

Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola

Early Learning & Child Care

As the lived experiences of parents highlight a major issue on the national policy radar, a majority of Canadians overall (70%) say this country should invest more in affordable options for child care.

- What specifically will you and your party do to make child care affordable, accessible and inclusive of all children?
- What would you like to see happen locally to improve the situation of affordable, accessible and inclusive child care?

Sarah Eves – Liberal Party

As the lived experiences of parents highlight a major issue on the national policy radar, a majority of Canadians overall (70%) say this country should invest more in affordable options for child care.

The Liberal government has already reached agreements with 7 provinces and 1 territory to create an Early Learning and Child Care system which covers almost half the children in Canada. This includes BC. Our program will create 250,000 more daycare spaces. Creating the spaces is crucial, because it affects access to care. If the cost is reasonable but there are no spaces, then it doesn't help working families. We will hire 40,000 new early childhood educators to make sure our children have high quality enriching care. The Liberal plan will cut the cost of daycare by 50% next year and will achieve \$10 a day child care within 5 years. This results in very significant savings for families.

I will work tirelessly to make sure that child care spaces are available in our riding, not just in the cities but in the small rural towns, so all women who want to work, have the opportunity to work.

The Conservatives have said they will cancel these agreements, while the Liberals will continue to reach out to the remaining provinces and territories to make sure all families can find quality child care for their children.

I know from personal experience that not having access to or the ability to afford child care means many cannot begin their career when they want. For myself, even finishing my BA while pregnant with my first child meant my fourth year took two years because I could not afford to continue school full time due to child care costs. This resulted in me putting my return to university to get my teaching degree on hold until my youngest of three was old enough for school. This then delayed me beginning my teaching career until eight years after finishing my BA, which also took longer due to child care costs. If a \$10 a day child care plan had been in place while I was at SFU, I would have been able to start my career almost 10 years earlier.

Climate Emergency

Forest fires, soaring temperatures, salmon dying in our waters are just a few examples of what the constituents in your ridings have experienced this summer.

- How will your party tackle the climate emergency and meet the needs of those communities expected to be most impacted by climate change?
- Will you and your party divest Canada from industries that are harming the environment and invest in sustainable options?

Sarah Eves – Liberal Party

Forest fires, soaring temperatures, salmon dying in our waters are just a few examples of what the constituents in your ridings have experienced this summer.

The Liberal Party of Canada is committed to tackling climate change, quickly and responsibly. Liberals will reduce emissions by 40 to 45% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels and will reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In June 2021, we passed the Canadian Net Zero Emissions Accountability Act. This Act will set legally binding 5 year milestones to reach net zero and provide for review on the implementation of carbon reducing measures. This means it is not just promises but will be an expert- led, realistic path to achieving net zero emissions.

Liberals will invest a further \$5 billion over 7 years to the Net Zero Accelerator fund, which with earlier initiatives will provide up to \$8 billion in support for projects that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We will reduce by 50% corporate and small business income taxes for businesses that manufacture zero emission technologies. This reduction will provide immediate strong motivation to businesses to manufacture zero emission technology. I believe in

the innovation and technological strength of Canadians. Our businesses will come up with great ideas for zero emission technologies.

For the everyday citizen and to help us locally, we will provide \$5,000 toward the purchase of 500,000 zero-emission vehicles. But zero-emission cars are no good, unless they will allow us to travel where we want to go. So we will build 50,000 more zero-emission vehicle chargers.

To meet the needs of our communities affected by climate change we will provide \$500 million to train 1000 more firefighters and invest in equipment like water bombing planes. We will incorporate Indigenous knowledge into fire management and support Indigenous firefighters so they can protect their communities.

Yes, we will divest from businesses that harm the environment. In 2018, a Liberal government pledged to cut all inefficient oil subsidies by 2025. Those include subsidies which encourage oil and gas exploration and production. But we will do better and eliminate these subsidies by 2023. We will also develop a plan to phase out all public financing necessary to meet our commitment to net zero by 2050.

Given what has happened in BC this summer, we have no choice but to make bold and thoughtful policies to fight climate change.

I think it is important to note that Dan Albas and all of the Conservative party voted against Bill C-12, the Accountability Act on June 22, 2021. As well, at the Conservative policy convention the party voted against including a line that would have stated the party believes "climate change is real" and is "willing to act."

Lastly, Andrew Weaver, Former BC Green Party Leader, has endorsed our plan as "bold and thoughtful. It is the only credible plan put forward by any party at the federal level." As well, Mark Jaccard, climate expert, from SFU assessed all the federal parties' climate plans and gave the Liberal plan a high rating "based on GHG targets, policies and costs of promises. Other parties scored much lower." Jaccard gave the Liberal Party 8/10; Conservatives 5/10; Green Party 4/10 and the NDP 2/10.

Brennan Wauters- Green Party

Hi Charlene, you are asking a number of questions and it is clear I support what you are suggesting. However, for the sake of time permitting and expedience I want to answer only this question:

- Will you and your party divest Canada from industries that are harming the environment and invest in sustainable options?

The riding has gone Conservative for too long. I don't admire career politicians even though Elizabeth May, whom I do admire, is a career politician. I'm I am elected I will only serve two terms and that is it. Younger more energetic folks with new and inspiring ideas should be taking over where any elected official leaves off.

That being said, and the riding overwhelmingly Conservatives as per past elections, I am offering to the fiscally conservative voter a promise. If I am voted as your MP I will only accept the wage of a mid ranking Canadian soldier and use the remainder of my personal wage as an MP to install solar panels on public or better suited buildings in the riding that are matched by donations from organizations in the riding. So I appeal to those who distrust politicians and to those who feel that our political landscape is too expensive for what they receive.

My daily job is to reduce energy consumption for clients and customers and I know I can apply that by example for voters in the riding.

Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence

was making front page news in Kelowna and throughout BC, long before the pandemic. The Social isolation brought on by the pandemic has put more women in danger.

- How will your party support the development and implementation of a National Action Plan on Violence against Women & Gender-Based Violence that is comprehensive, intersectional, and well-funded?

Sarah Eves – Liberal Party

- It is shocking but true: every 2.5 days a woman or girl is killed in Canada. In the last year alone, there were over 160 women violently killed. This is a deadly and deeply rooted human rights violation. It cannot continue. We have to do more.
- In 2021 we committed \$601.3 million towards a National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. Our Action plan has three pillars. First – prevention. Second- support for survivors and families, and Third - legal and justice system responses.
- The pandemic provided many challenges to keeping women and girls safe. The Liberal government stepped up with a \$100 million emergency funding to women's shelters, sexual assault centres and other organizations. More importantly, we have made a commitment to move forward with the Action Plan quickly to make permanent changes to women's lives. We will start negotiations with the provinces within 1 year to develop a 10-year Plan.
- We know violence against Indigenous women is 61% more prevalent. Working with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, we will provide \$2.2 billion over 5 years, starting immediately to address violence against them and LGBTQ2S+ people.
- Rural women facing violence have more difficulty accessing the services they need. This affects many women across our riding. Part of our Action Plan is to put in a framework to ensure everyone has access to services. We will track our progress by working with community based anti-violence experts - the people who know and have their fingers on the pulse of our communities.
- We will also work with the provinces to create specialized sexual violence courts.
- This important work must be done with diligence and determination, and done quickly, so no other woman or girl has to fear violence.

Long Term Care

It is estimated that 1 in 4 Canadians will be a senior by 2030.

- What actions will you take to ensure that Canada's growing number of elders may live in safety, respect, and dignity?

Dan Albas – Conservative

Priority One

In my view one of the worst mistakes made in B.C. was allowing several seniors care homes to be sold to what became the Chinese communist state government. Many of these homes, including the one located in Summerland, had to be run by local Health Authorities as the operators of these home were not meeting their obligations. It was Justin Trudeau who signed off on this sale and I have raised questions about this in Ottawa with no meaningful reply. A Conservative Government recognizes that seniors want to be in their own homes as long as possible. That is why we will amend the Home Accessibility Tax Credit by increasing the limit from \$10,000 per dwelling to \$10,000 per person. We will also seniors or their caregivers, including their children, to claim the Medical Expense Tax Credit for home care. As for long term care we would work with the Provinces and also provide \$3 billion in federal funds to improve seniors care to long term care homes.

Sarah Eves – Liberal Party

- We all know that the pandemic has shown us some terrible, heart wrenching failures in our Long Term Care facilities and the care of our seniors.
- First, we will help seniors stay where they want to longer - in their own homes - by doubling the Home Accessibility Tax Credit to provide up to an additional \$1,500.
- But when seniors need to go to LTC, they will do so, knowing that they are going to receive dignified and respectful care. We will do this by investing \$9 billion over 5 years to address the shortfalls in our LTC system.
- We will work with the provinces to make sure that LTC homes are healthier, safer and more accessible. We will create a new Safe Long-Term Care Act, which would set national standards of care. People need to know that their loved ones are cared for properly, no matter what part of the country they live in.

- To care for our seniors, we will train up to 50,000 new personal support workers and increase their wages. We will hire 7,500 family doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners over four years, which will help all Canadians, seniors included.

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

This past year has once again demonstrated to the rest of Canada the plight of our Indigenous citizens.

- **What specific actions will you take to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls?**

Sarah Eves – Liberal Party

Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is a paramount issue for Liberals and for the country. Liberals are committed to working with Indigenous peoples to build a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship. We have made good progress, but this work must continue. I believe that I can positively contribute to this work.

Liberals passed Bill C-15 which implements the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Chief Perry Bellegarde of the Assembly of First Nations says this marked an important day for First Nations, Indigenous Peoples and all Canadians on the path toward reconciliation.

80% of the recommendations of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action are either completed or well under way to being completed. Liberals are committed and I am personally committed to accelerating the Commission's Calls to Action. Liberals, who established the National Center for T & R, will help fund a permanent home for the important research, healing and teaching work done at the Center, and will provide sustained funding for it. I encourage you to go to the government website to see the detailed work being done to meet the TRC Calls to Action. Here is the link: <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1524494530110/1557511412801>

Liberals have released the 2021 Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ which is part of the larger National Action Plan. Fundamental to the plan is that it

recognizes that substantial, immediate, and transformational change is required. It is a plan to support systemic change across all government departments. We will create a Federal – Provincial Table on MMIWG and 2SLGBTQIA+ People to facilitate and coordinate the work.

Lastly, and for me personally and most importantly, we need to recognize the 1000s of unmarked graves being discovered across our country at residential schools. When Kamloops identified the 215 unmarked graves in my school district, I had difficult and heart breaking conversations with my students, family and friends. I have spoken with people who attended that school about the real trauma they still feel today. For them the discovery is a confirmation of what they always knew but could never prove. I believe the path forward is to work Nation to Nation together on a healing journey that will fit the needs of the communities and the people they support.

Poverty Reduction & Homelessness

Every town and city in this country has people living in poverty and experiencing homelessness. People of all genders and ages are impacted.

- **How would you address the current level of homelessness in your riding?**
- **How will your party shift the focus from emergency services to preventative strategies to eradicate homelessness?**

Dan Albas- Conservative

Priority Two:

MAKE RETIREMENT INCOME MORE SECURE

- Canadians are increasingly relying on the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security to support their retirement.
- For those seniors who enjoy continuing to work we will double the Canada Workers Benefit up to a maximum of \$2,800 for individuals or \$5,000 for families and pay it as a quarterly direct deposit rather than a tax refund at year-end.
- As many former employees of Sears Canada unfortunately discovered this is an important subject. A Conservative Government s will change legislation to ensure that pensioners have priority in bankruptcy or restructuring. We will also better protect pensions by preventing executives from paying themselves bonuses while managing a company going through restructuring if the pension plan is not fully funded. And as an

additional protection we would no longer force underfunded pension plans from being converted to annuities, something that currently locks in losses and results in workers getting less money.

Priority Four:

ENABLE BETTER WELL-BEING FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- The new Veterans Charter was adopted unanimously in the House of Commons, and received Royal Assent on May 13, 2005 when Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin was in power. Although well intended at the time it has since failed in many areas and has become heavily politicized as a result.
- A Conservative Government lead by Erin O'Toole would be the first veteran Prime Minister since Lester Pearson and would propose multiple initiatives to address some of these challenges that include ending the mess of the two benefit systems - Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) - that do not work together and replace them with one streamlined system of benefits from enlistment through service and retirement. We would also ensure that veterans and their families and direct their care and rehabilitation as well as to Streamline the benefit adjudication process and set performance targets to ensure that the benefits system is focused on helping veterans rather than being limited by bureaucracy.

Sarah Eves – Liberal Party

We all see the homeless on our streets, often suffering with substance use and mental health issues. It is a tragedy for them and for our communities. We need to help those who are currently homeless and prevent others from becoming homeless. We must tackle the underlying causes of homelessness: addiction, mental health, housing availability and affordability and poverty.

In 2017 we started our work to reduce chronic homelessness, and in 2020 developed the Reaching Home Strategy to reduce homelessness. This is a community-based, flexible program which requires clear outcomes. At that time we committed \$2.2 billion to tackle homelessness.

Now Liberals want to focus on the complete elimination of homelessness.

Within 100 days of taking office, we will appoint a Housing Advocate whose mandate includes ensuring the federal government works towards eliminating homelessness. We will continue the work under the Reaching Home Strategy.

We will make a new transfer to the provinces, The Canada Mental Health Transfer. This transfer will enable provinces to provide high quality and accessible free mental health services. Helping people reduce their mental health problems will help people break their cycle of homelessness.

To tackle substance use and the opioid crisis, we will provide \$500 million for evidence-based treatment. Without treatment, homeless persons suffering from substance use cannot improve their lives and reach a goal of having their own home.

We will support the construction of 20,000 new affordable units and revitalize 130,000 units. We will provide rent supplements to homeless veterans. No one who has served their country should be homeless.

The challenges facing homeless people and their communities are not easy to fix. But it is a challenge we must accept. Without it people never reach their potential and our communities will never be the vibrant inclusive places they need to be.

Pharmacare

Canada is the only country in the world with a universal healthcare system that does not also provide universal prescription drug coverage.

- **How will your party ensure that federal and provincial governments work together to effectively implement universal, public Pharmacare?**

Dan Albas - Conservative

Priority Three

Currently Pharmacare is a provincially provided program. Here in B.C. the "Fair Pharma Care Plan" ensures that seniors have access to eligible prescription drugs, dispensing fees and some medical supplies based on income. The

Conservative Party does not believe a one-size fits all Ottawa knows best approach will improve this. If anything, this would create further delays, add complexity and results in less choice of available drugs under such a plan especially as I am often told that former federal public servants or retired teachers have particular plans that they would like to keep.

Sarah Eves – Liberal Party

In June 2019, under a Liberal government, the Advisory Council on the Implementation of Universal Pharmacare released its final report. It recommended that we should have a universal single pay Pharmacare program. Liberals are working towards that goal.

In the 2021 Budget, we committed to work with provinces and other stakeholders to build on the elements that are already in progress, such as a national strategy on high cost drugs for rare diseases, toward the goal of a universal national program.

In keeping with that commitment the Liberal government directly engaged with PEI. In August 2021 we signed an Agreement with that province. It will receive \$35 million over four years to add new drugs to its list of covered drugs, and lower out of pocket costs for drugs covered under existing public plans for Island residents.

This pilot project accelerates our steps towards a universal pharmacare program. We will carefully monitor the success of the PEI program. The lessons we learn from the PEI program will help us develop a national universal pharmacare program and work with other provinces.