

SUMMARY OF 2017 BC POLITICAL PARTY PLATFORMS

APRIL 2017



WHERE LEADERS MEET TO UNLOCK BC'S FULL POTENTIAL

This document is not a comprehensive listing of all commitments contained in the three platforms. It covers the platform proposals and commitments that Business Council policy staff judge to be most salient.

Full party platforms are available on each party's website at the following links:

- BC Liberal Party (<https://www.bcliberals.com/platform/>)
- BC New Democratic Party (<https://www.bcndp.ca/platform>)
- BC Green Party (<http://www.bcgreens.ca/platform>)

For commentary and analysis from the Business Council of BC on key aspects of the parties' election commitments, follow our [blog series](#) which will look at topics including fiscal policy, taxation, innovation, human capital and transportation.



Click on this icon throughout this document to be taken directly to relevant BCBC commentary, or visit www.BCBC.com.

TAXES, FEES AND FISCAL POLICY

FISCAL POLICY: BUDGET BALANCE AND RELATED

LIBERALS

- Commits to 4 balanced budgets
- Protect the Prosperity Fund
- Eliminate the operating debt by 2021
- Phase out BC Hydro's payment to government by 2022, starting in 2017

NDP

- Balance the budget in 2017/18
- A loose commitment to balance in the following two years - "but not at the expense of children, seniors, families..."

GREEN

- Proposed new expenditures exceed new revenue slightly in 2018/2019 and 2019/2020
- Note "new" revenue includes existing budget contingencies and projected surpluses so small deficits in the above noted years are likely
- Introduce a Fiscal Responsibility Act requiring the budget to be balanced on average over a government's term in office



[Click for BCBC Commentary:
Fiscal Planning and the Economic Cycle](#)

PROVINCIAL REVENUE: OVERVIEW

LIBERALS

- Same revenue projections as presented in Budget 2017
- No tax increases proposed in the platform
- Previously announced tax reductions (the largest being MSP reductions) are maintained in the platform

NDP

- Outlines an additional \$530 million in total revenue in 2017/18 and an additional \$1.15 billion and \$1.39 billion in the subsequent fiscal years
- Approximately 60% of the additional revenue comes from tax increases (see below)
- The other ~40% comes from reallocating existing money from the Prosperity Fund and from additional economic growth generated via new public infrastructure and "cutting waste"

GREEN

- Outlines an additional \$1.2 billion in fiscal 2017/18, followed by \$3.11 billion, \$4.0 billion and \$4.6 billion more revenue in the following three years
- Approximately 70% of the new revenue comes from tax increases (see below) while the remaining 30% is from the contingency allowance and existing fiscal room in Budget 2017 and "internal re-purposing"

BUSINESS TAXES

LIBERALS

- Maintain carbon tax freeze until 2021 while other provinces catch up
- Cut the small business tax rate to 2% (announced in Budget 2017)
- Eliminate PST on electricity for business (announced in Budget 2017)
- 50% MSP premium reduction in 2018, based on household income (many employers pay employee premiums)

NDP

- Corporate income tax rises to 12%, from 11%
- Match federally mandated carbon price increases to 2022
- Cut small business tax rate to 2%
- Promise to freeze BC Hydro rates; presumably also applies to businesses (although this is not specified)
- MSP premiums will be eliminated by end of the first term (benefitting employers who pay these for their employees)

GREEN

- Corporate tax rate up to 12%, from 11%
- Increase the carbon tax by \$10 per year for 4 years (starting in 2018)
- Eliminate "boutique tax credits"
- Extend carbon tax to fugitive and vented emissions (starting at \$10/ton)
- Apply carbon tax to slash pile burning
- Work with the federal government to streamline business and consumption taxes over time
- Roll MSP premiums into payroll and income taxes (this likely would impose new costs on employers)

TAXES, FEES AND FISCAL POLICY (CONT'D)

PERSONAL TAXES

LIBERALS

- 50% MSP premium reduction in 2018, for families and individuals with family net incomes up to \$120,000
- Freeze personal income tax rates for the next 4 years
- Introduce a new tax credit for car sharing services
- Introduce an Active Seniors tax credit
- Introduce Respite Tax Credit for people caring for seniors or family with disabilities
- \$3000 tax credit for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue workers

NDP

- Increase taxes on individuals with incomes over \$150,000
- Keep Budget 2017's 50% reduction in MSP premiums. Fully eliminate premiums within 4 years, and establish a panel to advise how to protect health care funding and provide needed revenues
- "Freeze BC Hydro rates" (likely for 1 year, but the platform does not specify)
- When carbon taxes rise to match federal mandate, rebates will be provided to 80% of families

GREEN

- Establish a working group to develop proposals to overhaul the tax system
- Increase share of tax contributed by those earning over \$108,460 per year (by 1% in 2017/18, rising to 3% in 2020/21)
- Roll MSP premiums into payroll tax and personal income taxes
- Introduce a sliding scale for Property Transfer Tax (PTT) from 0% to 12%
- Introduce a "Speculation PTT"



[Click for BCBC Commentary: MSP Premiums Commitments & the Potential for 55% Personal Income Tax Rates](#)

REAL ESTATE / HOUSING

LIBERALS

- \$700 million in the BC HOME Partnership program for down-payment assistance
- Expand Home Renovation Tax Credit eligibility for secondary suites
- Raise threshold for the First Time Home Buyers' program exemption to \$500,000
- Double the Home Renovation Tax Credit to \$20,000
- Increase housing supply by working with municipalities to speed up permitting

NDP

- Institute an annual \$400 renter's rebate
- Introduce an annual 2% absentee speculators' tax
- Establish a multi-agency task force to fight tax fraud and money laundering in the BC real estate market
- Pass legislation requiring fair tenant treatment during renovations and demolitions of rental property
- Build more affordable rental, non-profit, co-op and other housing units over 10 years

GREEN

- Expand the foreign buyers tax across the province and increase it to 30%
- Tax capital gains in excess of \$750,000 on principal residences for homes owned for less than 5 years
- Make the home owner grant income based (no details provided)
- Introduce a "progressive property tax system" (noted above)

FEES AND OTHER CHARGES AFFECTING INDIVIDUALS

LIBERALS

- Cap bridge tolls at \$500 annually
- Cap ICBC rate increase at 4.9% while an independent review is undertaken
- BCUC will limit BC Hydro rate increases at 2.6% per year in the medium term

NDP

- Eliminate all bridge tolls
- Stop a possible 42% increase in ICBC rates (not clear what rate increases would be allowed)
- Roll back ferry fares on small routes by 15%, freeze rates on major routes, and restore seniors' 100% weekday discount

GREEN

- Work with Metro Vancouver mayors to introduce a "rational tolling system"
- Design a basic income pilot to determine if it is an effective way to reduce poverty
- Require retailers to display tax included prices

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT

ROAD TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT

LIBERALS

- Introduce legislation to enable ridesharing companies to operate in BC
- Legislate a tax credit for people who use car sharing services
- Match federal funding for new public transit projects
- Increase funding to BC Transit and Handy-Dart services
- Increase transit in Sea-to-Sky corridor and study possibility of commuter rail
- Complete the George Massey Bridge
- Complete 6-laning and build interchanges between 216th and 264th
- Complete four-laning of Trans-Canada from Kamloops to Alberta

NDP

- On ride sharing, "... harness the benefits of ride-sharing services to build on the existing taxi system."
- Support the Mayors' Council vision for Metro Vancouver transportation
- Develop a new Translink governance model
- Eliminate the existing referendum requirement for new transit funding
- Work with Translink and BC Transit to improve HandyDART service
- Promote efforts to fix the E&N railway track for commuter rail use

GREEN

- Spend \$25 million annually to address frequency of service issues and ensure affordable fares in public transit
- Invest an additional \$152 million to match federal contributions for public transit infrastructure projects
- Examine tools such as mobility pricing to manage congestion in urban areas
- Suspend work on Massey tunnel replacement pending a review of alternatives

AIR AND PORT

LIBERALS

- Invest in local and regional airports
- Fund the development of the business case for an inland Ashcroft port terminal

NDP

- No significant commitments

GREEN

- No significant commitments

FERRIES

LIBERALS

- Provide a tax credit for ferry users; by 2020, establish a loyalty program for frequent users
- Re-introduce ferry service between Port Hardy and Bella Coola (2018 tourist season)

NDP

- Roll back ferry fares on secondary routes by 15%, freeze rates on major routes while a review is undertaken
- Restore seniors' free travel on weekdays
- "We will allow BC shipyards to bid competitively on every new ferry built"

GREEN

- Make BC Ferries a crown corporation again

OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

LIBERALS

- Early warning earthquake system for schools and hospitals

NDP

- Accelerate seismic upgrades to school buildings

GREEN

- Review current capital spending plans, including seismic upgrading of schools, to determine if they align with BC Green priorities

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT (CONT'D)

CAPITAL SPENDING: OVERALL

LIBERALS

- Committed to increasing capital spending by \$1.7 billion beyond what was previously planned (over 3 years) in Budget 2017, in part to fully leverage federal contributions

NDP

- Allocates an additional \$1.4 billion annually in new capital investments for the next five years starting in 2018
- Leverage federal contributions

GREEN

- Additional capital spending of \$50 million this fiscal year, followed by increases of around \$700 million in the subsequent 3 fiscal years
- Commitment to review current government's capital plan

SECTOR SPECIFIC POLICIES

TECH SECTOR

LIBERALS

- Provide an additional \$87 million towards the BC Tech Strategy
- Establish an Innovative Ideas Fund to encourage purchases of new technology products
- Change public sector procurement policies to support the use of innovative BC technologies
- Create a Centre for Data-Driven Innovation
- Reinvigorate Robson Square as centre of innovation

NDP

- Support the technology sector by "improving tax credits...and restoring the Innovative Clean Energy Program"
- Invest \$100 million to expand technology-related university and college programs
- Increase local technology companies' access to government IT contracts and related procurement

GREEN

- Invest \$35 million over 4 years to support talent development to grow the "green economy", plus another \$120 million on research and the commercialization of "climate friendly" technologies
- Establish an Innovation Commission to support innovation and business development in the tech sector
- Invest \$50 million in new incubators and accelerators for small and mid-sized tech firms

WINE / BEVERAGE INDUSTRY

LIBERALS

- Develop an international marketing strategy for BC wine, beer, cider
- Support a new wine centre of excellence in Penticton
- Maintain moratorium on the number of private liquor store licenses through 2022

NDP

- Establish a BC beer, wine and spirits advisory panel to work on increasing domestic sales of BC products
- Work to expand market access for BC wine across Canada and abroad

GREEN

- No significant commitments

TOURISM

LIBERALS

- Work with First Nations to double the number of Aboriginal tourism businesses by 2021
- Work with YVR to increase the number of international flights and carriers - target of 25 million passengers by 2020

NDP

- No significant commitments

GREEN

- No significant commitments

SECTOR SPECIFIC POLICIES (CONT'D)

FILM / TELEVISION / CREATIVE SECTOR

LIBERALS

- Expand the Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit to cover augmented and virtual reality commercial applications

NDP

- Expand BC's film labour tax credit to include BC writers
- Double investment in the BC Arts Council over 4 years
- Invest in an Arts Infrastructure Fund and leverage federal cultural infrastructure dollars
- Increase investment in Creative BC

GREEN

- No significant commitments

FORESTRY

LIBERALS

- Provide \$9 million for the Forest Carbon Initiative
- Commit \$5 million annually to grow markets in China and India through Forest Innovation Investment
- Promote more new tall-wood building construction, including by pushing other jurisdictions to allow them in their building codes
- Increase wood fibre utilization in the BC interior by 1 million cubic metres
- Increase the number of seedlings planted under the Forests for Tomorrow Program

NDP

- Offer incentives to BC builders who use engineered wood products and to companies starting innovative wood manufacturing operations
- “...find fair and lasting solutions that keep more logs in BC for processing”

GREEN

- Enact a modern, evidence-based BC Forest and Range Ecology Act
- Develop an Old-Growth Forest Inventory Act
- Place further restrictions on the export of raw logs
- Remove the PST from machinery and equipment purchased by sawmills and other value added wood processors (note: this exemption already exists)
- Establish a Forest Opportunities Panel to identify priorities for innovation

AGRICULTURE / AQUACULTURE

LIBERALS

- Provide \$5 million to the BC Tree Fruit industry for a replanting program in the Okanagan Valley
- Increase Grow Local and Buy Local programs
- Provide \$500,000 for research into closed containment finfish aquaculture
- New Centre for Salmon Research in Campbell River

NDP

- “...revitalize the land reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission...”
- “...help hospitals and care facilities increase their use of BC grown and processed foods...”
- Bring back an enhanced Buy BC marketing program
- Develop a BC Food Innovation Centre

GREEN

- Enhance protection of farm land and increase proportion of ALR land in use for agricultural purposes
- Allocate \$30 million to strengthen the long-term “viability of the agriculture sector...” and increase the BC-produced share of food consumed in the province

SECTOR SPECIFIC POLICIES (CONT'D)

MINING

LIBERALS

- Invest \$18 million for mine permitting and oversight improvements
- Target 8 new mines permitted, under construction or in operation by 2022
- Ensure nine upgrades/expansions to operating mines are permitted by 2020

NDP

- "...continued support of the mining flow-through share tax credit, the mineral exploration tax credit and by removing the PST from electricity used in mining." (all already in place)
- Establish a BC Mining Jobs Task Force to make jobs secure and mines viable as commodity prices fluctuate
- Expand role of the BC Geological Survey and use GeoScience and BCGS data to inform land use planning and partnerships with First Nations

GREEN

- No significant commitments

MANUFACTURING

LIBERALS

- Work to increase the number of BC advanced manufacturers accessing federal defense and security procurement by 20% by 2020

NDP

- No significant commitments

GREEN

- No significant commitments

HEALTH CARE

MSP

LIBERALS

- See above

NDP

- See above

GREEN

- See above

ACCESSIBILITY AND CORE SERVICES

LIBERALS

- \$2.7 billion towards new hospitals
- \$225 million over 3 years to reduce surgical wait times
- Increase the number of doctors graduating from BC medical programs to 400 a year by 2025
- Expand programs to fast-track international physicians into clinical practice in rural communities
- Train 500 additional nurses by 2022
- Work with provincial medical credentialing colleges to expand scope of practice of nurse practitioners in BC

NDP

- Establish new Urgent Family Care Centres to improve access to health professionals and reduce emergency room wait times

GREEN

- \$100 million for expansion of support for inter-professional, integrated primary care to be provided by a variety of health professionals



[Click for BCBC Commentary: MSP Premiums Commitments & the Potential for 55% Personal Income Tax Rates](#)

HEALTH CARE (CONT'D)

SENIORS CARE

LIBERALS

- \$500 million to ensure seniors in residential care facilities are provided with a minimum of 3.36 care hours/day
- Introduce an Active Seniors Tax Credit to support and promote seniors leading active and healthy lifestyles

NDP

- Strike an all-party Select Standing Committee on Seniors to examine the topic and make recommendations

GREEN

- \$200 million to address staffing in public senior care facilities

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

LIBERALS

- No significant commitments

NDP

- Work with federal government to develop a national pharmacare program and support efforts to bulk purchase medication

GREEN

- Develop a proposal to implement an essential drugs program beginning in 2019 to reduce costs of prescription drugs

MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS

LIBERALS

- Confirm \$165 million for youth mental health needs and substance abuse issues

NDP

- Create a Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

GREEN

- \$80 million to fund early intervention, youth mental health, supervised injection sites, and community centres for rehabilitation

EDUCATION

K-12

LIBERALS

- \$2 billion in capital spending over the next three years for K-12 schools
- Strive to secure another long-term contract with BCTF
- \$228 million to fund enrollment growth
- Improve Aboriginal high school completion rates, with a target of over 55% by 2020

NDP

- \$30 million/year to fund classrooms supplies and school equipment
- Comprehensive review of BC's current K-12 funding formula

GREEN

- Increase funding for public schools, beginning in 2017/2018 at \$220 million and rising to \$1.46 billion in 2020/2021
- Review the funding model for the K-12 public education system

EDUCATION (CONT'D)

POST-SECONDARY

LIBERALS

- Budget 2017 earmarked \$2.6 billion in capital spending by post-secondary institutions for new buildings and infrastructure renewal over 3 years
- Create 1000 new seats in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in BC post-secondary institutions by 2022
- Post-secondary tech-related degree program co-op placements will be doubled, and MITACs' student research program will be expanded by two-thirds to over 800 internships annually

NDP

- \$50 million over 2 years to create a new graduate student scholarship fund
- \$100 million to expand technology-related post-secondary programs

GREEN

- Invest up to \$20 million per year to support mentoring and networking at post-secondary institutions to promote entrepreneurship, leadership and business skills development

STUDENT AID & AFFORDABILITY

LIBERALS

- Maintain the current 2% cap on tuition and fee increases
- Lower the interest rate on student loans to the prime interest rate

NDP

- Cap tuition fees at universities and colleges
- Eliminate interest on student loans
- Establish a new \$1000 completion grant for graduates of college, university and skilled trades programs

GREEN

- Offer tax forgiveness of up to \$2,000/year for up to 5 years to assist graduates in repaying debt

SKILLS UPGRADING & ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

LIBERALS

- Complete the redirection of \$3 billion in training-related investments to focus on skills and direct more investments into programs for in-demand jobs by 2024
- Create a new Truck Logger Training Credit to help offset the cost to train people on the job
- Make permanent the BC Training Tax Credit
- Continue Canada-BC Jobs Grant to provide up to \$15,000 to offset the cost of training new employees in high demand occupations
- Continue to invest in the success of the Single Parent Employment Initiative with a goal of having 10,000 single parents apply for the program and 5000 starting jobs

NDP

- Eliminate fees for Adult Basic Education and ESL courses

GREEN

- \$10 million per year to ensure free adult basic education
- \$10 million per year for in-service skills training for workers in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and retraining for those displaced by automation or changing markets

HOUSING

SUPPLY

LIBERALS

- Work with post-secondary institutions to develop new student housing financing rules to allow student housing to be built without impacting the provincial debt load or credit rating

NDP

- Build 114,000 affordable rental, non-profit, co-op and owner-purchase housing units through partnerships, over 10 years
- Change regulations to allow colleges and universities to build affordable on- and near-campus rental housing, and ensure student renters receive the renter's rebate of \$400 per year

GREEN

- Invest \$750 million to support construction of approximately 4000 new units of affordable housing per year
- Protect existing social housing and reduce operating costs by investing \$100 million/year in retrofits and renovations of older units
- Introduce incentives for construction and/or conversion of existing buildings for rental property

TAX INITIATIVES

LIBERALS

- Double the Home Renovation Tax Credit to \$20,000 to make home improvements to accommodate seniors or family members with disabilities
- Extend Home Renovation Tax Credit eligibility to those renovating their home to accommodate a secondary suite
- No mention of Property Transfer Tax or further changes to foreign buyers' tax

NDP

- Introduce a 2% absentee owner speculators' tax

GREEN

- Enhance progressive nature of property transfer tax (PTT) by introducing a sliding scale from 0% on the first \$200,000 for a property's value, to 12% on properties valued over \$3 million
- Apply the PTT to the transfer of beneficial ownership
- Introduce a speculation PTT to discourage "flipping"
- Expand the foreign buyers' tax to apply across the province, and increase the rate to 30%
- Introduce measures to curtail lifetime capital gains tax exemption in excess of \$750,000 on principal residences
- Introduce a progressive property tax system that imposes a surtax based on property value and allows homeowners to credit rental income and their previous year's BC income tax against the surtax

AFFORDABILITY & HOUSING AID

LIBERALS

- Raise the threshold of the First Time Home Buyers' Program exemption to \$500,000
- Invest \$700 million in the BC HOME Partnership program to provide mortgage down payment assistance loans to more first-time home buyers over the next 3 years

NDP

- Provide a refundable renter's rebate of \$400 per rental household in BC each year.

GREEN

- Begin the transition from home owner grants (HOG) to a system of income-based grants, starting in 2019

SOCIAL POLICY & COMMUNITIES

INCOME AID & SECURITY

LIBERALS

- Develop a Low Income Families in Transition (LIFT) pilot program that provides temporary assistance to low-income single working parents so they can take time away from employment, or reduce hours, without financial penalty; and assist with training, childcare and transit costs while upgrading or acquiring new skills

NDP

- Raise all income assistance rates by \$100/month

GREEN

- Transition to liveable incomes with an increase in Persons with Disabilities, income assistance and shelter allowance rates

CHILD CARE

LIBERALS

- Increase investment in childcare by \$352 million
- Create 5,000 new child care spaces in 2017, with a goal of up to 13,000 spaces by 2020
- Invest \$120 million/year for the Child Care Subsidy program
- Maintain the BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit

NDP

- Bring in \$10 a day childcare over time (up to 10 years); part-time care for \$7 a day, with no fee for families with annual incomes below \$40,000 a year. The program will first focus on children under the age of two, before gradually expanding to cover other pre-kindergarten children

GREEN

- Raise early childhood education funding to \$1.4 billion by 2020/2021
- Phase in funding for a comprehensive program for ECE. The program would be treated as a taxable benefit, so that families with incomes over \$80,000 will pay tax on the benefit
- Provide free daycare for working parents with children under 3
- Up to 25 hours free early childhood education per week for 3&4 year-olds
- Up to \$500 per month for families with children under 3 and a stay at home parent

DISABILITY AID

LIBERALS

- \$199 million to increase the assistance rates for people with disabilities
- Introduce a Respite Tax Credit of up to \$2,500 for people caring for seniors or family members with disabilities

NDP

- Raise all disability assistance rates by \$100/month

GREEN

- Begin the transition to liveable incomes with an increase in Persons with Disabilities (PWD), income assistance and shelter allowance rates

LOW-INCOME BENEFITS

LIBERALS

- Increase the net income threshold for low-income individuals to \$19,749 to qualify for the BC Tax Reduction Credit

NDP

- Support social assistance recipients as they re-enter the workforce by allowing them to keep an additional \$200 a month in earnings exemptions

GREEN

- Work with the federal government to provide a low-income benefit of up to \$205/month for low-income families

SOCIAL POLICY & COMMUNITIES (CONT'D)

CHILDREN IN CARE

LIBERALS

- Invest \$70 million to keep First Nation families together and better support children currently in care

NDP

- Implement the recommendations from Grand Chief Ed John's report and provide better supports to keep Aboriginal children at home and out of care

GREEN

- Invest \$100 million over 4 years to enhance child protection services
- Introduce basic income support for youth aged 18-24 who are transitioning out of foster care. Estimated cost: \$60m/year

RURAL ECONOMY

LIBERALS

- [The BC Rural Dividend](#) will be extended, providing \$25 M/year to assist rural communities with a population of 25,000 or less to reinvigorate and diversify local economies
- Invest \$40 million to provide 100% high-speed internet connectivity for all British Columbians before 2021

NDP

- No significant commitments

GREEN

- No significant commitments

LABOUR AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS AND THE BC LABOUR CODE

LIBERALS

- Continue to secure long-lasting, fair, and affordable contracts with public-sector employees when contracts expire in 2019
- Maintain the current BC Labour Code

NDP

- No specific commitments. The word "labour" only appears once in the platform document. No mention of WorkSafe BC

GREEN

- No significant commitments

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

LIBERALS

- Ensure elected officials are subject to WorkSafeBC healthy workplace and anti-bullying regulations
- Amend the Employment Standards Act to protect people fleeing violent situations from losing their jobs
- By legislation, require WorkSafeBC to develop a policy that requires surplus funds be returned to employers

NDP

- Ensure employment standards are enforced in a way that recognizes the changing nature of the workplace
- Make workplace safety a priority, and enforce workplace safety rules
- Provide incentives to public sector employers to hire and train apprentices

GREEN

- No significant commitments

MINIMUM WAGE

LIBERALS

- No significant commitments

NDP

- Phase in a \$15/hour minimum wage by 2021. Then index the minimum wage to inflation

GREEN

- Establish an arm's-length fair wages commission to recommend a new minimum wage and oversee regular rate reviews

IMMIGRATION AND TALENT

TALENT ACQUISITION & REGULATION

LIBERALS

- Work with the federal government to increase the skilled tech talent immigrating to BC
- No mention of Provincial Nominee Program or temporary foreign worker program

NDP

- Work with the federal government to increase BC's quota under the Provincial Nominee Program and increase the province's control over the terms of qualification
- Improve processes to assess and recognize the credentials of foreign-trained professionals
- Bring in a Temporary Foreign Worker registry similar to Manitoba's to develop information to help protect workers
- End the collection of illegal recruitment fees from Temporary Foreign Workers

GREEN

- No significant commitments

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE

REGULATORY STREAMLINING

LIBERALS

- Maintain the net zero regulatory requirement: for any new regulation introduced, an existing one is removed

NDP

- Update environmental assessment legislation, including by recognizing the right to clean, safe drinking water, and also to require consideration of cumulative effects in EA reviews
- Assess mining applications with an improved, properly resourced approvals process

GREEN

- Review the environmental legislative framework to ensure the regulatory environment promotes the adoption of green technologies and practices

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

LIBERALS

- \$9 million for Environmental Management Act compliance and enforcement

NDP

- Establish an independent oversight unit for compliance/enforcement, and provide it with adequate resources

GREEN

- No significant commitments

LAND USE PLANNING

LIBERALS

- No significant commitments

GREEN

- No significant commitments

NDP

- Modernize land-use planning to sustainably manage ecosystems, rivers, lakes, watersheds, forests and old growth forests, while accounting for cumulative effects. Take an evidence-based scientific approach and use the ecosystem-based management of the Great Bear Rainforest as a model
- Expand the role of the BC Geological Survey (BCGS) and use GeoScience and BCGS data to inform land use planning initiatives in partnership with First Nations

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE (CONT'D)

CLIMATE CHANGE

LIBERALS

- Make sure the principles of affordability, competitiveness, and revenue neutrality are confirmed and respected as BC implements the Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change
- Maintain the carbon tax freeze until 2021, while other Canadian provinces catch up to BC's current \$30/ton tax
- Maintain the Low-Income Climate Action Tax Credit
- Ensure BC's energy-intensive, trade-exposed industries are fully protected from any potential increase in the carbon tax
- Affirm BC's climate change target of reducing 2007 greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050
- Work with the federal government to finance upstream oil and gas electrification, reforestation, and flood mitigation programs
- \$40 million for the Clean Energy Vehicle program
- Invest in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure upgrades

NDP

- When the carbon price goes up, BC will match the federal mandate. Create a new climate action rebate to offset the costs for low and middle-income families
- Affirm BC's legislated 2050 greenhouse gas emission reduction target and set a new legislated 2030 target of 40% below 2007 levels
- Establish separate sector reduction goals and related plans for transportation (30% emissions reduction by 2030), industry (30% reduction by 2030), and buildings and homes (50% reduction by 2030)

GREEN

- Amend the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act to reflect an interim target of a 40% reduction below 2007 levels by 2030
- Increase the carbon tax by \$10 per year for 4 years beginning January 2018
- Extend the carbon tax to fugitive and vented emissions. The initial rate will be \$10 per tonne rising to \$50 per tonne by 2021
- Apply the fugitive rate for the carbon tax, \$36 per tonne, to forest slash pile burning, starting January 1, 2020
- Establish an emissions reduction target for carbon neutral government, and allow public sector agencies to invest in internal emissions reductions, rather than requiring the purchase of external offsets to achieve carbon neutrality for government
- Promote choices with a lower carbon footprint, including a ZEV mandate, low emissions vehicle (LEV) subsidies, LEV infrastructure, congestion pricing, distance-based insurance and transferable licence plates where the second vehicle is zero emissions
- Introduce Energy Performance Certification for residential properties that verify the GHG footprint of the property, to enable home buyers to assess the energy efficiency of a home
- Implement a forest carbon strategy to take full advantage of the opportunities created by forest sinks
- Invest \$29 million over 4 years to enhance the scientific understanding of the effects of climate change in BC
- Facilitate modal switching, including by increasing investment and providing more predictable funding for public transportation; keeping public transit fares affordable; ensuring the frequency of public transit service meets passenger needs; boosting investment in walking and biking infrastructure; facilitating ride sharing, car sharing and other cooperative transportation initiatives; providing more charging and safe storage facilities for electric bicycles; and ensuring road configurations and commuter routes are friendly for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists
- Use government procurement to encourage the greening of businesses, products and processes; allocate \$20 million per year to support the adoption of green technology

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE (CONT'D)

WILDLIFE AND SPECIES AT RISK

LIBERALS

- \$27 million to support an enhanced provincial caribou recovery program to ensure caribou maintain self-sustaining populations

GREEN

- No significant commitments

NDP

- Ban the grizzly bear trophy hunt
- Bring in a BC endangered species law and harmonize other laws so they are all working towards the goal of protecting species
- Work with the federal government, South Okanagan communities, and local First Nations to create a plan to protect the large number of endangered species in that area, as the federal government develops a new national park
- Ensure dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat conservation
- Put all funds from hunting licenses and tags into a dedicated fund for wildlife and habitat conservation
- Ensure the salmon farming industry does not endanger wild salmon by implementing the recommendations of the Cohen Commission, keeping farm sites out of important salmon migration routes, and supporting research and transparent monitoring to minimize the risk of disease transfer from captive to wild fish

ENERGY

RENEWABLES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

LIBERALS

- No significant commitments

NDP

- Create a PowerBC program to consider renewable, modern energy sources for future energy needs. Bring investment in wind, solar and other clean energy projects back to BC

GREEN

- Work with neighbouring jurisdictions to expedite the phase out of thermal electricity generation
- Support the construction of a transmission line to Alberta to allow BC to export excess green power to Alberta

BC HYDRO

LIBERALS

- BC Hydro's 10-year rate plan submitted to the BCUC caps rates at 2.6% over the five years
- Phase out BC Hydro's payment to government by 2022, starting in 2017
- Restore the electricity intertie between BC and Alberta by partnering with the federal government
- Complete the new turbine installation at the Revelstoke Generating Station
- Encourage the use of biomass as a fuel for energy generation
- Complete the Site C dam

NDP

- PowerBC will protect BC Hydro customers from skyrocketing bills, protect the environment, respect First Nations land title, and ensure BC has access to clean, affordable electricity
- Revitalize BC Hydro programs to promote energy efficiency and "...launch new ones aimed at helping homeowners and businesses transform the places they live and work to make them healthier and more comfortable, while reducing energy bills and climate pollution"

GREEN

- Revisit the mandate of BC Hydro to optimise clean energy development, including grid storage for community or privately generated power

ENERGY (CONT'D)

LNG

LIBERALS

- Work towards getting 3 LNG facilities moving to construction by 2020
- Promote electrification in the LNG sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

NDP

- Require LNG projects meet 4 conditions - projects must offer jobs and training for British Columbians, especially local people; provide a fair return for our resources; secure full partnerships with local First Nations; and complete a made-in-BC environmental assessment

GREEN

- Green Party does not support developing an LNG industry in the province

CLEAN FUELS

LIBERALS

- Ensure BC natural gas expands as a transportation fuel by working with industry to re-establish fueling stations for heavy truck and fleet use
- Protect the ability of homeowners and businesses to use natural gas as an energy source across the province

NDP

- Appoint a scientific panel to review the practice of natural gas “fracking” to ensure that gas is produced safely and the environment is protected

GREEN

- Introduce progressively more stringent requirements to adopt low carbon fuels, including via fuel switching (residential, commercial, manufacturing), increased use of biofuels in transportation and industrial applications and phasing out diesel in urban delivery fleet with a diesel moratorium in 2025

PIPELINES

LIBERALS

- No significant commitments

NDP

- “...will use every tool in our toolbox to stop the Kinder Morgan project from going ahead.”

GREEN

- Green Party does not support the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion project

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

LIBERALS

- No significant commitments

NDP

- PowerBC (see above)

GREEN

- Adoption of international energy efficiency standards for machinery, appliances, buildings, industrial processes and fleet (mandatory), and communities (i.e., design)
- Introduce maintenance requirements for pipelines and enhance compliance and enforcement

FIRST NATIONS

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

LIBERALS

- Support First Nations' involvement in the forest sector by tripling enrollment in the First Nations Forestry Technical Training Program by 2019
- Support partnerships between First Nations and industry proponents to improve access to skills training and economic development opportunities
- Improve student outcomes for First Nation children to close gaps with non-First Nation students

NDP

- Mandate government training and apprenticeship programs to prioritize training for First Nations

GREEN

- No significant commitments

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

LIBERALS

- Help Indigenous businesses increase their participation as suppliers and sub-contractors of major industrial projects in communities across BC
- Work with Destination BC to expand and promote Aboriginal tourism opportunities

GREEN

- No significant commitments

NDP

- Seek partnerships with First Nations in meeting renewable energy targets through the proposed PowerBC program
- Work with First Nations to reduce conflict by ensuring decisions affecting land, air and water respect the law and allow all British Columbians to benefit from the sustainable development of natural resources
- Recognize and support the work of organizations working to increase First Nations' participation in mining, forestry, technology, manufacturing, fishing and energy
- Negotiate with First Nations leadership and communities about expanding opportunities for them to benefit from BC's gaming industry

CHILD WELFARE

LIBERALS

- Implement the recommendations from Grand Chief Ed John's report
- Increase the number of First Nation staff in the Ministry of Children & Families

NDP

- Implement the recommendations from Grand Chief Ed John's report and provide better supports to keep Aboriginal children at home and out of care
- Ensure Delegated Aboriginal Agencies are supported to offer core services at the same level offered to non-Aboriginal children

GREEN

- No significant commitments

RECONCILIATION AND CULTURE

LIBERALS

- No significant commitments

NDP

- Develop, in consultation with First Nations, a curriculum for Indigenous languages and for Indigenous history
- Provide support to Indigenous communities seeking to revitalize connections to their languages
- Provide reliable, dedicated funding and support for Friendship Centres

GREEN

- No significant commitments

FIRST NATIONS (CONT'D)

HOUSING

LIBERALS

- No significant commitments

NDP

- Seek partnerships with First Nations as part of our commitment to build 114,000 quality housing units in the next ten years

GREEN

- No significant commitments

UNDRIP

LIBERALS

- No significant commitments

NDP

- Adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Include in Ministers' mandate letters a requirement that they review policies, programs and legislation to determine how to bring the principles of the Declaration to action in British Columbia

GREEN

- No significant commitments