

## Election 2015 Candidate Survey from GSA : Entry # 255

### Information about you

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#### Riding

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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. Hold joint discussions between the organizations involved in responding to that spill. Document the lessons learned, and proactively implement any recommendations.
2. Assess the wisdom of having a company (Western Canada Marine Response Corp.) that is owned by the petroleum, pipeline and shipping corporations, primarily responsible for spill containment and mitigation along our coast. Consider replacing it with an organization that has some public accountability, and one that doesn't just provide services to its corporate members.
3. Re-establish adequate Coast Guard stations and capabilities at least back to pre-Harper cuts.

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

See my responses below.

##### 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, establish a Citizens Advisory Council, as long as it includes First Nations, scientists, engineers, sea captains and other experts who can advise the Citizens Advisory Council on the technical challenges and real world feasibility of solutions.

##### 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, provide federal funding, but also establish some federal laws to ensure municipalities maintain a response capability up to national standards and are prepared for the worst. If the municipality can't afford that, then higher levels of government should pitch in. I think it would also be important that municipal by-laws allow citizen involvement in clean up efforts, within reason and safety standards.

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

As long as Kinder Morgan or anyone else is planning to push diluted bitumen (dilbit) through a pipeline to coastal waters, I, like all other Green Party candidates, am firmly opposed. We're not opposed to pipelines used to ship liquids that will flow through the pipe on its own. But no environmental review is needed in this case to know that shipping the semi-solid dilbit by pipeline and tanker is a series of major disasters waiting to happen. Clean up will not be possible on land or sea, and the effects will be irreversible. There are also reasons why this doesn't make economic sense, but the bottom line is that no economic benefit could ever justify this magnitude of risk.

As usual, we are basing this policy on our concern for future generations. Here is an excerpt from the Green Party's fully-costed policy platform:

"Kinder Morgan proposes a seven-fold increase in oil sands tanker traffic through Vancouver and Burnaby, while Energy East proposes to increase tanker traffic through the Bay of Fundy. 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.

"A single tanker accident would ruin our coast and the lives and livelihoods that depend on its health. That is why we recognize that the economic, social and environmental consequences of approving these projects is simply too high. We will take a stand and defend our coastline.

"Poll after poll shows that the people of the West Coast will not allow this risky project. More than half of British Columbians say they oppose the Kinder Morgan expansion, including more than three-quarters of young British Columbians. Even the Ontario Energy Board has ruled that Energy East poses more risks than benefits. While the old parties use complaints about process to avoid taking a stand, or even fast track and support these projects outright, the Green Party is the only party standing up for the people and communities threatened by these projects."

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

The National Energy Board has been perverted into a rubber-stamping machine. It can never do its job properly under the current constraints and undue influences, the current legislation, and in particular, the current government. The NEB is a shell of what it was and could be. It currently exists just to provide the appearance that our government is being diligent in protecting this land and its citizens. The NEB needs to be returned to its former state prior to interference from the Harper government, and then strengthened even further so that they can be appointed and operate at arms length and not have their decisions influenced by the bias of the governing party.

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

1. We need to step out of the way at UN climate talks. Our nation, long revered as a peacemaker and conciliator, won five consecutive Colossal Fossil awards for worst behaviour at the UN world leaders' conference on Climate Change, followed by a 'Lifetime Unachievement' Fossil award at the Warsaw climate talks in 2013. Year after year, our country was named the most responsible for "delay, obstruction and total inaction". It is profoundly embarrassing for me as a Canadian to know that my country is consistently the one most contributing to lack of progress on the climate crisis. I also worry that as climate change takes its toll, Canada may have made future enemies who could pose a much greater security threat to us than the likes of ISIS. So it would go a long way towards national security as well as climate change if our government could just stop sabotaging the UN talks.

2. Elizabeth May in her recent interview with Peter Mansbridge, stated our goal of taking a leadership role at the next talks. I'd settle for Canada getting out of the way, but what's stopping us from taking the lead at these meetings? It's the kind of thing Canada used to do.

3. We also need to do our part nationally. From the Green Party's policies: "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. These are ambitious targets, yet the scale and urgency of this challenge demands nothing less.”

**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. Assessments done in isolation will not provide meaningful results. We need to look at all projects in combination and over a timeline to get a true picture of the potential impacts. I am on record saying this publicly over the past nine years. The only true assessment is one that looks at the total picture.

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

I have little understanding of that problem and cannot express an informed opinion.

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

Thank you for what you folks do as part of the Georgia Strait Alliance, and for this opportunity to express my views.