

## Election 2015 Candidate Survey from GSA : Entry # 285

### Information about you

#### Name

Jody Wilson-Raybould

#### Email

[jody@votejody.ca](mailto:jody@votejody.ca)

#### Riding

Vancouver Granville

#### Party

Liberal 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?

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau and his BC team are making a clear commitment to reversing the damage of Stephen Harper's dangerous cuts to oil spill response and marine safety resources on the BC coast.

Harper's Conservatives have cut Transport Canada's funding for marine safety programs by over 27% since 2009. Cuts in BC alone have included: the closure of the Kitsilano Coast Guard Base; the closure of three BC Marine Communication and Traffic Centres; and cuts to oil spill response coordination resources. This has put our coastline, our communities and our economy at risk.

There are a number of steps the Liberals will take to ensure our coastline and communities are protected as part of the Liberal commitment to protecting our environment and supporting our economy. In the short-term my top three priorities are 1) re-opening the Kitsilano Coast Guard Base; 2) improving co-ordination between all levels of government, including First Nations, and 3) re-opening the Marine Communication and Traffic Centre in Vancouver.

Beyond the immediate action, what is required is a more vigorous discussion about the number and type of tankers we are ultimately going to allow on our coast and where they may pass, as well as ensuring that we have the world-class coastal protection regime that the provincial government often talks about. This will require new federal regulations being made with the necessary political will and financial support.

On this note, in our plan our reversal of the \$40 million that Mr. Harper cut from the federal government's ocean science and monitoring programs, as well as our plan to formalize the moratorium on crude oil tanker traffic on British Columbia's North Coast, (including the Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait, and Queen Charlotte Sound), will help ensure that ecologically sensitive areas and our local economies are protected from the potentially devastating impacts of a spill.

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

Arguably local communities have the most to lose in the event of oil spill with the potential devastation to the local

economy and coastal way of life. Local communities are also our first responders and must be integral to any oil spill planning and response. Accordingly, a Liberal government is committed to working with local communities, including First Nations (First Nations are often the only communities along some parts of our coast), in developing emergency preparedness plans that include dealing with oil spills. This planning needs to be undertaken in cooperation with the provincial government as part of our evolving system of cooperative federalism. A Liberal government will develop plans that not only make best use of our marine resources, but give coastal communities more say in managing the resources around them.

**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?**

Personally, I very much support the idea of citizen advisory bodies. Citizen engagement is critical to all aspects of our governance including providing input into policy and plans developed by government. It can improve the quality of planning and ensure legitimacy. However, the institutions we create, including citizen advisory bodies, must always have a clear purpose and mandate and be fully accountable. In some cases it makes sense for them to be established by legislation or regulations and not to be ad hoc. Also, the manner in which persons are chosen or appointed to, such bodies, must always be clear. Through my governance work in my former role as Regional Chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations I was involved in a number of community engagement initiatives including the establishment of advisory bodies to provide advice to, or oversight for, elected officials and civil servants. It strikes me that there may be a need for a citizen advisory body on oil spill response planning as we consider new rules and regulations and plans with respect to how we protect our coast and our communities. When these new rules, regulations and plans are in place, whether or not there will be a need for ongoing citizens advisory council would remain to be seen, but is, of course, always an option and on the table. At the very least, each community along our coast needs its own body to deal with coastal emergencies as part of basic emergency preparedness.

**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?**

There is no question that Canada has a role to play in supporting a coordinated spill response. So too does the provincial government with its responsibility for local governments. The extent to which this support is given and shared I cannot say at this time, as it is something that will need to be considered as we develop a more holistic plan for coastal management and spill response in establishing a world class system.

To date, and while not specific to funding local governments directly, the Liberal party has already committed to:

- Reverse the \$40 million that Mr. Harper cut from the federal government's ocean science and monitoring programs.
- Formalize the moratorium on crude oil tanker traffic on British Columbia's North Coast, including the Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait, and Queen Charlotte Sound, to ensure that ecologically sensitive areas and local economies are protected from the potentially devastating impacts of a spill.
- Increasing the amount of Canada's marine and coastal areas that are protected from 1.3 percent to 5 percent by 2017, and 10 percent by 2020

Over the longer term, the Liberal plan to address climate change is to reduce our thirst for oil by diversifying our economy with less reliance on oil exports and oil powering our economy. Ultimately over time, we reduce the risk by reducing the traffic. This is why the Liberals will make crucial new investments in green infrastructure to grow our economy and strengthen our communities, including our coastal communities.

We will provide support to large and community scale renewable energy projects, and work with the provinces and territories to develop a Canadian Energy Strategy that brings cleaner, renewable energy (such as solar and wind) onto the electricity grid. We will boost investment in green infrastructure by nearly \$6 billion over the next four years, and almost \$20 billion over ten years. This is incredibly exciting as there has never been such a large investment like this in Canada's history.

We all know that creating sustainable prosperity is the way forward. We also all know that under Mr. Harper, our environment and our economy have paid the price, both locally and nationally. Liberals, I believe, have the best and most comprehensive, plan to invest in green infrastructure, create clean jobs, and protect our environment right across the country. We also have the team to implement it.

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

The Liberal party has made it very clear that all energy infrastructure projects must earn the trust of communities if they are to proceed, and that any projects must not place our lands, waterways, and ecosystems at risk. With respect to Kinder Morgan this is not the case. The City of Vancouver and many other communities, including numerous First Nation communities, are opposing it. Canadians have not been reassured that the local economy and environment will be protected.

We also believe in the need to respect Aboriginal title and rights, including treaty rights. In BC, this is of particular importance, where serious weight must be given to the issue of un-extinguished Aboriginal title and the requirement for "consent" if projects cross unceded Aboriginal title lands. This situation applies in the case of TransMountain.

Accordingly, we need to rebuild our environmental assessment process and trust in the process; processes that were gutted during the Harper years.

Kinder Morgan will be subject to this rebuilt process and will need to go through it.

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

The Liberal Party of Canada has serious concerns about the review process for the Trans Mountain Kinder Morgan pipeline extension, which failed to consult adequately with local communities and First Peoples. The Conservative government gutted the environmental review process and has failed to create fair and transparent processes by which industry and civil society can provide input during the National Energy Board Hearings.

The Liberal party understands that in order to properly assess the impact of proposed projects Canada needs clear and efficient processes that have reasonable, even-handed rules, clear beginning and ending points, so ultimately decisions can be relied on. Unfortunately, and due to Mr. Harper's actions, we no longer have this in Canada. The Conservatives have eviscerated the environmental assessment process previous Liberal governments had brought into law.

A Liberal government will launch an immediate, public review of Canada's current environmental assessment processes, and based on this review, will replace Mr. Harper's changes to the environmental assessment process, with a new, comprehensive, timely, and fair process. As part of this review, a Liberal government will modernize and rebuild trust in the National Energy Board. We will ensure it has broad regional representation and sufficient expertise in fields such as environmental science, community development, and Indigenous traditional knowledge. We will ensure that federal Ministers do not interfere in projects while they are being assessed. We will explore, consult, and work collaboratively to move towards a system where federal environmental assessments include an analysis of upstream impacts and the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the projects being assessed. For me this is incredibly important and exciting as we start to assess the impact of our actions in ultimately meeting our commitment to wean ourselves off fossil fuels and seriously address climate change.

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

First, the government must recognize publically and loudly that climate change is a very serious and very real issue that

will have a profound effect on our way of life, economy and national security, and must be addressed. Second, we must prepare for, and get ready for Paris and the critical work beyond. We need to be seen internationally as a leader in addressing climate change and not an obstacle. Third, we must develop and adopt our national climate change plan in partnership with the provinces, territories and Aboriginal governments in order to meet our domestic and international commitments.

In developing this plan, we will work together to establish national emissions-reduction targets, and ensure that the provinces and territories have targeted federal funding and the flexibility to design their own policies to meet these commitments, including their own carbon pricing policies. These targets will recognize the economic cost and catastrophic impact that a greater-than-two-degree increase in average global temperatures would represent, as well as the need for Canada to do its part to prevent that from happening.

Partnering with the provinces and territories, we will also create a new Low Carbon Economy Trust. The Trust will provide funding to projects that materially reduce carbon emissions under the new pan-Canadian framework. We will endow the Low Carbon Economy Trust with \$2 billion in our mandate. We will also protect our communities from the challenges of climate change and grow our economy by making significant new investments in green infrastructure. Further, we will fulfill our G20 commitment and phase out subsidies for the fossil fuel industry over the medium-term. Finally, we will also work in partnership with the United States and Mexico to develop an ambitious North American clean energy and environmental agreement.

With respect to the most pressing issue of climate change, which is of central importance to me, I was very pleased to be a part of helping to develop the Liberal plan and look forward to being able to be a part of implementing it, if elected. As President Obama said, "We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it." It is the younger generation of leaders who understand this responsibility, can bridge the generations, and do something about it.

#### **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?**

It is absolutely critical that the cumulative impacts of multiple projects are taken into consideration when individual projects are being proposed and assessed. This is something that I was involved in as Regional Chief, as there are a number of court cases where First Nations are challenging projects based on cumulative impact. It is an evolving area of the law. So, yes, I do support a cumulative effects assessment.

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

There is a growing issue of derelict boats along BC's coastline, which is having a negative impact on the natural aesthetics and in some cases pose a threat to the environment. The Canadian Coast Guard usually deals with the worst cases quickly. So, if you know of a derelict vessel that is causing environmental damage, then please report it to the coast guard immediately. However, where there is no major environmental concern and a vessel is not posing an obstacle to navigation, they are simply left to rot and pollute.

In 2013, during the 41st Parliament, a private member's bill that addressed derelict vessels was introduced by Jean Crowder: Bill C-638, An Act to Amend the Canada Shipping Act 2001. The Conservatives did not support the Bill. I would have supported that Bill. The Bill obligated the government to act when derelict vessels are abandoned, and strengthened the requirements relating to derelict vessels by requiring regulations to be made to establish measures to be taken for their removal, disposition or destruction. It also provided that the Coast Guard would be designated as a receiver of wrecks and required to take reasonable steps to determine and locate the owners of the wreck.

More broadly speaking a Liberal government will ensure that we protect more of our marine areas, by increasing the

amount of Canada's marine and coastal areas that are protected from 1.3 percent to 5 percent by 2017, and 10 percent by 2020. Presumably in these areas, derelict vessels will need to be addressed as a priority.

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

I am 44 years old and a descendant of the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk and Laich-Kwil-Tach peoples, which are part of the Kwakwaka'wakw, also known as the Kwak'waka speaking peoples. I am a member of the We Wai Kai Nation. My Kwakwaka'wakw name is Puglaas which means woman born to noble people. I was born in Vancouver and have lived and worked here most of my life. I live with my husband, Dr. Tim Raybould, at the north end of the riding of Vancouver Granville along the vibrant Cambie corridor. I am a lawyer by profession. I have been a provincial Crown prosecutor in Vancouver's Main Street criminal courthouse, an elected commissioner to the BC Treaty Commission, and was Regional chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations for two terms. I was nominated to be the Liberal Candidate in Vancouver Granville on July 31, 2014. If you would like to contact me to discuss any of the issues covered in this survey or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at 778.952.5639 / jwilson-raybould@liberal.ca or check out our website at [www.jody.liberal.ca](http://www.jody.liberal.ca). You can follow me on Twitter @Puglaas or on Facebook /JodyWRLiberal. Finally, I hope I can earn your support and ask that if you live in Vancouver-Granville to please vote for me in the upcoming election on October 19th.

Gilakas'la,

Jody.