-term care beds province-wide by 2030.
- 15.07 Commission an expert review on improving long-term care practices and infrastructure.

Healthcare Access and Support

- 15.08 Provide financial assistance for crucial devices such as eyeglasses, mobility aids, and hearing aids to promote senior independence.
- 15.09 Double the number Seniors' Community Parks so our elders can stay in shape with age-appropriate outdoor exercise equipment.
- 15.10 Cover the cost of essential vaccines including shingles and high-dose flu shots – financial circumstances shouldn't be a barrier to the basics of good health.
- 15.11 Increase support and streamline care for seniors with dementia through a comprehensive, person-centered care pathway from early diagnosis to advanced stages.
- 15.12 Eliminate daily hospice care charges to alleviate financial pressure during end-of-life care.

Affordable Housing and Home Adaptations

- 15.13 Strengthen financial support for seniors who are in need by modernizing the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program. Rent and income thresholds will be updated annually to reflect current market conditions and inflation.
- 15.14 Double the Home Renovation Tax Credit for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities to \$2,000, to help our elders stay in the home they love.

Transportation for Seniors

- 15.15 Expand HandyDART services to areas of greatest need, ensuring seniors have access to affordable, reliable transportation.
- 15.16 Strictly enforce service quality standards for HandyDART contractors to improve transportation reliability for seniors.

Safety and Protection of Seniors

- 15.17 Update prosecution guidelines to ensure maximum penalties are sought for violent crime and against children and seniors.
- 15.18 Increase resources for senior protection initiatives and law enforcement to address the rise in violence

against seniors.

- 15.19 Protect seniors from digital fraud and scams through targeted awareness and education campaigns.
- 15.20 We will prioritize the wellbeing of seniors through improved healthcare, housing, and safety measures. Seniors deserve to live with dignity, and the Conservative Party of BC will make sure they are cared for, respected, and valued.

ARTICLE 16 – Economic Reconciliation

- 16.01 The Conservative Party of British Columbia believes that economic reconciliation is a cornerstone of any lasting solution to challenges faced by Indigenous communities.
- 16.02 A Conservative Government of British Columbia will repeal the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA), which mandates alignment with the United Nations' UNDRIP.

ARTICLE 17 – Equalization Payments

- 17.01 The present structure of the Federal Equalization Program, which sees money transferred from British Columbia to other provinces to fund social programs which are not available or left underfunded in British Columbia, is unfair.
- 17.02 The Conservative Party of BC will advocate for a comprehensive review of the equalization formula to ensure that fairness is restored.

ARTICLE 18 – Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens

Members of the Conservative Party of BC:

- 18.01 Recognize that all British Columbians have equal rights, responsibilities and privileges under the law.
- 18.02 Believe that no organization or business should be asked to require vaccination status of an individual as a condition of employment.
- 18.03 Recognize that families are the most important building blocks of our communities and our society and must be supported.
- 18.04 Support a strong social safety net which protects those who truly need support, while encouraging individuals to be self-sufficient.
- 18.05 Believe Government should refrain from fostering dependence on government services by its citizenry.
- 18.06 Commit to encourage and implement, wherever feasible, the delivery of social services by community-based organizations rather than directly by government.
- 18.07 Recognize British Columbians are stronger when we care one for another: A Conservative Party of BC government will support and in all ways assist and cooperate with initiatives which will facilitate this approach.
- 18.08 Support social responsibility within the framework of a free enterprise economic system and promote compassionate service, volunteerism, individual responsibility and care for those unable to care for themselves.

ARTICLE 19 – Housing: Get BC Building

- 19.01 The Conservative Party of BC will get BC building again, restore affordability, and make sure that all British Columbians have the chance to own a home and thrive.

The Conservative Party of BC commits to *Speed Up Housing Approvals* through the

following actions:

- 19.02 Approve homes in months, not years: Rezoning and development permits will be approved within 6 months, and building permits within 3 months. If cities fail to issue permits within these timelines, a Conservative provincial government will step in and issue them.
- 19.03 Proactive planning: work with cities to “pre-zone” areas in advance, eliminating delays caused by rezoning for each individual project.
- 19.04 Trust BC professionals: Implement a Presumption of Compliance policy, requiring cities to trust certified and regulated professionals like engineers and architects to do their jobs without unnecessary bureaucratic interference, speeding up housing approvals.
- 19.05 Repeal Hidden Taxes on Housing: Immediately repeal the radical Step Code policy and Net-Zero mandate, which Conservatives recognize as hidden taxes that have driven housing costs up 30% - 40%.
- 19.06 Conduct a forensic audit of BC Housing to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent on genuinely low-income housing, not wasted on politically connected non-profits.
- 19.07 Build complete communities near transit, not just high-density dormitories. The party will amend Bill 47 (Transit Oriented Areas) to ensure new communities have space for grocery stores, small businesses, and services within walking distance of homes.
- 19.08 Amend the Local Government Act to stop unnecessary red tape that kills housing projects.
- 19.09 Establish the BC Development Tribunal to hold regulators and politicians accountable to fair processes and the rule of law.
- 19.10 The Conservative Party will work with BC Assessment to prevent current homeowners from being hit with higher tax bills due to future potential zoning changes.
- 19.11 Identify land outside the Agricultural Land Reserve with potential to support new communities.
- 19.12 Introduce real tax incentives for purpose-built rental housing, bringing back a modern version of the successful Multi-Unit Residential Building (MURB) program to encourage long-term rental development.
- 19.13 Support policies that reduce barriers to home ownership such as reducing red tape for home construction, lowering the price of building materials, and increasing the inventory of housing.