

## Kelowna- Lake Country Responses

### 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?**

### **Cade Desjarlais- NDP**

It's urgent to both protect existing child care spaces, and create more. We will take immediate action to save not-for-profit child care centers that are at risk of closure with relief fund to re-open spaces that were lost during COVID19. From there, we'll immediately work with the provinces to build a universal, \$10 a day childcare system that's there for all parents, no matter where you live. New Democrats will actually create enough spaces so families don't spend months on wait lists, and ensure that child care workers are paid a fair, living wage. Canadian families deserve no less.

Our direct investments into the community and into childcare will greatly benefit our local community. Liberals have been promising childcare for over 30 years. The children that needed those supports then now have kids of their own and still have yet to see concrete action. Advocating for local measures will be my priority and I will work in partnership with local child care providers to ensure all of our benefits reach those who need them the most.

### **Tracy Gray – Conservative**

Ensuring access to affordable childcare is important to allow women and those with children to participate in the workforce. Conservatives have pledged to create a refundable tax credit which would cover up to 75% of the cost of child care for lower income families. This tax credit will increase the support that lower income families receive by thousands of dollars per year and provide more assistance to almost all families.

The Conservative childcare plan was built to ensure that parents were in the driver's seat when it comes to making the best choice for their children and put forward a proven plan that addresses the childcare needs of all Canadian families. The goal of the plan is to provide direct benefits to parents so they can make the best choice for their own families.

### **Dr. Imre Szeman- Green Party**

In its 2021 platform, the Green Party (GPC) has made the following commitments to improving early learning and child care for Canadians. The GPC intends to:

1. Dedicate additional resources to making a universal, affordable, early learning and child-care (ELCC) system a reality.
  - Collaborate with provinces/territories, local communities, Indigenous communities and the child-care sector to ensure that a comprehensive short-, medium- and long-term policy road map – based on the principles of universality, affordability, quality, inclusivity, accessibility, and equity – finally becomes a reality.
  - These principles will ensure a right of access for all children regardless of their parents' work status or income levels, while at the same time allowing for regional and local adaptation.
2. Improve and strengthen parental leave.
  - Make parental leave more inclusive so it covers leave to care for elderly family members, leave following miscarriages and more, and more flexible and better paid.

3. Increase federal child care funding.
  - Immediately begin to ramp up federal child care funding to achieve the international benchmark of at least one per cent of GDP annually,
  - Long-term, stable, national funding must be made available and be sufficient to meet the standards of the guiding principles, and secure and predictable enough to permit the long-term planning and sustainability of the programs.
  - Ensure the training, recruitment and retention of well-paid and professional staff.
4. Eliminate GST on all construction costs related to child care spaces.
  - and
5. Ensure equitable access to high-quality, culturally appropriate ELCC programmes for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children.
  - Build on the Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care and the accompanying bilateral agreements that have been negotiated with every province and territory, as well as with the First Nation, Inuit and Métis Peoples to ensure solutions are meeting their needs.

### **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?**

### **Cade Desjarlais- NDP**

New Democrats will expand upon Canada's new net-zero law and set an ambitious target of reducing emissions by at least 50% from our 2005 levels by 2020. To achieve this, we will eliminate fossil fuel subsidies; put in place carbon budgets; continue carbon pricing; align federal corporations and the Bank of Canada to focus on climate priorities like meeting net-zero target; and implement a framework of corporate accountability. We will also establish independent federal oversight by creating a Climate Accountability Office as well as adopt a whole-of-government approach to the climate emergency. This summer has been a struggle for everyone. On top of dealing with the pandemic, we had to deal with the frightening impacts of wildfires. I knew several people evacuated from their homes and the events of Lytton BC reminded us of all that it could have just as easily been our own community. While the Liberals decided to play politics and call an election, disregarding the fact that many communities were evacuated and thus left British Columbians to face their consequences, the NDP strongly called on Mr. Trudeau for real action. We're committing to a \$3 billion dollar investment over four years to support municipalities in building climate resilient infrastructure and developing National Crisis Strategy when it comes to extreme weather events. Additionally, we will prioritize forest management and other preventative measures to avoid extensive wildfire damage as well as mobilize youth with the establishment of the Climate Civilian Corps. We cannot allow a party like Conservatives, whom continue to deny climate change is real like they did at their 2021 Convention, into office once again. While Tracy Gray and the Conservatives have repeatedly denied that human activity is the lead cause of climate and the Liberals continue their streak of inaction, the NDP will continue the fight against climate change for Canadians.

We have said for a long time that we are opposed to subsidies for fossil fuels companies, and that a better use of public funds would be to invest in renewable energy. That would be our approach. We think there are much better options out there than investing public money in than purchasing a bitumen pipeline.

### Tracy Gray – Conservative

Climate change is real, and that we need to take a comprehensive approach to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as well as keep our environment, including our land and water, clean and free of pollution. Conservatives have put forward a comprehensive climate change plan which has been independently analyzed to confirm that it would be able to meet our Paris climate targets without hurting jobs.

This plan includes more incentives for investment and production in green technology, increasing electric vehicle supply, and implementing a carbon border adjustment which would tax environmentally unfriendly products entering our borders from high polluters. You can read the full plan and our platform in entirety here: <https://www.conservative.ca/plan/>

In Ottawa, I was a participant in the all-Parliamentary Climate Change, alongside members across all parties. In Parliament, Conservatives have also brought forward important pieces of legislation regarding the environment, including legislation to prohibit the export of plastic waste to foreign countries for final disposal and a bill to ban the release of raw sewage into Canadian waters where there is marine habitats.

At the Standing Committee on International Trade, of which I was the Vice-Chair, Conservatives joined other MPs in unanimously supporting a study to look at ways Canada can export clean and green technologies, including our liquefied natural gas, nuclear, and other sectors, to other countries to help reduce greenhouse gases globally. Unfortunately, the committee was not able to produce a final report with recommendations due to this unnecessary election which was called by the Liberals.

### Dr. Imre Szeman- Green Party

From its origins, the Green Party has prioritized the need for Canadian governments at all levels to address the climate emergency. To date, Canada has done almost nothing to attend to climate change; the country ranks near the bottom of the list of the 2021 Climate Change Performance Index and the Conference Board of Canada's study of national climate policy and has consistently been identified as one of the highest per capita emitters. The climate policies of the Green Party are designed to rectify this. We plan to (among other policies):

1. Achieve net zero emissions as quickly as possible.
  - Ensure a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 60 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030, with clear enforceable targets and timelines starting in 2023
  - Achieve net zero emissions as quickly as possible, while aiming to be net negative in 2050.
2. End all extraction of fossil fuels. The only way to address our climate emergency is to put drastic limits on the supply of fossil fuels, and not only to limit demand. The International Energy Agency insists that any new extraction post 2023 will, on its own, make it impossible to keep global warming under +1.5C. Continuing along established pathways and normal routines just won't work. Governments need to make hard decisions if they are serious about addressing the climate emergency.
3. Provide A Just Transition for workers
  - Introduce a Just Transition Act before the end of 2021 that takes care of workers and communities during the transition.
  - Plan for a fair and carefully planned transition of workers towards a decarbonized economy, that protects communities from displacement, and in which affected people (workers in greenhouse gas-intensive industries, Indigenous Peoples, marginalized communities) are leading the preparation of their transition strategies.
  - Replace every high paying fossil fuel sector job with a high paying green sector job through wage insurance, retraining programs and early retirement plans.
4. Enact a detailed Carbon Budget, determining the cumulative amount of GHG that Canada can emit to do its part to keep warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and
5. Accelerate the increase in carbon taxes
  - Beginning in 2022 and up to 2030, increase carbon taxes by \$25 per tonne each year.

The Green Party has never invested in companies engaged in any form of resource extraction.

## **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?**

## **Cade Desjarlais- NDP**

Gender equity is a fundamental value for New Democrats, and we're committed to building a Canada where no one is left behind. Yet Canadian women make 32% less than men, and the gap is even wider for racialized women Indigenous women, immigrant women and women with a disability. A New Democrat government will prioritize pay equity to put an end to gender-based wage discrimination, requiring employers to be transparent about pay and implementing and enforcing tough and pro-active pay equity legislation and regulations right away. Our vision of Canada is one where women's organizations have stable core funding so that women can access the support and advocacy they need, when they need it. We will tackle femicide and we'll deliver a National Action Plan to end gender-based violence, backed by funding to ensure that shelter services and other programs are available in all regions of the country, especially areas that have traditionally been under-served.

New Democrats will update the Canada Labour Code to include ten days of paid leave for those dealing with family and domestic violence, improve police training on sexual assault, and require universities to develop plans to end sexual violence on campus. And we'll address violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people by working with Indigenous peoples to implement all the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry.

## **Tracy Gray – Conservative**

In Parliament, I spoke on and supported Bill C-5, which was initially introduced by former Conservative MP Rona Ambrose during the 42nd Parliament to commit federal judges to undertake and participate "in continuing education on matters related to sexual assault law and social context, including attending seminars". Conservatives recognize that far too often the justice system fails to respect the experiences of victims of sexual assault and gender-based violence.

The Conservative platform also highlights several points to address gender based violence and better support women who face violence and abuse, including imposing tougher Criminal Code sentences on those who assault their spouse or partner, while removing barriers which make it difficult for victims to escape their abusers and rebuild their lives.

Conservatives have also pledged to crack down on the culture of sexism and sexual harassment that continues to exist in many federal government institutions, such as the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP.

## **Dr. Imre Szeman- Green Party**

Women and girls who face intersecting barriers and discrimination have experienced additional challenges related to the pandemic, including a widening employment gap between racialized and non-racialized groups.

Isolation measures imposed to prevent the spread of the virus, resulted in a number of key gendered impacts, including increased rates of gender-based violence. To address gender-based violence in Canada, a Green government will:

- In collaboration with women's and Indigenous organizations, develop a comprehensive Canada-wide plan of action – with a timetable and dedicated funding – to eliminate violence against women, girls and gender-diverse people.
- Implement all the recommendations of the Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

- Increase access to shelters by investing \$40 million over four years in the Shelter Enhancement Program, providing more than 2,100 new and renovated spaces in first-stage shelters and hundreds of spaces in transition houses.
- Increase funding to bolster investigations and convictions in human trafficking cases.
- Oppose any possible government move to diminish the right of a woman to a safe, legal abortion. We fully support a woman's right to choose. We will also expand programs in reproductive rights and education, and expand supports for low-income mothers;

A commitment to ending gender-based violence is part of the Green Party's commitment to advancing gender equality. As a government, the Greens would (for example):

- Pass pay equity legislation, as recommended by the Pay Equity Task Force; immediately implement full pay equity for women employed in the federal sector and develop tax incentives for companies to meet the highest standards of gender and pay equity;
- Establish specific job re-entry programs for women with children who want to restart their working lives either part-time or full-time;
- Ensure that the criteria for new appointments to public boards and agencies include equal opportunity for women;
- Support greater engagement of women in the political life of Canada by advocating that all political parties nominate, train, and support more women and gender-diverse candidates

### **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?**

### **Cade Desjarlais- NDP**

We will lead a National Seniors Strategy that will work with the provinces, territories and Indigenous governments to make seniors health care a priority, reduce isolation and tackle seniors' poverty. This will include a funded national dementia strategy, and an elder abuse prevention plan developed with seniors to put an end to abuse and neglect in our communities.

Our commitment to create half a million affordable housing units in the next decade will include accessible housing that will increase choices for seniors. We'll also support connection to community and tackle seniors' isolation by improving seniors' access to technology and support to stay connected with family, providing more funding for community programs that do outreach to seniors to combat isolation, working with cities to make transit more affordable and convenient, creating more community recreation spaces, and supporting innovative housing solutions like intergenerational co-housing

### **Tracy Gray – Conservative**

While long term care is under the jurisdiction of the provincial governments, Canada's Conservatives believe the federal government still has a role to play. We will work with our provincial partners to develop best practices for long-term care homes. This would be similar to the National Building Code, where Building Codes are still provincial jurisdiction, yet it allows the federal government to provide best practices to the provinces without infringing on their jurisdiction.

Canada's Conservatives will provide stronger protections for seniors in long-term care by amending the Criminal Code provisions on failing to provide the necessities of life to make clear that the operator of a licensed care facility shall be presumed to have a legal duty to the residents of that facility.

Conservatives have also pledged to dedicate \$3 billion to renovate and upgrade long term care home infrastructure across Canada.

But we also know that not every family wants to have their family member live in a long-term care home. That's why we're going to support those families too. We'll do that by introducing the Canada Seniors

Care Benefit, paying \$200 per month per household to any Canadian who is living with and taking care of a parent over the age of 70.

### Dr. Imre Szeman- Green Party

This is an issue of specific importance to me, given my parents' poor experience in the Canadian long term care system.

It is an alarming fact: Canada has the worst record for COVID-19 deaths in long-term care homes among rich countries. Over 15,000 LTC residents have died from COVID-19, and many more from a lack of care, during the pandemic. In Canada, 69% of known COVID-19 deaths happened among long-term care residents.

What has unfolded has been a preventable humanitarian crisis. Thousands have died because of the abject failure to meet the needs of people living in these facilities, including seniors, and people with special needs and disabilities.

Canada's existing patchwork of long-term care (LTC) has fatal structural flaws. Many long-term care residents in Canada still live in inadequate or inhumane conditions.

The GPC believes that every person living in a long-term care facility in Canada deserves to be provided with excellent care, regardless of their financial situation, and to have the necessary conditions for a high-quality and dignified life.

A Green government will:

1. Bring Long-Term Care under the Canada Health Act
2. Improve the quality of care in Long-Term Care facilities
  - Create enforceable National Standards for LTC
  - Provide transformative investment for Seniors' Care including infrastructure and staffing funding
  - Require Emergency and Pandemic Preparedness for LTC, including providing proper and adequate supplies of personal protective equipment and testing for COVID-19 for staff, family caregivers, and residents
  - Set a national standard of four hours of regulated care per day for each LTC resident
3. Improve the quality of life of workers in LTC
  - Increase and stabilise staffing in LTC homes and improve training, fair pay for workers, benefits, and paid sick leave
  - Invest in training and education to support ongoing professional development and specialization for LTC workers
  - Prioritize senior care and long-term care skills for immigration status
4. Invest in home and community care
  - Provide a dedicated Seniors' Care Transfer to provinces and territories for specific improvements to home, community and LTC separate from the federal health transfers
  - Shift LTC policy towards aging in place by having the Seniors' Care Transfer include transformative investment in home and community care (such as naturally occurring retirement communities, co-housing models, and enhanced home support programs)
  - Increase the proportion of LTC investment in community and home-based care from 13% to 35% in order to match the OECD average
  - End for-profit LTC facilities and reorient LTC towards community-based models
  - Make the Caregiver Tax Credit a refundable tax credit so that family caregivers have more flexibility (from its current earned tax credit status)
  - Change the Home Renovation Tax Credit from \$10,000 per household to \$10,000 per person for more people to age in place

## **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?**

### **Cade Desjarlais- NDP**

New Democrats will work with Indigenous peoples to co-develop a National Action Plan for Reconciliation, drawing directly from the Calls to Action and the Declaration to ensure that Canada's laws, policies, and practices are consistent with Canada's human rights commitments – including cultural rights, land rights, and rights to self-determination and self-government.

Through legislation, we will establish a National Council for Reconciliation to provide oversight and accountability for this process, reporting regularly to Parliament and Canadians.

New Democrats will work in partnership with Indigenous women, the families of the missing and murdered, and communities to implement the Inquiry's Calls for Justice and the calls to action brought forward by communities. This includes establishing a comprehensive, plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA People — ensuring that all those fleeing violence have access to culturally appropriate programming, emergency shelters and transitional housing.

We believe it's wrong that Indigenous women, and their children, still do not have equal status rights — including the right to pass on the ability to qualify for Indian status registration. New Democrats will act to ensure full gender equality for First Nations status as a matter of priority, consistent with Canadian and international court rulings. New Democrats acknowledge that respect for Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people must be made real by ensuring equitable access and self-determination over land, culture, language, housing, childcare, and income security

### **Tracy Gray – Conservative**

Conservatives believe reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is imperative, and in the last Parliament we pressed the Liberals to implement TRC Calls to Action 71 through 76. Conservatives will implement these Calls to Action if we form government, as well as provide resources for Indigenous communities to reinter, commemorate, and honour any individuals discovered through the horrific findings at the sites of former residential schools. Conservatives have also pledged to create comprehensive resources which will serve to educate Canadians on the tragic history of residential schools.

Conservatives will also work with Indigenous partners on economic empowerment of communities, and we will do so by creating a Canadian Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, develop an Indigenous Business Mentorship Program, and work with Indigenous leaders and rights holders on a consultation process which will result in more meaningful dialogue.

### **Dr. Imre Szeman- Green Party**

The Green Party of Canada reaffirms its support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Greens are also committed to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) for those First Nations who support it. The Green Party believes that every nation has a right to decide who will speak on its behalf, and the government of Canada must be led by Indigenous Peoples with respect to designing any UNDRIP legislation. We did not support Bill C-15 due to reports from various First Nations that they had not been consulted in any way about the Bill.

A Green government would ensure that all First Nations are thoroughly involved in the development and

design of UNDRIP implementation legislation. Greens would also ensure that any Nations who do not support UNDRIP would not have it imposed upon them.

The Green Party of Canada is committed to Reconciliation, Nation-to-Nation engagement and self-determination for Indigenous Peoples, and believes that any meaningful path towards reconciliation in Canada must ensure that First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation leaders are leading the decisions about the future of their people, their lands and their territories.

A Green government will:

- Provide sustainable funding for new and existing Indigenous Healing Centres to address the harms caused by residential schools;
- Honour the original request from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for funding for work on the Missing Children and Unmarked Burials Project;
- Recognise that Indigenous children in residential schools have been replaced by Indigenous children in foster care; Indigenous children account for 7.7 per cent of children in Canada, but 52.2 per cent of children in care;
- Stop fighting the Canada's Human Rights Tribunal orders requiring the government to compensate the child and family victims of Canada's discrimination; and ensure non-status First Nations' children living off reserve have access to Jordan's Principle.

A Green government will respect Indigenous sovereignty over self-defined and self-governed lands – whether First Nations, Métis Nation or Inuit – and respect all rights that their title to land entails, including the right to stewardship. We respect Inuit sovereignty over Inuit Nunangat. We support the full implementation of treaties and other self-government agreements between Canada and Indigenous governments. A Green government will welcome a genuine nation-to-nation engagement with Indigenous Peoples in Canada that is truly grounded in the UNDRIP doctrine of free, prior and informed consent.

### **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?**

### **Cade Desjarlais- NDP**

New Democratic government will create at least 500,000 units of quality, affordable housing in the next ten years, with half of that done within five years. This will be achieved with the right mix of effective measures that work in partnership with provinces and municipalities, build capacity for social, community, and affordable housing providers, to provide rental support for co-ops, and meet environmental energy efficiency goals. This ambitious plan will create thousands of jobs in communities all across the country, Jump-starting the economic recovery, and helping Canadians get the affordable housing they need. In order to kick-start the construction of coops, social and non-profit housing and break the logjam that has prevented these groups from accessing housing funding, we will set up dedicated fast-start funds to streamline the application process and help communities get the expertise and assistance they need to get projects off the ground now, not years from now.

We'll mobilize federal resources and lands for these projects, turning unused and under-used properties into vibrant new communities. social and non-profit housing and break the logjam that has prevented these groups from accessing housing funding, we will set up dedicated fast-start funds to streamline the application process and help communities get the expertise and assistance they need to get projects off the ground now, not years from now. We'll mobilize federal resources and lands for these projects, turning unused and under-used properties into vibrant new communities.

### Tracy Gray – Conservative

On addressing homelessness, when the COVID-19 pandemic first hit, I wrote to the Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Canada's Minister for Families, Children and Social Development, who is responsible for the federal government's homelessness strategy. In my letter, I requested that the Minister ensure the important resources our homeless rely on, such as homeless shelters and other eligible services in Kelowna-Lake Country, will receive this important funding from the Reaching Home Initiative to protect our most vulnerable, and that he keep me informed on any funding which will be used in our community.

Minister Hussen wrote back in April and committed \$1.67 million to address homelessness in the region – up from a base of \$900 thousand.

I have spent a lot of time meeting with residents in neighbourhoods, resident associations, and service providers about homelessness, mental health, and addiction. I have spoken about mental health and addiction in the House of Commons. It is well documented that many people who are homeless also have these underlying health issues. I have been advocating for a number of years now about the need for a focus by all levels of government. I'm pleased that the Conservative Party election platform has a comprehensive platform piece on homelessness, mental health and addictions – including boosting funding to the provinces for mental health care, establishing a 3 digit national suicide prevention hotline, revising the federal government's substance abuse policy to focus on recovery, and re-establish a 'Housing First' approach to address homelessness.

### Dr. Imre Szeman- Green Party

One of the central planks of Green Party is creation of a comprehensive and equitable Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) for every person in Canada. The GLI would be set at a "livable" level for different regions of the country. The federal government would provide an initial base level subsidy across the country, and an intergovernmental body would determine and administer the necessary supplemental amounts. With a guarantee of income security to all, GLI would offer the greatest security to the most vulnerable Canadians: precarious workers, people with disabilities, seniors, the underemployed and the homeless. This is a program that Canada can afford; it is one that other countries are in the process of introducing (e.g., Spain) and trialling, including Italy, the Netherlands, Finland and Kenya.

Guaranteed Livable Income would offer the greatest security to the most vulnerable Canadians: precarious workers, people with disabilities, seniors, the underemployed and the homeless. It would also help workers in the fossil fuel sector, a sector that is particularly vulnerable to market shocks.

There are a range of other steps a Green government would take to reduce poverty and address homelessness. There are two ways we would address the latter – first, attention to the creation of affordable, non-profit, co-operative and supportive housing; and second, to shape policy directed to provide supports to the homeless community.

A Green government will:

- Reinvest in affordable, non-profit, co-operative and supportive housing
  - Protect the existing stock of affordable housing by funding the purchase of buildings by non-profit and cooperative affordable housing organizations
  - Invest in construction and operation of 50,000 supportive housing units over 10 years.
  - Build and acquire a minimum of 300,000 units of deeply affordable non-market, co-op and non-profit housing over a decade.
  - Create a Canada Co-op Housing Strategy and update the mechanisms for financing co-op housing, in partnership with CMHC, co-op societies, credit unions and other lenders.
  - Re-focus the core mandate of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) on supporting the development of affordable, non-market and cooperative housing, as opposed to its current priority of supporting Canadian lenders to de-risk investment in housing ownership. With many housing markets demonstrably overvalued, and home

ownership rates among the highest in the world, individual home ownership should not be the preoccupation of a public service housing agency and a national housing strategy.

- Increase access to housing for people with disabilities.
  - Require that housing developments that receive federal funding must ensure that 30% of all units in each development must be deeply affordable and/or available to people with disabilities and special needs.
- Develop a strategy to face housing challenges in rural areas
- Reinvest in housing for Indigenous communities
  - Change the legislation that prevents Indigenous organizations from accessing financing through CMHC to invest in self-determined housing needs.
  - Allocate funding towards urban Indigenous housing providers

A Green government will also provide services shaped specifically to support the homeless community. We will:

- Support existing youth shelters and other infrastructure through federal grants
- Invest in the creation of new youth shelters in urban and small urban centers across the country which would work on a needs-driven and community-centric approach
- Remove shelter maximum stays for youth
- Provide on-site and remote access guidance counselling and therapy for youth suffering from homelessness
- Provide optional relocation services for rural youth suffering from homelessness to ensure that they have access to youth shelters and other infrastructure
- Support and invest in the co-operative model for housing
- Provide expanded mental health services for the homeless community.
- Implement programs that direct funds to municipalities providing support for people in the homeless community who use drugs.

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### 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?**

### Cade Desjarlais- NDP

After decades of promises, the Liberals have once again failed to make sure every Canadian can afford the medications they need. That's why New Democrats are fighting for a national, universal, public pharmacare program to make sure that all Canadians can access the prescription medicine they need with their health card, not their credit card – saving money and improving health outcomes for everyone. These programs will also free up resources to tackle emerging threats to public health, like the COVID19 pandemic.

Also, a New Democrat government will work together with provincial partners, health professionals and dentists to develop a roadmap to incorporate universal dental care into Canada's public health care system, and immediately deliver dental care coverage for people who don't have any private insurance.

New Democrats believe that we need to work towards health care that covers us from head to toe. COVID19 took a tremendous toll on Canadians' mental health. This is especially true for young people who are reporting high levels of depression and anxiety. Mental health care should be available at no cost for people who need it

### Tracy Gray – Conservative

Pharmacare is the jurisdiction of individual provincial governments. To help provinces better fund their universal healthcare system, Conservatives have pledged to significantly boost health transfers to at least 6% annually. These health transfers will inject \$60 billion in new funding into our provincial health care sectors over the next ten years. This will be stable and predictable funding so that provinces can invest in what is most needed in their own health care systems – including pharmacare if they choose to do so.

### Dr. Imre Szeman- Green Party

The creation of a universal public Pharmacare program is an obvious and essential addition to the universal public health care program. The lack of the former given the latter is a mark of a health care system which cannot provide all of the supports it should.

The Green Party would:

- Expand the single-payer Medicare model to include Pharmacare for everyone
- Create a bulk drug purchasing agency and reduce drug patent protection periods
- Expand the single-payer Medicare model to include long-term care and enhanced mental health services
- Expand the single-payer Medicare model to include free basic dental care for all Canadians

The provision of Pharmacare is just the first of many changes which need to take place in Canada's health system. The Green Party is committed to the principles and requirements of the Canada Health Act and to extending that model to other aspects of health care. We will work with provinces and territories to ensure that every Canadian has a family doctor and that primary care is centred on the patient and is sensitive to issues of social justice, equity and cultural appropriateness.

The federal government can and should lead the way in demonstrating a better model of health care. Greens recognize the unique challenges faced by defined populations like First Nations people on reserve and Inuit, veterans, incarcerated persons and certain refugee claimants. It is important that these challenges are addressed at a federal level and that vulnerable populations receive equal access to care.

### Kathryn McDonald- PCC

***This response came from the PCC group for Kathryn. I believe it was intercepted and not sent to her when I look at the email address I had. This person is working for both ridings. Brian Rogers in the other riding did reach out and ask me to send the questions to his personal email which I did. Unfortunately, I have not had a response to date.***  
**Charlene**

**Hello Charlene,**

Thanks so much for this questionnaire. You highlight, with laser focus, the root cause of many of our issues. I commend your organization along with its longevity and focus.

I'll need space to provide you with adequate answers.

Humans are, by nature, pattern recognition machines! When my father attended UBC to take his Master's degree in Psychology way back when, he took along my sister, me, and my mom. We stayed on campus each summer as he worked on his degree. The reason I bring this up is that he and his buddies one

summer did nothing but run IQ tests on everyone and their families as they honed their skills in this area. The higher you scored on your IQ test, the more you were able to SEE things at an abstract level.

Today, the MENSA admission test is administered to those who want to join the organization. But to get into MENSA, you must be able to see things from a very high level. You must be able to make the connections. So, as I read your Word document, I was once again reminded of the greater problem - the 60,000 foot-view - of the root cause of our issues.

But before I step into the explanation, I need to point out the difference between our party and the ones owned by the higher-level players. If you have done your research, then you will already know that Blackrock and Vanuard are two companies that control all of the mainstream media, along with most of the politicians in the three main parties. Think of this election as a "horse race." Who has the best chance of winning? The people with just one horse in the race? Or the people with three horses in the race. Blackrock doesn't care which of the three win, so long as one of them does.

You won't find any PPC party members on the Blackrock payroll. Our party does not pander to any special interest groups. All people are equal - PERIOD! The party is a ground up party, not a top down party. For this reason, opinions from any individual candidate are pretty much irrelevant. That candidate will do what the people tell him or her to do. Small administrative issues are the exception. But important issues are in the people's hands.

Your Word document shows that Canada faces a crisis indeed. Your points are well taken. But in the end, they are all there only because people are left to squabble over limited and dwindling resources. Our party would say, "fix the hole in the bottom of this fiscal Titanic, and the problem will go away!"

Back in 2004, the Gomery Commission showed us the massive political corruption going on in our government offices. Between Mulroney and Cretien, the judge estimated that about \$6 billion went missing. What good could that money do for many of your programs?

In the late 1990s Mulroney was accused of taking kickbacks in regard to the Airbus scandal. Someone flushed out a Swiss bank account that he had and everything hit the news. Perhaps the lost millions could have been better used for senior's healthcare?

In the early 2000s convicted terrorist, Omar Khadr, was given \$10.5 million by Trudeau to help him settle in Edmonton. Khadr threw a grenade that killed a US Medic. Maybe that money could have been better used to fund "Early learning and child care?"

When my father finished his degree, he eventually went on to run the Jericho Hill School for the Deaf - cleaning it up from a mess left there by failed provincial politicians. He used limited resources to build programs and opportunities for the deaf and blind. His success there landed him in the Ministry of Education where he really got an eye full of corruption!

When he moved to stop then premier Vanderzalm from "plucking the wings off flies" he was quickly pushed out to pasture - working for the correspondence branch and advanced education. They gave him a tiny budget to play with. What did he do? He created the most famous program ever introduced in BC. It was the BC Government Student Grant Program. Those who were unable to pay for university attendance were given grants. After four years, if you worked inside the province of BC for 5 years, you kept the grant and had no payback obligations! Of course, corrupt politicians, most notably the NDP, soon watered down this highly effective program.

At the same time this was going on, my brother (a teacher by age 17 - graduated from UBC) was working in the Langley school district. He created the "Langley Education Center". This operation too was taken over by corrupt politicians and is just a shell of what it once was.

In more recent times, Trudeau is accused of taking money from the WE charity and giving it to his mother and brother and some family friends. On another scandal, his attorney general was about to charge SNC

Lavelin in bribery/kickback scheme when Trudeau fired her! If you or I did this, we would be in jail for obstruction of justice.

I could go on for hours about the money that has gone missing as a result of corrupt politicians. If you are old enough, you will know that Canada has gone back and forth for nearly 100 years electing one of the three horses that Blackrock has in this race.

I come from a family of teachers going back to 1956 in this province. My father first taught school in Nakusp, BC. I know what creativity teachers are capable of when the restraints are off. I know what our society could become if we plugged the leaks and kept the money. Health care, child education, university, senior's care, transit, and pension stabilization would not be an issue.

The definition of insanity is "doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results." As long as people are duped into believing that there are only three potential horses in this race, then we are doomed to repeat this exercise 5 years from now - if we survive.

The message I give you is that the PPC is a party of the people. This means YOU are in control. It means you would never have to ask these questions again... of anyone.... because you would not have the fiscal drain on our resources that massive corruption bring.

It means you decide whether to give \$10 Million to a terrorist, or instead give it to a new center for Native Law (Law School). It would mean you don't have to beg for daycare, because it would become ispo-facto for those who want it.

You asked these questions of our party today because no one in the past has stepped up to offer this kind of freedom of choice.

Best regards,  
Nick M. Walsh  
Director for the PPC in COSN