

The Sanctity of Human Life: from Conception to Natural Death

Abortion, Euthanasia & Alternatives | Human Engineering | Population Control

The right to life from conception to natural death is the foundation of all Catholic Social Teaching (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)

Catholic Teaching

Catholics care about the sanctity of life because the entire purpose of each soul God endows with life is to find its way back to God by loving God and caring for all the souls God has placed around it. Voluntary termination of life any time between conception and natural death necessarily frustrates that purpose.

The source of human dignity is the likeness to God that is bestowed on each of us at the moment we are conceived. We respond appropriately to this gift by using all the time, talent, and treasure that God has entrusted to us to seek and grow closer to God, by sharing in His continuing act of creation and caring for those around us. Our first purpose is to seek God, especially in one another. If we do that, everything else will be given to us. Anything that interferes with that is contrary to the Word of God. *Genesis chapter 1; Matthew chapters 6, 22 & 25*

Abortion & Euthanasia

“You shall not kill.”
– the 5th Commandment

The right to life from conception to natural death is the foundation of all Catholic Social Teaching, and in particular, implies the illicitness of every form of procured abortion and of euthanasia. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 155*

“This is not something subject to alleged reforms or ‘modernizations.’ It is not ‘progressive’ to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life.”
– Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 214

Human Engineering

Cloning and Cell Manipulation

An issue of particular social and cultural significance today, because of its many and serious moral implications... the simple replication of normal cells or of a portion of DNA presents no particular ethical problem. Very different, however, is cloning understood in the proper sense. Such cloning is contrary to the dignity of human procreation because it takes place in total absence of an act of personal love between



Abortion, Euthanasia & Alternatives

Abortion

The party states that:

- while currently, abortions are performed by BC health care professionals both within provincially-operated facilities and private clinics, it believes that abortions (the killing of tiny human beings) do not qualify as “health care”, nor that BC taxpayers, many of whom are conscientiously opposed to abortion, should be forced to pay for them
- it also believes that the money spent on abortions in BC could be better spent on pregnancy care and support for new mothers. Many studies indicate negative health impacts for women who undergo abortions, including suicide, depression, birthing complications and a higher incidence of breast cancers.
- therefore the party advocates a. removing abortion from the list of taxpayer-funded surgical procedures
- the party further believes that BC taxpayers should not be forced to pay for any surgeries that are not medically necessary. (Abortion is an elective surgery and is not medically necessary).
- it advocates restoring the access to statistical information about abortions performed in all BC hospitals and private clinics, including making it mandatory to document all medical procedures in BC. This information must be available to the public through Freedom of Information requests.
- repealing provincial “Bubble Zone” legislation (Access to Abortion Services ACT of 1995) and restoring freedom of speech in BC.

Socially-Assisted Death

The party advocates defending senior citizens and those with disabilities from attempts to institute euthanasia and assisted suicide in the province of BC.

Human Engineering

The party states that:

- BC taxpayers should not be forced to pay for any surgeries that are not medically necessary.



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The party has published no statement concerning its policies relating to:

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spouses, being agamic and asexual reproduction. In the second place, this type of reproduction represents a form of total domination over the reproduced individual on the part of the one reproducing it...

Cloning for therapeutic use does not attenuate its moral gravity, because in order that such cells may be removed the embryo must first be created and then destroyed. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 236*

Gender Election

Everyone, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his sexual identity. Physical, moral and spiritual difference and complementarities are oriented towards the goods of marriage and the flourishing of family life. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 224*

Men and women with homosexual tendencies must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 358*

Population Growth; Birth Control; Family Planning

Judgment concerning the interval of time between births, and that regarding the number of children, belongs to the spouses alone. This is one of their inalienable rights, to be exercised before God... The intervention of public authorities must be made in a way that fully respects the freedom of the couple. All programmes of economic assistance aimed at financing campaigns of sterilization and contraception are to be orally condemned as affronts to the dignity of the person and the family.

The answer to questions connected with population growth must instead be sought in simultaneous respect both of sexual morals and of social ethics, promoting greater justice and authentic solidarity so that dignity is given to life in all circumstances.

All reproductive techniques — such as the donation of sperm or ova, surrogate motherhood, heterologous artificial fertilization — that make use of the uterus of another woman or of gametes of persons other than the married couple, injuring the right of the child to be born of one father and one mother who are father and mother are ethically unacceptable both from a biological and from a legal point of view. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 234-235*

Human Trafficking

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Human Engineering, Population Control

The party states that:

- since it came into office, reducing costs for British Columbians remains a priority for it. It has been steadily increasing investments over the past several years to help people with everyday costs, including making more services free, such as prescription contraception.

In-Vitro Fertilization

The party states that:

- for people wanting to start a family, infertility and other barriers to parenthood can have a profound effect on their well-being and quality of life.
- to support people who need help on the path to parenthood, its 2024 budget allocates \$68 million for the establishment of a program to help with the cost of in-vitro fertilization (IVF) services, including consultations with an expert clinical group to define funded IVF services including age considerations, service delivery options, and care pathways to access the service throughout B.C. The program will be launched April 1, 2025, to help with the costs of treatment and medication for a single cycle of treatment.
- the new publicly funded program will benefit hopeful parents in B.C. regardless of their relationship status, who they love and how much money they make by removing a barrier for people who may not otherwise be able to access fertility services.



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The solemn proclamation of human rights is contradicted by a painful reality of violations, including new forms of slavery such as trafficking in human beings, illegal drug trafficking, prostitution. “Even in countries with democratic forms of government, these rights are not always fully respected”. Some serious problems remain unsolved: trafficking in children, the phenomenon of “street children, and the use of children for commerce in pornographic material. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 158, 245*

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Points to Ponder: Life & Human Dignity

A conscience well formed by the social teachings of the Church will take seriously the following questions:

A “Quality of Life” Index to Guide Policy-Making

For years, many (probably most) of our political parties have been fond of asserting, in dozens of ways, that various groups of Canadians “deserve” or are “entitled to” a very wide variety of benefits in order to enable them (us) to live lives of “dignity.” They are much more reluctant, however, to offer any indication of what they mean by a “dignified” life, or any way of measuring the effect of the benefits they propose on improving it. Indeed, the only indexes used by most governments to gauge wellness of any kind are gross domestic production levels (GDP) – the aggregate worth of the material objects our society produces. This has caused many observers to remark that Canada and other parts of the world appear to have lost any common conception of the proper meaning of the dignity or purpose of life, and with it all sense of community, shared culture, and a sense of the common good of the civil community and our obligation to serve that common good. The result has been a postmodern individualism that leaves human beings feeling isolated and on their own.

In his encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, Pope Francis observed that:

Today, in many countries, hyperbole, extremism and polarization have become political tools. Employing a strategy of ridicule, suspicion and relentless criticism, in a variety of ways one denies the right of others to exist or to have an opinion. Their share of the truth and their values are rejected and, as a result, the life of society is impoverished and subjected to the hubris of the powerful. Political life no longer has to do with healthy debates about long-term plans to improve people’s lives and to advance the common good, but only with slick marketing techniques primarily aimed at discrediting others. In this craven exchange of charges and counter-charges, debate degenerates into a permanent state of disagreement and confrontation.

Recently some parties have begun to propose various “wellness” indicators as an alternative to reliance on GDP in gauging social wellbeing. Such indicators are based on factors said to represent the health, happiness, and well-being of society and its individual members. And in 2019 the current Canadian government quietly introduced a new “Quality of Life” measure in its instructions to new cabinet ministers, and caused the creation of a “Quality of Life Hub”. The Hub introduces the index and a draft method for measuring it, and solicits public feedback. (See <https://www160.statcan.gc.ca/index-eng.htm>)

1) How should Catholics respond to the government’s call for comment, with properly and prayerfully-formed consciences?

How do the following questions, and their answers, factor into the government’s proposed framework? How do they relate to life and politics in the province of British Columbia?

2) What limits should be placed on voluntary termination of human life, either prior to birth or at any time before death? What can or should be done at the federal level, and what should be left to the provinces, or to private, religious, or other non-profit organizations?

- * What options is our society able to offer to reluctant or unwilling mothers, as alternatives to abortion and to support unwanted children?
- * Is it appropriate to allow minors to consider suicide as a health care option without consulting their parents?
- * What options can be offered by provincial or federal governments to families of minors who are being encouraged to consider medically-assisted suicide?
- * Are federal restrictions and controls on cloning and the use of human cells, fetuses, and body parts properly crafted? What, if anything, should be done differently? Should there be more discussion of this serious moral issue in our society?
- * To what extent should voluntary, elective services that are morally questionable to large numbers of individuals, such as the voluntary termination of life or the voluntary “modification” of gender, be financed publicly through mandatory taxation? If such services are to be offered, should they be financed by the individuals who elect to access them, or by sympathetic charities, or by dissenting taxpayers?



The Government's index considers 85 key indicators relating to five factors – prosperity, health, society, environment, and good governance, viewed through lenses of fairness and including and sustainability and resilience. How do the proposed factors and lenses relate to the seven themes of social justice, namely:

- Life & Human Dignity
- Stewardship of Creation
- Family, Community & the Common Good
- An Economy for All
- Individual Rights & Responsibilities
- Solidarity
- Good Governance?

Stewardship of Creation

Climate Change | Species, Diversity & Wildlife | Energy & Resources | Conservation & Sustainable Development

Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue: it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience. (Pope Francis, Laudato si')

Catholic Teaching

God gave humans dominion over the earth, thereby making us stewards of creation as we work with Him in His continuing act of creation.

We must constantly consider how our actions glorify or harm this wonderful gift God has entrusted to us. This is a multi-faceted question, which must not be oversimplified.

With a vocation to glorify all life which includes respect for the inviolability and integrity of life, humans find themselves in the presence of all God's other creatures. We can and are obliged to put them at our own service and to enjoy them, but our dominion over the world requires the exercise of responsibility. It is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation. All of creation has value and is "good" in the sight of God. This is a marvelous challenge to human intellect. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 112-113.*

Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue: it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.
-217, *Laudato Si'*

The Book of Genesis provides us with certain foundations of Christian anthropology, including the meaning of human activity in the world, which is linked to the discovery and respect of the laws of nature that God has inscribed in the created universe, so that humanity may live in it and care for it in accordance with God's will. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 37.*

Climate Change

There is urgency to this issue. Every Pope since at least Saint Paul VI has written of our need to shift to a more responsible use of the earth and its abundant resources. The Church accepts that that need is now urgent.

A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic



Climate Change

The party states that:

- climate is subject to change due to many factors, including natural causes
- it does not believe that CO2 is the primary cause of climate change nor does it subscribe to climate alarmism with frantic and expensive efforts to eliminate the use of carbon-based fuels
- it advocates responsible and cost-effective research into potential alternative energy sources while allowing the ongoing use, development and transportation of reliable and time-tested energy sources such as— but not limited to—oil, wood, natural gas and coal
- it is concerned about the release of man-made chemical emissions into BC's beautiful blue skies under Weather Modification efforts. A Christian Heritage Party of BC Government will defend the right of BC residents to have no chemical additives deliberately released into BC skies by any government agency or private corporation. It will renew environmental monitoring and protection of BC's air and skies from unwanted deliberate emissions.

Energy & Resources; Sustainable Development

The party advocates:

- expanding hydroelectric power, especially environmentally-friendly run-of-river projects, opening up the mining industry and rejuvenating the forest industry by reducing bureaucratic red tape and moving to a market based system that is open to all operators including small businesses
- encouraging the use of methanol in gasoline sold within the province
- encouraging construction of plants to convert wood fibre and other products to clean petroleum
- encouraging the Forest Industry to harvest pine beetle infested trees and reseed the harvested area as soon as possible. This will salvage the trees that would otherwise go to waste and will create jobs in the Forest Industry. Timber that cannot be used for lumber or pulp will be turned into liquid bio-fuel
- active promotion of the creation of energy via alternate methods, including wind power, tidal power, solar power and hydrogen power, including the production of hydrogen and bio-fuel from bio-waste such as effluents, junk fish, dead trees and agricultural waste materials
- actively encouraging the building of a bridge from the Mainland to Vancouver Island that incorporates tidal power generators into the structure and generates enough tidal power to pay the capital construction cost and maintenance cost of the bridge over a reasonable time
- amending the Mineral Tenure Act to prohibit unauthorized access to private property for mineral exploration
- reducing the regulation and red tape that prevents more resource-based industries from opening in British Columbia
- promoting the long term generation of electricity by using:
 - 1 – existing hydro electric generating facilities
 - 2 – in-stream turbines
 - 3 – wind generators where practical and deemed to be safe
 - 4 – bio-generation methods to make use of our wastes and effluents
 - 5 – off shore wave generation (using the likes of Pelamis machines)
 - 6 – direct hydrogen generation (using standing, contained effluents)
 - 7 – solar energy
 - 8 – thermal energy
 - 9 - nuclear energy but not until viable waste-disposal solutions have been found; promoting research into the promising Thorium Reactor which appears to be cleaner, safer and to have a more readily-available supply of mineral fuel
 - 10 - geothermal power generation and heat exchange technology; and in addition, any new technology that is developed will be investigated and assessed

In the interim, the party advocates:

- 1- expanding and improving mass transit facilities where economically feasible
- 2- facilitating commercial traffic flow and possibly rewarding its use during off-peak hours
- 3- providing tax credits for research in clean burning fuels for commercial transportation

system... Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat... at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. It is true that there are other factors, yet a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases released mainly as a result of human activity. Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, 23

Energy & Resources

The good steward neither allows the resources entrusted to him to lie fallow or to fail to produce their proper fruit, nor does he waste or destroy them (*Matthew 25:14-30*). Rather, he uses them responsibly, for the Lord's purposes, to realize their increase so that he may enjoy his livelihood and provide for the good of his family, his descendants, and his neighbors.

Humanity's relationship with creation and the creatures of the earth "requires the exercise of responsibility, it is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation." *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 115*

One of the higher priority issues in economics is the utilization of resources, that is, of all those goods and services to which economic subjects — producers and consumers in the private and public spheres — attribute value because of their inherent usefulness in the areas of production and consumption... Resources in nature are quantitatively scarce, which means that each individual economic subject, as well as each individual society, must necessarily come up with a plan for their utilization in the most rational way possible, following the logic dictated by the "principle of economizing." *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 346*

Because of the powerful means of transformation offered by technological civilization, it seems that the balance between man and the environment has reached a critical point... A reductionistic conception quickly spread, starting from the presupposition — which was seen to be erroneous — that an infinite quantity of energy and resources are available, that it is possible to renew them quickly, and that the negative effects of the exploitation of the natural order can be easily absorbed. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 461, 462*

- 4- encouraging the use of electric / hydrogen powered vehicles
- 5- encouraging hydrogen containment and generation technology development in BC
- 6- embarking on a major education program aimed at conserving energy



Climate Change

The party states:

- scrap the carbon tax. The regressive, job-killing carbon tax drives up the cost of living and has no impact on global emissions. It is unfair to rural and northern communities and leads to the offshoring of jobs overseas.
- expand liquid natural gas (LNG). It advocates dramatically expanding B.C.'s natural gas production and LNG export facilities and reduce global emissions through the displacement of coal-fired electricity in countries like China.
- get pipelines built. Pipelines are the safest and most economical means of transporting oil and natural gas and are essential in getting our resources to market. Their construction, including TMX, Coastal GasLink and Northern Gateway, deserve our complete support.

Energy & Resources; Sustainable Development

The party states that:

- British Columbians are being taxed into poverty. With the highest gas prices in North America, it's time to axe the Carbon Tax, the Low Carbon Fuel Standard and ensure more refined product reaches the B.C. market.
- it supports B.C. Forestry. B.C.'s forest industry is the envy of the world. It is 100% sustainable and renewable and supports tens of thousands of high-paying jobs across the province.
- it advocates holding activists responsible. Activists who impede the activity of resource development through illegal blockades, harassment and violence must be held legally, and financially, responsible for their actions — as must the groups that support them.
- it supports the encouragement of mining, hydro-electricity, fishing, and more. British Columbia is a resource superpower. Encourage and promote the development of these resources in a way that is sustainable, and that delivers maximum value to the taxpayers of the province.



Climate Change

Carbon Neutrality

The party states that:

- the science is clear: without massive intervention to reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases, we are heading toward a catastrophe.
- the first step is setting clear goals. The party is committed to making BC carbon neutral by 2045, 5 years ahead of the federal government commitment and in line with California, a leading jurisdiction on climate action

The party advocates:

- interim targets to keep the province on track, as well as sectoral targets for industry
- development of a robust strategy to meet the 2030 target, and development of an accountability framework to ensure we get there. We will take immediate steps to send a signal of our intent by ending government support for the fossil fuel industry
- ending oil and gas subsidies and a moratorium on fracking
- prioritizing natural climate solutions, protecting and restoring forests and wetlands to maximize their potential as carbon sinks
- developing an accountability framework to ensure targets are met.

Species, Diversity & Wildlife

The party states that:

Conservation & Sustainable Development

Care for the environment represents a challenge for all of humanity. It is a matter of a common and universal duty, that of respecting a common good, destined for all, by preventing anyone from using “with impunity the different categories of beings, whether living or inanimate — animals, plants, the natural elements — simply as one wishes, according to one’s own economic needs.”

Responsibility for the environment, the common heritage of mankind, extends not only to present needs but also to those of the future... This is a responsibility that present generations have towards those of the future... A correct understanding of the environment... at the same time... must not absolutize nature and place it above the dignity of the human person himself. In this latter case, one can go so far as to divinize nature or the earth, as can readily be seen in certain ecological movements that seek to gain an internationally guaranteed institutional status for their beliefs. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 346, 461-463*

Species Diversity & Wildlife

Man and woman find themselves also in the presence of all the other creatures. They can and are obliged to put them at their own service and to enjoy them, but their dominion over the world requires the exercise of responsibility, it is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation. All of creation has value and is “good” in the sight of God, who is its author. Man must discover and respect its value. This is a marvellous challenge to his intellect, which should lift him up as on wings towards the contemplation of the truth of all God’s creatures, that is, the contemplation of what God sees as good in them. Man must recognize all of God’s creatures for what they are and establish with each of them a relationship of responsibility. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 113*

Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being, reflects in its own way a ray of God’s infinite wisdom and goodness. Man must respect the particular goodness of every creature, to avoid any disordered use of things which would be in contempt of the Creator and would bring disastrous consequences for human beings and their environment. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 339*

- the beauty and wonder of BC’s wilderness are not only a source of pride for all who call this province home, but the stunning biodiversity that live within provincial ecosystems are central to the health of British Columbia - our physical, mental, social, and cultural wellbeing are inextricably linked to the survival of the natural world around us.
- humans, of course, are part of nature, not isolated from it. While it is something we instinctively understand, our policies need to get better at recognizing this interdependence - an appreciation that the wellbeing of people is connected to the well-being of the river, the forest, the ocean, even future generations.
- we need to embed in our management practices an understanding and acceptance that what we do to the world, we do to ourselves.
- BC’s native ecosystems are reaching a crisis point. Many fish and wildlife populations have been in decline for decades and are currently at record lows. Foundational species like mountain caribou, moose, Interior Fraser Steelhead, Fraser River salmon, and sturgeon are at serious risk.
- lack of funding over many years for wildlife and habitat conservation, and a lack of commitment to science, vague objectives, and a tendency to side with industry instead of threatened species has meant that some of B.C.’s fish and wildlife populations are being managed to zero.
- the fundamentals of responsible fish and wildlife stewardship are funding, science, and social support. We need increased and dedicated funding, science-based objectives for habitat and populations, establishing healthy hunting and fishing limits, and accountability for the ministries that are managing fish and wildlife.
- if we work urgently, with inspiration and vision, we can heal and restore BC’s incredible biodiversity.

The party advocates prioritizing protection of wildlife and their habitat across government, including:

- establishing a strategy to manage our wetlands;
- protecting coastal ecosystems with a Coastal Law and Strategy;
- ensuring appropriate legislative oversight through legislated objectives for fish and wildlife;
- moving the fish and wildlife branch from FLNRO and the Ministry of Environment;
- urgently matching and exceeding historic provincial funding levels for the fish and wildlife branch to match the unprecedented challenges we now face.
- ensuring that science about the status of our wildlife and environment is independent from political interference and made freely available to the public.
- enhanced funding for wildlife conservation, habitat protection and habitat acquisition and dedication of all fishing, hunting, guide-outfitting, and trapping license fees for this purpose.
- creating an endangered species law that establishes legal protection of species and their habitat to ensure their recovery and survival.
- taking action on fish farms to protect wild salmon, including (1) supporting the full implementation of the Wild Salmon Advisory Council recommendations and Cohen Commission recommendations, working urgently to enforce all measures within provincial jurisdiction; (2) negotiate strongly with DFO to complete the recommendations under federal jurisdiction; and (3) working with DFO, First Nations, local communities, and industry, providing stimulus and incentives to create a close containment land based fish farming industry and canceling open-pen fish farm tenures.
- establishing a made-in-BC Environmental Charter that lays out: (1) substantive rights to clean air, clean water, and healthy ecosystems; (2) procedural rights that allow everyone to participate in decisions that affect the environment; (3) information rights that ensure we all have access to all the information relevant to decisions that affect the environment; and (4) application of the precautionary principle to decisions that affect the environment.
- enhance funding for B.C. Parks and the Conservation Officer Service, to a level that will improve infrastructure and ensure that our natural ecosystems are not being degraded, including creation of more campgrounds to meet demand, ensuring that the creation of more sites is commensurate with expanding overall park land and does not cut into existing protected areas.

Energy & Resources

Water

The party states that:

- water is fundamental to many aspects of our lives: to agriculture, energy production, transportation, freshwater fisheries, recreation and industrial processes, not to mention drinking and personal use.
- the forecast impacts of climate change on water supply vary across the province from extreme rainfall events to extended periods of drought. Each end of the spectrum presents different challenges for communities from storm and wastewater management to water contamination, turbidity and salination of groundwater in coastal areas.
- climate-related risks to drinking water are many and are often exacerbated by poor management decisions. Forestry management and water quality are also inextricably linked. As the timber supply has become more constrained, logging has moved closer to communities and into community drinking watersheds, causing painful divisions in the community and threats to drinking water.
- we must recognize that access to clean water is a human right, and we have a duty to ensure the B.C. communities have long-term, reliable, and equitable access to clean water.

To that end, the party advocates:

- allocation of \$50 million to create a dedicated Watershed Security Fund that will create sustainable jobs in communities across BC in watershed restoration, monitoring, technology, training, and education.
- expanding the model of the Cowichan Watershed Board across the province and establishing shared decision-making authority with watershed boards, with watershed

It is a responsibility that must mature on the basis of the global dimension of the present ecological crisis... This perspective takes on a particular importance when one considers, in the context of the close relationships that bind the various parts of the ecosystem, the environmental value of biodiversity, which must be handled with a sense of responsibility and adequately protected. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 466*

sustainability as a core mandate.

- conducting comprehensive watershed planning in conjunction with First Nations, communities, government agencies, stewardship organizations and industry and including watersheds as part of a landscape-level ecosystem-based management approach to development.
- implementing the Water Sustainability Act to secure the environmental flows needed to sustain healthy and functioning rivers, lakes and watersheds.
- working with local governments, school districts and other stakeholders to upgrade municipal infrastructure and replace household pipes through grants and incentives.
- exploring science-based solutions to reduce water acidity.
- a ban on fracking, a chemical-intensive process that has been shown to contaminate freshwater, trigger earthquakes, leak methane, and pose an unacceptable risk to human health.

Sustainable Development

Among its six core principles, the party advocates:

- using natural resources wisely to protect the rights and needs of future generations
- learning to live within the physical and biological limits of our Earth and to protect its life-giving nature.

Community and Habitat Resilience

The party states that:

- communities need to be aware of the risks they face from a changing climate and to have plans to address them. Communities need to build capacity in to respond safely and effectively to extreme weather and natural disasters - and so they can recover quickly when the threat has passed.
- communities must be protected from wildfires and flooding through landscape level, ecologically-centred, forest management and fuel treatment projects.
- the province must also increase the resilience of regional ecosystems by restoring habitats and protecting biodiversity.

The party advocates:

- allocating \$100 million over 4 years to fund climate adaptation initiatives for communities, including the development of a coordinated approach with First Nations and other levels of government to disaster risk reduction.
- building capacity in communities so they can respond safely and effectively to extreme weather and natural disasters - and so they can recover quickly when the threat has passed.
- protecting communities from wildfires and flooding through landscape level, ecologically-centred, forest management and fuel treatment projects.
- increasing the resilience of regional ecosystems by restoring habitats and protecting biodiversity.

Agriculture & Food Security

The party states that:

- the COVID pandemic raised awareness of the importance of food security; and in California and other places have reinforced the message: the food security of British Columbians is threatened by the changing climate in major supply regions such as California, Florida and Mexico. We need to be prepared. We must do more to protect agricultural land in our communities, expand the area of land under food production, and establish a long-term food sustainability strategy for the province. This can decrease reliance on increasingly unreliable import supply chains and diversify our farming in BC.
- you can't have real food without farmers. We need to urgently identify and implement options to make farming a more attractive and lucrative endeavour, especially for younger farmers
- in recent years, agricultural land has become tied to the escalating housing market in many parts of BC, and it's become untenable for young farmers to get on the land. There are tools at government's disposal to remedy this. Just as government stepped in to create the agricultural land reserve many decades ago, it is possible to ensure that farming has a future in B.C.
- one option is to create a publicly owned agricultural land bank available to lease by new farmers.
- it's also important to recognize that all of these decisions are connected. The decisions that we make about our forests, and about development, all impact our food security. We need to get smarter about how we make decisions and recognize this interconnection. Operating in silos won't solve these challenges.

The party advocates creation of a Food Secure B.C. strategy to make B.C. agriculture more climate resilient, improve local food security and support local agricultural producers, including:

- establishment of a long-term food sustainability strategy for the province to decrease reliance on import supply chains and diversify farming in BC.
- making food production and food security part of the Agricultural Land Commission's mandate.
- expanding the area of land under food production and creating a publicly owned agricultural land bank available to lease by new farmers.
- recognizing income and regional disparities in food insecurity across BC and working to enhance access to high quality, healthy food for low-income British Columbians, including developing systems for First Nations that honour Indigenous knowledge and values.
- incentivizing agro-ecological farming practices and supporting small-scale farms to adopt new technologies to reduce carbon emissions.
- investigating options to make farming a more attractive and sustainable endeavour, including (1) ensuring that farmers have access to local processing facilities and that

they share in the returns from processing; and (2) enabling the growing of high value crops, such as cannabis, to supplement farm income.

- providing \$10 million per year to fund research and establish regional agricultural bureaus to provide expertise and support to local farmers to apply innovations on-farm and adapt to a changing climate.
- restriction and regulation of foreign ownership of ALR land.

Forestry

The party states that:

- we need to take back control of our forests from major corporations, ensuring forestry is meeting the needs of local communities, both economically and ecologically.
- the forests of BC are a public resource that belong to the people of BC, and they should be managed that way. This means reinstating government authority in decision-making, undertaking major tenure reform, and enhancing scientific capacity in FLNRO.
- despite promising to do things differently, the current government has not changed, in any substantial way, the status quo of forestry management in this province. Recently the cutting of old growth continued as fast as it did under the prior government, and no meaningful reforms to forest management have been made. Local job losses and unsustainable forestry practices have continued.
- forests should be managed holistically, for all the values they hold. Most fundamentally this means enacting legislation that establishes conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of BC's forests as an overarching priority, with timber supply as just one benefit. Different planning processes and harvesting methods flow from this fundamental shift in forest management practice. We can't continue to liquidate our natural resources for the benefit of shareholders of massive corporations, while continuing to shed local jobs in communities across BC as mills close. Instead we need to generate far more jobs and revenue from what we harvest, for example by ensuring that small producers have access to fibre, incentivizing value-added wood products and nontraditional uses of wood fibre, and revenue-sharing with First Nations, municipalities, and regional districts.
- the province needs to recognize crucial importance of forests to biodiversity and to protect our remaining old growth forests forever. This means fully implementing the recommendations of the old growth review panel in partnership with First Nations and an immediate end to the logging of old growth forests in high risk ecosystems across the province, with the funding needed to back this up and create new opportunities for communities, rather than continuing "consultations" with little action.

The party advocates moving now to protect what the province has left, including:

- reforming forestry management in BC so that it serves the long-term needs of local communities and supports a truly sustainable industry, where community and ecosystem values are the primary focus of management.
- taking back control of forests from major corporations, ensuring forestry is meeting the needs of local communities.
- reinstating government authority in decision-making at provincial and local levels, including enhancing the authority of district managers to refuse or amend permits.
- tenure reform to redistribute tenures from a few major companies and grow the proportion of tenures held by First Nations and community forests.
- establish a legislative position of Forester General position, an officer of the legislature who is non-partisan and reports to the House annually.
- establishing a Chief Scientist as a counterpart to the Chief Forester to ensure multiple values are adequately incorporated into timber supply analysis.
- enhancing capacity in FLNRO and establishing more community based Ministry of Forests staff, to support the sustainable management of local forest resources and provide well-paying community jobs.

In order to manage provincial forests holistically, for all the values they hold, the party advocates:

- shifting the management framework through reforming legislation, away from an exclusive focus on timber supply to managing for all the values that our forests hold.
- adopting a wider variety of logging practices, including selective logging and longer stand rotations.
- undertaking landscape-level ecosystem-based planning, reforestation and restoration in partnership with local communities and First Nations.
- protecting communities from wildfires and flooding through landscape level, ecologically-centred, forest management and fuel treatment projects.
- restoring government capacity to ensure forest stewardship, monitoring and enforcement, and enhance funding for forest inventory research and primary research.

To protect remaining high value old growth forests forever, the party advocates:

- full and immediate implementation of the recommendations of the old growth review panel, in partnership with First Nations. This includes: (1) an immediate end to the logging of old growth forests in high risk ecosystems across the province; (2) legislation to establish conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of BC's forests as an overarching priority.
- establishing funding mechanisms to support the preservation of old growth forests.

To generate more jobs and revenue from forest harvesting, the party advocates:

- ensuring that small producers have access to fibre and incentivize value-added product innovation, including non-traditional uses of wood fibre including bio fuels, and productive uses of residual fibre.
- applying the carbon tax to slash-pile burning to reduce carbon emissions from our forestry sector and ensuring the use of residual materials.
- ending raw log exports.
- ensuring that benefits of B.C. resource flow to local communities, by directly sharing more resource revenues with local First Nations, municipalities, and regional

districts.

- improving support for forestry workers and communities, including through expanded investments into retraining and support for new job opportunities.
- investigating opportunities to diversify milling and secondary manufacturing to better use existing timber.
- promotion of more sustainable development of forest resources, including investing in tourism opportunities and low-carbon economies.

Transportation

The party states that:

- nearly 40% of the greenhouse gas emissions in BC are from the transportation sector. Establishing a world leading zero-emission transportation system from one side of the province to the other would not make a major dent in our emissions while supporting post-pandemic recovery
- is supports prioritizing investments in electrifying provincial transit systems, including partnering with the federal government to accelerate support for BC Transit and Translink's efforts to electrify their bus fleets
- a clear vision is also needed for the provincial transportation sector. This means enhancing the ZEV mandate and undertaking a comprehensive build out of public charging infrastructure on all highways in the province, particularly in remote and rural BC, to enable EV drivers to travel across BC with ease. Government should lead the way by requiring all BC government agencies operating in urban centres to shift to 100% ZEV fleets by 2030.
- it is also necessary to lower the cost of electric vehicles so that ordinary British Columbians can afford them. As a first step, it proposes making ZEV ownership more accessible by removing PST on used electric cars and supporting electric vehicle charging in multi-unit buildings.

The party advocates:

- taking early action to enhance the ZEV mandate by accelerating the ZEV mandate to require 100% ZEV non-commercial vehicle sales by 2035; and making ZEV ownership more accessible by removing PST on used EVs
- working with industry to develop additional innovation incentive programs, and to set new ZEV targets for commercial vehicles and on and offroad medium and heavy duty vehicles;
- shifting to 100% ZEV passenger vehicle fleets for BC government agencies by 2030.
- prioritizing investments in electrifying of provincial transit systems, including partnering with the federal government to accelerate support for BC Transit and Translink's efforts to electrify their bus fleets
- a comprehensive build out of public charging infrastructure on all highways in the province, particularly in remote and rural BC, to enable EV travel across BC with ease
- support for electric vehicle charging in multi-unit buildings through a variety of tools, including building code changes and establishing "right to charge" rules



Stewardship of Creation

Energy & Resources

The party states that:

- the radical "CleanBC" program is an elaborate scheme that, while doing little to help the environment or address the effects of climate change, will drive up energy costs, limit poverty-reducing opportunities in rural and First Nations communities, and generally make life miserable individuals and businesses across the entire province – hitting our world-class resource industries particularly hard
- banning nuclear and fossil fuels, fighting hydroelectric projects and pipelines in the courts, forcing the mining and energy industries to purchase expensive power from BC Hydro, and imposing punitive carbon, fuel, and health taxes while at the same time subsidising expensive, intermittent, and unreliable solar and wind projects that themselves rely on fossil fuels for their production is bad for the environment, bad for the economy, and bad for British Columbians. Good intentions aren't the same thing as good results, and the CleanBC plan isn't the same thing as a good idea

The party advocates:

- liberating the energy and resources sectors so that British Columbia may once again punch above its weight in providing the world with world-class, ethically-produced energy and resources that make our comfortable modern world possible, and empower us and millions of others around the world to enhance their environment, adapt to a changing climate, and improve their lives
- taking a smarter approach to energy and resource regulation, liberating core industries from many of the inefficient bureaucratic and regulatory burdens placed on them, while at the same time empowering landowners, municipalities, and First Nations with enshrined property rights protections, and saving taxpayers billions of dollars a year by eliminating corporate welfare in all of its forms, allowing the market to function without the government rewarding losers with bailouts and punishing the

- innovative upstarts and winners with excessive taxes and regulations that drive up operating costs, drive down competitiveness, limit job creation, and slow innovation
- it continues to invite stake-holder feedback on the critical issues of natural resources, oil & gasoline, logging & forestry, land use rights, fish farming, the Agricultural Land Reserve and more.
- repealing the GreenBC plan to create a government monopoly in energy
- allowing private energy providers to sell directly to consumers, not to BC Hydro
- ending government legal opposition to pipelines and resource export projects
- requesting that the federal government lift the tanker ban in Northern BC
- requesting that the federal government lift the offshore drilling moratorium
- ending corporate welfare and preferential treatment towards energy and resource companies
- eliminating the carbon tax



Stewardship of Creation

The party states that:

- British Columbia has a strong economy, a beautiful natural environment, abundant natural resources and a highly skilled and talented workforce who drive the economy forward. During its term in government it has continued to leverage B.C.'s strengths by making investments and implementing measures to support inclusive growth.
- its 2024 provincial budget provides new investments to protect British Columbians from the effects of climate change and build a stronger, cleaner economy that works for everyone. Over \$1.3 billion in new funding measures will help:
 - (1) mitigate and better respond to the impacts of climate emergencies,
 - (2) invest in a cleaner and greener economy, and
 - (3) maintain and improve access to communities through road, transit and community infrastructure investments
- some investments will begin in 2023/24 and are in addition to funding provided through Budget 2023.

Responding to Climate Emergencies

The party states that:

- B.C. has experienced the impacts of climate change through increasingly frequent and severe climate-related emergencies, from record flooding in November 2021 to unsurpassed drought and wildfires in 2023.
- B.C.'s response to emergency events has historically been led by Emergency Management BC, which has now transitioned to a dedicated Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.
- during its current term in office it has committed to investment of \$252 million in new funding over four years to bolster the province's capacity to prepare for and respond to future climate emergencies.
- the \$252 million investment includes \$18 million over the fiscal plan to support year-round delivery of government response and recovery programs, such as supporting provincial and regional operations centres and better coordinating vital communications that alert residents to imminent hazards and evacuation orders.
- its 2024 budget broadens support for evacuees by funding specially-trained Service BC call centre agents who provide virtual navigation for accessing information and emergency services. Other new Service BC staff can be deployed directly to impacted communities to facilitate critical emergency services, such as emergency funding distribution and on-site replacement of official documents.
- the remaining \$234 million of new funding supports two years of priority infrastructure projects and programming to decrease flood risks in the Lower Mainland and improve the Province's ability to manage water resources, especially during times of water scarcity. This includes:
 - \$77 million in 2023/24 to upgrade the Barrowtown pump station in Abbotsford, which was critical in responding to the November 2021 flooding in the Sumas Prairie.
 - \$83 million in 2023/24 to increase funding for the Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program. This program supports the agriculture industry and communities to effectively manage, collect, transport and store water for agriculture and irrigation purposes. Improved agricultural water management is critical during times of drought to ensure human and livestock food sources are secure
 - \$50 million in 2024/25 for the purchase and installation of water metering in select communities to enable them to better conserve water by identifying leaks, establishing appropriate rates, and educating users on their actual water use;
 - \$14 million in 2023/24 to help replace the 50-year old Cowichan Lake weir. A higher weir will enable more water to be stored in Cowichan Lake, an important source of drinking water, and better manage water flows to support improved fish habitat in the Cowichan River. This project will be completed in partnership with the Cowichan Tribes; and
 - \$10 million in 2024/25 to increase the water storage capacity and better sustain the required environmental water flow of Saint Mary Lake on Salt Spring Island by raising the dam height.

Wildfire Management

The party states that:

- following B.C.'s record wildfire season in 2023, it has committed to investing \$154 million in new operating funding and \$21 million in capital funding over the next three years to support additional wildfire response, recovery and infrastructure resources.
- while statutory funding to respond to wildfires remains available no matter the cost of a wildfire season, the party has committed to increasing the budget for year-round wildfire response and recovery activities. This approach recognizes the cost of fighting wildfires and rehabilitating the landscape is on the rise and should be planned for where possible.
- incremental capital and operating funding includes:
 - \$56 million for aviation preparedness and response through increased contract funding for helicopter and air tanker services;
 - \$60 million for the Forest Enhancement Society of BC to continue industry and community focused wildfire risk reduction and fuel management;
 - \$38 million to support stable, year-round resourcing including fire crew leaders and front-line staff that provide structure protection, prevention and risk reduction, and wildfire land-based recovery; and
 - \$21 million in capital funding for a new Prince George equipment depot.



Stewardship of Creation

The party states that:

- at a time when families are stretched too thin, the current government has doubled the carbon tax. It advocates cancelling the current government's plan to further triple the carbon tax, and fully canceling the carbon tax if the federal government does.
 - not everyone can take a bus to work or to their kids' soccer practice. Repealing the fuel tax can save families 15 cents a litre, or about \$30 for a Ford pickup or Dodge minivan.
 - to give British Columbians the same bread Atlantic Canadians get on the carbon tax for home heating, it advocates scrapping the carbon tax on all home heating.
- Make Groceries Cheaper**
- grocery prices are through the roof. Cutting the fuel tax and cancelling the carbon tax hikes will make groceries cheaper by reducing the cost of growing and transporting food
 - families that can't afford a basic car of their own shouldn't have to pay for wealthy people to buy Teslas and other luxury EVs. BC United will scrap this unfair handout.

Energy & Resources

The party states that:

- B.C.'s natural resources are the economic lifeblood of our province, but the current government and activists want British Columbians to be ashamed of them. It's time to stop saying sorry for our resources.
- under the current government, resource extraction and development projects are choked by high taxes, red tape, and uncertainty. It's time to end the culture of "no," simplify and expedite approvals, and start getting big things done again.
- it advocates going all-in on the development of liquid natural gas (LNG), displacing reliance on coal abroad and contributing to a cleaner planet, all while creating jobs and growing paycheques at home.

Conservation & Sustainable Development

The party states that:

- the current government's "CleanBC Plan" will kill jobs, kill paycheques, and plunge the province into a recession, while doing nothing for the environment. It's own economic model confirms this. It advocates scrapping the scheme.
- B.C. should be a clean energy powerhouse, but current government's policies have cancelled clean power projects and made B.C. rely on imported power. It advocates massive investments in clean power projects to make B.C. energy independent again.

To protect the environment and the province's natural resources, the party advocates:

- modernizing provincial firefighting services. The party states that B.C.'s firefighting fleets need help. It undertakes to establish a modern, full-time firefighting service with more front-line personnel, an expanded provincial aircraft fleet, and cutting-edge fire suppression technology to protect homes and infrastructure.
- leveraging local wildfire expertise and response teams. The party states that local expertise cannot continue to be ignored in response to wildfires. It undertakes to deploy local contractors for rapid fire suppression, and equipping local volunteer fire response teams, including First Nations and community members with supplies and

resources.

- immediate support for wildfire evacuees. The party states that evacuees and communities impacted by wildfires are being left without support for too long under the current system. It undertakes to will provide automatic financial support for evacuees during the first 72 hours, alongside efficient aid through streamlined Emergency Social Services for people and communities.
- moving the Ministry of Forests and overhauling forest management. The party state that people who make decisions about provincial forestry should come from the communities impacted by those decisions. It undertakes to move the Ministry of Forests from Victoria to Prince George, to protect forestry jobs from bureaucrats. It advocates aggressive overhaul forestry management practices, and reducing wildfire risk through selective harvesting, expediting permits, regulatory changes, and financial incentives.
- protection of declining wildlife. The party states that provincial wildlife populations desperately need help. It undertakes to invest \$200 million to revitalize declining populations of B.C.'s iconic species and their habitats, and develop a strategy with industry experts to sustainably manage natural resources used for hunting, fishing, and viewing.
- establishing an independent funding model, managed by a new agency that includes title holders and stakeholder to maximize provincial funds, by attracting support from NGOs, local governments, businesses, and through new means such as wildlife license plates and fines.
- restructuring oversight of natural resources, including centralized fish, wildlife, and habitat management within a dedicated Ministry, ensuring sustainable practices are at the forefront of provincial governance, and not undermined by other resource-based legislation.

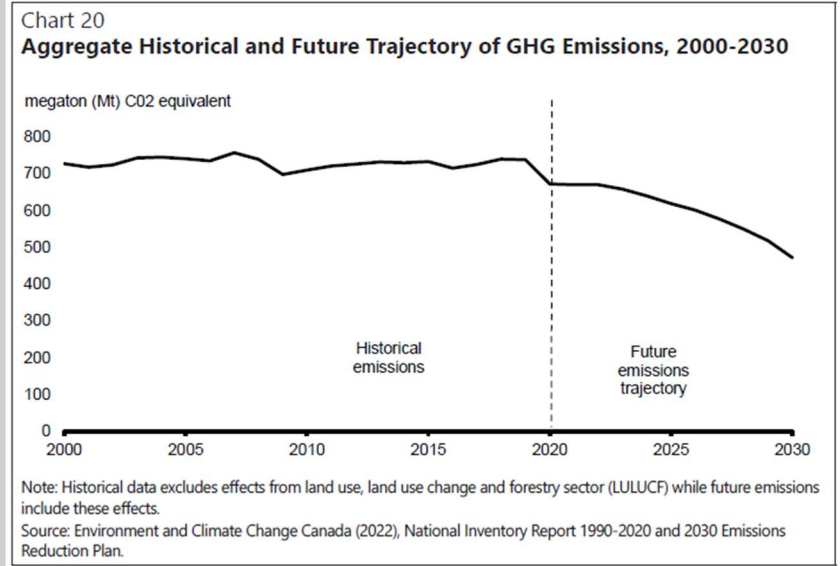
Points to Ponder: Stewardship of Creation

The following data is very important for a properly formed conscience to consider in discerning its vote:

Many voices, including scientists, the Vatican, and the United Nations, agree that in order to avoid catastrophic global heating, with resulting unpredictable increases in the number and severity of extreme weather events, loss of agricultural land, particularly in the poorest countries, and collapse of ecosystems, the global average temperature increase must be limited to 1.5 degrees Centigrade; and that to achieve such a limit, emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide must be cut in half by 2030 and brought to zero net increase by 2050. Canada is currently committed is to a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, relative to 2005 levels, by 2030, but according to the auditor general may not meet that goal.

- What can or should federal, provincial, and municipal governments, non-governmental organizations, families, and individuals do, if anything, to help prevent irreversible and possibly catastrophic damage to the earth's atmosphere?
- How can or should the provincial government help guide British Columbia toward a sustainable, adaptable, and resilient economy and life style, in order to protect future generations and those who live in other parts of the world, while enabling British Columbians to work at materially-sustaining and spiritually fulfilling jobs?
- Should the elimination of single-use plastics, packaging, and implements be made a social priority? If so, what can or should the federal or provincial governments do, or local or charitable organizations? What other issues should be at the top of our climate agenda?

Chart: Trends as of 2020, from Canada Federal Budget 2023, pg 16



Family, Community & the Common Good

Role of the Family | Health Care & Elder Care | Education & Young Workers | Culture, Arts & Tourism

The priority of the family over society and the State must be affirmed. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)

Catholic Teaching

The demands of the common good... are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights. These demands concern above all the commitment to peace, the organization of the State's powers, a sound juridical system, the protection of the environment, and the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human rights: food, housing, work, education and access to culture, transportation. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 166*

The Role & Development of the Family

*"Honour your father and mother."
– the 4th Commandment*

The family is the primary unit in society. It is where education begins and the Word of God is first nurtured. The priority of the family over society and the State must be affirmed. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 209-214*

The Church teaches that the proper role of government and other human institutions is to foster human life and dignity by maintaining social conditions that enable and encourage us to grow authentically and to serve God in one another, and thereby to promote that which is truly in the common interest. This begins with nurturing and enabling families, as well as supporting the elderly and other marginalized members of society.



Role of the Family

The party states that:

- it believes that the family unit is essential to the well-being of individuals and society, because that is where children learn values and develop a sense of responsibility.
- therefore government legislation and programs should support and respect the role of the British Columbian family and the rich heritage of this province where the family unit has traditionally been valued and supported by government.
- it believes in the right and duty of parents to raise their own children responsibly according to their own conscience and beliefs. We believe no person, government or agency has the right to interfere in the exercise of that duty except through due process of law and only where it can be reasonably

Health Care & Elder Care

The party states that the Health Care System in British Columbia is not adequately meeting the needs of all British Columbians. There is currently a long waiting list for many medical procedures. In addition, many rural residents now have to travel long distances, sometimes in extreme winter conditions, to access certain types of health care.

The party therefore advocates:

- covering the cost of hospitals cost in British Columbia by payments from the Provincial Government on a "Performance" basis, to cause hospital administrations to become conscious of costs and revenues and help them to seek the most cost-effective way of dealing with their patients, and in many cases to offer more, rather than fewer services. This will help reduce waiting lists for surgeries
- when private health care providers can provide a service more cost effectively and/or in a more timely manner, sending patients to those private health care providers and covering the cost of their services through the BC Health Care system. This is currently being done with most doctors, who operate private, "for profit" clinics in British Columbia
- making copies of all invoices paid by the Provincial Government, including all payments to Government owned facilities as well as all payments to private health care providers available to the patient or surviving relative. This will enable the residents of British Columbia to see what their health care is costing the taxpayers and will make medical practitioners aware that their invoices are being seen by the customer
- creating an office of Provincial Surgeon General to oversee the complete provincial health care system and ensure fairness in payments to hospitals and clinics as well as to arbitrate patient complaints.
- addressing the shortage of doctors and nurses by fast tracking the accreditation of foreign trained professionals and by increasing the number of training spaces in provincial educational institutions
- encouraging the establishment of walk-in clinics, including clinics offering 24- hour service, and then encouraging emergency room personnel to refer non emergency patients to those walk-in clinics, where they can be treated more cost effectively
- opening or re-opening hospitals that have been closed in smaller communities in rural British Columbia, where numbers and/or distance from existing hospitals warrant, so that fewer patients will have to travel such great distances, sometimes in extreme weather, to access primary health care. This will also relieve some of the pressure on our regional hospitals. Where numbers warrant, palliative care will be provided at these small, rural hospitals so that those approaching end-of-life can be closer to their families and be kept comfortable.
- placing emphasis on preventative medicine and promote fitness and nutrition as keys to healthier living and to reduce the demand on our health care facilities. This will include health and fitness programs in our schools, including mandatory physical education from K-12.
- establishing a Health Care Task Force that will consult with provincial health care professionals and residents, study health care services in other countries to determine what works and what could provide benefit to the residents of British Columbia
- ensuring that the five basic principles of the Canada Health Act are applied throughout Canada, even though the administration of health services comes under provincial jurisdiction. Residents of any province or territory who require medical assistance or services while visiting elsewhere in Canada should have as full and equal access to all health care facilities and services as residents of the province or territory in which the need for such services is required.

Health Care

The demands of the common good concern above all the commitment to peace, a sound juridical system, the protection of the environment, and the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human rights: food, housing, work, education and access to culture, transportation, basic health care, the freedom of communication and expression, and the protection of religious freedom.

Among the causes that greatly contribute to underdevelopment and poverty, mention must be made of illiteracy, lack of food security, the absence of structures and services, inadequate measures for guaranteeing basic healthcare, and the lack of safe drinking water and sanitation. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 166, 447*

Support for the Elderly

If the elderly are in situations where they experience suffering and dependence, not only do they need health care services and appropriate assistance, but and above all they need to be treated with love. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 222*

Education

May Nazareth remind us what the family is, what the communion of love is, its stark and simple beauty, its sacred and inviolable character; may it help us to see how sweet and irreplaceable education in the family is; may it teach us its natural function in the social order. May we finally learn the lesson of work. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 222 (citing St Paul VI, Address at Nazareth 5 January 1964)*

Maintaining employment depends more and more on one's professional capabilities. Instructional and educational systems must not neglect human or technological formation, which are necessary for gainfully fulfilling one's responsibilities.

Young people should be taught to act upon

Abortion, Elective Surgery, & Socially-Assisted Death (SAD)

The party states that:

- while currently, abortions are performed by BC health care professionals both within provincially-operated facilities and private clinics, it does not believe abortions (the killing of tiny human beings) qualify as "health care", or that BC taxpayers, many of whom are conscientiously opposed to abortion, should be forced to pay for them
- it also believes that the money spent on abortions in BC could be better spent on pregnancy care and support for new mothers. Many studies indicate negative health impacts for women who undergo abortions, including suicide, depression, birthing complications and a higher incidence of breast cancers.
- therefor the party advocates removing abortion from the list of taxpayer-funded surgical procedures
- the party further believes that BC taxpayers should not be forced to pay for any surgeries that are not medically necessary. (Abortion is an elective surgery and is not medically necessary).
- it advocates restoring the access to statistical information about abortions performed in all BC hospitals and private clinics, including making it mandatory to document all medical procedures in BC. This information must be available to the public through Freedom of Information requests.
- repealing provincial "Bubble Zone" legislation (Access to Abortion Services ACT of 1995) and restoring freedom of speech in BC.
- defending senior citizens and those with disabilities from attempts to institute euthanasia and assisted suicide in the province of BC.

Long-Term & Home Care

The party advocates

- opening more long term care facilities in British Columbia in order to get long term care patients out of our hospitals and into a more comfortable environment, and free up hospital beds for acute care patients
- opening more community care facilities in rural British Columbia, in order to take pressure off of our hospitals in those communities
- increasing the availability of home care support and reinstating housekeeping and other services so that more senior citizens can live in dignity in their own homes and so that that the demand for expensive hospital care will be further reduced

Education & Young Workers

Primary & Secondary Education

The party states that:

- parents are the first and primary educators of their own children. A CHP-BC Government will protect the right of parents to choose the best type of schooling for their children.
- provincial funding allocated for the education of BC children in primary and secondary schools "follow the student" and be directed to the school setting chosen by the parents. "School choice" means that the parents can choose the best school for their children and the provincial per-student allocation will be directed to that school, including public schools, charter schools, independent schools, or home schools.
- ensuring that the Ministry of Education establishes minimum academic standards to ensure that institutions or home schools are equipping students with adequate basic knowledge and skills, as well as a 'fee per student' that will apply to all students in BC.
- where institutions outside of the public school system are able to provide an equivalent or superior education at a lower cost, the Ministry will adjust fees accordingly for all students, providing an incentive for excellence and cost-effectiveness
- no schools funded by tax dollars will teach/promote/condone physical harm
- ensuring that volunteers and non-licensed paid employees are allowed to perform non-academic services for independent schools. Remuneration for these services will be entirely at the discretion of the governing body of the independent schools
- negotiating salaries and working conditions of public school teachers on a province wide basis
- ending the practice of taxpayer-funded BC Schools being used to promote social engineering regarding human sexuality, sexual orientation, etc. Parents are primarily responsible for training their own children in matters of morality. Public educators are entrusted—during the valuable time children are in their care and supervision—to support parents as role models, not to usurp their authority nor to undermine the values taught at home. To this end, reversing the Corren Agreement of 2005
- abandoning widespread promotion of "anti-bullying" as a strategy to promote alternate sexual and family models will be abandoned. All students will be protected from all forms of bullying, including pressure from teachers and peers to conform to new standards of sexual labelling and attitudes.
- promoting a high standard of conduct for all students and teachers including positive references to abstinence, chastity and marriage.

Post-Secondary Education

In order to promote employment and job creation, the party advocates:

- encouragement of and support for BC residents and support who wish to complete their education up to and including grade twelve
- within the ability of taxpayers to fund the cost, increasing provincial expenditures on education at technical institutes, colleges and universities by providing loans for students who apply and meet the minimum requirements. These loans will be forgivable for post-secondary students who graduate from BC institutions and continue to live, work and pay taxes in BC. Forgiveness of the loans will be pro-rated over a ten year period. If any graduate ceases to be a resident of British Columbia at any time within the ten years following graduation, the unforgiven pro-rated portion of the student loan will become due and payable

their own initiative, to accept the responsibility of facing with adequate competencies the risks connected with a fluid economic context that is often unpredictable in the way it evolves.
Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 289, 290

Culture, Arts & Tourism

Faced with rapid technological and economic progress, and with the equally rapid transformation of the processes of production and consumption, a great deal of educational and cultural work is urgently needed.
Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 376, 401

Certain economically prosperous countries tend to be proposed as cultural models for less developed countries; instead, each of those countries should be helped to grow in its own distinct way and to develop its capacity for innovation while respecting the values of its proper culture. A shallow and pathetic desire to imitate others leads to copying and consuming in place of creating, and fosters low national self-esteem.

We forget that there is no worse form of alienation than to feel uprooted, belonging to no one. A land will be fruitful, and its people bear fruit and give birth to the future, only to the extent that it can foster a sense of belonging among its members, create bonds of integration between generations and different communities, and avoid all that makes us insensitive to others and leads to further alienation. *Pope Francis, Fratelli tutti, 51-53*



Role and development of the family

The party advocates:

- support for all new parents with the costs of daycare directly, while incentivizing the private sector to create new daycare spaces. This plan includes forming partnerships with municipalities.

Health Care & Elder Care

The party states that:

- it advocates serious, substantive healthcare reform. The performance of British Columbia's health care system throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been abysmal. Chronic shortages in physicians, nurses and ICU capacity has become painstakingly clear. It's time for serious reform.
- it supports choice and competition in health care, allowing choice and competition in the delivery of health care services while retaining universal access for all British Columbians and ending the government's court case against private clinics and unleashing the power of private-sector innovation.
- it advocates reducing health care wait times. Unless the province embraces bold reforms, British Columbians will continue to suffer with unreasonable delays on many medical procedures. Reform hospital funding to incentivize output - just like many European countries (and Australia) have done to improve results.
- it advocates more doctors and more nurses, including by incentivizing post-secondary institutions to train more RNs, LPNs, and physicians by prioritizing government funding and support for these programs and students.
- it supports opposition and repeal of Bill 36. B.C.'s healthcare professionals have a right to freedom of conscience and bodily autonomy. Under Bill 36, the healthcare workers we once applauded as "frontline heroes" could be fined or jailed for refusing government decrees, including COVID vaccine mandates. It opposes this bill.

Education & Young Workers

The party states that:

- it supports parents' choices. Parents have the right to determine how and where their children will be educated. Government must provide fair and reasonable funding to families for the type of education they choose for their children. This includes public, private or homeschooling.
- it advocates removing ideology from the classroom. Political bias and ideology have no place in B.C.'s education curriculum and must be removed immediately. Schools must be places of learning – not tools for activism and indoctrination.
- it supports protection of free speech on campus. Universities and colleges that do not support and defend freedom of expression on campus will be defunded. Taxpayer money will not be used to support places of censorship and intimidation.
- it advocates re-allocation of funding for post-secondary education. Government funding within post-secondary institutions will be re-allocated to promote and incentivize training in essential fields such as medicine, engineering, and skilled trades.



Role and development of the family

The party states that:

- families are under tremendous pressure in BC today. The generation raising young children juggles long working hours and multiple demands on their time, as their household incomes stagnate, and housing costs skyrocket
- its plan to support young families is designed to promote the opportunity for parents to achieve a balance that works for them. Parents who choose to work will be supported by enhanced access to quality childcare, and more flexible work arrangements, those who choose to stay home with their children will have an income supplement, and we will encourage flexible working options to support people to find a balance
- a first priority is to accelerate the work of building a universal childcare system. It's well-established that the COVID-19 pandemic had disproportionate effects on women, and that we risk losing all the gains made in women's labour force participation over the past number of decades, without targeted programs that support women. But it is not enough just to deliver childcare. In creating spaces, we shouldn't be reinforcing a flawed system that's overly reliant on for-profit providers. We also need to improve flexibility for parents by promoting the opportunity for parents to achieve the right balance between work and family time for their needs. It's time to move beyond a 20th century approach for working lives and develop supports that recognise the needs of families today.

The party advocates:

- To support stay-at-home parents, providing up to \$500 per month for families with children under 3 and a stay at home parent.

Child Care

The party advocates:

- a comprehensive program for childcare and increased funding for child care programs from \$674 million in 2020/21 to \$897 million in 2023/24. This is in addition to the \$300 million funding for preschool for 3 and 4 year olds that is included in the Education budget. Funding would cover the phase-in of the various elements of this plan for a comprehensive program that would include:

- expansion of available physical spaces, prioritizing partnerships with public schools, community non-profits, and First Nations
 - free childcare for working parents with children under 3;
 - professional development opportunities to increase qualifications of existing child care workers, and the training of more early childhood educators in certified programs;
 - establishment of professional wages for early childhood educators.
- maintenance of child care subsidies and supports as needed to ensure adequate financial support for all families.
- moving the Ministry of State for Childcare into the Ministry of Education in recognition of the importance of ECE in the educational outcomes for our children.

To support flexible work arrangements, the party advocates taking first steps towards policies that ensure that families have a viable choice between going back to full-time work, staying at home or balancing both, including:

- in consultation with business, labour and other stakeholders, exploring options for reduced work weeks and or flexible work hours. For example, encouraging employers to adopt a 4-day work week, or reduced hours for a standard work week while maintaining full-time status to maintain benefits, or modified work week arrangements.
- supporting telecommuting to save commuting time
- helping employers to continue to support telecommuting where feasible
- enhancing investments to deliver highspeed internet access across BC

Health Care & Elder Care

The party states that:

- while a crisis can bring out the best in people, it can also expose the cracks in society that are papered over during the normal times. The COVID pandemic did just that, bringing the crises in seniors care, mental health and addictions into full public view.
- the crisis in seniors' care is a perfect storm fueled by the growing number of seniors; the costs of providing care; the inadequate capacity of the health authorities to provide the care; overworked and undervalued staff; the contracting out of seniors' care to private for-profit care homes; and, the failure of government to ensure that the quality of care is maintained.
- mental health care is also failing at all levels, from early intervention for children and youth through to tertiary care for adults with complex psychological problems, the system is inadequately resourced, with people waiting for weeks and months to get publicly funded help, and then the help they receive does not always fully address their needs.
- at the same time, British Columbia is in the grip of two other very serious health crises. Since early spring in 2020, British Columbia has been Canada's epicentre for the opioid crisis. Successive governments have failed to provide adequate treatment options for addicts and dependence on toxic street drugs. Overdose deaths rose sharply during the pandemic, due to supply disruptions that caused increased toxin levels in drugs sold on the street.
- many of these problems were caused by the austerity years of the prior government, when the province thought that saving money by not investing in services for our loved ones was a good idea. The current government is taking steps in the right direction, but there is a long way to go

Primary Care

The party states that:

- British Columbians rightfully take pride in the provincial healthcare system and its frontline healthcare workers, including in the response to COVID-19.
- after COVID, one of the more important priorities is to tackle the family doctor shortage in BC. Successive governments have struggled to increase the number of family doctors available.
- it will continue to work with physicians and other stakeholders to improve incentives for doctors to set up family practices in BC. Qualified foreign-trained physicians can also play a greater role in providing services in our province.
- it helped the last government champion the creation of primary care networks. Such interprofessional and integrated teams are providing more access to physiotherapists, nurse practitioners, midwives, dieticians and other health professionals, helping alleviate the burden on doctors, increasing their ability to take on new patients.
- primary care networks will need ongoing support in order to be successful in their goals.
- the accessibility of care is part of another of the party's core values, ensuring that a far greater share of health care spending is shifted to support prevention.

The party advocates:

- continued roll-out of primary care networks in to expand accessibility of healthcare services, while increasing the number of British Columbians having a family doctor.
- implementation of an essential drugs program, designed to reduce the costs of prescription drugs and ensure the cost of drugs is not a barrier to health management.
- establishment of a task force to develop a plan to transition the balance of resources between acute care and preventative care, including review of the funding and range of

services covered by the health care system to ensure a mix of services that better meets the treatment and prevention needs of the population.

- consultations with physicians and other stakeholders to improve efficiency, reduce administration, and incentivize service as a General Practitioner.
- working with the provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons to create a pathway for qualified foreign-trained physicians to practice in BC.

Elder Care

The party states that:

- for years serious questions have been raised around accountability, monitoring and financial oversight in BC's long term care homes. The COVID pandemic exacerbated and spotlighted these issues, showing that our seniors bore the worst outcomes of the pandemic. They deserve much better than the care they've received.
- it advocates a broader discussion about how people age and how to reduce isolation amongst seniors. We should be expanding our imagination about the place that seniors occupy in our neighbourhoods, our communities and our society.
- wages and working conditions in the sector need to be improved, and the issue of for-profit ownership in the public care system should be revisited. Public money supports people in care homes whether they are run by health authorities, not-for-profit organizations or private companies.
- it should be ensured that the companies that exist today are meeting the standards required for adequate care. There is far too little accountability about how public funds are being used. It would establish annual inspections, and require standard financial statements and audited expense reports of all private facilities, so that there is confidence that public funding is being used to create better health-care outcomes for seniors, not creating more profit for shareholders.
- most of all, the sector should be shifted away from a for-profit private company model. Our seniors are not a commodity that should be earning some investor a profit - they are our parents, our grandparents. It's time we shifted our tax dollars away from for-profit long-term care in BC, and instead built a high quality and accessible system of seniors care in this province.

The party advocates:

- beginning to shift the sector away from a for-profit private company model to a mix of public, non-for-profit, and community-based services and co-ops
- ensuring that public funding is only being used to support direct care for seniors, and enhance accountability by requiring annual inspections, financial statements and audited expense reports
- establishing caregivers as a recognized healthcare profession with the salary they deserve
- supporting pilot projects that bring young people and seniors together and integrate seniors more deeply into communities
- giving the Office of the Seniors Advocate more independence and an expanded mandate.

Mental Health Care

The party states that:

- increasing numbers of British Columbians are struggling with their mental health and we need to treat it like any other health issue by properly resourcing it in our public system.
- mental health care is failing at all levels, from early intervention for children and youth through to tertiary care for adults with complex psychological problems. In addition to concerns arising from the pandemic, young people are also facing compounding crises of climate change and affordability. Young people are the emerging leaders of our province and they should feel hopeful and excited about their future.
- protection of our mental health as exists for physical health begins by increasing accessibility to mental health services. Data clearly shows that lack of access to mental healthcare is most pronounced in those with lower incomes, fewer years of education, as well as among vulnerable and minority groups.
- the lack of mental health options for the majority of the population led to many problems even before COVID-19. If we are serious about building back better as a province then increasing the accessibility and affordability of mental health services needs to be a priority going forward.
- lack of access has led to our medical system becoming the de facto provider for those with mental health concerns. However, this system does not have the capacity to appropriately treat these individuals, leading them to over-utilize the medical health system because their mental health needs are not being treated.
- for many patients, even just a few appointments with a mental health professional can significantly improve mental and physical health. We need to invest in mental health services at every stage of British Columbians' lives so that they can be supported to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

The party advocates:

- investing to build an affordable and accessible mental healthcare system where cost is not a barrier to seeking help.
- allocating \$1.0 billion over a four-year cycle to address mental health care within the medical services plan. Funding should be provided for a comprehensive suite of initiatives including: (1) establishing accessible mental health treatment options for all those struggling with anxiety or depression; (2) early intervention, youth mental health initiatives, integrated primary care specific to youth and mental health enabling families to easily navigate resources in a supportive environment; (3) community-based options for responding to those who need mental health care and their families such as Clubhouse International; and (4) enhanced counselling outreach services to work with the homeless community.
- allocating \$200 million per year to invest in facilities to provide mental healthcare services and community-based centres for mental health and rehabilitation; and, accelerating capital plans for the construction of tertiary care facilities and detoxification beds; and protecting operating funding for facilities.
- developing and implementing a Loneliness Strategy.
- a public information campaign to increase awareness and provide information on where to get help.

Opioid Crisis

The party states that:

- British Columbia is in the midst of its worst overdose crisis ever. About 170 British Columbians die every month from overdoses related to the illegal and toxic drug supply. Since a public health emergency was declared in 2016, over 6,000 people in B.C. have died of preventable overdose. COVID-19 has made the situation more dangerous for people who use drugs by disrupting supply sources and reducing services in place to help people remain safe. Drug policies need to support public health and be based on a compassionate and evidence-based response. Key in this approach is providing people who use drugs with adequate resources to minimize the risks of drug use and support individual and public health.
- harm reduction interventions, such as providing sterile equipment, supervised consumption services, overdose prevention sites, and naloxone are cost-effective and key to ensuring that people at risk of overdose are kept alive. Harm reduction has been proven to reduce the risks of transmissible disease, prevent overdose fatalities, reduce public disorder, and create links for people to access healthcare services and enter treatment.
- decriminalization of personal possession of drugs is a policy option that is increasingly being called for by experts. Recently called for by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, decriminalization will reduce the stigma of drug use, which creates barriers to accessing important health services. It would allow us to reduce the costs of policing and the criminal justice system, which we can reallocate into improved evidence-based treatment programs and education.
- in the face of an illegal, toxic drug supply, safe supply is a crucial intervention to keep people safe. By providing access to alternatives through physicians and nurses, safe supply helps people at risk of overdose connect with healthcare professionals and reduce the risk of overdose death.
- one of the most pressing crises of our generation has so far not received the attention and action it deserves. Through courageous, evidence-based leadership, we can change this and save lives.

The party advocates:

- scaling up safe supply beyond its current level by (1) working with the colleges of physicians and pharmacists to encourage their members to participate in existing programs; (2) funding a wider range of safe supply resources, including low-barrier ways of dispensing (e.g. dispensing machines); and (3) ongoing consultation with people who use drugs in order to create low-barrier and accessible programs.
- enhanced funding for harm reduction services and creating COVID-friendly plans to ensure people have access and don't use alone.
- decriminalizing the simple possession of drugs through: (1) de-prioritizing policing of simple possession through implementing Dr. Bonnie Henry's recommended amendments to the Police Act, and; (2) strongly pursuing decriminalization with the Federal government for B.C.

Education & Young Workers

Education

The party states that:

- B.C. is entering a time of rapid economic change, in which many of the jobs our children will have don't yet exist, and that they will be using technology that has not yet been invented to solve the incredible challenges society
- the education needs to be redesigned to prepare our children for this future, and instill in them a commitment to lifelong learning. Adaptability, perseverance, problem solving and creativity are some of the most important skills our children will learn.
- sixteen years of austerity has left classroom sizes large, teacher salaries struggling to compete nationally and school districts struggling to find the dollars needed to ensure a quality education for all students.

To ensure quality education, safe school environments, and flexibility for parents, and students, the party advocates:

- ensuring that every school district has the resources to develop credible and robust remote learning and hybrid learning options, to help ensure that even when learning from home, students are able to keep a connection to the school they attend and the community they live in
- supporting the mental health of students with \$24 million in new funding to enhance the number of counsellors in schools, starting with the current school year
- developing and implementing a province-wide plan to address racism that exists in schools, and commit to additional, ongoing funding to deepen the work of reconciliation and Indigenous education across K-12

To help support the integration of early childhood education (ECE) into our public school system, the party advocates:

- allocating \$300 million in new funding to begin phasing in up to 25 hours of free early childhood education programs per week for 3 and 4 year olds, rising to \$550 million as capacity expands
- providing \$100 million in new funding to create a new capital program in the Ministry of Education to fund renovation and additions to existing schools to support ECE spaces

To help address affordability, to ensure that no child attends school hungry and to better integrate nutrition into our curriculum, the party advocates a new \$25 million fund for school districts to develop a food program for their schools in their district, including:

- proposals to be developed by the district to ensure local needs are addressed

- conditioning funding on ensuring the program integrated nutrition into the curriculum and demonstrating how the plan would eliminate the stigma associated with accessing food programming
- working with education partners on a long term plan for improvement of provincial per-student funding, including: addressing the continued disparities in wages, class size and composition between districts; access to speech-language pathologists and school psychologists, and development of new resources for students with special needs
- beginning with the development of a new funding formula that supports a 21st century education system
- doubling the funding of the B.C. Access Grant to help support post-secondary part-time students, and those enrolled in multi-year programs

Culture, Arts & Tourism

The party states that:

- small businesses were deeply affected by the COVID pandemic. Not only with respect to costs, but also with uncertainty about the future, about not knowing whether what they have built will last or whether they will have to lay off employees
- for tourism operators, the challenges were exacerbated by border closure and travel bans
- the simple fact is that the provincial government has not done enough to address the challenges facing our small business and tourism sectors.

The party advocates allocating \$300 million to create a 6 month rent subsidy program for small businesses, including:

- for qualifying businesses, covering 25% of rental costs. Criteria would include limitations to \$50,000 in monthly rent costs
- retooling the provincial grant program to focus on supporting small tourism operators
- immediately working with industry to establish criteria that make sense
- accelerating the timeline to ensure grant money can start to flow immediately
- working with the not-for-profit tourism businesses, cultural facilities and attractions to develop a separate granting program that will ensure these signature businesses can survive COVID 19 and beyond.
- working with the federal government to establish a repayable loan program for the hospitality sector and for tourism operators that exceed the criteria for the small tourism operator grant program.



Role of the family

The party has published no official statement concerning its understanding of the role of the family in society.

Health Care & Elder Care

The party states that:

- the province currently has a multiple-payer healthcare system in which workers injured on the job (WCB), those injured in accidents (ICBC), the RCMP, Armed Forces, federal employees, politicians, and even federal prisoners can access care from outside the public system and obtain procedures and surgeries very quickly.
- 65,000 surgeries are done annually in BC at the dozens of private surgery centres that have been operating for decades.
- additionally, many medically necessary services like prescription medications, ambulance rides, dental care, and mental health counselling are excluded from our public system, despite their importance in health outcomes. Users pay for these services, or they purchase private insurance to pay for part or all of the costs.
- its policy would not change this model, as the remaining 70% of the healthcare system is dictated by the Canada Health Act to be paid for directly by the provincial government.
- numerous consecutive provincial governments have attempted to tackle the increasing portion of their budgets going toward healthcare. Attempts have been made at increasing efficiencies in our current system, improving the overall health education of people, reducing wait times and many other well-intentioned reforms. What were repeatedly hyped as fix-alls have barely moved the needle. Health Care consumes 40% of the provincial budget.
- with aging demographics, rising populations, and increasing availability of new lifesaving treatments, health expenditures are expected to rise by 6% annually, outstripping economic growth, and increasing the portion of the budget directed toward healthcare (to 50% or higher, without significant new taxes). This will result in a budgetary crisis, necessitating more rationing of care.
- hidden efficiencies remaining to be found can only be uncovered by competitive forces in the delivery of health care services. For example, patients are costing hospitals \$1200/day taking up hospital beds, when they could be getting care better suited to them in a long-term facility that bills the government \$300/day instead. Hospital admissions are costly, and serve as a bottleneck in the system which impacts the delivery of care in unanticipated ways, such as emergency rooms which are over capacity. This increases wait times, and results in patients even being seen in hallways as physicians struggle to cope with fewer available beds.
- institutional diversity in delivery of care would allow for entrepreneurial doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners to group together and open their own specialty facilities that

specifically target the needs of underserved hospital patients. Diverting these patients to more appropriate care facilities will free up hospital resources to improve outcomes in the areas they are best suited for.

The party advocates:

- putting the needs of patients and their families first and protecting charter rights in all legislative decisions
- maintaining the existing multiple payer system for total health care costs
- liberating healthcare by legalizing private delivery options
- promoting preventative, primary and long-term care
- reduction of bloated healthcare administration costs without reducing delivery expenditures, tying funding to outcomes and reducing funding for programs that do not deliver acceptable returns compared with their cost. We will use legislative action to legalise private delivery options and ensure transparency in pricing, which will immediately create a rush to provide patients with the lowest cost, highest quality healthcare possible.
- looking at countries globally who have better healthcare outcomes and are comparable to Canada in other ways, including Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Japan, Iceland and Switzerland
- increasing the number of family doctors within the province, including increased compensation for doctors serving underserved areas until the shortage is eliminated, the use of non-government delivery of services to increase the diversity and creativity of compensation package
- reducing waiting times, including by attracting more doctors
- channelling more patients to long-term care
- applying the ruling of *Chaoulli v. Quebec*, to the effect that preventing individuals from procuring their own care is a violation of their charter rights, in BC

Education & Young Workers

The party states that:

- K-12 education has consistently underperformed its objectives for many years. This has been met with a chorus of groups demanding more funding, and this funding issue has consumed virtually all discourse on public education for decades. Depending on how it's measured, funding has both been increased and decreased for varying periods of time.
- it questions whether the dollar amount of funding really the most important factor in whether our children will receive a quality education, and that there is little evidence to prove that it makes much of a difference either way.
- it believes that to ensure access to a quality education for every child, parents should have more choice in determining the way it is delivered. It's already well-recognized that a one-size-fits-all approach results in far too many students being left behind. The logical extension of that view is that the availability of more approaches will leave fewer students behind.
- COVID-19 and the closure of schools offered an opportunity to test out a number of alternative approaches like online learning, student pods, homeschooling and private tutoring – to wildly varying degrees of success. We believe education should be an innovative process in normal times as well, where the exploration of new methods can lead to discovery of better matches for individual children.
- a quality education should not depend on the geographical location or the financial means of their family. Educational choice is how the playing field can be leveled between the underprivileged and those lucky enough to live in close proximity to the best schools. Indeed, the present system has failed to achieve this for long enough.

The party advocates:

- moving as much decision-making as possible away from the Ministry of Education and toward local school districts, where parents can have more of a say in policies and procedures, including consulting with educational providers about how a system whereby public education funding can follow the student, on an opt-in basis, can be introduced and be used at parents' discretion within an expanded menu of educational options.

Culture, Arts & Tourism

Post-Secondary Education

The party states that:

- post-Secondary subsidies are particularly costly to taxpayers, consuming roughly \$4 billion dollars annually.
- these subsidies are intended to make tuition more affordable. However, schools are in business to make money and like all businesses they have difficult decisions to make in covering their costs. To match supply with demand, these subsidies do not reduce the cost of school, but are simply added to the amount students are generally able to pay and paradoxically increase the costs of education. In other words, the subsidies increase demand for post-secondary education and push prices higher. The result is higher tuition costs, students leaving school with larger debts, higher taxes, and a less productive economy.

The party advocates:

- phasing out subsidies to post-secondary would be phased out over a 10 year period, reducing expenditures by \$400 million annually

Role and development of the family

Child Protective Services, Child Welfare

The party states that:

- as governing party it is committed to ensuring children and youth whose parents are unable to care for them receive the services and support they need
- to that end, its 2024 provincial budget provides \$114 million over three years to support children in government care or who are placed in alternative care (or out-of-care) arrangements with a family member or someone with an established relationship or cultural connection.
- work is also underway to improve front-line support and oversight, and information management within the child welfare system. This includes up to 72 new child welfare and oversight staff including increasing the number of roots workers from 14 to 25 staff.
- Roots workers support Indigenous children and youth living in both in-care and out-of-care homes with meaningful family and cultural connections and cultural planning, such as tracing of family lineages, identifying contacts with family and community, and reconnecting with the child's Indigenous community. This helps build a strong foundation based on cultural, spiritual, mental and emotional traditional teachings, while supporting and encouraging connections with their family, extended family and Indigenous community. This supports the well-being of all children and youth in British Columbia to live in safe, healthy and nurturing families, and to be strongly connected to their communities and culture.
- its 2024 provincial budget further includes \$10 million over three years to provide stable, ongoing funding for the Director's Legal Counsel and Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies Secretariat. These services support children in care and include addressing the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in care and work to improve the well-being of Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities.

Children and Youth with Support Needs

The party states that:

- as a part of its continued work to support families and advocates of children with various support needs, its 2024 provincial budget provides \$26 million above the fiscal plan to support more children and youth diagnosed with autism diagnosis, as well as families accessing medical benefits for children and youth with severe disability or complex health care needs. The new funding will support over 2,800 more children, bringing the estimated total in 2024/25 to nearly 28,000 children and youth.
- autism funding supports children under age six with reimbursement up to \$22,000 per year in services, and youth aged 6-18 with reimbursements up to \$6,000 per year.
- benefits assists families and caregivers with the extraordinary costs of caring for a child or youth with severe disabilities or complex needs, especially through the provision of medical supplies and equipment to children with acute medical needs. New funding will support expected growth in demand for the program.
- \$30 million in additional funding is provided to support children with dyslexia and related learning differences in the K-12 school system, including money to support early literacy screening for kindergarten to Grade 3 students, provide additional intervention and outreach programs for kindergarten to Grade 12 students, and better equip teachers and support staff in public and independent schools through professional development. The funding support schools in delivering early literacy screening for over 150,000 students, and provide interventions to over 9,000 students annually, as required when fully implemented.

Health Care & Elder Care

Health Care

The party states that:

- in order to build capacity within the health sector, the party's 2024 provincial budget provides over \$2 billion more across the fiscal plan
- with an aging population and large segment of the workforce retiring in the next decade, the province needs newcomers to fill gaps in the labour market. More people are needed to meet current and future demand in the health sector
- in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, which demonstrated that the province needs to be better prepared to respond to public health emergencies, its 2024 budget proposes \$3 billion over the fiscal plan to support ongoing costs for measures previously funded through time-limited pandemic contingencies and federal funding, such as the costs for COVID-19 and immunization/flu vaccines, personal protective equipment, lab testing and monitoring.
- the budget also provides ongoing funding to support rural and remote access to emergency care through ground and air ambulances and support increased staffing capacity and virtual services, particularly in historically underserved communities

In-Vitro Fertilization

The party states that:

- for people wanting to start a family, infertility and other barriers to parenthood can have a profound effect on their well-being and quality of life.
- to support people who need help on the path to parenthood, the party's 2024 budget allocates \$68 million for the establishment of a program to help with the cost of in-vitro fertilization (IVF) services, including consultations with an expert clinical group to define funded IVF services including age considerations, service delivery options, and care pathways to access the service throughout B.C. The program will be launched April 1, 2025, to help with the costs of treatment and medication for a single cycle of treatment.

- the new publicly funded program will benefit hopeful parents in B.C. regardless of their relationship status, who they love and how much money they make by removing a barrier for people who may not otherwise be able to access fertility services.

Cancer Care

In its 2024 provincial budget, the party advocates investment of an added \$270 million over three years to support a 10-year Cancer Action Plan, which was launched in the spring of 2023 with an initial \$440 million investment to expand cancer-care teams and service hours, introduce revised pay structures to ensure B.C. is attractive and competitive for oncologists and cancer-care professionals, improve cancer screening programs, support cancer research, increase Indigenous patient support positions, and support patients who must travel for care from rural communities.

The party states that:

- the new funding will support the action plan with prevention and screening services such as HPV vaccines and cervical cancer screenings, hereditary cancer screening, and medical imaging strategies. New funding will also support improved collaboration, partnership and capacity for the cancer care workforce.
- it also proposes to improve timely access to cancer treatments by expanding specialized cancer services, such as malignant hematology, immunotherapy, theranostics, and pediatric oncology services, in order to provide treatments that are difficult to access or currently unavailable in the province.

Home and Community Care Services for Seniors

In its 2024 provincial budget, the party states that:

- to improve seniors' quality of life by enabling them to live in their own homes for longer, it is allocating \$354 million over three years in home and community care for seniors.
- home care investments also increase capacity in other parts of the health care system, and thereby align with government's commitment to provide health care when and where needed
- investments include \$227 million for home health services to help seniors and people experiencing short- or long-term disability, to manage their health care needs and remain living at home. These services are provided by regulated professionals including nurses, occupational and physical therapists, and social workers. Home health services also include services delivered by community health workers who help clients with their activities of daily living, such as bathing, grooming, lifts and transfers, and nutrition.
- a further \$127 million is allocated for community-based seniors services such as Better at Home, a program that supports seniors with day-to-day tasks such as grocery shopping, light housekeeping, minor home repairs, snow shovelling, and transportation to and from medical appointments.
- additional capital investments of \$13.0 billion are projected over the course of the next three years for health care infrastructure, including support for construction of hospitals throughout the province; new long-term care facilities with construction approved in Abbotsford, Richmond and Nanaimo among others; and more acute and cancer care facilities.

Education & Young Workers

K-12 Enrollment Growth

The party states that:

- in 2023, B.C. saw its highest population growth in 30 years. This has led to an increase of 13,000 more students enrolled in B.C. schools in September 2023 compared to the previous year.
- to support the growing number of students, Budget 2024 invests \$968 million in new funding over three years, including providing more teachers and support staff in the classrooms.
- this funding includes \$651 million for public school enrolment growth and \$62 million for independent school education costs.
- there is also \$255 million provided over three years to increase funding for the Classroom Enhancement Fund. This fund supports the hiring of additional teachers, including special education teachers, teacher psychologists, and counsellors.
- total annual operating funding for K-12 education is a record \$8.7 billion in 2024/25.
- in addition, its provincial capital plan includes a record \$4.2 billion over the next three years to build, renovate, and seismically upgrade schools and playgrounds throughout B.C.



The party has published no statement regarding its policies on:

– The Role of the Family

Child Care

The party states that under the current government's model, only 10 per cent of families are receiving access to \$10/day child care.

The party advocates:

- providing direct financial subsidies to parents, ensuring that child care costs are capped at \$10/day for all lower and middle-class families
- providing tax credits for people whose children are cared for by parents, grandparents or other relative
- integrating child care facilities into schools and hospitals, while expanding options through public-private partnerships and incentivizing the private sector.

Health Care & Elder Care

The party advocates making B.C. first, not worst, in health outcomes, by putting the interests of patients ahead of bureaucrats. This includes for example:

- ensuring that treatment beds are available for those who need them, when they need them, rather than turning them away with DP waitlists turn patients away. The party undertakes to ensure there are enough treatment beds for everyone who needs them.
- providing compassionate involuntary care, where and when needed. The party states that it is not compassionate to turn a blind eye and leave the severely mentally ill and addicted to languish on the streets with no ability to care for themselves. It undertakes to compassionate involuntary treatment possible for those at risk of harming themselves or others.
- ending the chaos in B.C. The party states that provincial cancer care is now the worst in Canada, with treatment so bad that patients are shipped to the U.S. for treatment. It undertakes to end this.
- hiring back unvaccinated healthcare workers. The party states that although the provincial healthcare system is in shambles, the current government fired thousands of healthcare workers whose support is needed now more than ever. It undertakes to immediately re-hire the unvaccinated fired healthcare workers.

Education & Young Workers

Early Childhood Education

The party states that:

- it recognizes the essential role of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and child care providers
- it therefore advocates immediate implementation of a fair wage grid for child care workers to reflect their qualifications and the critical service they provide.

K-12 Education

To bring common sense back to education, the party advocates:

- bringing back letter grades. The party states that the new grading scheme implemented by the current government makes no sense to anyone. It undertakes to will bring back common-sense letter grades that everyone can understand.
- banning cellphones in class. The party states that although cellphones in class are bad for learning, the current government refuses to introduce a province-wide ban. The party undertakes to ban cellphones in classrooms so that children can get back to learning, not scrolling.
- building permanent schools, not portables. The party states that more kids than ever are stuck in portables. It undertakes to build more schools so that children kids can learn in real classrooms.
- consulting parents. The party states that parents deserve to know what's going on in their kids' schools. It undertakes to bring back transparent and age-appropriate curriculum and ensure parents are included in the education system.
- getting results. The party states that although under prior governments the province's students led Canada in education, B.C. is now well below average. It undertakes to focus on ensuring that children learn the basics and get back to improved results.

Post-Secondary Education

To ease the housing crisis for students, the party advocates:

- requiring universities to prove they have room to house BC students before accepting students abroad

Points to Ponder: Family, Community & the Common Good

A conscience well formed by the social teachings of the Church will take seriously the following questions:

Families & Child Well-Being

- 1) In what circumstances, if any, is it appropriate for governments to place limits on the right of parents to make decisions pertaining to the care or education of their children?
- 2) To what extent is child poverty a problem in Canada? If so, what can be done about it?

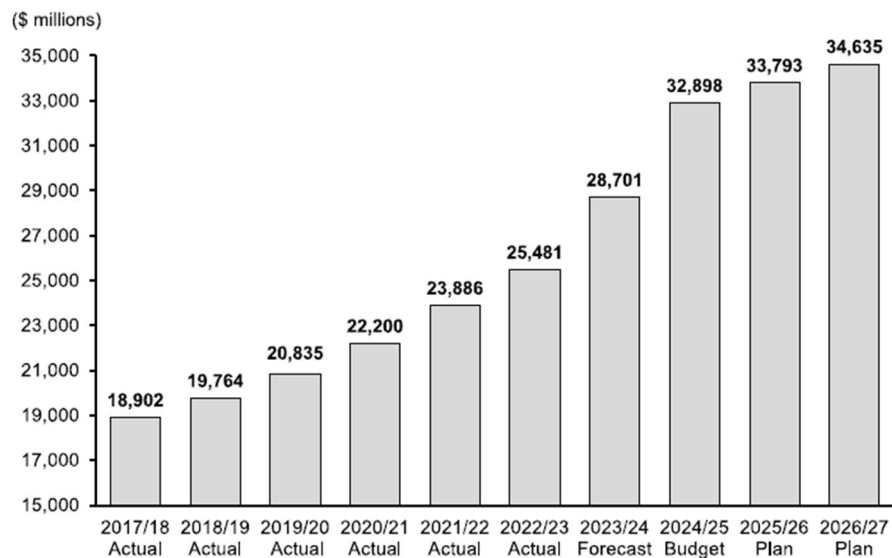
- 3) Some political parties have suggested that full participation by all eligible workforce members, including both parents of two-parent couples and all single parents, is critical in order to maximize return from the national economy—so that economic well-being can be optimized. Moreover, in order to maximize those returns and ensure full economic participation, it is critical to ensure that affordable child care is accessible by all families. And so, let us consider the following question: Which is more important for children: a stable and dignified home with two loving parents, one of whom might be available to stay home part or full time, or maximized national economic returns? To the extent that being home with a parent is best for a child, how can that be encouraged by society?

Health Care

Given that the Church speaks of a **right to adequate health care**, consider the following questions that any informed Catholic should ponder before voting for a particular political party:

- 1) What should be done to ensure that adequate levels of quality health care are available to all who need it, without undue delays or waiting times?
- 2) While birth control pills are covered by provincial health care and at least one party has proposed coverage (including travel, if needed) for in-vitro fertilization, the costs of counseling for Natural Family Planning are not. Is it reasonable to provide drugs and expensive, invasive procedures to young couples free of charge, while requiring those who seek natural, non-chemical methods, to pay? Or, should the federal government consider providing coverage for proven natural family planning methods?
- 3) In a publicly-funded healthcare system, does there exist any obligation for an individual person to take reasonable measures to avoid health issues (e.g., wearing a mask during a pandemic, or a helmet while riding a bicycle), so as to avoid becoming a publicly-funded health care burden when preventable illness or injury occurs? If so, what can or should be done to encourage individuals to adopt such measures?
- 4) Is it wise for a country to ensure that it is self-dependent for important health care products, such as vaccines against serious illnesses? If so, what can or should the federal government do to encourage and support such self-dependence?
- 5) The table below, which was taken from the 2024-2025 provincial budget, shows current, historical, and projected future costs for public health care in British Columbia. Are these costs sufficient to provide the adequate health care spoken of by the church? Do less expensive alternatives exist, or ways of sharing the health care burden? For example, what if anything could or should be done by private, non-profit, or community organizations, including the Church and lay Catholic organizations, to ensure that efficient, quality basic health care is available to all who need it, without undue costs or delays?

Chart 1.1.1 Investing In Health and Mental Health Care*



*Chart represents operating funding for the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

BUDGET AND FISCAL PLAN - 2024/25 to 2026/27

Care for the Elderly

1. Some parties are calling for increased space in publicly-funded facilities for the elderly and long-term care patients. Should any other solutions, such as nurturing a culture of life-long intergenerational family cohesiveness and support, including home caregivers, be considered also, in addition or as alternatives to long-term residential care?
2. Who should be responsible for long-term support for the elderly? Themselves? Their families? The federal or provincial governments? Charitable institutions? Some combination of these? To what extent?

Education

1. It has been suggested that too many Canadians fail to understand basic democratic principles, such as the responsibilities of federal, provincial, and local governments, and the proper roles of non-governmental institutions such as charities, schools, businesses, news media, and moral and religious organizations. What, if anything, can or should the provincial government do in order to promote a more comprehensive understanding of civics in British Columbia?
2. Should a course of study of economics, at least one semester in length, be mandatory in high school?
3. To what extent should the study of history be mandatory in high schools? Only one full credit course? Every year in high school? What aspects of history should be mandatory? National? Provincial? Global? Ancient? Modern?
4. Should natural family planning (NFP) techniques be taught in high school?

An Economy at the Service of All People

The Dignity of Work | Housing & Poverty Reduction | Labour Unions, Employment | Industries & Corporations

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. (Matthew 6:33)

Catholic Teaching

Jesus said to the crowds, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? ...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides."

Matthew 6:25-33

Some people are born into economically stable families, receive a fine education, grow up well nourished, or naturally possess great talent. They will certainly not need a proactive state; they need only claim their freedom. Yet the same rule clearly does not apply to a disabled person, to someone born in dire poverty, to those lacking a good education and with little access to adequate health care. If a society is governed primarily by the criteria of market freedom and efficiency, there is no place for such persons, and fraternity will remain just another vague ideal. Pope Francis – *Fratelli tutti*, 109

The Dignity & Importance of Work

The use of one's gifts to seek and serve God necessarily includes work, by which humans cooperate with God in God's continuing act of creation. Work has a place of honour because it is a source of the conditions for a decent life, and is, in principle, an effective instrument against poverty. But one must not succumb to the temptation of making an idol of work, for the ultimate and definitive meaning of life is not to be found in work. Work is essential, but



Labour, Unions & Employment

To promote employment and job creation, the party advocates:

- encouragement and support for BC residents and support who wish to complete their education up to and including grade twelve
- within the ability of taxpayers to fund the cost, increasing provincial expenditures on education at technical institutes, colleges and universities by providing loans for students who apply and meet the minimum requirements. These loans will be forgivable for post-secondary students who graduate from BC institutions and continue to live, work and pay taxes in BC. Forgiveness of the loans will be pro-rated over a ten year period. If any graduate ceases to be a resident of British Columbia at any time within the ten years following graduation, the unforgiven pro-rated portion of the student loan will become due and payable
- amending the present Fair Wage policy so that in future it will include both unionized and non-unionized entities in the bidding process for public construction, including construction of schools, including review of the policy with a goal to ensure fair competitive bidding on public construction projects
- using tax incentives, including royalty holidays, to encourage the establishment of new businesses and industries in British Columbia
- establishing an "Essential Services Dispute Mechanism" as a fair and impartial way of resolving issues between the Provincial Government and its employees
- incorporating appropriate environmental regulations in the development of provincial natural resources in order to ensure that the environment is adequately protected throughout all phases of exploration, development and extraction of the resources
- negotiating a deal with the Federal Government, similar to the deal they now have with Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, to give British Columbia control over and the royalties from offshore resources
- discouraging further urbanization of the Lower Mainland, which has already gone too far; has created virtually insoluble traffic problems and dangerous levels of pollution, including encouraging the location of industry and the development of public infrastructure facilities and services, including necessary road, rail, and air links, in the North and Interior by making Crown land readily available for such use, thereby creating opportunities for employment in rural areas suffering economically as a result of mining, forestry, government, and other cutbacks
- adding an export duty to raw logs, which would be used to re-train the people currently in the logging industry. The aim would be to promote manufacturing of wood products in B.C. instead of exporting jobs with the raw logs.

Industries, Corporations, Competition & Consumers

Agriculture

The party advocates:

- ensuring that Agriculture in British Columbia remains competitive with other jurisdictions by freeing the industry as much as possible from government red tape and control.
- encouraging the growth of secondary industry in the Agricultural sector by offering incentives to farmers to build facilities for the processing of farm produce such as slaughterhouses to process B.C. beef, and establishing processing facilities.
- working with the agriculture industry to promote their products both inside and outside British Columbia, and to promote the development of new agricultural products in B.C.
- guaranteeing an annual provincial agriculture budget for the Agri-Food sector, at par with the Canadian average returns as a percentage of Agricultural Gross Domestic Product.
- full participation in all federal Agricultural and Environmental initiatives, and review and administration of all Canadian Agricultural Risk Management Programs.
- providing a sustainable crop insurance system in BC based on full production guarantees and insurable values that reflect the unique diversity of British Columbia's Agri-food Sector.
- establishment of a modern system of conservation to replace the Agriculture Land Commission. Agriculture land-use decision-making will be returned to local/regional government control
- establishment of an Agriculture Regional Development Authority to provide interest free long term Provincial Infrastructure Loans to fund water supply and water purification projects through local governments, regional districts, First Nations governments and certified irrigation water districts.

Fisheries

The party states that:

it is God — and not work — who is the origin of life and the final goal of man.

The underlying principle of wisdom is the fear of the Lord. The demand of justice, which stems from it, precedes concerns for profit: “Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it” (Pr 15:16). “Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice” (Pr 16:8). *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 257.*

Work is not only an essential part of life, but when we work in accordance with our inner passions – our individual vocations – it is a joy. And it is also an obligation to one’s family, neighbors, and nation. Man must work, both because the Creator has commanded it and in order to respond to the need to maintain and develop his own humanity. We are heirs of the work of generations and at the same time shapers of the future of all who will live after us. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 274*

But work, and particularly dignified work, is not readily available for all who seek it. Those who are unemployed or underemployed suffer the profound negative consequences that such a situation creates in a personality and they run the risk of being marginalized within society, of becoming victims of social exclusion. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 289*

Poverty Reduction

The poor, the marginalized and in all cases those whose living conditions interfere with their proper growth should be the focus of particular concern. To this end, the preferential option for the poor should be reaffirmed in all its force. Today, this love of preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without health care and, above all, those without hope of a better future. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 182*

- the Federal Government must be required to carry out its fisheries commitment to British Columbia as set out in B.C.’s Terms of Union with Canada The Federal Government in the Terms of Union committed to “assume and defray the charges” for the “Protection and Encouragement of Fisheries.” A Christian Heritage Party of BC Government will insist that the Federal Government carry out its part of the bargain.

The party advocates:

- legislation that recognizes and protects the public right to fish so that all Canadians will have an equal right to fish and equal access to the fishery regardless of their race, heritage or ethnic background.
- ensuring that treaties and treaty negotiations are consistent with, and respectful of, the public right to fish and will ensure that aboriginals have equal access with all other Canadians to the fisheries resource.
- seeking compensation from the federal government for fishermen where federal fisheries policies have undermined the livelihood of BC fishermen, and advocating for BC fisheries.
- appointment of a BC Minister of Fisheries, and ensuring that aquaculture operates in a manner that does not harm or threaten wild fish stocks. A timetable will be established by which all fish farms will be required to move to closed containment.

Transportation

The party advocates:

- design or redesign of suburban road systems and construction of more rapid light rail lines to enable travelers to get to their destinations faster and with a minimum number of transfers
- encouragement of car-pooling, vanpooling and the use of all other high occupancy vehicles
- encouragement of the use of bicycles and pedestrian travel
- encouragement of extension of light rapid transit systems
- encouragement of the production and use of more fuel-efficient vehicles, including hybrid vehicles as well as vehicles that rely on alternate sources of fuel such as electricity, hydrogen or bio- diesel
- ensuring that revenues earmarked for specific transportation goals will be applied only for these purposes
- ensuring that any public transit service operated by a regional government will not exclude the development or management of private ownership of new transit services
- when funds are available and after negotiating a cost-sharing agreement with the Federal Government, “twinning” the Trans Canada Highway from Kamloops to the Alberta border
- considering bypass routes around urban centres in the Interior of BC on a priority basis, the bypass routes being only with the approval of the residents of the communities affected
- a moratorium on implementation of new tolls on existing highways, and consideration of tolls on new highways or bridges only when alternate toll-free routes are available



An Economy to Serve People

As a matter of principle, the party states that:

- it believes that a competitive free-enterprise economy with the right to private property are essential to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit that creates prosperity

Housing & Poverty Reduction

The party states that:

- British Columbians are being taxed into poverty. With the highest gas prices in North America, it’s time to axe the Carbon Tax, the Low Carbon Fuel Standard and ensure more refined product reaches the B.C. market
- it believes in a strong social safety net that cares for the vulnerable in our society while encouraging individual self-sufficiency

The party advocates:

- encouraging a stable and predictable housing market. This means getting prices under control by promoting the development of new housing supply while cracking down on illegal money laundering that has inflated prices and facilitated criminal activity.

Industries & Corporations

The party states that:

- small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of the provincial economy and the bedrock of our communities. Useless and redundant regulations need to be removed,

Catholics are called to remember Jesus' own words: What we do to the least among us, we do to Him. *Matthew 25:31-46*

Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work. Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, 128

An Economy to Serve All People

I encourage financial experts and political leaders to ponder the words of one of the sages of antiquity: 'Not to share one's wealth with the poor is to steal from them and to take away their livelihood. It is not our own goods which we hold, but theirs...' Money must serve, not rule! –Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel, 57-58

The development of economic activity and growth in production are meant to provide for the needs of human beings. Economic life is not meant solely to multiply goods produced and increase profit or power; it is ordered first of all to the service of persons, of the whole man, and of the entire human community. For many people, a living wage and dignified housing are beyond reach. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2426*

The planning capacity of a society oriented towards the common good and looking to the future is measured... above all on the basis of the employment prospects that it is able to offer. Maintaining employment depends more and more on one's professional capabilities. Instructional and educational systems must not neglect human or technological formation, which are necessary for gainfully fulfilling one's responsibilities.

Young people should be taught to act upon their own initiative, to accept the responsibility of facing with adequate competencies the risks connected with a fluid economic context that is often unpredictable in the way it evolves. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 271-290.*

while larger corporations need to be held accountable if they engage in unfair or anti-competitive practices.

- the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) is a bloated, ineffective government monopoly that charges some of the highest rates in the entire country. It's time to allow choice and competition so that British Columbians can shop around for the price and plan that's right for them.



Housing & Poverty Reduction

Income security

The party states that:

- growth of the provincial economy has not benefited people equally. Many British Columbians were feeling left behind and left out of the benefits of our prosperity well before COVID. COVID has exacerbated existing social inequalities expanded the number of people facing economic insecurity.
- in rebuilding, the province should not return to its old patchwork of social supports that weren't meeting the needs of people. A more resilient social safety net is needed, one that lifts people up and doesn't leave anyone behind
- it's not only the most marginalized people who suffer from economic insecurity. Like every other jurisdiction, BC has large active multinational corporations operating, paying less than livable wages while they hand out massive profits to shareholders abroad. That's a problem and it contributes to the cycle of poverty in our province, even amongst those with full time jobs. At the same time, it recognises that for many local businesses, significantly higher minimum wages can hurt viability, particularly while recovering from COVID.
- its priority is to ensure that all British Columbians enjoy income security and eliminate the fear of being unable to afford the necessities of life
- this task can be with integration of the principles of basic income - simplicity, economic security, and reduced stigma - into our social safety net. Rather than entrenching people in poverty with programs like those currently available, the purpose and effect of the social safety net should be to help people get out of poverty. To do that, people need certainty, security, and the ability to save and plan for their futures.

The party advocates:

- implementing a basic income for youth aging-out of care
- beginning a transition towards basic income with the following initial steps:
 - increasing income support levels, beginning with making the \$300 crisis supplement permanent and indexing assistance to inflation;
 - eliminating the asset test;
 - reducing clawbacks on earned income to reduce the disincentive to work;
 - establishing a 12-month period where those who qualify for income assistance can earn extra income without clawbacks;
- establishing a housing office specifically charged with assisting people with disabilities and youth aging-out to find suitable accommodation and supporting the transition;
- establishing a task force to advise on modernizing employment standards and reducing inequality in modern employment relationships, the task force:
 - including representatives of the technology sector, business, workers, and economists
 - being tasked with recommending ways to modernize provincial employment standards to adapt to the changing nature of work and technology, and assess jurisdiction and advise on strategies for working with the federal government to ensure that multinational companies are paying their fair share of taxes in BC
 - terms of reference for the task force including consideration of profit-sharing as a means to ensure businesses who are profitable are paying their workers a living wage, and that workers benefit from the profits that are too often only accrued at the top of an organization
- establishing a permanent Fair Wages Commission to recommend consistent and predictable increases in the minimum wage and reduce political interference.

Affordable housing

The party states that:

- despite some progress to cool the housing market somewhat in recent years, housing remains nowhere near affordable, particularly for young people. Far too many British Columbians have struggled to find affordable homes to rent and have been shut out of the housing market.
- there is much to do to ensure that housing is affordable for people who live and work in our cities, and isn't being treated as a vehicle for speculators to profit from.
- it advocates establishing a clear goal on affordability and an action plan to achieve it, in order to ensure that everyone has a home that they can afford and that meets their needs. This will require a comprehensive suite of policies to deal with the housing affordability crisis for all.

The party advocates:

- as a first step, doing more to support B.C. renters, who are facing sky-high rents and escalating cost of living. In BC, 43% of renter households pay more than 30% of their income in rent. This is having significant adverse effects on their mental health and wellbeing and makes it more difficult to save and plan for the future.

Small businesses, trades, and crafts

The decentralization of production, which assigns to smaller companies several tasks previously undertaken by larger production interests, gives vitality and new energy to the area of small and medium-sized businesses. In this way, alongside traditional artisans there emerge new businesses characterized by small production interests at work in modern production sectors or in decentralized activities of larger companies.

Work in small and medium-sized businesses, the work of artisans and independent work can represent an occasion to make the actual work experience more human, both in terms of the possibility of establishing positive personal relationships in smaller-sized communities and in terms of the opportunities for greater initiative and industriousness. In these sectors, however, there are more than just a few cases of unjust treatment, of poorly paid and, above all, uncertain work. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 315.*

Industries, Innovation, & Agriculture

Thanks to technological innovations, the world is being enriched with new professions while others are disappearing. In the present phase of transition there is a continuous movement of workers from the industrial sector to that of services. In particular, there is an increase in part-time, temporary and “non-traditional” employment. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 313.*

Unions & Workers’ Rights

The demands of competition, technological innovation and the complexities of financial fluxes must be brought into harmony with the defense of workers and their rights. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 313.*

Any form of materialism or economic tenet that tries to reduce the worker to a mere instrument of production, a simple labour force with an exclusively material value, would hopelessly distort the essence of work and strip

- addressing the rising cost of strata insurance, which is a significant stressor for condo owners. In recent years we have seen a huge leap in the cost of insurance – in some cases doubling or tripling. We must take steps to ensure British Columbians on fixed incomes are not out of their homes, including convening a taskforce to deal with the rising cost of strata insurance and develop solutions as soon as the BC Financial Services Authority (BCFSA) finishes their investigation. The taskforce should include insurance brokers, insurers and strata owners.

- working with local governments to expand the provincial supply of more diverse forms of more affordable housing, including co-op housing, affordable rentals, and the missing middle, such as townhouses and triplexes.
- tightening up provincial laws and policies to close loopholes and reduce speculation in our market.

To expand the diversity of forms of housing and ensure that housing is affordable for people who live and work in BC’s cities, the party advocates:

- taking a housing-first approach and accelerating investments in affordable, supportive and social housing on a priority basis;
- expanding supports for co-op housing through extension of leases for existing co-ops about to expire, creating a land bank for new co-ops, and providing security of tenure for co-ops on leased land;
- working with local governments to expand the “missing middle”, such as townhouses and triplexes;
- establishing a capital fund to support the acquisition and maintenance of rental housing by nonprofits to maintain affordable rental units and address the financialization of the rental market;
- closing the bare trust loophole and loopholes in the speculation tax that allow too many foreign owners and satellite families to be exempt.

To assist renters, the party advocates:

- introduction of a rental supplement that will close the gap between affordable rent and what renters are actually paying, and introduction of a means-tested grant that applies to low and moderate income earners who are paying more than 30% of their income in rent.

Labour, Unions & Employment

The party states that:

- the province needs to ensure that British Columbians are able to take advantage of the countless opportunities for meaningful, secure jobs that a low-carbon economy can create
- over time, many new jobs will be created as innovation occurs and new businesses are created, but there is an immediate need to provide people with well-paying, meaningful jobs, especially for those who lost jobs during the pandemic, and for workers in industries in transition
- its clean jobs plan has three major components:

- (1) implementation of a just transition program for workers in the oil and gas sector and other industries in transition and working with them on a pathway to a guaranteed job in the clean economy.
- (2) establishing a clean jobs program to complete provincial recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and getting people back to work immediately. This would create thousands of jobs enhancing BC’s natural assets, tree planting, habitat restoration, remediating environmental liabilities, as well as climate adaptation and improving community resilience to climate change.
- (3) expansion of the CleanBC Better Buildings program and making it a true jobs creator by increasing the short-term incentives offered to stimulate retrofits, accelerating the requirements of the building code and efficiency requirements of equipment to drive long-term action and strengthen the business case for retrofits, and partnering with colleges, technical institutes and private organizations to develop training programs to expand employment in the green retrofit space. Programming should focus on supporting sectors impacted by COVID-19, as well as supporting the just transition program for workers in the oil and gas sector.

To such ends the party advocates:

- establishing a \$500 million fund to support sustainable jobs
- development of a clean jobs program focused on enhancing BC’s natural assets, tree planting, conservation, remediating environmental liabilities, as well as climate adaptation and improving community resilience to climate change.
- implementation of a just transition program for workers in the oil and gas sector and other industries in transition, working with them on a pathway to a guaranteed job in the clean economy
- working with industry partners to enhance the Clean BC Better Homes, Better Buildings program, including by: (i) Increasing the short-term incentives offered to stimulate retrofits; (ii) accelerating the requirements of the building code and efficiency requirements of equipment to drive long-term action and strengthen the business case for retrofits; and (iii) partnering with colleges, technical institutes and private organizations to develop training programs to expand employment in the green retrofit space. Programming should focus on supporting those sectors impacted by COVID 19, as well as supporting the just transition program for workers in the oil and gas sector.

Industries & Corporations

Innovation

The party states that:

- it championed the Emerging Economy Taskforce, which looked at the future, and the opportunities and challenges facing our economy and zeroed in on climate change as one of

it of its most noble and basic human quality. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 270-271*

Among the rights of workers, the Church recognizes:

- the right to a just wage;
 - the right to rest;
 - the right to a working environment and to manufacturing processes which are not harmful to the workers' physical health or to their moral integrity;
 - the right that one's personality in the workplace should be safeguarded "without suffering any affront to one's conscience or personal dignity;
 - the right to appropriate subsidies that are necessary for the subsistence of unemployed workers and their families;
 - the right to a pension and to insurance for old age, sickness, and in case of work-related accidents;
 - the right to social security connected with maternity;
 - the right to assemble and form associations.
- Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 301*

The Church recognizes the fundamental role played by labour unions... Such organizations, while pursuing their specific purpose with regard to the common good, are a positive influence for social order and solidarity, and are therefore an indispensable element of social life. Work, because of its subjective or personal character, is superior to every other factor connected with productivity; this principle applies, in particular, with regard to capital.

The Church's social doctrine teaches that relations within the world of work must be marked by cooperation: hatred and attempts to eliminate the other are completely unacceptable. This is also the case because in every social system both "labour" and "capital" represent indispensable components of the process of production.

No Christian, in light of the fact that he belongs to a united and fraternal community, should feel that he has the right not to work and to live at the expense of others (cf. 2 Thes 3:6-

the major forces shaping the provincial economy, and highlighted opportunities that come with developing a low carbon economy.

- to realize the opportunities, British Columbians have to extend beyond mitigating climate change within the province, and instead focus on deliberate investments into green innovation
- as a first step, it advocates the provincial innovation strategy with the mission of establishing BC as a world-leading low-carbon economy, which means establishing a strategic innovation fund that can make targeted investments that align with climate goals
- it is also necessary to leverage government procurement processes to prioritize BC based, low carbon products and technology
- British Columbia needs to immediately end the subsidies offered to the fossil fuel industry, and put that funding behind new green economic sectors
- too many governments use innovation as a buzzword and do little to help channel the direction it takes. The party is committed to making its innovation policy in BC a bigger part of the economic strategy proposes to deliberately build towards the future BC wants

The party advocates:

- establishing a \$1 billion strategic investment fund to support business innovation that aligns with the province's goals, with a particular emphasis on supporting innovations that help the shift to a zero carbon economy
- supporting the creation of a biofuels strategy and clean hydrogen roadmap as part of the energy mix used to replace fossil fuels in the transportation sector.
- integrating a GHG emissions lens into all government procurement processes
- immediate reinstatement of the scheduled carbon tax increase and returning to regular and predictable increases in the carbon tax of \$10 per year
- partnering in innovation clusters in areas where BC has a strategic advantage, based on the proposal from the Innovation Commissioner's report
- enactment of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) legislation

Agriculture

The party states that:

- the COVID pandemic raised awareness of the importance of food security; and in California and other places have reinforced the message: the food security of British Columbians is threatened by the changing climate in major supply regions such as California, Florida and Mexico. We need to be prepared. We must do more to protect agricultural land in our communities, expand the area of land under food production, and establish a long-term food sustainability strategy for the province. This can decrease reliance on increasingly unreliable import supply chains and diversify our farming in BC.
- you can't have real food without farmers. We need to urgently identify and implement options to make farming a more attractive and lucrative endeavour, especially for younger farmers
- in recent years, agricultural land has become tied to the escalating housing market in many parts of BC, and it's become untenable for young farmers to get on the land. There are tools at government's disposal to remedy this. Just as government stepped in to create the agricultural land reserve many decades ago, it is possible to ensure that farming has a future in B.C.
- one option is to create a publicly owned agricultural land bank available to lease by new farmers.
- it's also important to recognize that all of these decisions are connected. The decisions that we make about our forests, and about development, all impact our food security. We need to get smarter about how we make decisions and recognize this interconnection. Operating in silos won't solve these challenges.

The party advocates creation of a Food Secure B.C. strategy to make B.C. agriculture more climate resilient, improve local food security and support local agricultural producers, including:

- establishment of a long-term food sustainability strategy for the province to decrease reliance on import supply chains and diversify farming in BC.
- making food production and food security part of the Agricultural Land Commission's mandate.
- expanding the area of land under food production and creating a publicly owned agricultural land bank available to lease by new farmers.
- recognizing income and regional disparities in food insecurity across BC and working to enhance access to high quality, healthy food for low-income British Columbians, including developing systems for First Nations that honour Indigenous knowledge and values.
- incentivizing agro-ecological farming practices and supporting small-scale farms to adopt new technologies to reduce carbon emissions.
- investigating options to make farming a more attractive and sustainable endeavour, including (1) ensuring that farmers have access to local processing facilities and that they share in the returns from processing; and (2) enabling the growing of high value crops, such as cannabis, to supplement farm income.
- providing \$10 million per year to fund research and establish regional agricultural bureaus to provide expertise and support to local farmers to apply innovations on-farm and adapt to a changing climate.
- restriction and regulation of foreign ownership of ALR land.

Forestry

The party states that:

- we need to take back control of our forests from major corporations, ensuring forestry is meeting the needs of local communities, both economically and ecologically.
- the forests of BC are a public resource that belong to the people of BC, and the should be managed that way. This means reinstating government authority in decision-making, undertaking major tenure reform, and enhancing scientific capacity in FLNRO.

12). Rather, all are charged... to make it a point of honour to work with their own hands, so as to be dependent on nobody (1 Thes 4:12), and to practise a solidarity which is also material by sharing the fruits of their labour with "those in need" (Eph 4:28). *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 264, 305-397.

Corporations & Competition, and Consumers

You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.
– the 10th Commandment

The individual profit of an economic enterprise, although legitimate, must never become the sole objective. Social utility is an objective of even higher order. When the free market carries out the important functions mentioned above it becomes a service to the common good and to integral human development. When focused on profit alone, however, the market can degenerate into an inhuman and alienating institution, with uncontrollable repercussions.

Freedom in the economic sector... must be regulated by appropriate legal norms so that it will be placed at the service of integral human freedom... A great deal of educational and cultural work is urgently needed, including the education of consumers in the responsible use of their power of choice, the formation of a strong sense of responsibility among producers and among people in the mass media in particular, as well as necessary intervention by public authorities.

In order to balance the principle of solidarity with the rights and obligations of the individual, the State's intervention in the economic environment must be neither invasive nor absent, but commensurate with society's real needs. "The State has a duty to sustain business activities by creating conditions which will ensure job opportunities, by stimulating those activities where they are lacking or by supporting them in moments of crisis. The State has the further right to intervene when particular monopolies create delays or obstacles to development. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 305-307, 351, 376

- despite promising to do things differently, the current government has not changed, in any substantial way, the status quo of forestry management in this province. Recently the cutting of old growth continued as fast as it did under the prior government, and no meaningful reforms to forest management have been made. Local job losses and unsustainable forestry practices have continued.

- forests should be managed holistically, for all the values they hold. Most fundamentally this means enacting legislation that establishes conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of BC's forests as an overarching priority, with timber supply as just one benefit. Different planning processes and harvesting methods flow from this fundamental shift in forest management practice. We can't continue to liquidate our natural resources for the benefit of shareholders of massive corporations, while continuing to shed local jobs in communities across BC as mills close. Instead we need to generate far more jobs and revenue from what we harvest, for example by ensuring that small producers have access to fibre, incentivizing value-added wood products and nontraditional uses of wood fibre, and revenue-sharing with First Nations, municipalities, and regional districts.

- the province needs to recognize crucial importance of forests to biodiversity and to protect our remaining old growth forests forever. This means fully implementing the recommendations of the old growth review panel in partnership with First Nations and an immediate end to the logging of old growth forests in high risk ecosystems across the province, with the funding needed to back this up and create new opportunities for communities, rather than continuing "consultations" with little action.

The party advocates move now to protect what the province has left, including:

- reforming forestry management in BC so that it serves the long-term needs of local communities and supports a truly sustainable industry, where community and ecosystem values are the primary focus of management.
- taking back control of forests from major corporations, ensuring forestry is meeting the needs of local communities.
- reinstating government authority in decision-making at provincial and local levels, including enhancing the authority of district managers to refuse or amend permits.
- tenure reform to redistribute tenures from a few major companies and grow the proportion of tenures held by First Nations and community forests.
- establish a legislative position of Forester General position, an officer of the legislature who is non-partisan and reports to the House annually.
- establishing a Chief Scientist as a counterpart to the Chief Forester to ensure multiple values are adequately incorporated into timber supply analysis.
- enhancing capacity in FLNRO and establishing more community based Ministry of Forests staff, to support the sustainable management of local forest resources and provide well-paying community jobs.

In order to manage provincial forests holistically, for all the values they hold, the party advocates:

- shifting the management framework through reforming legislation, away from an exclusive focus on timber supply to managing for all the values that our forests hold.
- adopting a wider variety of logging practices, including selective logging and longer stand rotations.
- undertaking landscape-level ecosystem-based planning, reforestation and restoration in partnership with local communities and First Nations.
- protecting communities from wildfires and flooding through landscape level, ecologically-centred, forest management and fuel treatment projects.
- restoring government capacity to ensure forest stewardship, monitoring and enforcement, and enhance funding for forest inventory research and primary research.

To protect remaining high value old growth forests forever, the party advocates:

- full and immediate implementation of the recommendations of the old growth review panel, in partnership with First Nations. This includes: (1) an immediate end to the logging of old growth forests in high risk ecosystems across the province; (2) legislation to establish conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of BC's forests as an overarching priority.
- establishing funding mechanisms to support the preservation of old growth forests.

To generate more jobs and revenue from forest harvesting, the party advocates:

- ensuring that small producers have access to fibre and incentivize value-added product innovation, including non-traditional uses of wood fibre including bio fuels, and productive uses of residual fibre.
- applying the carbon tax to slash-pile burning to reduce carbon emissions from our forestry sector and ensuring the use of residual materials.
- ending raw log exports.
- ensuring that benefits of B.C. resource flow to local communities, by directly sharing more resource revenues with local First Nations, municipalities, and regional districts.
- improving support for forestry workers and communities, including through expanded investments into retraining and support for new job opportunities.
- investigating opportunities to diversify milling and secondary manufacturing to better use existing timber.
- promotion of more sustainable development of forest resources, including investing in tourism opportunities and low-carbon economies.

Small businesses & tourism

The party states that:

- entrepreneurs who through hard work have built their own business can be found in every community within the provinces. Such businesses are often at the heart of the communities we live in. They employ our friends and neighbours, bring a vibrance to our streets and contribute immensely to the surrounding neighbourhood.
- such business were deeply affected by the COVID pandemic. Not only with respect to costs, but also with uncertainty about the future, about not knowing whether what they have built will last or whether they will have to lay off employees
- for tourism operators, the challenges were exacerbated by border closure and travel bans

There is a growing loss of the sense of history, which leads to even further breakup. A kind of “deconstructionism”, whereby human freedom claims to create everything starting from zero, is making headway in today’s culture. The one thing it leaves in its wake is the drive to limitless consumption and expressions of empty individualism. *Fratelli tutti, 12*

Transportation & Infrastructure

The demands of the common good are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights. Among other things, these demands concern commitment to the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human rights: food, housing, work, education and access to culture, transportation... *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 166*

- the simple fact is that the provincial government has not done enough to address the challenges facing our small business and tourism sectors.

The party advocates allocating \$300 million to create a 6 month rent subsidy program for small businesses, including:

- for qualifying businesses, covering 25% of rental costs. Criteria would include limitations to \$50,000 in monthly rent costs
- retooling the provincial grant program to focus on supporting small tourism operators
- immediately working with industry to establish criteria that make sense
- accelerating the timeline to ensure grant money can start to flow immediately
- working with the not-for-profit tourism businesses, cultural facilities and attractions to develop a separate granting program that will ensure these signature businesses can survive COVID 19 and beyond.
- working with the federal government to establish a repayable loan program for the hospitality sector and for tourism operators that exceed the criteria for the small tourism operator grant program.

Transit

The party states that:

- one of the most important areas in truly establishing livable cities is to address transportation needs in a forward-thinking way.
- regional planning must be tackled in a holistic and thoughtful way, rather than simply picking projects according to their potential to win more votes.
- climate goals must be integrated into every infrastructure decision, as must ensuring that any public money spent on transportation is expanding transit and active transportation networks
- investing in transit, livable cities and active transportation will not only help us meet our climate targets – but it will also improve physical and mental wellbeing, the strength and connectedness of communities, and the province’s overall quality of life.

The party advocates:

- prioritizing investments in transit service and ensuring that long term financial support is provided to TransLink, BC Transit and BC Ferries. For coastal communities and some interior communities, ferries are part of the way of life and a core part of the transportation network. We need to stop pretending that ferries should, or could, be run with a profit motive and bring their focus back to the essential services they provide to our communities.
- working with local governments to establish a vision for sustainable transportation in an era of expanded population growth on the South Island, including through: a regional transportation strategy; establishing a regional governance body to overcome fractured decision-making and deliver integrated planning for the growing region; investing to support expansion of public transit options to help people move around more easily; building frequent and affordable public transportation links between cities, such as between Cowichan and the CRD
- prioritized investment in transit service to support economic recovery, improve livability of communities, and reduce GHG emissions
- ensuring that the projected long-term losses facing TransLink, BC Transit and BC Ferries are dealt with so that service levels are maintained, allowing ridership to quickly bounce back through the economic recovery period
- working with local and regional governments to redesign the transit funding model and establish an equitable, stable long-term funding model for transit, including consideration of mobility pricing
- developing climate and sustainability criteria, including consideration of cumulative impacts, to be applied to all future capital projects including transportation infrastructure investments
- bringing BC Ferries back into government as a Crown Corporation, and conducting a full review of BC Ferries operations focused on providing an efficient, public service for British Columbians, and the role of ferries in BC’s transportation network.



Housing & Poverty Reduction

Housing

The party states that:

- affordable housing subsidies for purchasers make housing less affordable. Their introduction encourages insiders to speculate on the price gains that will occur when all the new buyers soon compete for the same properties with a larger borrowing capacity.
- affordable housing subsidies for renters may marginally increase the supply of rentals, and thereby lower the price. But the cost of doing so, at nearly \$500M annually (projected to increase substantially) is far too great for the actual impact it will have (even if successful, only keeping up with population growth). When combined with the poor incentives introduced with changes to the Residential Tenancy Act, it is likely the number of rental units per person will fall again.

The party advocates:

- eliminating provincial affordable housing subsidies, to save an estimated \$500 million annually
- focusing instead on measures that will increase supply of entry-level accommodations, such as reducing the complexity of building codes and encouraging municipalities to offer extra Floor Space Ratio for rental only buildings.
- putting property owners back in the driver's seat under the tenancy laws, allowing more to put their properties up for rent without the risk of being locked in with a bad tenant.

Tax Reduction

The party advocates:

- eliminating provincial fuel and carbon taxes, saving the average family over \$1000 annually. Everybody pays more when transportation is taxed to the extent that it is today. While it is costly to build and maintain transportation infrastructure, the majority of those costs are not funded by fuel taxes and carbon taxes. Most of the maintenance is paid for by municipalities while capital projects are funded independently. Tax revenue received on fuel (and soon carbon) goes into general provincial government revenues.
- because such taxes are applied to every grocery item we buy as well as gasoline consumption, they are regressive, affecting those least able to pay more than the wealthy. They also unfairly target those that must commute to work, adding insult to injury for those on the run from unaffordable urban housing and traffic congestion.
- review of regulations that stand in the way of new refining capacity in the highest demand areas, so transportation costs of gasoline can be reduced further.

Industries & Corporations

Small and Medium Business

The party advocates:

- elimination of the Employer Health Tax. Recently government acted to replace Medical Service Plan (MSP) premiums paid by individuals with a tax on employers of up to 1.9% of total payroll. This approach raises the barriers to job creation, discourages business expansion, encourages businesses investment in automation technology, and puts pressure on wage and benefit increases for employees.
- as with individuals and their tax brackets, business owners will attempt to avoid the triggering of higher health tax rates by reducing their overall business activity and hiring fewer workers. Employers only budget for labour cost increases that they can afford. With an employer tax on payroll, they will instead postpone their plans for wage increases, or accelerate their plans for automation. Marginal workers are the ones most affected by this change in cost burden, making it a very regressive tax by excluding these most vulnerable workers from the workforce entirely.
- as with minimum wage increases and other interventions, artificially increasing the cost of labour will have a negative effect on the most vulnerable, teenagers and students, and those with a disability that reduces their productive capacity. Current trends have workers joining the workforce at later ages, reducing their lifetime earning potential, human capital acquisition and overall sense of contribution and worth. The government should not add fuel to the fires driving these trends.

Transit

The party advocates:

- repealing the Passenger Transportation Act; defunding enforcement, instead fostering quality-driven market competition for ridesharing, taxis, buses, and other for-hire transportation modes, including dissolving the Passenger Transportation Board that fixes prices for the taxi industry, shuttle buses, limousines and for inter-city bus services. This would eliminate the government setting of prices and tariffs for transport vehicles and the requirement for "Special Authorization" to be granted a license for operation. The Transportation Board's requirements that prospective providers demonstrate first that there is a "public need" and that the application "promotes sound economic conditions in industry" presumes far too much knowledge of the bureaucrats running the board, while it also offers protection for incumbent providers from competition. This kind of interference in the market results in poor customer service and has resulted in many gaps in service coverage throughout the province.
- removing legal and regulatory barriers to ride-sharing services like Uber and Lyft and end corporate welfare to the taxi industry. Services like Uber, Lyft and others – drastically improve the transportation of people and goods wherever they are introduced. These modern transportation solutions are disrupting the ineffective and expensive legacy taxi and public transit industry, in the same way Amazon, iTunes, Netflix and Airbnb overturned the models in their respective industries. Ridesharing is bringing mobility to those who could not previously afford it, improving transportation service-quality, reliability and trustworthiness, and allowing ordinary people to generate extra income out of their vehicle. It is not an appropriate function of the government to decide who can and who cannot rent their cars out to third parties for money. Travelling by any means carries different risks, costs and benefits, whether it be walking, riding a bicycle, driving, taking the bus, or taking an Uber, among many others. Each individual should be allowed to determine the relative reward and risk of any given means of transportation. Moreover, a system that is driven by individual choice, rather than central control, will be more efficient, accessible and productive, as the individual is in the best position to make these relevant choices. After all, it is their own body and money that they are putting at risk, and only each individual knows how important it is to get to a given destination at a given pace and price.
- allowing competition in all types of auto insurance and convert ICBC's insurance business into a member owned and operated co-operative.
- ending the TransLink monopoly on bus service in the lower mainland; refocusing their business around integrated rapid transit services such as the SeaBus, SkyTrain, and West Coast Express. British Columbians should expect better transportation services in the modern age, and that the money taxpayers fork out for some of these services should be spent on projects that will benefit the greatest number of people, including enhancements and modernisation of the Canada Line, SeaBus, SkyTrain, and West Coast Express, as well as the accelerated construction of new lines with public-private partnerships such as the SkyTrain expansion to UBC, an Arbutus Greenway Tram, a Surrey LRT, and perhaps others

- eliminating carbon and fuel taxes, and PST on private vehicle sales.
- banning photo radar in British Columbia and reinstating tolls on bridges and express highways.
- supporting Charter Rights challenges as a matter of principle
- directing the MOTI to prioritise funding for critical infrastructure projects, such as: Massey Tunnel replacement, SkyTrain expansions, twinning the TC Highway 1 to the Alberta border, and the Malahat bypass
- ending the government's union-only "community benefits agreement" infrastructure contracts, of which more than \$4 billion worth have already been awarded through a new Crown Corporation called "BC Infrastructure Benefits Inc." that will hire union workers for construction of major public projects. And they will hire only union workers – non-union citizens of BC aren't welcome to enjoy in the "community benefits" therein. Premier Horgan claims this unions-only approach will support local hires, drive apprenticeship, training, and employment opportunities for women and indigenous people, that projects will run more safely, efficiently, and economically, and that there will be "only be a modest 4-7% increase" in construction costs. Which means it will be more than 4-7%. The CBAs require workers on designated projects to join one of 19 government-favoured unions within 30 days of being on the job. All construction worker payroll and benefits will run through this new government Crown Corporation. (BCIB) and will be considered the Employer of all employees working under the scope of the CBA. Contractors must recognize the BCIB as the employer. Open-shop companies can bid on projects but their employees will be required to join a designated union (the newly-created "Allied Infrastructure and Related Construction Council of BC") after 30 days on the job.

Agriculture

The party states that:

- current law in British Columbia forbids distribution of a product – unpasteurized milk – which is legal in 43 US states plus England, Ireland, New Zealand, and all European nations. The sale of raw milk is currently illegal under a 1991 Federal regulation plus under the provincial Milk Industry Act.
- herdsharing has been illegal in BC since Social Credit Health Minister Peter Dueck issued the Health Hazard Regulation thirty years ago, back in 1988. This law, now section 2(a) of the Health Hazards Regulation under the Public Health Act, defines all unpasteurized milk as a "health hazard."
- there is no evidence or documentation to support the prohibition of the sale of raw milk. The gold standard for microbial testing, quantitative microbial risk assessments ("QMRA"), show that raw milk is a low-risk food. Finally, outbreaks cited by the CDC to vilify raw milk are often caused by illegally-imported Mexican "bathtub" cheese and contaminated milk produced by industrial methods by confined-herd dairies, i.e. milk that need to be pasteurized in order to be safe, not milk from grass-fed micro-dairy herdshares with professional and certified agisters.
- the Raw Milk Institute (est. 2011) has developed an on-farm food safety training program for raw milk production producing excellent results. It has been proven that milk can be produced in British Columbia pathogen-free.
- eighty-nine percent of Canadian dairy farmers drink their own farm-fresh milk according to a 2010 study by Guelph University, suggesting that this food eaten by humans for millenia is safe.

The party advocates:

- development of modern regulations and a certification process for farms that provide the sanitary production, distribution and sale of unpasteurized milk in the province
- adopting the draft Artisan Herdshare Regulation proposed by the British Columbia Herdshare Association and creating a new class of farm: "certified herdshare farm" under the Milk Industry Act
- amending section 2(a) of the Public Health Act, Health Hazards Regulation, to exempt herd-shares certified under the new Regulation

Insurance Corporation of British Columbia

The party states that:

- The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) is consistently rated as the worst insurance provider in the country, yet consumers are powerless to choose a competing insurer for their basic auto insurance needs. Not only is ICBC universally hated for poor customer service, it's prices consistently rank among the highest in the country
- it advocates completely liberating drivers from ICBC and allowing every British Columbian to purchase any form of auto insurance from any insurance provider of their choice, finally ending over 46 years of government monopoly in British Columbia.

The party advocates:

- allowing competition and innovation in all types of auto insurance
- converting ICBC's basic and optional coverage insurance business into a member owned and operated co-operative, to make it more efficient
- returning driver licensing and vehicle registration and administration to the provincial government with regional offices
- winding down the ICBC administration and executive bureaucracy, and selling the \$80M head office property at Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver
- a full review of ICBC's fines schedule and collections practices; transfer to municipalities
- repeal of the "Enhanced Care Coverage" legislation also known as "No-Fault, which denies accident victims pain & suffering damages, access to legal representation for their care and recovery, and would ultimately make our roads less safe
- modernizing BC's wrongful death laws, as all the other provinces have done, so all citizens have a foundation of equal value and protections under the law, not just income earners with dependents as is the case with the present 174 year old legislation

- creating a “Road Safety Centre for Excellence” as a public/private partnership to continually develop and implement driver and road safety measures to make our province safer for all users of the roads, cycling lanes, paths, and pedestrian walkways



An Economy to Serve People

The party states that:

- prior governments have nickel and dimed taxpayers while giving billions in tax cuts to the richest British Columbians. Hydro rates, ICBC premiums and ferry fares have all increased. Tuition fees have tripled and MSP fees have doubled. Steep tolls have been applied to key commuter bridges, where transit options don't exist.
- prior governments also did nothing to stop steep rises in the price of housing and rent
- since it came into office, reducing costs for British Columbians remains a priority for it. It has been steadily increasing investments over the past several years to help people with everyday costs, including lowering the costs for child care, car insurance and health care premiums, and making more services free, such as transit for youth under 12 and prescription contraception.
- it has made more than 146,000 child care spaces more affordable through fee reductions and the \$10-a-day program, so that families are now saving up to \$900 per month.
- new and enhanced supports such as school foods programs, the Renter's Tax Credit, expansions to the Climate Action Tax Credit and a permanent increase to the BC Family Benefit help low and middle income people with affordability
- its 2024 provincial builds upon this foundation by providing new targeted benefits for those struggling with cost of living, including an additional BC Family Benefit Bonus. For one year, starting in July 2024, families currently receiving the BC Family Benefit will get a bonus of 25 per cent per child until June 2025. It is estimated that up to 66,000 families who have never received the BC Family Benefit will also receive the regular benefit and the bonus.
- in total, approximately 340,000 families will benefit from an estimated \$248 million investment, with an average of \$445 over the bonus period
- the BC Electricity Affordability Credit will help reduce electricity costs for residential, commercial and industrial customers starting April 2024. B.C. households will see, on average, approximately \$100 in savings on their residential electricity bills over twelve months, depending on their power usage in 2023/24.
- commercial and industrial customers will also benefit from reduced operating costs as they will also receive bill credits proportional to approximately 4.6 per cent of their electricity consumption. This is estimated to save British Columbians \$370 million over the next year
- to reduce Employer Health Tax (EHT) for small and growing businesses, increasing the exemption threshold from \$500,000 to \$1 million starting in the 2024 calendar year. Businesses with payrolls between \$1 million and \$1.5 million will continue to be partially exempt and will also see a decrease in tax obligations. An estimated 90 per cent of businesses will now be exempt from the EHT. The change is estimated to save businesses more than \$100 million annually.

The party advocates:

- getting rid of Medical Services Plan fees, saving families as much as \$1,800 a year.
- building 114,000 rental and co-op homes, and providing renters an annual rental home credit of \$400.
- implementing \$10 a day childcare.
- eliminating tolls on the Port Mann and Golden Ears bridges.
- eliminating interest on student loans and providing students a \$1,000 completion grant.
- freezing BC Hydro rates and stop Christy Clark's 42% increase in ICBC rates.
- rolling back ferry fares on small routes by 15%, freeze fares on major routes, and return the 100% seniors' weekday discount.

Housing & Poverty Reduction

Housing

The party states that it during its current term in office it launched its Homes for People plan, launched in 2023 with allocation of \$4.2 billion in operating and capital funding in the first three years. Its 2024 provincial budget includes:

- introducing a new tax targeting home flipping activity to discourage short-term speculation that contributes to inflated housing costs
- allowing small-scale, multi-unit affordable housing, including townhomes, duplexes and triplexes through zoning changes and proactive partnerships
- offering forgivable loans for homeowners to build and rent secondary suites below market rates to increase affordable rental supply quickly
- streamlining permitting to reduce costs and speed up approvals to get homes built faster
- strengthening enforcement of short-term rental regulation
- providing an annual income-tested tax credit of up to \$400 per year for renters, starting with the 2023 calendar year
- launching BC Builds aimed at utilizing underused land, low-cost financing, and grants to deliver more homes for middle-income people and families
- to discourage investors from driving up prices, B.C. introduction of a new tax targeting home flipping activity starting on January 1, 2025. This will be a tax on the profit made

from selling a residential property within two years of buying it. Revenue from the tax will go directly to building homes in B.C., like the existing Speculation and Vacancy Tax

- raising exemption thresholds for property transfer tax for first-time home buyers and newly built homes to help lower costs for more people who are buying a home, the measures being estimated to save British Columbians over \$100 million annually
- an exemption for new, eligible purpose-built rental buildings between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2030, to help lower costs and encourage development of rentals
- provides funds to maintain over 500 temporary and permanent shelter spaces across the province, including ongoing shelter spaces in Kelowna, Williams Lake and Merritt
- as part of the new BC Builds program \$150 million of operating funding and \$48 million in capital funding to speed up the development of new housing for middle-income households to own or rent

Labour Unions, Employment

The party states that:

- unemployment is up in every region outside the lower mainland and the Island. People who are working are working harder and longer, and not getting ahead. More and more jobs are part time, and more and more people are working two jobs to make ends meet.
- the only industry that was supported by the prior government was natural gas. The rest of the economy, including resource communities and families, have paid the price.
- the provincial relationship with First Nations has also suffered.

The party advocates:

- making reconciliation with First Nations a priority, creating certainty and opportunity for First Nations and for the economy as a whole.
- creating good jobs and build a sustainable economy in every sector of the economy and in every corner of BC.
- creating 96,000 construction jobs by building schools, hospitals, roads and rapid transit over the next five years.
- building, directly and through partnerships, 114,000 rental, social and co-op homes over 10 years using BC wood products as building materials.
- increasing minimum wage to \$15 and bring in \$10 a day childcare.
- revitalizing BC's forest industry and make BC a world leader in engineered wood products.
- sparking innovation and growth in BC's tech sector, by improving investment tax credits, hiring local software developers, and re-establishing the Innovative Clean Energy program
- making BC a leader on climate action, including reducing the province's carbon footprint with energy efficiency retrofits to public buildings and residential homes, and create good jobs that last in every community.
- supporting BC small business with a half-point cut to the small business tax rate.
- also investing in traditional sectors of our economy and launching a major jobs initiative in clean energy and energy efficiency to reduce home heating bills.

Sustainable Economy

The party states that:

- British Columbia has a strong economy, a beautiful natural environment, abundant natural resources and a highly skilled and talented workforce who drive the economy forward. During its term in government it has continued to leverage B.C.'s strengths by making investments and implementing measures to support inclusive growth. For example, investments in affordable and accessible child care have led to an increase in women's employment in B.C., while the Province's Future Ready Action Plan helps to break down barriers so more people can get the training and supports they need to move into in-demand careers. This includes providing Future Skills Grants that are helping people 19 years and older access high-quality and relevant training opportunities.
- its 2024 provincial budget allocates \$228 million over three years to sustain Future Ready initiatives implemented in prior budgets, including the doubling of student loan maximums and reducing student repayment obligations. These measures will help employers recruit and access the talent they need to grow their businesses and support their local economies.

Industries & Corporations

Clean Economy

The party states that:

- its climate plan, the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, prioritizes investments to accelerate the development and adoption of low-emissions technologies and supports sustainable jobs for people in the clean economy.
- its 2024 provincial budget allocates \$318 million to reaffirm its commitment through new operating funding to continue CleanBC grant and rebate programs for clean transportation, energy efficient buildings and communities, and support the development and implementation of regulatory measures to continue the transition to a low-carbon economy
- an additional \$93 million from prior commitments includes a further \$20 million for active transportation grants to communities, \$40 million for additional heat pump rebates for low- and middle-income households, \$30 million to continue the implementation of electric vehicle public charging infrastructure across the Province, and \$3 million to increase youth involvement in climate action initiatives.
- in addition, the 2024 provincial budget confirms the party's 2023 commitment to direct revenue from the \$15 per tonne carbon tax increases to relief for British Columbians through enhancements to the climate action tax credit. Individuals and families currently receiving the tax credit will see their climate action tax credit payments increase in 2024,

in order to help make life more affordable

- the above investments are in addition to incremental capital funding provided in the 2024 provincial budget, which includes \$50 million in Active Transportation infrastructure and \$27 million to enable more school districts to buy electric school buses.

Critical Minerals

The party states that:

- during its current term in office it announced the first phase of a made-in-B.C. Critical Mineral Strategy to build a clean economy and support sustainable jobs for people by expanding the critical minerals sector in alignment with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.
- this strategy was supported with \$6 million over three years provided in prior budgets to conduct geoscience, economic analysis and engagement, including establishing a Critical Minerals Advisory Committee.
- the 2024 budget adds \$24 million in new funding over three years to ensure adequate resources for regional and major mines permitting and support Mineral Tenure Act reform in collaboration with First Nations, and engaging with industry and communities.

Transportation & Community Infrastructure

The party states that:

- investments in community infrastructure and critical transportation networks support the movement of goods and people, and help lower greenhouse gas emissions to support a clean and growing economy.
- its 2024 provincial budget allocates more than \$15 billion in capital investments over the next three years to ensure British Columbians can move throughout the province. This includes funding to continue major Highway 1 projects through the Fraser Valley and from Kamloops to the Alberta border, and major infrastructure projects like the Fraser River Tunnel project.
- the 2024 provincial budget further provides capital funding to continue and complete transit projects in the Metro Vancouver region, including the Broadway Subway and Surrey Langley SkyTrain, as well as \$248 million in capital funding over three years to BC Transit for expanded infrastructure outside the Lower Mainland to house additional buses, for new zero-emissions buses, and to increase the capacity of depots and passenger facilities.
- a further \$28 million is allocated for operating funding to support a 14.5% expansion in BC Transit services in priority communities, with a commitment to continue working with partners to address the transit needs of a growing population
- an additional \$26 million is allocated for operating fund to support BC Transit base operations and address inflationary pressures.
- investing in the efficient operation of the province's transit system supports CleanBC greenhouse gas reduction targets, the alleviation of traffic congestion, and ensures transit continues to be a reliable, safe and affordable service for British Columbians.
- a further \$207 million is provided for critical road and bridge maintenance on provincial highways, including 47,000 kilometers of roads and more than 3,000 bridges. Contracted services include road resurfacing and pavement marking, highway electrical maintenance, snow removal and response to emergency events, which are all critical to the safety of the travelling public, and to ensure the flow of commercial traffic across major road networks.
- \$67 million is to be provided over four years to support the operation of contracted inland ferry services. Inland ferry routes are free services connecting many rural and remote communities to the Provincial highway system, including First Nations communities, and ensure access to school, work, medical appointments and basic goods.
- additional funding of \$23 million over three years will support contracted services with BC Ferries, for expected growth in student, senior, medical travel and accessibility fare discounts. The funding will also help to address the rising cost of fuel and mechanical maintenance costs for contractors who operate ferry services on unregulated routes.
- to support economic growth and development, the budget provides \$250 million over five years for the 21 local governments that make up the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance. These communities are primarily rural, remote, with small populations but are relied upon to support an influx of new industry and workers. Funding will be used to support planning and construction of municipal infrastructure, such as roads, water, sewer and other community facilities needed to support new industrial development and create liveable communities for their workforce.



An Economy for All

The party states that:

- at a time when families are stretched too thin, the current government has doubled the carbon tax. It advocates cancelling the current government's plan to further triple the carbon tax, and fully canceling the carbon tax if the federal government does.
- not everyone can take a bus to work or to their kids' soccer practice. Repealing the fuel tax can save families 15 cents a litre, or about \$30 for a Ford pickup or Dodge minivan.
- to give British Columbians the same bread Atlantic Canadians get on the carbon tax for home heating, it advocates scrapping the carbon tax on all home heating.
- grocery prices are through the roof. Cutting the fuel tax and cancelling the carbon tax hikes will make groceries cheaper by reducing the cost of growing and transporting food
- families that can't afford a basic car of their own shouldn't have to pay for wealthy people to buy Teslas and other luxury EVs. BC United will scrap this unfair handout.

Housing & Poverty Reduction

To end the housing crisis, the party advocates:

- establishment of a new Rent-to-Own program to unlock homeownership by requiring developers of new housing to set aside up to 15 percent of homes in participating projects for eligible British Columbians who are first-time buyers only. Such buyers would take possession and reside in the home for three years at which time the sale will officially complete. During the three years, participants would pay rent at market rates, with 100 percent of payments being applied toward their down payment — helping renters become homeowners.
- eliminating the Property Transfer Tax for first-time buyers on properties valued up to \$1 million — saving people up to \$18,000 and making it more affordable to purchase a home.
- using empty public land to build affordable housing, including offering non-profit and market homebuilders 99-year leases on unused public land at one dollar per year. In exchange, builders would be required to construct below-market rental housing for families and seniors.
- elimination of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) on all new residential construction to make it cheaper to build more homes.
- because red tape makes homes cost more for families, cutting red tape to make homes cheaper.
- regulating short-term rentals in a way that respects your property rights, while making sure there are enough homes for everyone
- requiring universities to prove they have room to house BC students before accepting students abroad

Labour Unions, Employment

The party states that:

- the current government's "Community Benefits Agreements" give contracts to NDP-friendly unions while shutting out 85% of the workforce – meaning British Columbians pay more for less. It advocates scrapping CBAs and restoring competitive bidding on public projects.
- The government's "CleanBC Plan" will kill jobs, kill paycheques, and plunge the province into a recession, while doing nothing for the environment, that its own economic model confirms this. The party advocates scrapping the scheme.

Points to Ponder: An Economy at the Service of All People

A conscience well formed by the social teachings of the Church will take seriously the following questions:

Poverty Reduction

1. "The poor you will always have with you," Christ warned his disciples. Why would Christ say that? Is it possible that the poor will always be with us in order that we, who now form the living body of Christ on earth, will always have an opportunity to glorify God by examining the meaning and the causes of poverty, and working to eliminating it, without expect that we will ever, on our own and without the assistance of God, be able to do that?
2. What is an appropriate definition of poverty, particularly in a society overflowing with consumer objects and material wealth?
3. How can Canada best strike a balance between the principles of solidarity – 'we're all in this together' – and subsidiarity – 'everyone should do what he or she can to support themselves, before burdening others?'
4. Should such definition include as a condition the ability of individuals to seek personal fulfillment in the pursuit of truth? In other words, the ability to enjoy and make use of leisure?
5. What, if anything, should be done to ensure that a dignified living wage, capable of providing a dignified home and opportunity to support a family, is available to workers and those willing to work?
6. Should a basic income policy be considered? If so, what form should it take?
7. What can or should be done by the provinces, and what should be left to the federal government, or to private or community organizations?

It has been observed that debt levels among the elderly are increasing, especially as the costs of long-term, dignified care increase.

8. What can or should be done to alleviate poverty and debt among the elderly?

GDP & Well-Being

For decades, governments have focused exclusively on gross domestic product – a measure of an economy's sheer productivity – as the best measure of national social health. More recently, some voices have begun to advocate for a broader index of national well-being, to include factors such as the physical and emotional health of the people, the health of the environment, equity in housing, income, and opportunity, and food security, in addition to raw production.

1. Which of these measures of national well-being is better?
2. What else can or should be done to ensure that Canada's economy serves everyone—rather than the other way around?
3. Is it reasonable to demand continuous economic growth, or might it be preferable to seek sustainable contentment?

Businesses and Corporations

For decades, corporate lobby groups and business schools have taught that the only legitimate object of a business corporation is to make money for its shareholders. More recently, some business voices have begun to call for a broader role for corporations, one that includes service of its employees, its customers, and the community, and protection of the environment.

1. Which approach is more consistent with Catholic social teaching?
2. Should anything be done to encourage development of a corporate and business culture that aims to serve people, communities, and future generations, in addition to fair profits? If so, what?

The Individual & Society: Rights, Responsibilities, & Subsidiarity

Civil Liberties | Human Rights | Responsibilities: Participation & Subsidiarity

To one person's right there corresponds a duty in all other persons... Those, therefore, who claim their own rights, yet altogether forget or neglect to carry out their respective duties, are people who build with one hand and destroy with the other. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)

Catholic Teaching

Civil Rights & Liberties

Every member of society is imbued with a number of rights. With them come responsibilities.

In Catholic terms, a "right" has been defined as a subjective moral power, residing in the person posing it, "to do, hold, or extract something," which functions through appeal to another's will through the other's intellect. It is to be distinguished from might, i.e. the physical force or power to take something away from another. – Fr John Hardon, SJ, *Modern Catholic Dictionary*

Man's history of sin begins when he no longer acknowledges the Lord as his Creator and himself wishes to be the one who determines, with complete independence, what is good and what is evil. "You will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Gen 3:5): this was the first temptation, and it is echoed in all the other temptations to which man is more easily inclined to yield as a result of the original Fall. - Pope Saint John Paul II, *Veritatis splendor*

The demands of the common good. are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights. These demands concern above all the commitment to peace, the organization of the State's powers, a sound juridical system, the protection of the environment, and the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human rights: food, housing, work, education and access to culture, transportation, basic health care, the freedom of communication and expression, and the protection of religious freedom. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 164-166*

Racism & Discrimination

The unity of the human family is not yet becoming a reality. This is due to obstacles originating in materialistic and nationalistic ideologies that contradict the values of the person integrally considered in all his various dimensions, material and spiritual, individual and community. In particular, any theory or form whatsoever of racism and racial discrimination is morally unacceptable. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 433*

Conscience & Religion

The Catholic Church emphasizes, among other rights, the right to religious freedom. Emphasis is given to the paramount value of the right to religious freedom:



Civil Liberties

The party states that:

- the values most Canadians share in all the provinces and territories, which are part of our great Canadian heritage, are greater than the values on which we are divided
- it believes that all Canadians should have the freedom to travel freely, and to move to any location in the Country, to work, to vacation or to retire wherever they desire in this great land. It also believes that they should be fully entitled to all the benefits offered by the Government of any province where they choose to live and that they should have a reasonable expectation that those benefits will be similar, no matter which province they choose to live in. It will fight for the standardization of benefits throughout the Country so that this type of disparity is eliminated.
- it advocates working with the federal government to amend the Federal Constitution to include Property Rights, as well as to guarantee that no person shall be deprived of their just rights without due process of law and full, just and timely compensation.

Social & Civic Institutions

The party has released no official statement concerning its policies on the roles, purposes or rights of social or civic or institutions.



Civil & Human Rights

The party states that:

- it supports protection of free speech on campus. Universities and colleges that do not support and defend freedom of expression on campus will be defunded. Taxpayer money will not be used to support places of censorship and intimidation.
- it opposes vaccine mandates and passports. While medically-approved inoculation should be encouraged, and vaccines offered to all British Columbians, individuals should not be mandated or coerced into receiving any medical treatment against their will, and fired government employees (including nurses) should be hired back immediately.
- it opposes identity politics. Identity politics is a divisive ideological force that must be rejected. British Columbians should be treated equally regardless of their race, gender, religion or sexual orientation. Programs that discriminate based on these characteristics must be disbanded.

Social & Civic Institutions

The party has released no official statement concerning its policies on the roles, purposes or rights of social or civic or institutions.



Civil Liberties & Human Rights

all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such wise that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits. The respect of this right is an indicative sign of man's authentic progress in any regime, in any society, system or milieu. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 320, 321*

With euthanasia and medically-assisted death and abortion legalized, it is critical that healthcare providers whose deepest moral convictions tell them that such procedures are wrong, not be forced to participate. Catholic teaching says workers should be safeguarded from suffering any affront to conscience or personal dignity. It is a grave duty of conscience to avoid cooperating, even formally, with practices contrary to the Law of God.

Freedom of Speech: Truth, the Press & the Media

Information is among the principal instruments of democratic participation. Participation without an understanding of the situation of the political community, the facts and the proposed solutions to problems is unthinkable.

It is necessary to guarantee a real pluralism in the dissemination of information, ensuring that there are many forms and instruments of information and communications. Special attention must be given to the phenomenon of the news media being controlled by just a few people or groups. This has dangerous effects for the entire democratic system... The media must be used to build up and sustain the human community in its different sectors: economic, political, cultural, educational and religious. Society has a right to information based on truth, freedom, justice and solidarity. The essential question is whether the current information system is contributing to the betterment of the human person; that is, does it make people more spiritually mature, more aware of the dignity of their humanity, more responsible or more open to others, in particular to the neediest and the weakest.

A further aspect of great importance is that new technologies must respect legitimate cultural differences. In the world of the media the intrinsic difficulties of communications are often exacerbated by ideology, the desire for profit and political control, rivalry and conflicts between groups, and other social evils. Moral values and principles apply also to the media. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 414-416*

Gender Equity

The feminine genius is needed in all expressions in the life of society. The first indispensable step in this direction is the concrete possibility of access to professional formation. The persistence of many forms of discrimination offensive to the dignity and vocation of women is due to a long series of conditioning that penalizes women, who have seen themselves relegated to the margins of society and even reduced to servitude... An urgent need to recognize effectively the rights of women in the workplace is seen especially under the aspects of pay, insurance and social security. *295, Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 295*

Among its six core principles, the party advocates:

- acknowledging that all humans have a fundamental right to health, wellbeing, and freedom
- protecting and valuing all cultures and individuals while conserving variety in the natural world

The party further states that:

- British Columbians need to renew their commitment to fighting for inclusion and equity across our province and in every aspect of our society
- it is committed to ensuring that every British Columbian is treated justly and has the means to thrive in society.
- systemic racism and gender inequities exist in BC, and it will take systemic change to ensure that we move beyond words to achieve the outcomes we all wish to see. It will continue to put forward systemic solutions to systemic issues with evidence-based policies.
- to accomplish systemic change, stimulus spending should target opportunities to correct the underrepresentation of certain genders or demographics in specific sectors, such as caring professions and trades. It should apply a "Gender Based Analysis Plus" (GBA+) and Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Act (DRIPA) lens in policy development and implementation, address structural inequalities in wages, and build on the work underway to develop a suite of genuine progress indicators to provide a more holistic view of the health of our economy.

The party advocates:

- restarting the Police Act review that was set aside when the prior government called an election. This would include a review of all provincial police force contracts, a comprehensive analysis of funding, the depth of policing activity in BC and the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement.
- reviewing procedures for wellness checks in consultation with Indigenous and BIPOC organizations, advocates and health professionals, with a goal of expanding the use of integrated mental health crisis teams in BC for mental health wellness checks.
- inviting the BC Human Rights Commissioner to do a study on the impact of police violence and racial discrimination on Indigenous peoples in BC.
- better collection of disaggregated demographic data as required to better understand disparities in our society, for health, education, housing, and employment outcomes in particular.
- provincial recognition of the International Decade for People of African Descent and carrying out the requests of the BC Advisory Committee on the UN Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD).
- re-introduction of legislation to ban conversion therapy in BC.
- introduction of equal pay legislation.
- addressing barriers to accessing contraception by making prescription contraceptive products free for those under 25 and removing the PST on all prescription contraceptive products.
- introduction of a BC Accessibility Act, including actioning the themes of breaking down barriers; advancing human rights; and promoting fairness and equity.
- permanent core funding for the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre in order to support indefinite, integrated care for survivors. This funding would be part of a larger strategy that establishes a new funding model for medical and police integrated sexual assault services, ensuring communities across BC can establish clinics that meet their needs.



Civil Rights & Liberties

Temporary Restrictions under COVID

The party states that:

- crisis management during the COVID pandemic was disproportionate to the harms of the virus and caused more damage than it helped to cure. While the province was fortunate to have a measured and rational public response guided by the Public Health Officer when required, along with some of the most relaxed restrictions in the world, the climate of fear carried on once the crisis had past caused great, possibly irreparable, harm. This harm can be measured in increased overdoses, suicides, social isolation, drug abuse, domestic violence, poverty. We see it in the loss of livelihoods, homes, relationships. The play of children has been disrupted, and elders have been left to die alone. British Columbia is suffering.

Property

Private property and other forms of private ownership of goods assure a person a highly necessary sphere for the exercise of his personal and family autonomy and ought to be considered as an extension of human freedom. Stimulating exercise of responsibility, it constitutes one of the conditions for civil liberty. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 171*

The Church's social doctrine requires that ownership of goods be equally accessible to all, so that all may become, at least in some measure, owners. The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity. Differences of colour, religion, talent, place of birth or residence, and so many others, cannot be used to justify the privileges of some over the rights of all. As a community, we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development. -176, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 176*

Not to share our wealth with the poor is to rob them and take away their livelihood. The riches we possess are not our own, but theirs as well... Other rights having to do with the goods necessary for the integral fulfilment of persons, including that of private property or any other type of property, should in no way hinder [this right], but should actively facilitate its implementation. *Fratelli tutti, -188-120*

Human Rights

The Church also recognizes a number of Human Rights, including:

- the right to life, an integral part of which is the right of the child to develop in the mother's womb from the moment of conception
- the right to live in a united family and in a moral environment conducive to the growth of the child's personality
- the right to develop one's intelligence and freedom in seeking and knowing the truth
- the right to share in the work which makes wise use of the earth's material resources, and to derive from that work the means to support oneself and one's dependents
- and the right freely to establish a family, to have and to rear children through the responsible exercise of one's sexuality.

The Church also emphasizes rights to adequate housing; clean water, and secure, nutritious food; education and access to culture, transportation, basic health care. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 166*

Individual Responsibilities

"In human society, to one man's right there corresponds a duty in all other persons: the duty, namely, of acknowledging and respecting the right in question." "Those, therefore, who claim their own rights, yet altogether forget or neglect to carry out their respective duties, are people who build with one hand and destroy with the other. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 156*

- of course every single one of the 230+ deaths directly caused by COVID in BC was a personal human tragedy. It's also important to note that Vancouver alone lost over 14,000 small and medium sized businesses, many of them are never to return. That's tens of thousands of jobs and so many livelihoods now laying in ruins. Dreams and hopes for the future reduced to rubble.

- studies found no relation between lockdown restrictions and COVID infection. The harm of lockdowns, however, was very real.

- we should remain ever mindful of the tendency for governments to find emergency powers incredibly useful in achieving their unrelated goals – goals that could not be achieved through the regular functioning of democratic participation. Tolerating emergency powers for long periods of time raises the prospect that such powers become permanent, as with Bill 19, with an irrecoverable loss for civil liberties.

Free Speech

The party states that:

- freedom of expression is the foundation of all freedoms. It has inherent value; every individual experiences life in a unique way and should be free to share that experience with others. Moreover, our society has long seen the value in Free Speech. History is replete with examples of controversial, unpopular, or even illegal ideas eventually coming to redefine the course of history, uplifting humanity in the process. The free exchange of ideas is necessary for individuals and societies to test out good and bad ideas alike, to advance in knowledge, and to challenge the received wisdom of an era, for the benefit of all. Robust debate breathes life into the intellectual struggle.
- in the absence of free speech, historically, societies have turned to violent confrontation over competing ideas, values and beliefs. The protection of freedom of expression must extend even to the protection of offensive or hurtful ideas, so that these hurtful thoughts stay in the realm of words and discussion, and that we as a society can unpack them, assess them, and discard them. Our culture is increasingly losing its value for freedom of expression and there is a growing intolerance toward free speech, manifesting as counter-protests and even violence. As intersectionality and "cancel culture" become a dominant cultural force, we risk losing the ability to discuss and engage critically with some of the most crucial issues of our time
- it believes that all individuals are entitled to equal treatment under the law, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or religious belief. This is a long-standing classical-liberal principle that libertarians hold dear. We have long been champions of fairness and equality under the law, or by society at large. The foundations of our society – the rule of law, protection of private property and the person – can and must be applied to every person regardless of aforementioned characteristics.
- as such, it also rejects laws or cultural norms that seek to raise one identity group above another. This leads us inevitably to a rejection of institutional intersectionality; people must be considered as individuals first and foremost. Intersectionality refers to an ideology which seeks to redistribute social, political, and economic power along the lines of race, gender, and sexuality. It does away with meritocracy. In fact, individuals are organized according to an entire spectrum of oppression. The more oppressed an individual's race, gender, or sexuality is said to be, the higher they rise in the hierarchy of intersectionality. If an individual can be identified as having several "intersecting" marginalized traits, they may verily walk as royalty among the adherents to this peculiar philosophy. Justice, in this view, must consist of taking social, economic and political power away from the privileged (by force if necessary) and giving it to the marginalized, not taking into account the agency, decisions, or capabilities of individuals in either group.
- ultimately this kind of redistributionist and heavy-handed ideology must be rejected because its sustenance requires violence. Marxism must be rejected because it says the most important characteristic about a person are those immutable traits which they have no will or control over. Cancel culture, violence-against-speech, and the whole basket of hardcore authoritarian ideals must be rejected because it elevates the perceived wants of the so-called community over the needs of the individual. It reduces individuals to faceless representatives of a "group."
- all such things stand in contrast to the libertarian's commitment to the defense of individual liberty, and the British Columbia Libertarian Party is proud to reject collectivism and defend freedom of speech.

The party advocates:

- fostering an environment and culture within all government institutions respectful of diverse viewpoints and free expression
- ensuring universities have robust free-speech policies with tangible enforcement mechanisms, using financial pressure as necessary
- identifying and eliminating any recruitment or hiring policies within government based on race, gender, or sexuality, "Critical Race Theory", and so forth



Civil Rights & Liberties

Subsidiarity

Subsidiarity is the principle that each element of society should serve its proper purpose, and support others in serving theirs, the over-arching goal being to encourage and enable the authentic human development of the individual.

One consequence of this principle is that each individual, and smaller groups of people, should be allowed and expected to make for themselves all the decisions that can responsibly be left to them, rather than to larger groups or greater authorities. A premise of this principle is that we are each responsible for our own salvation, within the limits of the gifts and the challenges with which God has endowed us. This is one of the fundamental social teachings of the Church, since it helps to ensure that each individual is empowered to find his or her own way to God.

Families, Individuals, and Civil Society

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the family, groups, associations, local territorial realities; in short, for that aggregate of economic, social, cultural, sports-oriented, recreational, professional and political expressions to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve effective social growth. This is the realm of civil society... This network of relationships strengthens the social fabric and constitutes the basis of a true community of persons, making possible the recognition of higher forms of social activity.

The political community is established to be of service to civil society, from which it originates. This vision is challenged by political ideologies of an individualistic nature and those of a totalitarian character, which tend to absorb civil society into the sphere of the State. The political community and civil society are not equal in the hierarchy of ends. The political community is essentially at the service of civil society and, in the final analysis, the persons and groups of which civil society is composed.

The State must provide an adequate legal framework for social subjects to engage freely in their different activities and it must be ready to intervene, when necessary and with respect for the principle of subsidiarity, so that the interplay between free associations and democratic life may be directed to the common good. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 185, 417, 418*

Subsidiary governments: provinces, municipalities, territories, & Aboriginal societies

The principle of subsidiarity is opposed to various forms of centralization, bureaucratization, and welfare assistance, and to the unjustified and excessive presence of the State in public mechanisms... Just as it is gravely wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also it is an injustice and at the same time a grave evil and disturbance of right order to assign to a greater and higher association what lesser and subordinate organizations can do. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 185*

The party states that:

- it is building a better, more inclusive British Columbia
- It is proud to stand with LGBTQ folks, but also believes actions speak louder than words
- during the 1990s it formed BC's first government with an out gay MLA, and first to bring in adoption rights and pension benefits for queer couples
- in 2019, six NDP MLAs were LGBTQ
- it has re-established the BC Human Rights Commission, and made it fully independent
- it has made it easier for British Columbians who do not identify as either male or female to display an X marker in the gender field of their BC driver's license, identity card, birth certificate, and BC Services Card
- it believes that all students deserve to be welcomed, included, and respected in a safe learning environment while being fully and completely themselves, and that all of BC's school districts have adopted SOGI 123.
- it joined a call for a federal ban on conversion therapy

Social & Civic Institutions

The party has released no official statement concerning its policies on the roles, purposes or rights of social or civic or institutions.



Civil Liberties & Human Rights

The party states, as a matter of principle, that:

- every individual has value
- life and liberty are a fundamental and inviolable right, and that everyone is born equal to enjoy life in a tolerant society that respects their individuality and freedom of speech, religion, and assembly

Social & Civic Institutions

The party has released no official statement concerning its policies on the rights or purposes of social or civic or institutions.

Points to Ponder: Rights & Responsibilities; Subsidiarity

A conscience well formed by the social teachings of the Church will seriously consider the following questions:

Civic & Individual Rights & Responsibilities

It is clear that the nation and the provinces owe their citizens great respect for each of a broad range of human rights. But with rights come responsibilities. In fact, a right is nothing other than the flip side of an obligation (responsibility). And while individual citizens have rights, the civil community as a whole also has rights, which means that individual citizens have some fundamental obligations towards the civil community as a whole (the nation).

In that light, we can ask:

1. What responsibilities do individuals have toward their communities, provinces, the nation, and the world? For example:
 - a) to what extent are citizens called to live sustainable lifestyles, for example by conserving energy, avoiding waste, and ensuring that they minimize their impact on future generations?
 - b) what should citizens look to their governments for, to encourage or enable sustainable consumer lifestyles?
 - c) To what extent are citizens called to:
 - i) participate in society, for example through informed voting, continued engagement with candidates and elected representatives, and keeping up responsibly with the news?
 - ii) lend a hand to their neighbours, for example by volunteering at home or within the community, in addition to paying taxes?
2. Can our governments do anything to enable or encourage citizens to contribute by volunteer service?
3. Under what conditions, if any, is it morally right to require health care providers to participate in morally questionable practices such as abortion or assisted death, when it is contrary to their understanding of morality or their religious beliefs?

In addition to human and civil rights, many parties speak of things British Columbians and others “deserve.”

1. How do the parties determine what citizens do or do not deserve? Do they apply predictable, objective criteria in making such determinations, or can such determinations sometimes seem arbitrary and unfair, or, in the context of elections, opportunistic? What criteria should be applied?
2. As the list of our defined political rights expand, how do we reconcile conflicts between them?

Government and Civil Society

1. Should the powers of the Federal government be expanded or reduced?
2. Should the powers of the Provincial government be expanded or reduced?
3. Is there too much government intervention in Canada or too little?
4. Or, should the powers of government be redistributed in order to ensure that individuals, public interest groups, and service organizations have opportunities to employ their lives and talents in the service of others, and the common good?

Solidarity

Supporting the Marginalized | Indigenous Rights & Relations | Rural Communities | Immigration & Newcomers

The other is as important as the self. Injustice done to another is an injustice that affects everyone. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)

Solidarity is found in a commitment to the good of one's neighbour. The good of one is the good of all, and the other is as important as the self. Injustice done to another is an injustice that affects everyone. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 193*

Support for the Marginalized and the Vulnerable

Some people are born into economically stable families, receive a fine education, grow up well nourished, or naturally possess great talent. They will certainly not need a proactive state; they need only claim their freedom. Yet the same rule clearly does not apply to a disabled person, to someone born in dire poverty, to those lacking a good education and with little access to adequate health care. If a society is governed primarily by the criteria of market freedom and efficiency, there is no place for such persons, and fraternity will remain just another vague ideal. Pope Francis – *Fratelli tutti, 109*

So many needy brothers and sisters are waiting for help, so many who are oppressed are waiting for justice, so many who are unemployed are waiting for a job, so many peoples are waiting for respect. How can it be that even today there are still people dying of hunger? Condemned to illiteracy? Lacking the most basic medical care? Without a roof over their head?

The scenario of poverty can extend indefinitely, if in addition to its traditional forms we think of its newer patterns. These new patterns often affect financially affluent sectors and groups which are nevertheless threatened by despair at the lack of meaning in their lives, by drug addiction, by fear of abandonment in old age or sickness, by marginalization or social discrimination. *Compendium of the Social*



Supporting the Marginalized

Mental Health Care

The party states that:

- increasing numbers of British Columbians are struggling with their mental health and we need to treat it like any other health issue by properly resourcing it in our public system.
- mental health care is failing at all levels, from early intervention for children and youth through to tertiary care for adults with complex psychological problems. In addition to concerns arising from the pandemic, young people are also facing compounding crises of climate change and affordability. Young people are the emerging leaders of our province and they should feel hopeful and excited about their future.
- protection of our mental health as exists for physical health begins by increasing accessibility to mental health services. Data clearly shows that lack of access to mental healthcare is most pronounced in those with lower incomes, fewer years of education, as well as among vulnerable and minority groups.
- the lack of mental health options for the majority of the population led to many problems even before COVID-19. If we are serious about building back better as a province then increasing the accessibility and affordability of mental health services needs to be a priority going forward.
- lack of access has led to our medical system becoming the de facto provider for those with mental health concerns. However, this system does not have the capacity to appropriately treat these individuals, leading them to over-utilize the medical health system because their mental health needs are not being treated.
- for many patients, even just a few appointments with a mental health professional can significantly improve mental and physical health. We need to invest in mental health services at every stage of British Columbians' lives so that they can be supported to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

The party advocates:

- investing to build an affordable and accessible mental healthcare system where cost is not a barrier to seeking help.
- allocating \$1.0 billion over a four-year cycle to address mental health care within the medical services plan. Funding should be provided for a comprehensive suite of initiatives including: (1) establishing accessible mental health treatment options for all those struggling with anxiety or depression; (2) early intervention, youth mental health initiatives, integrated primary care specific to youth and mental health enabling families to easily navigate resources in a supportive environment; (3) community-based options for responding to those who need mental health care and their families such as Clubhouse International; and (4) enhanced counselling outreach services to work with the homeless community.
- allocating \$200 million per year to invest in facilities to provide mental healthcare services and community-based centres for mental health and rehabilitation; and, accelerating capital plans for the construction of tertiary care facilities and detoxification beds; and protecting operating funding for facilities.
- developing and implementing a Loneliness Strategy.
- a public information campaign to increase awareness and provide information on where to get help.

Opioid Crisis

The party states that:

- British Columbia is in the midst of its worst overdose crisis ever. About 170 British Columbians die every month from overdoses related to the illegal and toxic drug supply. Since a public health emergency was declared in 2016, over 6,000 people in B.C. have died of preventable overdose. COVID-19 has made the situation more dangerous for people who use drugs by disrupting supply sources and reducing services in place to help people remain safe. Drug policies need to support public health and be based on a compassionate and evidence-based response. Key in this approach is providing people who use drugs with adequate resources to minimize the risks of drug use and support individual and public health.
- harm reduction interventions, such as providing sterile equipment, supervised consumption services, overdose prevention sites, and naloxone are cost-effective and key to ensuring that people at risk of overdose are kept alive. Harm reduction has been proven to reduce the risks of transmissible disease, prevent overdose fatalities, reduce public disorder, and create links for people to access healthcare services and enter treatment.
- decriminalization of personal possession of drugs is a policy option that is increasingly being called for by experts. Recently called for by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, decriminalization will reduce the stigma of drug use, which creates barriers to accessing important health services. It

Disabilities, Mental Health & Addictions

Persons with disabilities are fully human subjects, with rights and duties: “in spite of the limitations and sufferings affecting their bodies and faculties, they point up more clearly the dignity and greatness of man.” Persons with disabilities are to be helped to participate in every dimension of family and social life at every level accessible to them and according to their possibilities... They too need to love and to be loved, they need tenderness, closeness and intimacy according to their capacities. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 148*

Indigenous Peoples & Reconciliation

The relationship of Indigenous peoples to their lands and resources deserves particular attention, since it is a fundamental expression of their identity. These peoples offer an example of a life lived in harmony with the environment that they have come to know well and to preserve. Their extraordinary experience, which is an irreplaceable resource for all humanity, runs the risk of being lost together with the environment from which they originate. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 471*

The Canadian Catholic Church supports the work of the Truth and Reconciliation commission. We are called to support thriving Indigenous communities in Canada, rooted in their unique cultures and traditions.

Northern & Rural Communities

Looking after the common good means making use of the new opportunities for the redistribution of wealth to the benefit of the underprivileged that until now have been excluded or cast to the sidelines of social and economic progress. Too often, social services and infrastructure development suffer from neglect in rural areas. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 299, 300, 363.*

would allow us to reduce the costs of policing and the criminal justice system, which we can reallocate into improved evidence-based treatment programs and education.

- in the face of an illegal, toxic drug supply, safe supply is a crucial intervention to keep people safe. By providing access to alternatives through physicians and nurses, safe supply helps people at risk of overdose connect with healthcare professionals and reduce the risk of overdose death.
- one of the most pressing crises of our generation has so far not received the attention and action it deserves. Through courageous, evidence-based leadership, we can change this and save lives.

The party advocates:

- scaling up safe supply beyond its current level by (1) working with the colleges of physicians and pharmacists to encourage their members to participate in existing programs; (2) funding a wider range of safe supply resources, including low-barrier ways of dispensing (e.g. dispensing machines); and (3) ongoing consultation with people who use drugs in order to create low-barrier and accessible programs.
- enhanced funding for harm reduction services and creating COVID-friendly plans to ensure people have access and don't use alone.
- decriminalizing the simple possession of drugs through: (1) de-prioritizing policing of simple possession through implementing Dr. Bonnie Henry's recommended amendments to the Police Act, and; (2) strongly pursuing decriminalization with the Federal government for B.C.

Indigenous Rights & Relations

The party states that:

- it believes that outstanding treaty claims must be settled equitably and quickly in order to facilitate the orderly growth and development of the province. This will involve the federal government, the provincial government and the First Nations affected by any settlement.
- it advocates honouring, with the federal government's cooperation, existing Constitutional obligations while negotiating agreements which will be beneficial for both aboriginal and non-aboriginal British Columbians
- it insists that the Federal Government fulfill its responsibilities in carrying the cost of any negotiations and settlements
- it believes that the current Indian Act is outdated and must be replaced with more appropriate legislation
- it advocates encouraging private ownership of all existing housing on reserve lands with full property rights recognized for current residents, including case-by-case review of territorial claims outside of reserve lands
- it believes that all residents of British Columbia should be treated with equal respect under the law, equal access to services and equal opportunity for employment, education and advancement

The party has released no official statement concerning its policies on:

- the health and development of rural communities
- immigration and newcomers



Supporting the Marginalized

Mental health & addictions

The party advocates:

- re-opening and revitalizing mental health facilities, to give suffering British Columbians the help that they deserve.
- ending heroin hand-outs. Handing out heroin and other hard drugs to those suffering from addiction does not solve the problem and instead perpetuates a coercive and destructive addiction.
- ending the warehousing of the suffering. Taxpayer money should not be used to purchase hotels in residential areas and warehouse those suffering from addiction. These programs don't work, crater property values and increase crime in the community.
- it rehabilitation, instead of “destigmatizing” hard drug use. It's time to acknowledge the serious harm it causes to users, their families and the communities around them. Its plan would introduce voluntary and mandatory rehabilitation, giving those suffering from addiction an opportunity to get clean and rebuild their lives.

The party has released no official statement concerning its policies on:

- Indigenous rights & relations

Agricultural labour merits special attention... considering the many problems that need to be met in the context of an ever more globalized economy as well as its growing significance in safeguarding the natural environment. Radical and urgent changes are therefore needed in order to restore to agriculture — and to rural people — their just value as the basis for a healthy economy. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 299, 363

Immigrants & Newcomers

Ideally, unnecessary migration ought to be avoided; this entails creating in countries of origin the conditions needed for a dignified life and integral development. Yet until substantial progress is made in achieving this goal, we are obliged to respect the right of all individuals to find a place that meets their basic needs and those of their families, and where they can find personal fulfilment. Our response to the arrival of migrating persons can be summarized by four words: welcome, protect, promote and integrate. — Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*, 129

In the modern world, where there are still grave inequalities between rich countries and poor countries, and where advances in communications quickly reduce distances, the immigration of people looking for a better life is on the increase. These people come from less privileged areas of the earth and their arrival in developed countries is often perceived as a threat to the high levels of well-being achieved thanks to decades of economic growth. In most cases, however, immigrants fill a labour need which would otherwise remain unfilled...

Institutions in host countries must keep careful watch to prevent the spread of the temptation to exploit foreign labourers, denying them the same rights enjoyed by nationals, rights that are to be guaranteed to all without discrimination. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 297, 298

- the health and development of rural communities
- immigration and newcomers



Solidarity

Among its six core principles, the party advocates:

- acknowledging that all humans have a fundamental right to health, wellbeing, and freedom
- protecting and valuing all cultures and individuals while conserving variety in the natural world

Indigenous Rights & Relations

The party states that:

- passage of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) was a historic step in the fight to recognize and affirm Indigenous rights. British Columbians are at the beginning of a long journey of reconciliation and the next steps are to put the legislation into practice and apply UNDRIP to the laws of British Columbia.
- the time for lots of words is over. The provincial government needs to be sitting across the table in a good way, ready to implement and live up to what the province has committed to do.
- urgent action in specific areas is needed. On energy security, child welfare, economic development, healthcare and wild salmon we are proposing concrete first steps

The party advocates:

- ensuring that the Action Plan for implementation is adopted and supported with adequate resources. The budget for implementation will be determined once a clearer idea of the scope of work and timetable are available
- ensuring meaningful progress towards reconciliation based upon a collaborative relationship as we implement the Action Plan
- working with First Nations to ensure a pathway to energy independence, including following the BCUC's recommendations regarding the creation of Indigenous owned utilities
- building a new focussed approach to preserving and rebuilding our province's salmon fisheries and wild salmon populations in partnership with First Nations
- expanding broad-band access to meet the basic needs of First Nations communities, and ensuring they can take part in new economic development opportunities
- moving urgently away from the colonial Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) structure by supporting indigenous-led child welfare programs in their communities that provide wraparound services and supports to help families stay healthy and together
- continuing to advance cultural competency training for existing healthcare practitioners and supporting the training of new Indigenous doctors while prioritizing opportunities to expand public healthcare services within communities, as led by Indigenous leadership.



The party has released no official statement concerning its policies on:

- supporting the marginalized
- Indigenous rights & relations
- the health and development of rural communities
- immigration and newcomers



Supporting the Marginalized

Mental Health and Addictions

The party states that:

We are called to welcome immigrants and refugees with generosity and good will, as if they were Jesus Christ himself. *Matthew, Chapter 25*

When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. Lev. 19:33-34

- in 2023 it provided significant new investments to support the roll out of a new model of care that supports individuals dealing with addiction throughout their entire recovery journey. This model provides the full spectrum of care services ranging from withdrawal management to treatment, recovery and aftercare. Budget 2023 also expanded funding for harm reduction initiatives, prescription alternatives and crisis response teams to help save lives and respond to the toxic drug crisis.

- in its 2024 provincial budget, the party proposes investment of an additional \$215 million over three years to sustain addictions treatment and recovery programs currently operating or being implemented. This funding includes:

- \$117 million to continue funding over 2,200 community mental health and substance use treatment beds at over 300 health authority and community care facilities;
- \$49 million to support existing harm reduction initiatives at 49 overdose prevention sites throughout the province, drug checking, and naloxone kit distribution;
- \$39 million to provide continued funding for existing Peer-Assisted Care Teams and Mobile Integrated Crisis Response Teams; and,
- \$10 million to support ongoing policy development and implementation for treatment and recovery programs.

- In addition to operating funding investments, the capital plan includes funding to support treatment and recovery beds. This includes work on expanding the Red Fish Healing model.

For the Disabled

The party states that:

- there are approximately 235,000 people who receive income, disability and supplementary assistance. Supplementary assistance includes the Senior's Supplement, the Bus Pass and Transportation Supplement for persons with disabilities, and other supports such as the crisis supplement, counselling, school start-up, and other health supplements for dental, diet, and medical equipment and supplies.

- its 2024 provincial budget allocates \$300 million in additional funding across the plan to support anticipated demand for these supports

Community Living

The party states that:

- the Community Living BC program provides supports and services to adults with developmental disabilities, as well as individuals who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and who need support managing daily activities.

- its 2024 provincial budget allocates \$105 million in addition funding over three years to support growth in demand for clients served by Community Living BC.

Indigenous Rights & Relations

The party states that:

- in earlier budgets during its current term of office, it allocated \$12 million annually in new funds to improve the maintenance of forest service roads around the Province.

- its 2024 provincial budget allocates nearly \$24 million more in operating funding for four years target further maintenance enhancements for key forest service roads that serve as primary community access routes for remote First Nations, improving road safety and reliability. This includes capacity funding of \$12 million for First Nations to acquire equipment and secure training to provide opportunities to perform contracted maintenance work.

- the 2024 provincial budgets also provide an additional \$8 million over three years in capital funding to support road widening and infrastructure upgrades on the forest service roads to improve their drivability.



Supporting the Marginalized

Mental Health & Addictions

The party advocates:

- focusing on treatment, rather than platitudes. The party states that the current government has too long overlooked treatment in favour of publicly-supplied addictive drugs, that see people locked in an endless cycle of addiction and poverty. The party proposes laser-focused treatment and recovery.

- affordable treatment. The party states that treatment should be accessible for everyone, regardless of income. It advocates elimination of user fees at publicly funded addiction recovery centres.

- providing compassionate care, including involuntary care, in appropriate cases. The party states that it is not compassionate to turn a blind eye and leave the severely mentally ill and addicted to languish on our streets with no ability to care for themselves. It advocates making compassionate involuntary treatment possible for those at risk of harming themselves or others

The party has published no official statement concerning its policies on:

- Indigenous rights & relations
- the health and development of rural communities
- immigration and newcomers

Points to Ponder: Solidarity

It is always important, as Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina has said, “to listen to the voices of the suffering, to be guided by them in how we respond and to be ready to engage with them in moving forward.” (Catholic Register 18 July 2021)

1. What does it mean – to the government, to social organizations, and to individual Canadians – to listen to, and to be guided by, the voice of someone who is suffering?
2. Who, in Canada and around the world, is suffering now?
3. How can such voices be heard so that a healthy, positive, and loving response can be determined?

Indigenous Rights & Reconciliation

1. How can the provincial government and the Church work together to facilitate reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, so that all Canadians can benefit from re-establishing right-relationship?

Mental Health & Addictions

Several parties have proposed decriminalization of drug dealing and drug possession, in order to focus on the treatment of addiction as a health care issue.

1. Is it possible, by decriminalizing drug sales and drug possession, to both relieve an overburdened criminal justice system and help more individuals heal and recover from addictions? If so, what might a helpful approach look like?
2. Is it possible, through review of criminal legislation, education, and focused health care initiatives, to give individuals greater freedom to “develop their potentialities, become aware of their dignity and prepare to face their unique and individual destiny?” (quoting St. John Paul II, *On the Hundredth Year (Centesimus Annus)* #39)
3. Is there any way to ensure that such measures are accompanied by effective mechanisms to address the root causes of and eliminate drug abuse, for example through educational initiatives at all levels of society?
4. To what extent can or should such measures be tailored to the individual human needs, desires, and weaknesses of those caught in cycles of abuse?

Refugees & Newcomers

1. What is being done, and what, if anything, should further be done to ensure that refugees and newcomers are safe, healthy, and enabled to flourish in British Columbia?
2. It seems obvious that many immigrants are attracted by one or more features of Canadian life and culture. To what extent is it possible and proper to expose immigrants to Canadian culture and expect them to embrace it?
3. If it is possible and proper to any degree, how are Canadian life and culture are to be defined, and by whom?

Northern & Rural Communities

1. What is being done, and what, if anything, should further be done to ensure vibrant, healthy rural life in British Columbia?
2. Of those measures, what should be done at the federal level? By the provinces? By businesses, residents, and civil associations in rural areas?
3. Northern areas are also of concern. What special circumstances are faced by those living in the North, and how should their needs best be assessed?

Good Government: Democracy, Justice & Peace

Role & Purpose of Government | Services, Stewardship & Reform | Provinces, Territories, Municipalities | Courts & Public Safety

An authentic democracy is the fruit of a convinced acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)

Catholic Teaching

The Role of Government

It is impossible to understand the role and purpose of government and other social institutions without first appreciating the purpose of life.

If, as the Church believes, the purpose of life is for each soul to search for and find the truth which is God, and to seek to grow closer to God, and to ensure that all other souls are encouraged and enabled to find their own ways to God, it follows that the proper role of government is to provide, with the support of the Church and other moral, educational, and economic institutions, a legal and economic framework in which the common good can flourish, in order that the people may accomplish their mission, that is, so that the people may use the freedom God has given them to seek the truth and thereby return to Him.

An authentic democracy is not merely the result of a formal observation of a set of rules but is the fruit of a convinced acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life. If there is no general consensus on these values, the deepest meaning of democracy is lost and its stability is compromised.

The Church's social doctrine sees ethical relativism, which maintains that there are no objective or universal criteria for establishing the foundations of a correct hierarchy of values, as one of the greatest threats to



Services, Stewardship & Reform

Services

The party advocates:

- not privatizing or otherwise outsourcing personal information collection and storage to organizations outside the province.
- not disposing of Crown corporations and assets, such as BC Hydro, without the permission of the voting public via referendum
- a thorough review of the role of ICBC and implement any recommendations to improve ICBC including allowing competition.
- encouraging private companies to locate in British Columbia and employ the residents of British Columbia by providing the infrastructure that they need and tax rates that are competitive with other jurisdictions.

Democratic Reform

The party states that:

- its 6-point plan for representative democracy would give the citizens of the province control over their government and the power to over-rule any decisions their government makes
- its reforms would enshrined in a BC Constitution so that every future government of British Columbia would be obligated to maintain its accountability to the citizens
- Governments need not be afraid to enact legislation to implement their policies if they have a mandate from the voters to do so. However, the citizens of British Columbia must have the final authority on all matters pertaining to their province

The party advocates introduction of a new provincial constitution including the following measures:

- direct election of the premier, using a system of Preferential Balloting
- separation of the Premier's office from the Legislative Assembly in order to make the Executive branch of government accountable directly to the citizens of British Columbia
- introduction of preferential balloting, to ensure that each MLA and the Premier are elected by a majority vote and end "vote splitting." No MLA would ever again be elected without receiving the support of at least 50% of his or her constituents who vote.
- ensure that all members of the BC Legislature are free to vote, independently of their political party on all bills introduced in the Legislature
- implementing effective recall legislation, giving the voters in every constituency a reasonable opportunity to "fire" their MLA in a recall referendum if that MLA is found guilty of illegal activity or immoral conduct or is deemed by his or her constituents to have failed to represent them. A "recall referendum" shall be held in any Constituency where at least 33% of the eligible voters registered in that Constituency sign a petition requesting a "recall referendum" within a 3-month time limit starting not sooner than 12 months after the last election. The referendum shall be held within 3 to 6 months of the petition being received by Elections BC, provided the signatures can be authenticated, and the MLA shall be dismissed from office and the office declared vacant if over 50% of the voters who vote in the recall referendum vote in favour of recall. Only one recall vote per incumbent, per term will be allowed. The Government shall hold a by-election to fill any vacancy not less than 3 months and not more than 6 months after the office is declared vacant as the result of a recall referendum or in the event of the death, incapacitation or resignation of the incumbent. The incumbent who was recalled may seek re-election in the by-election that follows.
- implementing effective recall legislation for the Premier, with all registered voters in the province being entitled to vote in the recall, utilizing the same rules that apply to the recall of MLA's except on a province wide basis.
- fixed terms for both the Premier and the members of the Legislative assembly, with no provision for an early election unless they are removed from office by recall referendum, or by the death, incapacitation or resignation of the incumbent(s)
- elimination of the "Vote of No Confidence," which will no longer be required, since governments will serve for fixed terms and will be accountable directly to the citizens of British Columbia through the "Recall Legislation". It will no longer be possible for an opposition party to defeat the Government for its own political gain. However, the entire legislature might "resign" by holding a simple majority vote to dissolve the Legislature and hold an election. Such a vote would not affect the term of Premier or the Cabinet
- citizens' initiatives: amending Citizens' Initiative Legislation to allow citizens of BC power to repeal any law 4 passed by their provincial government or to force their government to implement a new law

modern-day democracies. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 407

Institutions and democracy

The Magisterium recognizes the validity of the principle concerning the division of powers in a State: “it is preferable that each power be balanced by other powers and by other spheres of responsibility which keep it within proper bounds. This is the principle of the ‘rule of law’, in which the law is sovereign, and not the arbitrary will of individuals”. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 408

Responsibilities of the State include:

- ensuring that all individuals are enabled to achieve their full potential, by maintaining a framework capable of providing all the material, moral, and spiritual goods necessary for the common good
 - harmonizing the different interests of sectors of society with the requirements of justice, including particularly the reconciliation of private ownership of goods with the common good
 - ordering society not only in accordance with the desires of the majority, but the effective good of all the members of the community, including minorities
- Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 168

The Role of the Church

The Church does not wish to exercise political power or eliminate the freedom of opinion of Catholics regarding contingent questions. Instead, it intends — as is its proper function — to instruct and illuminate the consciences of the faithful, particularly those involved in political life, so that their actions may always serve the integral promotion of the human person and the common good. The social doctrine of the Church is not an intrusion into the government of individual countries. It is a question of the lay Catholic's duty to be morally coherent, found within one's conscience, which is one and indivisible. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 571

- notwithstanding clause: implementation of a constitutional “notwithstanding clause”): allowing the provincial government to block any ruling any judge makes requiring either the Provincial or Federal Government to change the laws governing the residents of British Columbia. Each such implementation being subject to repeal by the citizens of British Columbia, if they wish to have the judge's ruling implemented
- campaign financing: banning campaign contributions from any corporation, union or other special interest group and limiting the amount of contributions by individuals (registered voters only) to no more than \$5,000 per year; and making it illegal to use money received from a third party to make political contributions
- uniform election dates: in order to minimize expenses, A Christian Heritage Party of BC Government will hold elections for all provincially elected offices and posts on the same date as the general election every four years. This schedule would not change if a government has to stand for election at another time due to a nonconfidence vote.
- election of federal senators, including n equal Senate to address the uneven distribution of Canada's population and provide a balance to safeguard provincial interests, and holding of elections to fill the seats in the Senate that are reserved for British Columbia.

Constitutional Commission

To ensure that the above provisions along with other features of our system of democracy and our rights as citizens may not be ignored by any future governments, the party advocates:

- appointment of a commission to develop, approve and implement a common-sense BC Constitution, by the people and for the people
- requiring the commission to consult with the citizens of British Columbia before recommending the wording of the constitution to the Government
- causing the Government to then hold a binding referendum, asking the citizens of British Columbia to approve their new constitution
- including a provision the constitution may only be amended by a majority vote of the Citizens of British Columbia in a province wide referendum

Fiscal Reform

With respect to taxes, the party advocates:

- a complete review of all provincial taxation to be completed within one year of taking office
- a parallel review of provincial government expenditures to be completed at the same time to determine where costs can be cut so that taxes can be reduced
- as soon as possible after these two reviews are completed, submission of two proposals for a provincial tax structure to the voters, and allowing them to choose one of the two options in a binding referendum. The two options will be: a. a single rate income tax, or b. a single rate consumption tax (a tax on spending instead of income).
- no matter which tax system the voters choose, endeavouring to have the lowest provincial personal taxation rates in Canada. If the voters choose a single rate income tax, the current “Graduated Income Tax” will be replaced by a “Single Rate of Personal Income Tax” with a generous basic exemption to ensure that no low income individual pays more under the new system than they would have under the old system. If the voters choose the consumption tax, the current maze of taxes, including the HST, the carbon tax and a host of other taxes will be eliminated and replaced with one 6 single, visible tax on consumption. Certain basic necessities will be exempted so that low income earners will not be penalized for purchasing the essentials for survival.
- no matter which tax system the voters choose, continuing to collect royalties on publicly owned assets such as timber, petroleum and minerals

The party further advocates:

- promoting job creation by removing unnecessary regulations on small and large businesses
- promoting freer trade in goods and services between the provinces and territories in Canada, and encouraging Municipalities, Universities, Colleges, Technical Institutions, Schools and Hospitals to adopt the same policy
- enactment of balanced budget legislation, which includes overrides for declared provincial emergencies
- using any budgetary surpluses to pay down the huge provincial debt, which places a burden on the shoulders of our children and grandchildren
- removing all BC “carbon taxes” and provincial efforts to combat global warming by reducing the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and concentrating instead on fighting real pollution and encouraging the development of alternate, clean sources of energy in order to reduce our dependence on non-renewable resources
- ensuring that adequate compensation, based on market values at the time, will be paid to British Columbians for all our natural resources that are harvested anywhere in British Columbia, either above or below ground and in and below the territorial waters of British Columbia
- establishment of “Zero Based Budgeting” for provincial expenditures in order to ensure that the Provincial Government Departments are basing their budget estimations on actual requirements instead of setting them as an increase over the previous year's expenditures, and to discourage government departments from spending money unnecessarily near the end of the fiscal year in order to ensure that their budget allotment is maintained or increased for the following year
- eliminating the BC Property Transfer Tax
- holding a referendum to obtain permission from the taxpayers before introducing any new taxes or appreciably increasing any existing taxes
- establishing and adhering to generally accepted accounting principles for government as outlined by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants
- amortizing capital expenditures in accordance with the principles above
- ending the gambling addiction of the BC Government and will take steps to progressively eliminate government dependence on revenues from lotteries, casinos and other types of gambling; working to reduce or eliminate widespread public gambling in BC

Provinces, Territories, Municipalities

Taxes & Stewardship of Government

Public administration at any level — national, regional, community — is to be oriented towards the service of citizens, serving as steward of the people's resources, which it must administer with a view to the common good.

Taxes

Tax revenues and public spending take on crucial economic importance for every civil and political community. The goal to be sought is public financing that is itself capable of becoming an instrument of development and solidarity. Just, efficient and effective public financing will have very positive effects on the economy, because it will encourage employment growth and sustain business and non-profit activities and help to increase the credibility of the State as the guarantor of systems of social insurance and protection that are designed above all to protect the weakest members of society.

Public spending is directed to the common good when certain fundamental principles are observed: the payment of taxes as part of the duty of solidarity; a reasonable and fair application of taxes; precision and integrity in administering and distributing public resources.

In the redistribution of resources, public spending must observe the principles of solidarity, equality and making use of talents. It must also pay greater attention to families, designating an adequate amount of resources for this purpose. In the democratic system, political authority is accountable to the people. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 355, 408, 412*

Democratic Reform

Representative bodies must be subjected to effective social control. This control can be carried out above all in free elections which allow the selection and change of representatives. The obligation on the part of those elected to give an accounting of their work — which is guaranteed by respecting

National Unity

The party states that:

- the values most Canadians share in all the provinces and territories, which are part of our great Canadian heritage are greater than the values on which we are divided
- it supports Provincial Premier's 1997 declaration in Calgary, stating, "Canada's gift of diversity includes aboriginal peoples and cultures, the vitality of the English and French languages and a multicultural citizenry, drawn from all parts of the world", and respecting the statement in the Premier's declaration, "Canada is a federal system where federal, provincial and territorial governments work in partnership while respecting each other's jurisdiction. Canadians want their governments to work together for the protection and wellbeing of all our citizens."
- it believes that all Canadians should have the freedom to travel freely, and to move to any location in the Country, to work, to vacation or to retire wherever they desire in this great land. It also believes that they should be fully entitled to all the benefits offered by the Government of any province where they choose to live and that they should have a reasonable expectation that those benefits will be similar, no matter which province they choose to live in. It will fight for the standardization of benefits throughout the Country so that this type of disparity is eliminated.

The party advocates:

- ensuring that the five basic principles of the Canada Health Act are applied throughout Canada, even though the administration of health services comes under provincial jurisdiction. Residents of any province or territory who require medical assistance or services while visiting elsewhere in Canada should have as full and equal access to all health care facilities and services as residents of the province or territory in which the need for such services is required.
- the following federal policy priorities, in seeking to promote national unity: a) The Federal government should work with the provinces to reinforce Canadian economic union through the Inter-provincial Trade Agreement. b) The Inter-provincial Trade Commission should be given authority by the Federal Government to initiate and carry out policies derived from the Inter-provincial Trade Agreement. c) The Federal Government should take a leadership role in eliminating inter-provincial trade barriers in commerce, labour and capital mobility.
- establishing provincial control over:
 - Natural Resources (Oil, Natural Gas, Coal, etc), including control over and revenue from offshore resources both in the sea and under the sea.
 - Forestry
 - Health Care
 - Education, including Post Secondary Education.
 - Taxation
 - Immigration to British Columbia from outside of Canada.
 - A Provincial Police Force to replace the RCMP, with authority similar to the OPP and the QPP
- a Federal "Triple E" Senate to give B.C. residents a greater share in the decision making in the Federal Government.
- co-operating with the Federal Government to amend the Federal Constitution to include Property Rights, as well as to guarantee that no person shall be deprived of their just rights without due process of law and full, just and timely compensation.

Courts & Public Safety

The party advocates:

- reforming the provincial legal system to ensure the protection of the public, restore punishment as a deterrent to crime and dispense justice in a timely manner
- mandatory restitution for non-violent property crime and enactment of "proceeds from crime legislation", to assist in providing compensation to victims of crime
- creation and publication, on the government website, of a record of the cases handled, and sentences handed down, for each individual judge
- creation of a recall process whereby judges who are "soft on crime" or otherwise fail to dispense justice fairly can be relieved of their duties by the voters.
- creation of a commission, consisting of judges and ordinary citizens, charged with reviewing sentencing guidelines and proposing any changes to the Parliament of Canada for adoption.
- considering impaired driving as an endangerment of the public and on the second offence possible forfeiture of the vehicle if it is registered to the driver and prison time for anyone that is convicted of this offence.
- recommending to the federal government that any person who is not a citizen of Canada and who is convicted of a violent crime in British Columbia be deported to his or her country of origin immediately after release from prison. They should be escorted directly from the prison to the airport and placed on the first available flight to their country of origin.
- elimination of the BC Human Rights Tribunal, which is currently being used unfairly by special interests to harass our citizens and coerce them into silence on important issues. Complainants currently have free, unfettered access to the Tribunal while the defendants have no such assistance and must incur a huge expense to defend themselves. The decisions handed down by this Tribunal are final and not subject to review in a court of law. The Human Rights Tribunal is not necessary and will be disbanded, since aggrieved groups and individuals have sufficient recourse through the court system. A CHP-BC Government will work to dismantle the Human Rights Tribunal and repeal the enabling legislation which supports it.

electoral terms — is a constitutive element of democratic representation.

Among the deformities of the democratic system, political corruption is one of the most serious. If there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political action, then ideas and convictions can easily be manipulated for reasons of power. A democracy without values easily turns into totalitarianism. Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 406-412

Cooperation and respect between parties
Political parties have the task of fostering widespread participation and making public responsibilities accessible to all. Political parties are called to interpret the aspirations of civil society, orienting them towards the common good... An authentic democracy is not merely the result of a formal observation of a set of rules but is the fruit of a convinced acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life. If there is no general consensus on these values, the deepest meaning of democracy is lost and its stability is compromised. Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 407, 413

Subsidiary governments: provinces, municipalities, territories, & Indigenous peoples

The principle of subsidiarity is opposed to various forms of centralization, bureaucratization, and welfare assistance, and to the unjustified and excessive presence of the State in public mechanisms... Just as it is gravely wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also it is an injustice and at the same time a grave evil and disturbance of right order to assign to a greater and higher association what lesser and subordinate organizations can do. Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 185



The Role & Purpose of Government

As a matter of principle, the party states that:

- good government is ethical, accountable, fiscally responsible and enforces the rule of law to provide for the peace and security of our society
- it believes in smaller, less intrusive, more efficient government to afford the greatest amount of freedom with the least amount of taxation

Stewardship & Reform

Taxes & Financial Reform

The party states that:

- the government is an inefficient delivery vehicle for services and its growth is cannibalizing private-sector job creation. Wasteful spending should be cut and the savings returned to taxpayers.
- British Columbians are being taxed into poverty. With the highest gas prices in North America, it's time to axe the Carbon Tax, the Low Carbon Fuel Standard and ensure more refined product reaches the B.C. market.
- it is immoral (and financially hazardous) to continue living beyond our means and leaving our children with the bill. While not immediate, we will plan on balancing the budget.

Provinces, Territories, Municipalities

As a matter of policy, the party advocates:

- support for the work of like-minded organizations, and elections of representatives at other levels of government.

The party further advocates:

- support for all new parents with the costs of daycare directly, while incentivizing the private sector to create new daycare spaces. This plan includes forming partnerships with municipalities.

Courts & Public Safety

The party advocates:

- reversing the decriminalization of hard drugs. Drugs like fentanyl, crystal meth and crack cocaine are destructive, life-devouring substances that have no place in our society. Police should have the tools to confiscate and limit their availability.
- defending the police. Instead of defunding the police, the brave men and women in law enforcement should be supported and given the resources they need to successfully do their jobs.
- cracking down on violent crime, including zero tolerance for violent and repeat offenders, and ending the revolving door justice system by directing prosecutors to pursue maximum sentencing for those convicted of serious crimes.
- appointment of principled judges, including judges that put victims and their families first – not the sob stories of hardened criminals.
- ending “tent cities.” Illegal “tent cities” lead to increases in crime, violence and disorder in otherwise peaceful communities. They are unfair to those who work hard, pay their taxes, follow the law and have had their neighborhoods stolen from them.



Stewardship & Reform

The party has provided a table of estimated additional costs to be incurred in order to implement its proposals (reproduced below). It states that the costs are presented in the form of the annualized costs of the program rather than by fiscal year. It also notes that additional revenue and offsetting savings will mitigate the impact on the province's bottom line. For example:

- approximately \$1 billion per year will be saved by ending oil and gas subsidies
- reinstating the regular increments of the carbon tax and increasing the annual increase to \$10/tonne CO2e will draw in additional revenue in the short term
- investment in social programs will avoid future costs, while investing in education and innovation will yield future returns

Peace & Good Order

Interprovincial and International Trade

The Church has time and again called attention to aberrations in the system of international trade, which often, owing to protectionist policies, discriminates against products coming from poorer countries and hinders the growth of industrial activity in and the transfer of technology to these countries.

The continuing deterioration in terms of the exchange of raw materials and the widening of the gap between rich and poor countries has prompted the Church to point out the importance of ethical criteria that should form the basis of international economic relations: the pursuit of the common good and the universal destination of goods; equity in trade relationships; and attention to the rights and needs of the poor in policies concerning trade and international cooperation.

Economic and social imbalances in the world of work must be addressed by restoring a just hierarchy of values and placing the human dignity of workers before all else. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 370, 321, 364*

“Opening up to the world” is an expression that has been co-opted by the economic and financial sector and is now used exclusively of openness to foreign interests or to the freedom of economic powers to invest without obstacles or complications in all countries. Local conflicts and disregard for the common good are exploited by the global economy in order to impose a single cultural model. This culture unifies the world, but divides persons and nations, for “as society becomes ever more globalized, it makes us neighbours, but does not make us brothers.

We are more alone than ever in an increasingly massified world that promotes individual interests and weakens the communitarian dimension of life. Indeed, there are markets where individuals become mere consumers or bystanders. As a rule, the advance of this kind of globalism strengthens the identity of the more powerful, who can protect themselves,

Electoral reform

As one of six core principles, the party advocates:

- working to create proportionally elected governments that represent and engage citizens.

Social indexes & well-being indicators

The party states that:

- gross domestic product (GDP) was an accounting tool that originated in the 1930s to measure the size of the US economy. Somewhere along the way, governments started to treat it as a measure of the health of our economy and human wellbeing - a purpose for which it was not intended.
- the flaws of measuring success in this way have been known for years - in 1968, Robert Kennedy gave a famous speech in which he noted that if you just look at the aggregate number, the US looked to be in fine shape, but he went on to say that: “(GDP) does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials....it measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile”
- Kennedy’s words still ring true. B.C. has enjoyed the strongest GDP growth in the country, but the benefits of our economic growth aren’t being felt by many. Younger British Columbians, in particular, are being squeezed by the extremely high cost of living. GDP doesn’t capture this pressure, nor does it tell us how difficult it is for British Columbians to start business, or how long it takes to save money for a down payment on their first home. It doesn’t tell us about the state of our natural environment, or whether our resources are being managed sustainably and for the benefits of local communities.
- it’s time to move away from an exclusive focus on GDP, and start measuring what really matters to the health and wellbeing of people in this province. Other countries are already embracing this approach. New Zealand has adopted Wellbeing budgets, which force Ministers to work together closely, focusing on how they could collectively address the wellbeing priorities. British Columbia can do the same thing, adopting budgets focused on health and wellbeing, and measuring our success with a suite of genuine progress indicators that more adequately capture the real health of our economy and our society.

The party advocates adopting health and wellbeing budgets with genuine progress indicators focused on economic, health, social and environmental factors, and requiring Ministries to justify spending in accordance with measurable progress on these indicators

Provinces, Territories, Municipalities: Intergovernmental Relations

Vibrant Cities

The party states that:

- the province can do many things, in partnership with local governments, to make B.C.’s cities more attractive and inclusive places to live, work and play, including partnering with local governments to drive development of more walkable neighbourhoods, complete communities, and healthy community design; and expanding provincial funding for sustainable projects such as bike lanes, paths, parks, community spaces, and pedestrian-only street
- in planning support for vibrant cities, honest conversation is also needed about sustainable funding for local governments, that would allow them to plan to meet the challenges of the 21st century

To build vibrant cities, the party advocates:

- partnering with local governments to drive development of more walkable neighbourhoods, complete communities, active transportation and healthy community design, by providing funding for cost shared funding for projects such as bike lanes, trails, parks, community spaces, and pedestrian-only streets
- making the expanded patio program permanent, working with local governments and stakeholders to ensure that patio expansions are maintained in a safe and sustainable way
- making electric bikes more accessible by: removing PST from electric bikes; requiring offices and commercial premises to provide secure bike parking with charging capabilities; and creating more safe storage options including bike lockers at key locations e.g. transport hubs
- promoting neighbourhood car co-ops with insurance instruments and parking areas
- working with local governments to explore modernization of revenue models to fully capture the public’s fair share of the land lift from transit oriented development
- working with local governments in partnership to reform our local government finance system, which leaves local governments overly reliant on regressive property taxes and unable to properly deliver the projects required for cities in the 21st century. This would include a committee to consider relevant recommendations in the UBCM report *Strong Fiscal Futures*.

Public Transit

The party states that:

- one of the most important areas in truly establishing livable cities is to address transportation needs in a forward-thinking way.
- before COVID-19, public transit ridership was growing at significant rates, as many residents chose transit over a single-occupancy vehicle.
- COVID dealt a temporary, but significant blow to the finances of B.C.’s transit agencies. Rather than allowing transit infrastructure to be compromised by the pandemic, the province needs to double down on these investments.

but it tends to diminish the identity of the weaker and poorer regions, making them more vulnerable and dependent. In this way, political life becomes increasingly fragile in the face of transnational economic powers that operate with the principle of “divide and conquer”. Pope Francis, Fratelli tutti, 12

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

In order to protect the common good, the lawful public authority must exercise the right and the duty to inflict punishments according to the seriousness of the crimes committed. The State has the twofold responsibility to discourage behaviour that is harmful to human rights and the fundamental norms of civil life, and to repair, through the penal system, the disorder created by criminal activity... Punishment does not serve merely the purpose of defending the public order and guaranteeing the safety of persons; it becomes as well an instrument for the correction of the offender. There is a twofold purpose here. On the one hand, encouraging the reinsertion of the condemned person into society; on the other, fostering a justice that reconciles, a

- regional planning must be tackled in a holistic and thoughtful way, rather than simply picking projects according to their potential to win more votes.
- climate goals must be integrated into every infrastructure decision, as must ensuring that any public money spent on transportation is expanding transit and active transportation networks
- investing in transit, livable cities and active transportation will not only help us meet our climate targets – but it will also improve physical and mental wellbeing, the strength and connectedness of communities, and the province’s overall quality of life.

The party advocates:

- prioritizing investments in transit service and ensuring that long term financial support is provided to TransLink, BC Transit and BC Ferries. For coastal communities and some interior communities, ferries are part of the way of life and a core part of the transportation network. We need to stop pretending that ferries should, or could, be run with a profit motive and bring their focus back to the essential services they provide to our communities.
- working with local governments to establish a vision for sustainable transportation in an era of expanded population growth on the South Island, including through: a regional transportation strategy; establishing a regional governance body to overcome fractured decision-making and deliver integrated planning for the growing region; investing to support expansion of public transit options to help people move around more easily; building frequent and affordable public transportation links between cities, such as between Cowichan and the CRD
- prioritized investment in transit service to support economic recovery, improve livability of communities, and reduce GHG emissions
- ensuring that the projected long-term losses facing TransLink, BC Transit and BC Ferries are dealt with so that service levels are maintained, allowing ridership to quickly bounce back through the economic recovery period
- working with local and regional governments to redesign the transit funding model and establish an equitable, stable long-term funding model for transit, including consideration of mobility pricing
- developing climate and sustainability criteria, including consideration of cumulative impacts, to be applied to all future capital projects including transportation infrastructure investments
- bringing BC Ferries back into government as a Crown Corporation, and conducting a full review of BC Ferries operations focused on providing an efficient, public service for British Columbians, and the role of ferries in BC’s transportation network.

Courts & Public Safety

As one of its six core principles, the party advocates:

- safeguarding people’s security and freedom through cooperation and consensus building

justice capable of restoring harmony in social relationships disrupted by the criminal act committed. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 402*

Proposed costs from the party's 2020-2021 platform:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
	(\$ million)	(\$ million)	(\$ million)
Supporting British Columbians			
Education	557	657	807
Supporting families	500	500	523
Housing affordability	700	600	600
Other	138	138	138
TOTAL	1895	1895	2068
A healthy and inclusive economy			
Small business and tourism	300	0	0
Other	20	20	20
TOTAL	320	20	20
A green recovery from COVID-19			
Green innovation	500	0	0
Clean, sustainable jobs	500	550	600
Other	25	25	25
TOTAL	1025	575	625
Taking care of ourselves and those we love			
Mental health	250	250	250
Other	125	125	125
TOTAL	375	375	375
Strong communities, healthy environment			
Water	40	40	40
Climate resilience	25	25	25
Other	155	155	155
TOTAL	220	220	220
TOTAL INCREMENTAL EXPENDITURE	3835	3085	3308



The Role of Government

The BC Libertarian Party values the rights and dignity of the individual as well as ensuring accountability for wrong-doers, and believes that protecting the rights and civil liberties of individual citizens is one of the few appropriate roles for our government.

Stewardship & Reform

Tax Reform

The party states that:

- the tax code is a convoluted mess of tax credits for individuals and businesses set against income taxes. If the purpose of a sin tax is to reduce consumption of products deemed sinful, what is the purpose of the income tax? It is costly to administer, audit and comply with the tax code and it could be made much simpler by eliminating all of these credits and instead increasing the personal base exemption on income by an equal or even greater amount. A simple tax code also means easier filing for everyone and fewer exploits and loopholes for schemers. Under our plan, we will reduce the number of tax brackets and provide immediate tax relief for those who need it most.

- governments have become addicted to tax revenues and public monopolies to close funding gaps in essential services. The politicization of ministry funding creates an institutionalized inertia inside the largest ministries. Millions of taxpayer dollars are lost due to inefficiencies and friction between departments.
- it has the most progressive tax policy ever offered to voters in British Columbia. Its collection of policies target the taxes paid most often by average lower to middle income citizens
- despite past discussion of reducing taxes on “the poor,” “the working class,” and “the middle class,” British Columbians still pay an average of 42% of their income every year to various levels of government, and lower income workers are actually paying more than their fair share. New tax credits against their income taxes pale in comparison to the multitude of hidden taxes and fees paid on fuel, car insurance, imported goods, tobacco, alcohol, and other taxes still that are only reflected in the higher cost of everything we buy such as with carbon taxes, payroll taxes and corporate income taxes. Those with lower incomes pay a higher proportion of their incomes toward these sorts of consumption taxes than do those with higher incomes
- taxes that affect disposable income for every British Columbian have an effect on their total spending. Eliminating those taxes add back to the spending power of everyone, creating jobs, real wage increases and competitiveness on a global scale.
- while a struggling young family often pays little or no income taxes, their share of overall taxes contributed to the government remains very high; especially where such taxes implicitly raise the costs of gasoline and food. Its goal is to eliminate this hidden burden.

The party advocates:

- through a series of legislative actions, eliminating sin taxes entirely, abolishing anti-competitive cartels and price-fixing monopolies, and liberating entire swathes of the economy to competitive forces
- it specifically targets institutions where reform will deliver immediate cost savings to British Columbians and specifically targeting taxes that affect lower income working families the most. Recipients of corporate welfare will see funding eliminated and instead benefit from an overall lower tax environment and a more competitive worker-friendly job seeking environment.
- reduction of bloated healthcare administration costs without reducing delivery expenditures, tying funding to outcomes and reducing funding for programs that do not deliver acceptable returns compared with their cost. We will use legislative action to legalise private delivery options and ensure transparency in pricing, which will immediately create a rush to provide patients with the lowest cost, highest quality healthcare possible.
- reducing the average family's annual tax burden by repealing regressive taxes that hurt low income working families the most
- raising the base exemption to relieve more workers from the income tax burden entirely
- eliminating the direct fuel tax and the regressive carbon taxes, the Employer Health Tax, “sin” taxes on tobacco and liquor
- replacing the provincial charitable donation tax credit with a \$750 annual charitable donation tax refund – those who donate to registered charities get the money back next year
- pursuit of completely open trade agreements with the other provinces and other markets. Trade is good because it allows for an ever greater division of labour. The increasing specialization it enables makes domestic producers more attractive and competitive in open global markets, increasing the wealth of everyone involved to a far greater extent than any closed economy trying to produce everything for itself. For example, the economic potential of eliminating intra-provincial trade barriers has been estimated as high as \$7500/family. Indeed, incremental steps made in the past to liberalize provincial trade in wine have resulted in Canadian wines going from laughing stock to internationally renowned, as the various disparate regions learned to do only what they do best and trade that for what the other regions specialize in. Our reforms will see the same sorts of productivity enhancements across all industries.
- raising the base exemption to \$44,000.00. By raising the base exemption on income taxes paid by individuals, we expect the marginal propensity of workers to reject further offered work to be diminished. In other words, workers will take more hours knowing the earnings will end up in their pockets. Fewer people working cash jobs and more hours worked per employee will drive total wages higher.
- to help pay for tax cuts, implementing corresponding cuts in expenditures and regular sales of assets, selecting expenditures which are least effective in delivering desired outcomes and those capital assets which would be better managed by municipal governments, non-profits or private corporations
- phasing out subsidies to post-secondary schools over a 10-year period, reducing expenditures by \$400 million annually
- eliminating provincial affordable housing subsidies, to save an estimated \$500 million annually. Affordable housing subsidies for purchasers make housing less affordable. Their introduction encourages insiders to speculate on the price gains that will occur when all the new buyers soon compete for the same properties with a larger borrowing capacity.

Provincial Liquor Monopoly

The party states that:

- the BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) takes \$1.4 Billion annually from consumers by artificially raising the prices of beer, wine and spirits by up to 170% of their original price before distributing it to retailers. By law the LDB is the only one permitted to purchase, import or distribute alcoholic beverages in the province. This unnecessary bottleneck creates inefficiencies that have added costs to consumers and taxpayers.
- these archaic liquor laws have major impacts on the viability of the tourism and hospitality industries, as sky high compliance costs and alcohol costs mean continually higher menu prices for all items. Small, independent restaurants are particularly hurt by regulatory compliance costs. Specialty restaurants or distilleries are also being victimized by having their craft liquor confiscated if it is not on an approved list. Restaurants should be free to purchase directly from sellers local or abroad at the wholesale price they agree on (like any other good). They should be free to sell their products at whatever price they feel will be competitive, and they should be free from burdensome regulations that distract them from running their business.
- it advocates eliminating the Distribution Branch, tendering any assets it has for sale, and to setting a timeline for the sale or lease termination of all BC Liquor stores, providing

existing employees right of first refusal. To comply with federal laws requiring provinces to regulate liquor, the BC Liquor Control Board will continue in its role of regulating the sale of alcoholic beverages only to those over the age of 19 and collecting data from new distributors. PST would be the only tax that applies to alcohol.

Government Salaries & Benefits; Per-Vote Subsidies for Parties

The party states that:

- British Columbian politicians are living high and eating well off taxpayer dollars. The basic annual salary of a Member of the Legislative Assembly is \$111,024. For every \$1 the politicians contribute to their own pension plans, taxpayers get to pay \$4 just to chip in, even during times like the pandemic when over 14,000 Vancouver businesses closed in six months. Most Canadians are lucky if their employer matches a dollar-for-dollar RRSP. There is no justification for taxpayers to be forced to put in \$4 for every \$1 an MLA chips in.
- the problem with political entitlement goes beyond bloated unearned salaries and world-class retirement packages. The per-vote subsidy introduced in 2017 means that in British Columbia, the major established political parties will take \$16.4 million from taxpayers over four years (they already have most of it!) and are using it to pay for their lawn signs, paid staff, attack ads and junk mail. It doesn't matter if you support a particular party's policies, if you pay taxes, you're paying for NDP, Liberal and Green Party internal party operations. You don't get a say in the matter.
- just two months after the parties received another cash instalment of taxpayer money, an early election was called by the prior government.
- it unequivocally finds the concept of per-voter subsidies repugnant. Old, entrenched parties get a free pass while small unelected parties have to fight to earn every dollar. Our own candidates have technically paid taxes to directly help out our opponents this election. Is that process truly democratic?

Government Waste

The party states that:

- there is a culture of waste inside the BC government that has lasted for decades through successive governments. The Plecas Report reveals that it didn't matter much who the people were and what their politics suggested. Fiscal conservatives and spendthrift progressives acted alike; nobody wanted to risk upsetting the apple cart once they were given the reins. The way the organization is structured virtually guarantees the status quo of waste will prevail. All of our hundreds of government offices are structured as hierarchies where one or a few people give their final approval on major spending decisions, expense approvals, retirement packages, vacation rules, etc.
- government bureaus of various sorts are mostly apportioned budgets from general tax revenues or from specific taxes and fees that fund them. Management of these bureaus can either use what is granted to them, or they will lose the funds back to general revenues. "Use it or lose it" is a poorly designed incentive that underlies much of what makes government institutions, inefficient, resistant to productivity-enhancing changes, prone to using taxpayer money for purposes other than which it was intended, and virtually incapable of ever reducing their own size
- demanding accountability for tax dollars being spent sounds reasonable. But it will not bring actual accountability. It will only move the goalposts for managers to manipulate the appropriations process in their favour.
- the only true way to ensure taxpayer money is not wasted, is not to tax it in the first place. With smaller budgets at their disposal, the culture of waste can be starved of its lifeblood.

The party advocates:

- moving toward outcome-based funding formulas which allocate more tax dollars toward programs that deliver on their intended results, and fewer for those programs that cannot consistently perform. If managers of these programs wish for more funding to reward their employees, they will need to prove they deserve it. Where a reasonable expectation for positive outcomes cannot be made, program funding may be cut entirely. The party estimates a minimum of \$800 million in annual savings from such measures.
- introduction of "whistleblower legislation" to prevent the dirty tactics of dismissing employees that raise eyebrows at misdeeds, and forcing them to sign non-disclosure agreements about the grounds for their dismissal. All government employees should be encouraged to raise red flags the moment they see them, first as a deterrent and second to protect them against retribution.

Social Assistance

The party states that:

- Government should support British Columbians in genuine hardship who cannot otherwise support themselves. It should play a limited, but important, role in protecting the vulnerable.
- at its worst, social assistance can become a trap for many. While the intention of alleviating hardship is noble, hundreds of thousands of British Columbians are now dependent on welfare. This prevents them from living independent, productive lives.
- individuals on social assistance can not work, or can work in very limited amounts depending on their circumstances, without a complete clawback of their benefits. This creates a perverse situation for the individual trying to get back on his or her feet, for much of their first earned income will come directly at the expense of the benefits they were receiving, money they no doubt need to make ends meet. In this calculus, there is literally zero financial incentive for a person to work those first few marginal hours while on welfare.

The party advocates:

- introduction of a lifetime limit of five years on training and jobs assistance, and a lifetime limit of three years for income assistance, with 'cashless welfare' being applied when those limits are reached
- extending cashless welfare to any parent who has additional children while receiving a benefit. This means a person's benefits will be placed on a debit card which can only be

used for specific purposes – for example, rent, energy, and groceries.

- adjusting income tax categories so that those receiving welfare can start working without an immediate 100% clawback of benefits

Courts & Public Safety

Wrongful Death Laws

The party states that:

- British Columbia is the last province in Canada, including the Yukon yet to modernize its wrongful death laws. Only in BC is it still perversely “free” to kill anyone who does not meet the discriminatory criteria of being a breadwinner with dependents. A “breadwinner” is typically defined as an income earning parent and a “dependent” is typically defined as a non-adult aged child who would have otherwise relied upon their deceased parent’s future lost income for survival.
- under the present BC Family Compensation Act if a person has no income and no dependents, they essentially have no “value”, or “worth” under the law. As a result, certain classes of citizens such as children, seniors, and the disabled are especially vulnerable without having any sort of legislated value granting protection under the law.
- when the citizens of the province do not have a basic level of equal “value” under the law, there is accordingly no available potential judgement “worth” to their life that would otherwise cover court costs, denying families the ability to obtain truth, justice, and hold wrongdoers accountable. In these instances, not only are the surviving family members burdened with the loss of their loved one, but they are even further victimized when they discover that the province’s antiquated wrongful death laws deny them access to justice.
- thus grieving family members are often left with a burning sense of injustice after having been denied the ability to right a wrong. Oftentimes there is a significant indirect economic impact on these surviving family members, such as funeral expenses, counselling & therapy, divorce, loss of work, career retraining, loss of business & opportunity cost for the self employed, and the general pain & suffering associated with the grief of losing a loved one.
- the current legislation under the BC Family Compensation Act is 174 years old, having been adopted from the UK’s Lord Campbell’s Act (1846), with no significant amendments since its implementation.

The party advocates:

- legislation that favours the victims and not the wrongdoers, as proposed by the BC Wrongful Death Law Reform Society with respect to the proposed “Wrongful Death Accountability Act”.

- amending the wrongful death statute to contain the following key tenets:

(1) all reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by any survivor for medical services, nursing services, hospital services, burial & memorial services, as well as travel & accommodation expenses rendered for the decedent as a result of the wrong;

(2) the present value of future income, benefits or other pecuniary support owing to or anticipated to have been received by a survivor from a decedent, including but not limited to: the loss of financial support reasonably expected to have been provided had the decedent lived; the loss of household services reasonably expected to have been provided had the decedent lived; the loss of child support, spousal support, alimony or any other financial obligations owing from the decedent to the survivor, whether embodied in an order of court or otherwise; and/or the loss of reasonable contributions to the future educational expenses of any survivor;

(3) all other reasonable pecuniary losses incurred by the survivor arising from the wrongful death;

(4) reasonable non-pecuniary losses arising from the survivor’s loss of the decedent’s love, guidance, care, companionship and affection, proportional to the relationship that existed between the survivor and the decedent prior to the decedent’s death. A close relationship is presumed for spouse, parents, children, and siblings.

(5) punitive damages may be awarded in appropriate cases of egregious misconduct, but if the damages are awarded, they are for the benefit of the estate of the deceased.

If a cause of action survives, damages that resulted in actual financial loss to the deceased or the deceased’s estate are recoverable, as is all reasonable non-pecuniary losses arising from the decedent’s conscious pain, suffering and disability during the period between the wrong and the decedent’s death, including damages for loss of expectation of life, pain and suffering, physical disfigurement or loss of amenities.

(6) there should be no legislated caps on compensation and it should be left to the discretion of the courts based on case law. We believe caps on compensation become entitlement windfalls, rather than discretionary recognition of the distinct value of the individual life wrongfully taken. Further, when caps are implemented, then the legislation must continually be revisited to account for inflation, adding a further unnecessary legislative burden. This can be handled at the discretion of the courts, just as inflation increased the rough upper limit on non-pecuniary damages set by the Supreme Court of Canada several decades ago.



The Role and Purpose of Government

The party has published no official statement concerning its policies on the role or purpose of government.

Stewardship & Reform

The party states that:

- prior governments have wasted millions in the courts fighting against teachers and hurting our kids’ education, caused long wait times for urgent healthcare, and have left seniors

in care going a week at a time without a bath.

The party advocates:

- proper funding for classrooms and school equipment, so parents don't have to fundraise for classroom essentials.
- replacing portables with real classrooms and make our schools earthquake safe.
- expanding provincial apprenticeship and trades training programs.
- increasing access to doctors, nurses and health practitioners in all communities.
- relieving pressure on emergency rooms and reduce wait times.
- providing faster access to mental health services, when and where people need it.
- increasing the time home care workers can spend with seniors, so seniors can stay in their own homes longer.
- addressing court backlogs and investment in programs to end gang violence.
- development and implementation of a comprehensive poverty reduction plan.
- restoration of parks, hiring of more park rangers and conservation officers, and build new campsites.

Finance and Affordability Services

In its 2024 provincial budget, the party states that the current government is investing in ways to make life better by helping people with costs, delivering more homes faster, strengthening services, and building a stronger and cleaner economy, including:

- \$13 billion more in operating funding across the fiscal plan to support a growing population and invest in new priority measures.
- measures intended to build prudence into its fiscal plan, including providing significant contingencies for emergent and unknown costs
- to ease the pressures of everyday costs, including \$248 million for a new, one-year BC Family Benefit bonus starting in July 2024, to support 340,000 low- to middle-income families with cost-of-living pressures, which on average will provide eligible households \$445 more over the twelve-month bonus period.
- a one-year BC Electricity Affordability Credit, starting in April 2024. B.C. households will see, on average, approximately \$100 in savings on their residential electricity bills over twelve months, while commercial and industrial customers will receive savings of about 4.6 per cent on average based on their 2023/24 electricity bills. Total estimated savings for electricity customers in B.C. is \$370 million
- to assist small and growing businesses, reduced Employer Health Tax obligations, by increasing the exemption threshold from \$500,000 to \$1 million, so that an estimated 90 per cent of businesses will be exempt from the Employer Health Tax, estimated to help save businesses more than \$100 million each year.
- to support continued investments in the Homes For People plan, new operating and capital funding of \$198 million over three years for the BC Builds program, along with new tax measures designed to support affordability and boost housing supply by prioritizing homes as living spaces. Measures include a new tax targeting home flipping activity, effective January 1, 2025, that will discourage short-term speculation that contributes to inflated housing costs. There are also new and expanded property transfer tax exemptions for first-time homeowners and newly constructed homes, which are estimated to save British Columbians over \$100 million annually
- it is committed to protecting important services, including strengthening health and mental health care, investing in social supports and the education system, and keeping people and communities safe. It's 2024 provincial budget provides \$8.0 billion more over three years to ensure services are available for B.C.'s growing population. This includes targeted new measures that expand supports for cancer care, seniors home care, access to family law services, and K-12 students with dyslexia or other learning differences.
- its 2024 provincial budget also funds measures on an ongoing basis that were previously funded through pandemic contingencies and federal funding, such as vaccination costs. Government is also introducing an In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) program starting in 2025. The new publicly funded program will create more equitable access for people seeking IVF and reduces barriers for those who may not otherwise be able to access fertility services.
- over \$1 billion in new spending over the fiscal plan period to protect British Columbians from the effects of climate change and build a stronger, cleaner economy that works for everyone, including year-round wildfire response, and new investments to support CleanBC and advance the clean economy, including more active-transportation grants to communities and additional heat pump rebates for low- and middle-income families, as well as additional investments to maintain and improve access to communities through road, transit and community infrastructure investments. This supports the movement of goods and people, which helps drive the economy forward.

Essential Services

In its 2024 provincial budget, the party proposes nearly \$8 billion in incremental funding to strengthen health care, K-12 education, justice, public safety, and social supports:

- states that the current government is investing in ways to make life better by helping people with costs, delivering more homes faster, strengthening services, and building a stronger and cleaner economy, including:
- for health and mental health services, \$6.01 billion over three years
- for K-12 education enrolment growth, \$968 million over three years
- for justice and public safety services, \$398 million over three years
- for people who need care and support, \$585 million over three years

BC Public Service Staffing

The party states that:

- as of April 2023, there are just over 520,000 people working across the provincial public sector, including the core Public Service, Crown corporations, health, community social

services, K-12 public education, post-secondary institutions, and research universities.

- of those people, approximately 404,000 are unionized employees paid under collective agreements or professionals paid through negotiated compensation agreements.
- the 2022 Shared Recovery Mandate applies to all public sector employers with unionized employees whose collective agreements expired on or after December 31, 2021. The mandate supports government's priorities to protect the services people in British Columbia depend on and improve health care by providing fair and reasonable compensation including significant inflation protection to B.C.'s unionized employees.
- the mandate helps government prepare for future needs and challenges, as well as ensuring there are resources to continue to invest in building a stronger economic province
- the 2024/25 fiscal year marks the third and final year of the mandate which provided the province's public sector workers with an average of 13.75 per cent in combined general wage increases and cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) over the three-year term. Year 1 of the mandate provided a greater percentage increase for lower paid workers hardest hit by the challenges of affordability. The COLA increases provided protection of up to 1.25 per cent in Year 2 and 1 per cent in Year 3 to account for the impacts of inflation. These amounts are earmarked within the Contingencies vote until costs become more certain.
- during its term in office full-time equivalent (FTE) staff utilization in core government ministries is projected to increase from a forecast of 36,800 in 2023/24 to 37,300 in 2024/25, an increase of 500 FTEs. This projection is expected to be stable for the three years of the fiscal plan.
- the anticipated FTE growth is due to newly approved resources as part of its 2024 provincial budget, including resources to support fire management, public safety and CleanBC initiatives. There are also new FTEs to support BC Builds, digital building permit tool, new conservation officers, an Independent Gambling Control Office, and increased frontline and oversight staff for child protection, and to address growing demand for government services.

In its 2024 provincial budget, the party advocates:

- reallocating \$7.4 billion from contingencies to permanent base funding to reflect known compensation costs for the delivery of public services.
- the government and provincial public sector employers spend about \$43.8 billion annually on total compensation.

Provinces, Territories, Municipalities

The party states that:

- to support economic growth and development, its 2024 provincial budget provides \$250 million over five years for the 21 local governments that make up the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance. These communities are primarily rural, remote, with small populations but are relied upon to support an influx of new industry and workers. Funding will be used to support planning and construction of municipal infrastructure, such as roads, water, sewer and other community facilities needed to support new industrial development and create liveable communities for their workforce.

Courts & Public Safety

The party states that:

- its 2024 provincial budget invests in keeping people safe and communities strong by providing \$398 million over three years to support various justice and public safety programs.
- new investments better support families with access to the justice system by expanding the early resolution model and legal aid services. The early resolution model helps divert family law cases to mediation to improve timely resolution and helps reduce the number of family law cases that proceed to court.
- funding for legal aid services will help establish a new family law clinic dedicated to clients experiencing family violence and expand access to legal aid services to help more individuals and families build safer lives.
- additional funding is provided to support important public safety programs, such as:
 - the Nanaimo Correctional Centre, a new modern facility set to open in 2024, to replace the existing outdated correctional centre and increase capacity with a 12-room unit for women, include culturally responsive programming, accommodate remand inmates closer to their courts of origin located on mid and north Vancouver Island, and enhance the Guthrie Therapeutic Community that has been proven to reduce re-offending;
 - the BC Coroners Services, to help deliver more timely Coroner's reports, inquests, investigations and address increasing operating costs;
 - the Police Services Branch, including funding to support negotiated wage mandate increases for RCMP civilian staff and to fund dispatch services provided by E-Comm to provincial policing jurisdictions on South Vancouver Island; and
 - Road Safety BC programs, including permanent funding for the daily administration of 140 red light cameras throughout B.C., including 35 cameras that provide speed enforcement at high-crash intersections to further the Province's goal of zero traffic fatalities
- additional funding is provided for compensation-related increases for Provincial Court judges and judicial justices as recommended by the independent Judicial Compensation Commission, as well as Supreme Court masters and registrars, and Crown counsel.
- the 2024 provincial budget also supports safer communities by supporting various justice and public safety initiatives and programs including the Intimate Images Protection Act, anti-racism initiatives, establishment of Independent Gambling Control Office, Public Guardian and Trustee, BC Corrections, courts services and operations, and legal services.



The Role and Purpose of Government

The party has published no official statement concerning its policies on the role or purpose of government.

Stewardship & Reform

Taxes

The party states that:

- it's wrong for government to spend beyond its means and leave our kids with the bill
- it advocates low taxes, smaller government, and responsible spending
- the current government's "Community Benefits Agreements" give contracts to NDP-friendly unions while shutting out 85% of the workforce – meaning British Columbians pay more for less. It advocates scrapping CBAs and restore competitive bidding on public projects.

Courts & Public Safety

To better protect the public and end the current government's revolving door of justice, the party advocates:

- ending the "Catch and Release" program, which dumps violent offenders on our communities where they commit more crimes against innocent, hard-working citizens.
- ending the decriminalization experiment, which has resulted in an explosion of open drug use in parks, playgrounds, and beaches. It advocates focusing instead on getting people well
- taking all crime seriously. When there's no consequence for small crimes, offenders develop a sense of impunity. The party advocates ensuring that all crimes have consequences to stop minor offenders from progressing to serious crimes
- hiring more police. BC's brave men and women in uniform keep neighbourhoods safe. The party advocates hiring hundreds of police officers to restore law and order to the streets.
- banning open drug use. Parks and playgrounds are for kids and families, not drugs and crime. The party advocates an immediate ban on drug use on playgrounds, parks, beaches, and public spaces.

Points to Ponder: Good Government

Consider discussing the following with your local candidates, elected representatives, and the parties, and discussing with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

The Role and Purpose of Government

Catholics have definite ideas about the purpose of life and, arising from that purpose, the proper roles of civil society, government, and other social institutions.

1. Are those ideas shared by most Canadians? If not, to what extent can or should we share our ideas with other Canadians?
2. Are any values held in common by most Canadians? If so, what are they, and how do they inform the proper role of government and other social institutions? For example, what do we owe each other, and what does the answer mean for government, charities, schools, etc.?
3. Is it important for a society to share common values? How can common values be promoted within a society?

The Government of Canada has recently published a Framework for Quality of Life (<https://www160.statcan.gc.ca/infosheet-infofiche-eng.htm>), and has instructed its ministers that "Across our work, we remain committed to ensuring that public policies are informed and developed through an intersectional lens, including applying frameworks such as Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) and the quality of life indicators in decision-making."

1. To what extent is the Quality of Life framework consistent with the principles and values of Catholic social teaching?
2. To what extent does, or should, the Quality of Life framework apply to provincial governance as well we federal?

Truth, Respect & Good Governance

Each of the mandate letters used by the federal government to instruct its ministers at the time the current government assumed office explains that: "Canadians expect us to work hard, speak truthfully and be committed to advancing their interests and aspirations. When we make mistakes – as we all will – Canadians expect us to acknowledge them, and most importantly, to learn from them."

1. Has this standard been applied to provincial government in British Columbia?
2. To the extent it has not, what can or should individual British Columbians do to encourage their governments to apply it?

It is an unfortunate and nearly universal practice for our political parties, in framing their platforms and policy statements, to focus at least as much on what's wrong with the other parties as they do on what's right about themselves.

How can we, as citizens and voters, help encourage parties to look for common ground, speak positively about one another, and voice their suggestions for improvement in respectful and collaborative terms?

Democratic Reform

Canada and many of its provinces have long debated the advantages and disadvantages of first-past-the-post vs. proportional voting schemes.

Should the present system be changed? If so, how?

It is very often the case that party members and candidates – including particularly rank-and-file members and staff members – are very good people, who sacrifice much in order to contribute to a better world. And it seems too seldom that we thank them, or have anything other than criticism to offer.

What can we, as individuals, do to thank and support these selfless people?

Contracting; Public – Private Partnerships

Contracting and cooperation between government and corporations or other private entities can be instrumental in accomplishing great common projects. On the other hand, unwatched they can become instruments of misuse.

1. To what extent should public-private partnerships be allowed, for research, infrastructure development, or other purposes?
2. What type(s) of entities should be considered when contemplating such partnerships? Local or foreign corporations? Non-profit or charitable organizations?
3. How should such partnerships be monitored or regulated, in order to assure that arms-length relationships are maintained, and that principles of subsidiarity are respected?

Fiscal Responsibility

The table below is taken from the 2024-2025 provincial budget, and shows projected provincial revenues, expenses, and debt for the next several years.

1. What do the figures tell British Columbians?
2. Should voters or taxpayers be concerned?
3. Should future generations of voters, taxpayers, or citizens be concerned?

SUMMARY | BUDGET AND FISCAL PLAN - 2024/25 to 2026/27

(\$ millions)	Updated Forecast 2023/24	Budget Estimate 2024/25	Plan 2025/26	Plan 2026/27
Revenue	77,320	81,523	82,838	86,408
Expense	(83,234)	(89,434)	(90,611)	(92,696)
Deficit	(5,914)	(7,911)	(7,773)	(6,288)
Capital spending:				
Taxpayer-supported capital spending	10,107	14,104	15,082	14,083
Self-supported capital spending	4,752	4,652	3,955	4,623
Total capital spending	14,859	18,756	19,037	18,706
Provincial Debt:				
Taxpayer-supported debt	71,863	88,639	109,182	126,499
Self-supported debt	31,920	34,628	36,078	38,474
Total debt	103,783	123,267	145,260	164,973
Taxpayer-supported debt-to-GDP ratio	17.6%	21.0%	24.8%	27.5%
Taxpayer-supported debt-to-revenue ratio	95.1%	111.8%	136.2%	151.2%
Economic Forecast:				
	2023	2024	2025	2026
Real GDP growth	1.0%	0.8%	2.3%	2.4%
Nominal GDP growth	3.2%	3.3%	4.4%	4.5%