



BC ELECTION 2020 QUESTIONS FOR POLITICAL PARTIES

With the COVID-19 crisis, governments around the world are looking at ways to reboot their economies while making them more resilient and sustainable. While *mining* contributes to B.C.'s economy, it can also bring significant costs to taxpayers and long-lasting environmental impacts if poorly managed. The transition to clean technologies (e.g. wind, solar, batteries) will increase the demand for certain metals and minerals, many of which mined in B.C. Our job is to do it right and responsibly, and not repeat the mistakes of the past.

In 2019, we launched the [BC Mining Law Reform \(BCMLR\)](#) initiative to promote changes to mining laws and practices to ensure they are environmentally sound and bring long term benefits to affected communities and all British Columbians. The network is a not-for-profit, public interest initiative which today includes nearly 30 local, provincial and national organizations from a wide range of sectors, collectively representing tens of thousands of British Columbians.

We are asking each political party to answer the following three questions before Sunday, October 18th, at midnight. Answers from each political party will be shared with our network partners throughout the province, as well as on our online platforms during the week of October 19th, 2020, in accordance with B.C. electoral laws. Feel free to provide your answers in a separate document to be sent to info@reformbcmine.ca, or to fill-in this [online survey](#) if you prefer. Thank you in advance for your collaboration.

QUESTIONS (see online survey if you prefer and fact sheet for more information)	ANSWERS (YES / NO / PARTIALLY - PLEASE EXPLAIN)
<p>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. <i>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)?</i></p>	<p>One of the proudest moments of our government was the introduction of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). Section 7 of DRIPA has set the table for more meaningful shared decision making. If re-elected, we will ensure key decisions on regional land and resource use allocation will include and partner with First Nations to provide a clear, stable and sustainable path for everyone to work together. Reviewing the MTA will be included as part of our DRIPA implementation action plan.</p>
<p>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. <i>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</i></p>	<p>We revitalized BC's environmental assessment process to ensure local and Indigenous communities are involved in the process. The changes we made also ensure environmental, economic, social,</p>

<p><i>require mines to fully treat their wastewater and put an end to approving mines that would require such water treatment in perpetuity?</i></p>	<p>cultural and health effects are fully assessed when a major project is being considered in BC. Our platform also commits to implementing a watershed security strategy on page 29: "Protecting clean water for now and tomorrow: We will protect clean water in British Columbia by creating a watershed security strategy to plan, manage and protect local watersheds for the public good."</p>
<p>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. <i>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?</i></p>	<p>Our platform makes this exact commitment on page 29: "Making polluters pay for cleanup of abandoned projects: We'll make sure owners of large industrial projects are bonded moving forward, so that they – and not BC taxpayers – pay the full cost of environmental cleanup if their projects are abandoned."</p>

Thank you! info@reformbcmining.ca