

Candidate: George Heyman

Party: BC NDP

Riding: Vancouver-Fairview

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

We oppose the project and the seven-fold increase in heavy oil tanker traffic off our coast. It's far too great a risk to B.C.'s economy as well as to our environment, it threatens tens of thousands of existing jobs through a bitumen spill and more long-term existing refinery jobs in Burnaby are at risk than would be provided by Kinder Morgan on completion.

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

As premier, one of John Horgan's first acts would be to let prime minister Trudeau know that our government believes this project runs counter to British Columbians' interests, and further that it is not needed. We would use every tool available to the provincial government to hold this project back, including rigorously inspecting all work and environmental impacts, and enforcing to the letter every permit and measure required by B.C. law. We would seek legal advice to identify all the tools we could use and what new ones are within our constitutional authority. We would do this despite Christy Clark having given away the best tool we had – an independent made-in-B.C. environmental assessment of the project – when she agreed to accept the deeply flawed Stephen Harper National Energy Board review as B.C.'s own.

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 framework is a long-overdue improvement, but has several flaws and unanswered questions that then-Minister Polak did not adequately answer under questioning in the legislature. Far too much is left to future closed-door cabinet regulation, and no guidance is provided regarding the qualifications and requirements for Preparedness and Response Organisations (PRO's), risk assessment, spill response, training and more. Further, the PRO's represent a privatization of government responsibility and accountability with no provision for citizens' advisory councils (as found in other jurisdictions) or major community representation on PRO boards.

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?

We would ensure strong measures and regulations, as well as community accountability, in those areas within our jurisdiction. We would work with the federal government to ensure coordination across jurisdictions and that federal spill response was defined as appropriate and adequate, rather than a meaningless term like “world leading”. Most importantly we would use provincial powers to properly assess and address each risk of damaging spill in project proposals.

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

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?

We support real and meaningful consultation and partnership with First Nations, and involvement of communities in a meaningful and transparent way. We would support mechanisms, whether an Alaskan model or a community, First Nation and local government based Board for the PROs, that will accomplish this outcome.

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

The following is in our platform:

“We will update our environmental assessment legislation and processes to ensure that they respect the legal rights of First Nations, and meet the public’s expectation of a strong, transparent process that results in the best outcomes as part of a made in BC assessment process.

In partnership with First Nations and communities, we will modernize land-use planning to effectively and sustainably manage BC’s ecosystems, rivers, lakes, watersheds, forests and old growth, while accounting for cumulative effects. We will take an evidence-based scientific approach and use the ecosystem-based management of the Great Bear Rainforest as a model.”