

B.C Election 2017

This matrix covers only the platform policies related to residential construction, labour issues, and transit. It is not an exhaustive list of all proposals, and members should also consult the specific party platforms for full platform information on all issues. Language was taken directly from the party platform online documents.

Issue	B.C. Liberal Party	B.C. New Democratic Party	B.C. Green Party
Transit (Costs or Funding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capping bridge tolls at \$500 annually for commuters • New tax credit for BC Ferries users in ferry dependent communities • New BC Ferries loyalty program for frequent users, and improved wi-fi • Matching the federal government’s \$2.2 billion investment in Metro Vancouver transit and \$333 million for BC Transit • Negotiate with all three levels of government on project specifics, with the Surrey LRT and Broadway Line as two top priorities. • Work constructively with the Mayor’s Council to move forward on their 10-year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transportation. • Assess a study on the use of the E&N railway corridor • Increase transit in the Sea-to-Sky corridor and the possibility of commuter rail to Vancouver. • Complete construction of George Massey replacement Bridge, Alex Fraser Bridge capacity improvements, and other infrastructure projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to funding 40 per cent of the capital costs of every phase of the plan, in partnership with all levels of government. This means important projects like the Broadway SkyTrain, rapid transit in Surrey, replacing the Pattullo bridge, and adding essential bus service and improving road networks will all go forward. • Support the Mayors’ Council 10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver • Develop a new Translink governance model, including removing the referendum requirement • Lead efforts to fix the E&N railway tracks for commuter rail in the capital region • Build, maintain and upgrade highways across the province, including Highway 1 to Alberta • In urban and suburban centres, build near transit hubs. • Roll back ferry fares 15% on small routes, freeze fares on major routes, bring back senior’s discount. • Eliminate tolls on the Port Mann and Golden Ears bridges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a new 10-year transportation plan focused on affordable, clean transportation for British Columbians. • Provide an additional \$25 million per year of funding for public transit to address frequency of service and affordable fares. • An additional \$152 million in capital expenditures to fully match the federal contribution of \$460 million for public transit infrastructure. • Support the Mayors Council’s 10-year plan to upgrade Metro Vancouver’s transportation system. • Use tools such as mobility pricing to manage congestion and generate funds for public transportation upgrades. • Promote investment in clean transportation initiatives and technology that creates jobs and economic activity without increasing greenhouse gas emissions. • Promote choices with a lower carbon footprint. Initiatives will include transportation demand management strategies to reduce driving and encourage modal switching • Develop criteria for sustainability analysis of transportation investments, which will include consideration of cumulative impacts • Bring B.C. Ferries back into Government as a crown corporation, and will conduct a full review of B.C. Ferries operations

<p>Market Housing/Taxes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double the Renovation Tax Credit to accommodate for people with disabilities and seniors to \$20,000 • Include secondary suites as part of the Renovation Tax Credit • Raise the first-time home buyers threshold for the property transfer tax to \$500,000, saving buyers up to \$8,000 • Working with municipalities to speed up permitting and open up new opportunities for housing • Continue the BC HOME Partnership program to provide down-payment assistance loans to qualified first-time home buyers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a multi-agency tax force to fight tax fraud and money laundering. • Two per cent absentee speculators tax and direct revenue into a Housing Affordability Fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Federal government to introduce measures to eliminate money laundering and international property speculation from the B.C. residential real estate market. • Work with financial institutions and the federal government to develop protections for recent homebuyers who are negatively affected by market cooling initiatives. • Lead a comprehensive rethink of zoning to ensure that it is consistent with government objectives such as the provision of affordable housing. Issues for consideration include densification, especially along transit corridors; revitalizing neighbourhoods surrounding schools; cultural and social amenities; and complete communities. • Introducing a sliding scale of rates for the property transfer tax from 0% on the first \$200,000 of property's value, to 12% on property value over \$3.0 million. For properties under \$1 million, PTT will decline. • Introduce a "speculation" PTT to discourage flipping of property. • Expand the foreign buyers tax to apply across the province, and increase the rate to 30% in addition to the PTT payable. • Introduce measures to tax lifetime capital gains in excess of \$750,000 on principal residences. • Transition from home owner grants (HOG) to a system of income-based grants starting in 2019. • Introducing 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 B.C. income tax against the surtax.
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<p>Affordable/Social/Rental Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with post-secondary institutions to develop new student housing financing rules that allow student housing to be built without impacting the provincial building code • Continue support for RAP and SAFER to assist low-income families • Continue to provide support to senior households that receive assistance • Maintain the ability of seniors and homeowners with financial support a child to defer all or part of their property tax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build 114,000 rental and co-op homes. These homes will be affordable rental, non-profit, co-op and owner-purchase housing units through partnerships over 10 years. Dedicated to a mix of students, singles, seniors, families and range from supported social housing to market rental housing. • New student housing will be built by removing rules that prevent universities and colleges from building student homes. • Province-wide homeless count and reduce homeless population through action plan on housing • Provide renters an annual rental home credit of \$400. • End fixed-term lease “loophole” and enforce rent control increase • Impose legislation requiring fair treatment during renovations and demolitions of rental properties. • Provide local government with the tools to zone areas for rental housing • Tax short-stay home rentals that take properties out of the rental pool. • Expand SAFER rent program, providing seniors with monthly cash payments for rent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing up to \$750 million per year in capital expenditures to construct approximately 4,000 new units of affordable housing per year. • Work with Federal and Local governments to make land available for the construction of affordable housing. • Work with social housing agencies and Federal and Local governments to develop and implement a provincial housing plan to address deficiencies in the supply of affordable rental accommodation based on priority needs. • Protect existing social housing and reduce operating costs by investing \$100 million per year in retrofits and renovations of older units. • Enhance the provisions of the Residential Tenancy Act to control rent increases, and to protect tenants from tenure termination that will result in the loss of affordable accommodation. • Work with B.C. Housing to enable the inclusion of private rental properties in their directly managed portfolio of affordable accommodation. • The B.C. Green Party Affordable Homes Strategy will also maintain or enhance existing housing support programs in the context of the suite of initiatives to address income insecurity. • Introduce incentives for the construction or conversion of existing buildings into rental.
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<p>Training & Trades</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redirecting \$3 billion in training investments for skills better aligned with in-demand labour • One stop for student applications with one point of entry for all post-secondary institutions. • Within the BC Rural Economic Development Strategy, making targeted trades and training investments in rural communities to develop talent that supports local industry needs and the development of a more diversified regional economy. • Continue the Canada-BC Jobs Grant to provide up to \$15,000 to offset the costs of training new employees in high-demand occupations • Make permanent the BC Training Tax Credit program that provides employers with an incentive to hire and train apprentices • Lower the interest rates on student loans to prime interest rate • Maintain the 2% cap on tuition and fee increases at provincial universities, colleges and technical institutions • Change how eligibility is assessed to exclude assets for students not residing with parents/spouse to allow the loan limit to be increased • 50% tuition rebate for Canadian Armed Forces veterans to help them upgrade their post-secondary education and transition into civilian life • Support partnerships between First National and industry proponents for improved access to skills training and economic development opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand BC's apprenticeship and trades training programs. Mandate apprentice-ship ratios on government-funded projects. • More incentives for public sector employees to hire and train apprentices. • Strengthening credentialing requirements with this new training. • Increase the number of skilled First Nations and local hiring on government projects. • Incentives to employers to increase the number of women in apprenticeships. • All current and future student loans are interest-free. • Provide \$1000 grant to college/university/skilled trades graduates to pay down debt after finishing • Eliminate fees for Adult Basic Education/ESL courses. • Cap tuition fees at colleges/universities. • Improve processes to assess and recognize the credentials of foreign-trained professionals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 million per year for free adult basic education • Need-based grants for post-secondary students • Tax forgiveness of up to \$2,000 a year for five year to assist qualifying graduates to repay outstanding tuition fee debts. • Set up a task-force on post-secondary education funding to find ways to make it more relevant, accessible and affordable • \$10 million per year for in-service skills training for workers in small and medium sized enterprises, and re-training those displaced by automation or changing markets • Support \$65 million over 4 years to support co-op and work experience programs for high school and undergraduate students • Establish an Emerging Economy task force to address the changing nature of business over the next 10-25 years • Invest \$20 million to support ideation, mentoring and networking at post-secondary institutions to promote entrepreneurship, leadership and business skill development
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<p>Energy-Efficiency related to housing/ Wood Building Products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the carbon tax freeze until 2021, while other provinces catch up to B.C.'s \$30/tonne rate • Promote more tall wood building construction, including pushing other jurisdictions to allow them in their building codes. • Diversify wood product range by supporting non-traditional uses of wood and wood-fibre through the Wood First Program. • Protect the ability of homeowners and businesses to use natural gas as an energy source across the province • Maintain the Low-Income Climate Action Tax Credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency retrofits to public buildings and residential homes • In urban and suburban centres, build near transit hubs. • Investing in public building upgrades for energy-efficiency • Continue the Innovative Clean Energy Fund • Incentives to BC Builders that use engineered wood products, and maximize the use of wood products in infrastructure projects like schools, hospitals and rental housing construction • Launch a jobs initiative in clean energy and energy-efficiency • When the carbon price increases to match the federal mandate, introduce a new climate action rebate cheque for low and middle-income families. • Renew Climate Leadership Panel within the first 100 days to work towards implementing the full suite of recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full analysis of GHG implications and mitigation strategies in development applications • Requiring Official Community Plans to include a GHG emissions reductions plan • Providing expertise and support to communities for the implementation of district heating initiatives. • Working with local governments to require that GHG emissions from new construction and major renovations are minimized in a manner that takes account of regional variations. • Providing funding for independent energy efficiency audits of private dwellings, that include an analysis of the viability of alternative energy solutions to inform homeowners of the options available to them for reducing the dwelling GHG footprint • Facilitating the amortisation of the costs of renovations that reduce the GHG footprint of a home, through mechanisms such as on-bill financing, and repayment through property taxes. • Implement a home retrofit program • Introduce Energy Performance Certification for residential properties, that verifies the GHG footprint of the property. Home buyers would then be able to assess the energy efficiency of a home as part of their purchase decision. • Eliminate the PST from purchases of machinery and equipment to modernize sawmills and other value added wood processing. • Encourage more innovation regarding non-traditional uses of wood and wood fibre, and to promote advanced wood technologies and building systems
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<p>Other Housing Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing up for B.C. on softwood issue, including the impacts of unfair anti-dumping duties. • New Surrey Charter to recognize Surrey as one of the fastest growing cities in Canada • Work with industry and labour to establish a licensing system with mandatory certification for all asbestos removal companies wishing to operate in BC • New tax credit for worker equipment, including items such as safety boots. • Legislate WorkSafeBC to develop a policy that requires surplus funds be returned to employers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalize the land reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission for the 21st century • Ensure employment standards are applied evenly, and enforced in a way that recognizes the changing workplace • Make workplace safety a priority, and enforce workplace safety rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing programs to ensure they are supporting innovation and new business models in the emerging economy • Modernize labour laws to recognize new and evolving types of work relationships with a more fair, responsive and inclusive code that contributes to increased competitiveness
<p>Business Taxes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal income tax freeze • Phasing out PST on electricity for all businesses, like for homes • Small business tax cut to 2% • Moving to eliminate MSP over the long term, starting with cutting premiums in half for families and individuals with family net income of up to \$120,000 per year. • Increase minimum wage in a stable, affordable and predictable way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support BC small business with a half-point cut to the small business tax rate. • Increase corporate income tax by 1% from 11% to 12% • Bring back income tax bracket for incomes above \$150,000. • Freeze BC Hydro/ICBC rates • Eliminate MSP fees • \$15/hr minimum wage by 2021, with increases each year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a basic income pilot to test its ability to reduce poverty, improve health, housing and employment • Eliminate MSP by rolling it into payroll and personal income tax • Establish an arms-length fair wages commission to recommend a new minimum wage and oversee rate reviews • Simplify the tax system to achieve goals such as greening the economy and promoting entrepreneurship/innovation