

## Election 2015 Candidate Survey from GSA : Entry # 279

### Information about you

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#### Riding

Nanaimo-Ladysmith

#### Party

NDP

### 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?

As Islands Trust Council Chair, I've experienced directly Harper's undermining of democracy, fisheries, Coast Guard, and affordable housing. I've pressed hard on oil spill risk, climate change, and funding ferries, but want to get on the inside to make change in Ottawa. Emergency oil spill response capacity is vastly under-resourced, and there are increasing risks with growing tanker traffic. The Conservatives' closure of Marine Communications and Traffic Services and Coast Guard offices must be reversed to ensure that we have adequate capacity to guide tankers, and to respond quickly in the event of an accident. Furthermore, New Democrats believe that polluters should pay the full cost to clean up and compensate for their oil spills, and that there should be no cap on their liability. Conservatives have failed to give Canadians the protections they need -- when it comes to our coasts and waterways, self-regulation in the shipping industry doesn't cut it. We need proper environmental assessments of proposals to ship crude through our waterways and along our coast -- the Government should be putting the safety of the public and of our environment first.

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

I have been a vocal advocate for protecting the Salish Sea from the extensive oil spill risks we now face. The best specific action we can take is to elect a different federal government and prime minister. We have spent so much time and effort fighting bad policies and bad ideas when we should be preventing and preparing for oil spills on our coasts.

#### 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?

We would explore the idea of citizens advisory councils with the public, municipal, First Nations, and provincial partners. We believe that a fundamental principle of sustainable development is public participation in decision making. Furthermore, before any project can proceed, there must be a robust environmental assessment process that includes meaningful consultation that includes assistance for those affected to participate.

#### 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, local governments and our coastal communities need a federal government that has their backs. I used my position as Islands Trust Council Chair to bring many local governments together to lobby for strengthening our ecological safety net.

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

We know that a Stephen Harper government would ram through this proposal with a deeply flawed process that completely ignores the community. That's why it's so important to replace Stephen Harper. Tom Mulcair and the NDP are the only party that can do that. We cannot proceed with this application because the Harper Conservatives have gutted the environmental review process to the point where no one can trust it. A Tom Mulcair government would protect the environment while growing the economy. We would overhaul and strengthen Canada's environmental assessment process for projects to make it rigorous and credible by including things like the impacts on climate change. We need a process that openly and meaningfully listens to communities and respects First Nations. We know that the Conservatives just want to rubber stamp these projects, but the NDP will fix the environmental assessment process to ensure that bad projects do not proceed.

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

This project is bad for British Columbia's communities, First Nations, economy and environment. Conservatives should have said no to the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline. This project has failed to obtain social license. No one trusts the Conservatives to protect the environment and properly manage Canada's resources. Allowing supertankers into the Douglas Channel would be madness and a spill would be catastrophic for the economy of the entire region. The Conservatives have put BC's coast, environment, and economy at risk. The government sided with oil lobbyists over defending the interests of British Columbians.

In 2015, an NDP government would set aside the approval of this project.

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

With an NDP government, Canada will show up at the Paris climate meeting with targets and a plan: We will eliminate the Harper Conservatives' subsidies to the fossil fuel industry, implement a cap-and-trade system that puts a price on carbon, and build a clean economy, responsibly managing our resources to keep value-added jobs in Nanaimo-Ladysmith and transitioning to an energy system based on renewables.

### **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?**

The Harper Government has used omnibus budget bills to gut Canada's environmental laws protecting our fisheries, lakes, and rivers. The NDP will restore these laws. We will reinstate our environmental assessment laws and ensure that the environmental impacts of major projects, including pipelines and oil and gas, consider the cumulative, regional, and climate change impacts of the project before they are approved.

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

A New Democrat government would introduce legislation to deal with derelict vessels. In fact, NDP MP Jean Crowder introduced legislation in the last Parliament, bill C-638, to allow for the Coast Guard to take responsibility for and clean up derelict vehicles which pose an environmental risk to Canada's waters.

The bill would have done the following:

Obligate the government to act when derelict vessels are abandoned

Strengthen the requirements relating to derelict vessels and wreck by ensuring that regulations are made to establish measures to be taken for their removal, disposition or destruction.

Provide that the Canadian Coast Guard shall be designated as a receiver of wreck for the purposes of Part 7 of the Act, and requires receivers of wreck to take reasonable steps to determine and locate the owners of the wreck.

Unfortunately, the NDP bill was defeated by the Conservative majority in the House of Commons. However, New Democrats remain committed to protecting our waters from pollution and other hazards posed by derelict vessels, and we will reintroduce this legislation once we form government, and ensure that a permanent and timely solution is found for derelict vessels.

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

I traveled to Norway to learn more about oil spill response, and with the Islands Trust, I worked across party lines for six years, co-operating along the length of BC's coast, to stand up for communities on ferry service, derelict vessels, and oil spill prevention. We all do better when we work together, and I will work with and for our coastal communities in Ottawa.