

## Election 2015 Candidate Survey from GSA : Entry # 251

### Information about you

#### Name

Brenda Sayers

#### Email

[brenda.sayers@greenparty.ca](mailto:brenda.sayers@greenparty.ca)

#### Riding

North Island - Powell River

#### Party

Green Party of Canada

### Survey Questions

#### 1. In light of the recent Marathassa oil spill in English Bay, what do you see as the top three priorities for improving marine oil spill preparedness and response on BC's west coast?

The top priority is to immediately reduce, and eventually stop, the transport of oil through our coastal waters. The Green Party is the ONLY party that opposes the Kinder Morgan pipeline project.

In addition, I will work with other Green MPs to legislate a ban on supertankers on B.C.'s coast.

Our plan is to move to the virtual elimination of fossil fuel use in Canada by mid-century.

Most of the bitumen in the Alberta oil sands must remain in the ground. We will create new jobs in Canada's oil and gas sector by refining the product we already produce, rather than shipping it out raw for refining in other countries.

To improve marine oil spill preparedness, we must restore and increase funding to Environment Canada. Recent budget cuts have affected many of Environment Canada's activities, including the conservation and restoration of landscapes, water and wildlife and minimizing threats from pollution.

#### 2. What specific actions can the federal government take to ensure that local communities are meaningfully involved in oil spill planning and response?

I believe that we need to embed the right to a healthy environment in the Constitution as well as develop a national energy plan with a strong commitment to tackling climate change.

As as Green MP, I will work to engage and involve local communities to get involved in these issues, and create community-specific oil spill disaster response plans.

#### a) The establishment of a Citizens Advisory Council to facilitate citizen input into and oversight of Canada's marine oil spill preparedness and response regime?

Yes, absolutely. Canadians have a right to be involved in this process. The Green Party will develop a national energy plan with a commitment to strong climate action through our Council of Canadian Governments (federal,

provincial/territorial, municipal/local, and First Nations, Metis and Inuit).

**b) Federal funding for local governments to ensure that they are adequately prepared to play their part in a coordinated spill response, and manage the impacts of an oil spill on their community?**

Yes, absolutely.

**3. Do you support or oppose Kinder Morgan's proposed TransMountain pipeline expansion project?**

I strongly OPPOSE this project. The Green Party is the ONLY party that opposes the Kinder Morgan pipeline project. Kinder Morgan proposes a seven-fold increase in oil sands tanker traffic through Vancouver and Burnaby. These tankers would carry bitumen from the oil sands, mixed with toxic diluents to make it flow, a mixture that is impossible to clean up if spilled.

More than half of British Columbians say they oppose the Kinder Morgan expansion, including more than three-quarters of young British Columbians.

**4. What are your views on the National Energy Board's pipeline review process, including its current TransMountain review?**

We are committed to restoring the role of Canadian science as part of our wider vision of bringing back evidence-based planning and decision-making around climate change and other issues.

We will implement new legislation to ensure that any new laws or regulations are based on sound evidence that is transparent, rigorous, ethically produced, easy to access and understand, based on the best available information and free from political manipulation.

This includes the National Energy Board's pipeline review processes. Decisions must take into account the environmental impact of any proposed projects, and the rights of local communities.

**5. What are the three most important steps the federal government should take to tackle climate change?**

The Green Party proposes the implementation of a Canadian Fee and Dividend Plan, the rapid phasing out of coal-fired electricity, and the transition to a prosperous, decarbonized economy.

A robust Canadian Climate and Energy Strategy begins with eliminating all fossil fuel subsidies. Canada currently provides more than \$1 billion dollars a year in subsidies to the fossil fuel industry, meaning, on a per capita basis, Canadian taxpayers provide more handouts to the fossil fuel industry than almost every other country in the G20.

Next, we must work together to put a national price on carbon. The Carbon Fee and Dividend Plan is the smartest, most efficient, and most effective way to shift away from burning fossil fuels. We will place a fee on carbon, and pay the funds it generates directly to every Canadian over age 18 in the form of an annual carbon dividend. This plan will defend our climate, diversify our energy mix, grow our economy, and ensure energy security for Canadians.

We also need to invest in an infrastructure that promotes renewable energy, and a more robust east-west electricity grid to promote renewable energy transmission between provinces, while reducing the enormous waste in our energy systems. We still waste more than half the energy we use. It's time to save money and reduce pollution by going after waste.

Green MPs will re-invest in our national rail systems, building more train cars in Canada, increasing train speeds, phasing in high-speed rail where feasible, and creating green transportation and energy infrastructure corridors in key regions.

Our plan is to move to the virtual elimination of fossil fuel use in Canada by mid-century. Our short-term target is 40 percent below 2005 levels by 2025, while we are calling for 80 percent reductions below 1990 levels by 2050.

**6. Would you support a cumulative effects assessment to provide information on the combined impacts of all oil, coal and LNG projects currently proposed for the Georgia Strait region?**

Yes, absolutely. The Green Party of Canada has set out its plan for a sustainable future grounded in fiscal responsibility, ecological health, and social justice.

As the only party working within a triple bottom line (economic, ecological, and social) approach to every policy, our position on key environmental issues is clear.

In addition, Green Party MPs will work with the provinces to ensure the rapid phase-out of coal fired generation plants within Canada. We must also do our part by curtailing the export of thermal coal from Canadian ports.

**7. How should the federal government address the chronic problem of derelict vessels spilling fuel and releasing other contaminants into the marine environment?**

This is a tragedy. I believe that owners of derelict vessels must be held to account. Although this is a specific area that I would need to learn more about, I believe increased inspections and monitoring of all vessels should occur on a regular basis.

**8. Do you have any additional comments or activities you would like to share with our supporters?**

The United Nations 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) will take place in Paris – starting a mere forty days after our federal election. COP21 represents the last, best and only chance for humanity to avert an intensified climate crisis and to prevent runaway global warming.

Only by electing Green Members of Parliament can we ensure Canada can lead in these critical negotiations. We are committed to serious action to avert a climate crisis. Our MPs will always work across party lines, because we understand the only way to make progress is through cooperation and mutual respect.