

Questions

Opioid /Mental Health Crisis

1. Please note this crisis doesn't just impact our people, but all British Colombians; however, Port Alberni has the second worst overdose death rates in BC, next to the Downtown Eastside in Vancouver. What are you and your party committed to do to help fix the current opioid and mental health crisis in Port Alberni, BC and the State of Emergency recently declared by Nuu-chah-nulth?

I stepped up to run in the provincial election because the direction of British Columbia under the NDP the last 7 years is abhorrent. Never in my life would I imagine the life expectancy of British Columbia's First Nations people would plunge by 6.1 years in a 4-year window. What the NDP has been doing is not working. In conversations with First Nations leaders there is a desire for an urgent and community-based approach for healing and recovery, involving leadership from all levels. This NEEDS to be the top priority.

The toxic "safe drug" supply experiment is a catastrophic failure and too many families and kids have their own examples – many kids have multiple examples. None of us should stand for this. We need to mobilize addiction and mental health professionals and work together to start formulating solutions.

I have done a lot of unlearning over the years. What my generation learned in school certainly missed the mark of teaching an accurate history Indigenous people. One of the most powerful personal experiences for me was visiting and learning at the U'mista Cultural Centre on Cormorant Island.

All community leaders need to work together to address historical injustices and working towards healing from the impacts of colonization, residential schools, and systemic discrimination. There is multigenerational healing required. I feel it is needed more urgently now than ever before.

Housing and Homelessness Crisis

2. Indigenous people are disproportionately impacted by the current housing and homelessness crisis. Our First Nation is looking to be a leader in housing both affordable and market rental not only for Indigenous people, but everyone in the Alberni Valley. What are you and your party committed to do to improve the housing crisis, remove red tape and invest in funds quickly to groups like Tseshahat to build much needed housing in BC both on and off-reserve?

Obviously, there needs to be an improvement to speeding up housing approvals. The “Get BC Building” plan promises to end the housing shortage and streamline approval processes.

Rezoning and development permits will be approved within 6 months, and building permits within 3 months. Forming partnerships and proactive planning with districts, municipalities and cities to “pre-zone” off-reserve areas in advance, eliminating delays caused by rezoning for each individual project.

We also have to support developers to get projects off the ground quicker.

Every region has its own unique challenges. As the MLA I will work with local government, First Nations, and other potential partners to find solutions unique to regions within our riding. For instance, we are currently manufacturing value-added products right in the Alberni Valley to assist with building new homes. I have toured the facilities and there are capabilities to significantly ramp up production to meet demand.

Cost of living

3. Whether you are Indigenous or not, the cost of living has skyrocketed and many are wondering how they will survive month to month. Tseshahat and British Columbians have witnessed that the some companies continue to have record profit years and yet goods such as the price of fuel are always high. What are you and your party committed to do to not only bring down the cost of living down, but have a real impact on factors such as the cost of fuel for everyone including Tseshahat?

The Conservative Party of BC announced measures to reduce the cost of living across the province in a way that everyone sees immediate relief. The Rustad Rebate is a real solution to help families stay in their homes, support the middle class, and provide relief to those being squeezed by high housing prices and rents.

The Rustad Rebate will give people immediate financial relief and help them stay in the homes they love. The rebate will remove BC income taxes from \$3,000 per month of housing costs, including rentals, mortgage rates and strata fees.

Upon forming government, we will also immediately scrap the Carbon Tax, which affects the price of not only gas but food costs and clothing.

UNDRIP/DRIPA

4. The UN Declaration the Rights of Indigenous Peoples(UNDRIP) and the Provincial Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Act(DRIPA) are seen as a pathway or tool to advance reconciliation in the Province of BC. What are you and your party committed to do to ensure that UNDRIP and DRIPA are implemented in BC to not only benefit First Nations, but all British Columbians?

The Conservative Party will honour the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as it was intended: not as an obstacle to development, but as a guiding principle for recognizing Indigenous rights and aspirations.

We believe economic reconciliation is the pathway to address historical injustices that have left Indigenous communities disproportionately affected by poverty and poor health outcomes.

Our policies will focus on fostering partnerships between First Nations and the private sector, unlocking opportunities in industries such as natural resource management, fisheries, forestry, and clean energy.

First Nations Economic Reconciliation

5. Tseshahht recently announced our new BC-Tseshahht Incremental Economic Reconciliation Agreement providing much needed resources to invest in our economic development vision that will improve the economies locally, regionally and provincially. What are you and your party committed to do to support First Nations(including Tseshahht)economic development and self-sufficiency goals?

Economic reconciliation is not only the key to self-determination but also the foundation for the health and prosperity of Indigenous communities across our province. First Nations have the right to achieve real wealth and move beyond mere survival.

The Conservative Party of BC is committed to advancing Indigenous economic and social progress, honoring the legacy of leaders like Dr. Joseph Gosnell, who championed the integration of traditional Indigenous knowledge with modern economic practices to raise the bar for First Nations in British Columbia.

True reconciliation is achieved through direct engagement, respect for governance structures, and empowering Indigenous communities to control their economic future.

Our policies will focus on fostering partnerships between First Nations and the private sector, unlocking opportunities in industries such as natural resource management, fisheries, forestry, and clean energy. Indigenous communities should be partners and leaders in British Columbia's economic future.

The Conservative Party of BC is the only party I have heard in this election address the federal government's failure to meet its constitutional obligations to provide adequate housing and clean water to Indigenous communities. If the federal government won't act, a John Rustad government will—and we will pursue reimbursement from Ottawa through all legal means.

Through real partnerships, respect for governance, and economic development, we are dedicated to a bright future for Indigenous peoples where cultural traditions are preserved, and communities lead the way in shaping British Columbia's economic success.

Thank you.

Adam

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Conservative Party of BC