



**Restore Confidence.  
Rebuild BC.**

## BC Mining Law Reform Network — 2020 Election Questions

- 1. Increase community input, influence and collaboration in decision making before mining occurs** - B.C.'s current mineral staking system does not respect private property or First Nations rights, and leaves little room for local communities to influence tenures. *Will your party support updating the Mineral Tenure Act (MTA) like Ontario, Quebec, and NWT in recent years, including the need to modernize the Act to be compatible with today's values and the BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' Act (DRIPA)?*

The BC Liberals are committed to improving the process for mine development, permitting, inspection and remediation, while cutting permit-processing time in half. We will also ensure certainty on the land base for industries, municipalities and Indigenous peoples by working with Indigenous communities and other key groups to review land use plans for gaps and conflict-points, with the intent to update, modernize and create certainty for all in a sustainable resource management framework.

We will do this while addressing the issues of economic and social inequality faced by Indigenous peoples. A BC Liberal government will work to clearly define how the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) relates to land use decisions and existing case law regarding title held by Indigenous peoples and the right to self-determination.

- 2. Protect waters and sensitive areas from mining activities** - As British Columbians, we value nature, fresh water and healthy ecosystems. There are some areas that should be off limits to mining and other industrial development, especially for the disposal of toxic mine waste. *Does your party support land-use planning and the creation of no-go zones for mining activities to put the safety of communities and watersheds first? Will you require mines to fully treat their wastewater and put an end to approving mines that would require such water treatment in perpetuity?*

Our natural environment and fresh water are valuable to all British Columbians, and we want to protect these things for future generations to enjoy.

*A BC Liberal Government will:*

- Ensure certainty on the land base for industries, municipalities and Indigenous peoples by working with Indigenous communities and other key groups to review land use plans for gaps and conflict-points, with the intent to update, modernize and create certainty for all in a sustainable resource management framework.
- Implement wetland protection, and expansion where feasible, to ensure no net loss of wetlands in BC.
- Take more aggressive control of invasive species in BC lakes and habitat.

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- Implement a robust program to engage the public to significantly reduce plastic and Styrofoam waste in our oceans and waterways.
- Accelerate reforestation programs with priority to high-value fish-impact watershed reclamation.
- Appoint a Minister responsible for Fisheries and Coastlines to enhance and protect our water and fish resources.
- Adopt robust salmon and steelhead conservation measures before it's too late to save these iconic species.
- Implement enhancements to Okanagan Lake Water Level Management for flood control and mitigation.

**3. Enforce the polluters-pay principle and ensure long-term benefits** - We recently learned that the Tulsequah Chief mine will cost taxpayers upwards of \$100 million for clean-up and long-term maintenance and monitoring. The BC Chief Inspector of Mines' reported a \$1.2 billion unfunded taxpayer liability for contaminated mine sites cleanup costs in the Province. *What is your party's position on implementing full bonding for mine clean-up to ensure that the polluter actually pays, including in the event of mine waste spills and for the perpetual monitoring of mine waste sites?*

Mining companies in British Columbia are liable for reclamation costs of mine sites. As a condition of the Mines Act (Sections 10.4 and 10.5), a financial security is required for all or part of the outstanding costs associated with the mine reclamation and the protection of land, watercourses and cultural resources. Statutory decision-makers determine the amount of the security bonds required for each mine.