

PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2026 – QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES (5 QUESTIONS)

Question 1:

In 1999, the province and the charitable sector signed a memorandum of agreement allocating roughly one-third of gaming revenue to community organizations.

In exchange, the sector supported gaming expansion into communities that had been skeptical of it. Casinos came. Communities accepted them.

Today, the community share sits closer to one-tenth. The erosion happened in increments small enough that no government ever had to own it, yet it has had detrimental effects on the non-profit organizations within BC, even though gaming revenue has increased substantially.

If elected, will you commit to the following:

1. Immediately index the grant to the Consumer Price Index, with a restored floor of \$140 million.
2. Moving to three-year grants. *The legislature's own finance committee recommended multi-year funding in its Budget 2020 consultation report. Government never acted. Multi-year grants require no new dollars.*
3. Launch a public review of the relationship between BCLC net income and community grant funding, with a view to establishing a minimum percentage allocation that honours the spirit of the 1999 agreement.

Yes

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No

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Question 2: What does a bright climate future look like to you?

A bright climate future to me means that all the beings whom we share this land are considered as stakeholders in the decisions that get made for the province. It looks like taking the lead from and supporting First Nations governments and organizations in the stewardship of the land that they have cared for since time immemorial. It looks like development and growth that supports thriving ecosystems rather than sacrificing them at the cost of profit and big business. It looks like an energy strategy that seeks to rapidly phase out fossil fuel extraction and prioritizes clean renewable energy development.

Question 3: Where will protecting our communities and the environment by addressing the climate crisis fall on your list of priorities once you take office?

Something that I've come to understand as I've learned more about British Columbia and the country at large is that almost every single issue comes down to land. Who owns it? What do they want to do with it? Who gains and who loses from those plans? The current and previous governments have answered those questions by selling off lands to corporations for the purpose of profit, all to the benefit of CEOs and shareholders and at a detriment to just about every other living thing. The impacts of climate change hastened by governments full-throttle approach to fossil fuel extraction is already hitting our community hard, and that will only get worse over time. Protecting the environment is part of a suite of top priorities that I would have as MLA for Maple Ridge East, along with the defending of Indigenous rights and support for First Nations programs, as well as the development of a care economy that makes life affordable and accessible for every British Columbian.

Question 4: What will be the first issue you want to work on to protect the environment in British Columbia? In Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows?

Across British Columbia, phasing out fossil fuel development has to be a top priority. The BC NDP and BC Conservatives' plans to rapidly increase LNG and facilitate a West Coast pipeline will have catastrophic consequences. They will not only hasten the already worsening and under-addressed impacts of climate change and trample over the rights of First Nations, but many economists have already identified that fossil fuels are a bad long-term strategy to focus an economy around. In Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, I've been excited to learn about the work of the Katzie guardians program and the successes they've seen, and I think that would be an excellent starting point to build upon a wider strategy to protect our lands and waterways.

Question 5: How familiar are you with the Alouette Dam and the associated BC Hydro Operations including any upcoming capital works projects on the Alouette Reservoir? What would you do as an elected MLA to advance the work of gaining fish passage over the Alouette Dam to allow for the free movement of Pacific salmon species?

Most of my familiarity with the dam has come from resources from your organization. I'm a high school Social Studies and student leadership teacher and I frequently encourage students to learn about environmental issues relevant to our community. We have considered the impacts on the ecosystem and First Nations with the detrimental impacts on the salmon population through the Alouette River and the attempts to right some past wrongs. I'm very open to learning more about this, as I believe a thriving waterway that honours cultural practices and natural beings make our communities stronger and more just. Bolstering and creating projects like a Youth Climate Corps, Watershed Protection projects, and the Katzie Guardians would get people on the land working and learning from each other, and learning from organizations like yourselves would help make that work even more meaningful.

--- End questions ---