

Candidate: Adam Olsen

Party: BC Green Party

Riding: Saanich North and the Islands

1) What is your position on Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline project?

I fully oppose the expansion of the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline. In fact, the BC Green Party is the only party that has taken a consistent, principled position based on evidence. I also participated as an intervenor in the National Energy Board, speaking against this project.

Our concerns about the project are many and varied. For instance:

-The rights and wishes of the First Nations and local communities affected by the project have not been considered.

-It is unclear how an oil spill would be cleaned up. There is significant scientific uncertainty about how dilbit behaves in marine water, so traditional recovery methods may be ineffective.

-The significant impact on marine life, such as the endangered Southern Resident killer whales and the economically and culturally important salmon populations.

-More tankers and an increased risk of an oil spill threatens our pristine environment and the local economy (e.g. tourism) that depends on it.

-Building infrastructure to boost oil sands production is totally incompatible with our Paris climate commitments.

The ecologically and culturally important Salish Sea is no place for heavy oil tankers. Rather than continuing to invest in fossil fuel infrastructure, we must honour our climate commitments and begin the transition to a low-carbon economy.

a) If you oppose the project, what specific steps would you take if elected to ensure the project does not proceed?

A BC Green government would do everything in its power to make sure Kinder Morgan is not built. To this end a provincial MLA could ensure that the Federal government moves forward on a commitment to the marine protection of the Southern Strait of Georgia and its designation as a marine conservation area. Further, I truly believe in creating better opportunities for representation in the legislature. There are many issues and many opportunities and our riding needs an MLA who is a facilitator. Someone who can bring all the leadership together, Municipal, First Nations, Gulf Islands, business, service organizations together to work together to find solutions to our challenges and lobby government to

support our initiatives. So far our individual voices have been drowned out by big money. The BC Green Party is the only party that does not accept corporate or union donations. We work for you.

b) If you support the project, what specific steps would you take if elected to ensure BC's communities, environment and economy are protected?

2) In 2016 the *Environmental Management Act* was amended to develop [a new framework for land-based spill preparedness and response in BC](#), which will be implemented through future regulations. What is your view of the proposed framework? What, if any, changes would you make to the framework if you were to form government, and what would be your first priorities?

The leader of the BC Green Party, Andrew Weaver, spoke in the legislature in regards to Bill 21, the Environmental Management Amendment Act, 2016. The legislation was designed to provide the legal framework for a spill preparedness and response regime in British Columbia. The problem with this law is not so much what's in it but what's not in it. This legislation puts much, if not most, of the items of interest into a regulatory framework. We have been asked to trust that the government will have the best interests of British Columbians at heart when these regulations are developed in the future. This management plan enables the government — in negotiation with industry — to put in place regulations as they see fit.

In addition, we are concerned about one particularly troublesome aspect of this legislation. The following paragraph was added to Section 92 (1) of the act: "(d) exempting a person, an organization or a thing or a class of persons, organizations or things from any provisions of Division 2.1 or the regulations under this Division, in circumstances and on conditions that the Lieutenant Governor in Council prescribes." Essentially, this says: "Anything we have in here we can exempt, if we want, as cabinet." This feature is worrisome, to say the least.

However, one of the things that we do appreciate in this legislation, because it's a fundamental principle of the Green Party of British Columbia, is that it's based on a polluter-pay model. The person who makes the mistake pays for the mistake, not the taxpayer.

b) How would you propose to work with the federal government to strengthen marine spill planning and response, and to ensure that the provincial and federal regimes are aligned?

It is clear that the current legislation is not adequate to strengthen marine spill planning and response and will not align provincial and federal regimes. More to the point though, it is the scientifically evidenced position of the BC Greens that it is imperative to take bold action on climate change now and transition B.C. to a low-carbon economy. We need an immediate moratorium on the transportation of diluted bitumen in our coastal waters. If there were a spill, our riding of Saanich North and the Islands would be devastated economically, culturally, and environmentally. A BC Green government would do everything in its power to make sure diluted bitumen does not hit tide water and that Kinder Morgan is not built. To this end the provincial government could work together with the Federal government to

move forward on ensuring a commitment to the marine protection of the Southern Strait of Georgia and its designation as a marine conservation area.

c) What specific actions can the provincial government take to ensure that local communities are meaningfully involved in oil spill planning and response?

I truly believe in creating better opportunities for representation in the legislature. There are many issues and many opportunities and our riding needs an MLA who is a facilitator. Someone who can bring all the leadership together, Municipal, First Nations, Gulf Islands, business, service organizations together to work together to find solutions to our challenges and lobby government to support our initiatives. My candidacy has been endorsed by the Tsartlip Chief and Council and individual members of the Councils of Central Saanich, North Saanich and Sidney as they have recognized my capacity to build bridges and appreciate the collaborative approach I take.

d) For example, would you support provincial recognition of and funding for a Regional Community Advisory Council ([a world-leading tool pioneered in Alaska, see p. 71](#)) as a formal mechanism for local governments, First Nations and coastal community stakeholders to participate in oil spill prevention, preparedness, planning and recovery?

Yes. I believe there is much more room to link local governments, First Nations and coastal community stakeholders together to address these issues under a body such as a Regional Community Advisory Council.

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

The Saanich Peninsula and the Southern Gulf Islands have been home to countless generations of my family. I, like you, am passionate about our home. I was an intervenor in the NEB Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (Kinder Morgan), founded the Saanich Inlet Network and have spearheaded local organizing efforts against the Malahat LNG gas liquefaction plant proposed for Bamberton in the Saanich Inlet. My Tsartlip heritage brings an additional layer of urgency to these important environmental issues. I believe I am well suited to bring together diverse voices from around this table to address the challenges we collectively face.