

## Election 2015 Candidate Survey from GSA : Entry # 252

### Information about you

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#### 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?

1. The Harper government closed three offices that would have each dramatically increased our response time: the Kitsilano Coast Guard station, the Environmental Emergencies Office of Environment Canada (replaced with a 1-800 number in Quebec), and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' marine contaminant program. We should reopen all three of these and arm them with increased capacity for emergency response.
2. There's a lack of clear roles among various agencies who do respond. We need to clarify these roles and perhaps run some drills so that role confusion doesn't cause delay in a future emergency.
3. Ultimately, we recommend a moratorium on supertanker traffic up our coast.

#### 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?

Advisory Councils are an effective and inexpensive way to increase transparency and tap into local knowledge.

#### 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. With all the cuts the Harper government has made, we simply can't get out on the water fast enough to deal with a spill as quickly as we need to. We're seeing more money spent on advertising about how safe and secure our coastline can be, while cuts are being made to emergency preparedness. We need to reverse this and spend the money on actual response capacity.

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

Oppose, for human safety, Canadian job security, and the environment.

The pipeline is all about getting unprocessed bitumen to tidewater. Solid bitumen is mixed with fossil fuel condensate

(called diluents) to make it flow. Any spill of this diluted bitumen (dilbit) from a pipeline or a tanker will create a serious health hazard, most notably by filling the air with toxic fumes for many kilometers around. These spills are roughly ten times as expensive to clean up as oil spills.

The pipeline also costs Canadian jobs. Carrying dilbit to be refined in other countries means tens of thousands of Canadian jobs are sent overseas.

Lastly, the resultant associated increased emission runs counter to Canadians conviction that we must move to a low carbon future.

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

It's an utterly flawed process, and needs to be scrapped and replaced. According to the recently passed Bill C-38, any decisions made by the NEB can be reversed by the government. If we end up with another Conservative majority, this will render the whole review process essentially moot.

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

1. We need to phase out carbon emissions as quickly as possible and become carbon neutral by 2100 at the latest. Realistically, this means committing to reduce Canadian emissions 30% below 1990 levels by 2030, and to 85% reduction below 1990 by 2050, regardless of what other countries do.

2. Once we've set these targets, we need to implement policies that will lead us to actually achieve our goals and allocate the necessary funds from the federal budget. Our party's national carbon pricing scheme, the Carbon Fee and Dividend is a key step in this direction. Other planks include funding to grow green goods and cleantech, our national transportation strategy, money for energy retrofits, and eliminating the \$1 billion subsidy to fossil fuel industries.

3. We need to be world leaders against climate change. We should commit to technology transfers to help developing countries achieve their emissions targets too.

#### **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. Water and air quality don't adhere to political boundaries. The only fair way to assess the impact one project will have on a region is to assess it jointly with others being proposed. For example, if Woodfibre LNG and the proposed Port Mellon garbage incinerator and the proposed gravel mine at McNab Creek all go ahead, what would our new air quality index look like compared with the healthy air Howe Sound residents are breathing today? How would all three projects together affect the marine life that's resurging, the whales and glass sponge reef and fishing industry that are all returning to Howe Sound? How would they affect property values, the ecotourism and recreation industries, the film industry, and more? Analysing each project in a vacuum doesn't give us an accurate picture of the impact on the region as a whole.

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

Abandoning a boat is like dropping a ton of litter all at once. The problem is that people are getting away with it. It's illegal, but we need to police it better. The Coast Guard is the logical organization to monitor and enforce, and it should be empowered with funding and legislation to enable it to accomplish the task.

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

Moving to self sufficient fuel supply would provide more jobs here at home and greatly reduce the need to transport fuel by sea. Adding a refinery at the oil sands would eliminate the risks associated with dilbit. Greater cooperation at the international level would reduce risks of spills like the Marathassa, and would increase the responsibility of industry to ensure the safety of our waters.

Stronger legislation for protection of our oceans and waterways is a priority for the Green Party of Canada.