

Excerpts from the BC Green Party's "Green Book"

To read the Green Book, click [here](#).

Building a Stronger Economy

Moving Towards Steady State Economics:

- Create a service program for youth to receive training and provide 6 months of service in repairing environmental damage, restoring natural habitats (including, for example, salmon habitat), building park and recreation infrastructure

Caring for One Another

Promoting Healthy Living:

- Increase tobacco taxes
- Institute a junk food tax
- Reduce exposure to electro-magnetic fields generated by wireless networks, cell phone towers and electrical transmission systems

Caring for the Sick:

- Increase funding for non-institutionalized mental health patients including children and youth to provide adequate housing, community-based support, and ongoing outpatient and inpatient care by mental health practitioners

Initiating Local Social Trusts to Help Families

- Implement a full range of programs for families, including:
 - Direct services: parental, life-skill, employment, and education training, grade school and high school completion, and health and mental health education
 - Supportive, indirect services: prevention services, such as child care, in-home support, emergency and crisis services, a guaranteed livable income, and adequate and safe housing
- Establish local child care trusts, with provincial standards that are monitored by the Ministry of Children and Family Development
- When adult activity shows criminal intent, financial exploitation of a child, abuse or neglect, the criminal justice system will have authority, rather than the child welfare system.
- A new system under the leadership of the BC Greens will communicate better with parents, will mentor as much as monitor, will seek whole solutions, and will provide 18 and 19 year-olds in care with a less abrupt transition out of care.

Investing In Education

- Provide a full tuition refund for all post-secondary graduates who work and live in the province for five years after receiving their degree
- Immediately reduce tuition fees by 20% and increase funding to post-secondary institutions to improve service levels, provide new equipment and maintain infrastructure
- Meet the needs of differentially-abled children, including early intervention for autistic children
- Provide seismic upgrades to schools around the province within the next five years
- Promote a community school model that provides full libraries, recreation facilities, technology & training areas, fine arts theatres and studios in partnership with municipalities, elementary and secondary schools

- Fund extra-curricular sports, fine art and student clubs that encourage healthy community spirit, creativity and leadership and keep students engaged in a strong learning environment
- Promote instruction in nutrition and healthy living, including sexual health and sexuality to make sure students understand what it means to live a healthy life

Reducing Poverty:

- Unify all current income support programs into one comprehensive Guaranteed Livable Income
- Protect children by securing universal, safe, and affordable child care
- Create tax benefits for companies that provide on-site child care, flex-hours, and job sharing
- Reinstate and improve funding for women's emergency shelters and transition houses

Build Affordable Housing:

- Commit 1% of the total provincial annual budget to solving the housing crisis
- Support funding small-scale, mixed-income co-op and non-profit housing
- Construct healthy, energy efficient green housing for people with disabilities and mental health problems and for low-income people
- Mandate BC Housing Corp to purchase units of market housing within current or stalled projects to provide an expanding pool of permanent below market and market rental housing

End Prohibitions: Regulating Substance Use:

- Implement school-based drug education focused on science, reason, and evidence-based public awareness. This kind of effective prevention campaigning can be seen in the use of tobacco which has dropped dramatically over the last 40 years.

Protecting our Resources and Our Environment

Reforming Agricultural Practices

- Provide small grants to support municipalities and school boards that wish to maintain and expand community gardens and urban agriculture
- Develop a school curriculum that provides children with farming and food production experience

Reforming Government

Valuing First Nations as Partners

- Train educators to include materials and methodologies that better inform people on the history of First Nations peoples in BC and Canada, the continuing impacts of colonization on First Nations peoples, and the necessity of recognizing aboriginal and treaty rights