

Candidate: Carole James

Party: BC NDP

Riding: Victoria-Beacon Hill

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

Our platform is very clear: the Kinder Morgan pipeline is not in BC's interest. It means a seven-fold increase in tanker traffic. It doesn't, and won't, meet the necessary conditions of providing benefits to British Columbia without putting our environment and our economy at unreasonable risk.

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

"In January 2016, the B.C. Supreme Court ruled in Coastal First Nations v. British Columbia (CFN v. BC). that the "equivalency agreement" B.C. entered into with the federal government does not extinguish the requirement for the province to both consult with Aboriginal peoples and to make their own decision around issuing an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) under section 17 of the Environmental Assessment Act.

This means that the B.C. government cannot avoid issuing their own EAC for the Kinder Morgan project and must conduct consultations with affected First Nations. The province may rely on evidence gathered during the Federal government's assessment but it must issue its own certificate. This certificate may include conditions stronger than or additional to any federal conditions on the project. In practical terms this means that the tactic that the Christy Clark government used to deflect political fallout from the Enbridge decision – to "oppose" the project without taking action to address provincial concerns, is no longer available. Political involvement is now unavoidable for the provincial government. As government, we will use every tool in our toolbox to stop the project from going ahead."

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

We do NOT support the project.

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?

We support this legislation in principle, but recognize improvements could be made. This bill is a welcome step forward and helps close significant gaps in spill preparedness and response. The bill has some strong provisions, but effectiveness will be determined through regulations. Key areas of accountability and oversight need to be stronger and enshrined in the bill. There are also opportunities

for targeted changes. In collaboration with stakeholders, we would look at amendments legislating accountability and oversight, for example.

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?

A BC NDP government would work with the federal government to expand spill response capacity, with a focus on empowering Indigenous communities who are often the first on the scene to marine spills on the north and central coast. That means offering greater resources and training for people in coastal communities to respond to spills when they happen. And we would push for enhanced, full-time, stationed response units along our coast to improve response times.

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

There are many international examples we can learn from. Citizens Advisory Councils in Alaska formally involve the public and stakeholders in the development, implementation and oversight of spill prevention and response measures. Essentially, the idea is to empower citizens with local knowledge to strengthen the spill response regime. This model was proposed for BC during consultations on this legislation, but the Christy Clark government ignored the recommendation.

We would also work with local governments and Indigenous communities to provide them with the needed training and equipment, as well as support in developing their own internal plans, to be prepared for the role they will play in the event of a spill. If elected, we look forward to sitting down with stakeholders as government – including GSA – to discuss ideas on how to improve spill response legislation and local response capacity.

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?

If elected, we look forward to sitting down with stakeholders as government – including GSA – to discuss ideas on how to improve spill response legislation and local response capacity. This is certainly an idea we would welcome to the discussion.

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

Five years ago Christy Clark and the BC Liberals said British Columbia needs world-class spill response systems to protect our coasts, yet for five years she's failed to press Ottawa to provide it.

When the Nathan E. Stewart tug boat leaked diesel fuel after running aground near Bella Bella, Christy Clark never even bothered to show up and see the damage done.

Much of the diesel may never be recovered. Members of the Heiltsuk Nation know that they will live with the consequences of this disaster for years to come. The environmental clean-up now appears to have become a marine salvage operation.

As mentioned, British Columbians are proud to live in a beautiful province with clean air, land and water. It's part of who we are and the source of economic prosperity for communities across the province. Protecting the environment and creating jobs go hand in hand. Wildlife viewing, recreational fishing and hunting and other eco-tourism activities add 40,000 jobs to our economy every year.