

Election 2015 Candidate Survey from GSA : Entry # 283

Information about you

Name

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Riding

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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?

- 1) An important step will be the formalization of 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.
- 2) Examine the impact of the 2012 Harper cuts that closed Environment Canada regional spill response centres in Vancouver and other cities and centralized them in Montreal. Response activities cannot be managed remotely. Preparation and accumulation of local knowledge are vital to a cohesive and coordinated response to emergencies.
- 3) Reopen the Kitsilano Coast Guard station

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

The Marathassa spill in English Bay underlined that local governments will inevitably be involved in spill response and that current protocols for local involvement are inadequate. The federal government must play a facilitative role in engaging local communities in advance planning and coordination and to ensure they have the resources and capability to respond.

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?

I support a review of global best practices to identify the most effective mechanism to facilitate citizen engagement.

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?

The Liberal party is committed to the largest infrastructure investment in Canada history. It will be informed by priorities identified by local governments.

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

The current National Energy Board regulatory approval process has lost the trust of Canadians. A new, independent, evidence-based process must be established. The Kinder Morgan expansion project must satisfy this new rigorous review that its environmental and social impacts can be effectively addressed. If they cannot be, the project should not

proceed.

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

The National Energy Board process Stephen Harper implemented in 2012 has been seriously compromised and is tilted toward project proponents. Canadians have lost faith in the credibility of that process and will be hard-pressed to trust any answers coming from it. Canadians are mistrustful of current environmental review processes because Mr. Harper has politicized the National Energy Board, gutted environmental regulations, and silenced scientists. By acting as a cheerleader for project proponents, rather than as a fair-minded arbiter of the public interest, Stephen Harper has hurt both our economy and our environment.

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

1) A Liberal government will fulfill Canada's G-20 commitment to phase out subsidies for the fossil fuel industry. The next step will be to allow for the use of the Canadian Exploration Expenses tax deduction only in cases of unsuccessful exploration. The savings will be redirected to investments in new and clean technologies.

2) As Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau will attend the December 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, and will invite all Premiers to join him. Within 90 days of the conference, a First Ministers meeting will be held to work together on a framework to combat climate change. Central to this will be the creation of national emissions-reduction targets, informed by the best economic and scientific analysis. We will ensure that the provinces and territories have adequate tools to design their own policies to meet these commitments, including their own carbon pricing policies. As part of the comprehensive emissions reduction agreement with provinces and territories, we will provide targeted federal funding to help them achieve these goals.

3) I have more than 15 years experience as a senior manager and CEO in clean tech. A Liberal government will invest \$200 million more annually to create sector-specific strategies that support innovation and clean technologies in the forestry, fisheries, mining, energy, and agricultural sectors. These strategies will be developed in collaboration with the private sector, government, and research institutions, with the objective of producing real innovations that can be deployed in our natural resources sectors, commercialized, brought to scale, and exported.

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?

In principal, that would appear to make sense. However I would like to have a more thorough understanding of the scientific case for 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?

As a start, we need to restore federal capacity to inspect and enforce existing marine regulations related to derelict vessels.

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

Yes. A word about protected marine areas - which are critical to protecting Canadian ecosystems, and also our economic well-being. These areas help fish stocks recover, support eco-tourism, protect coastlines from erosion, and protect species at risk. We will increase 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. We will also reverse the \$40 million that Mr. Harper cut from the federal government's ocean science and monitoring programs.

Thank-you for the opportunity to answer these questions. NGO's like the Georgia Strait Alliance provide value to the policy-making process. I look forward to developing an open and constructive working relationship as the member of Parliament for North Vancouver.
