

2024 Provincial Election Platform Highlights
Prepared by the GVBOT policy and advocacy team

GVBOT Priorities/Data*	B.C. NDP (platform)	B.C. Conservative (platform)	B.C. Green (platform)
Ease of doing business/red tape <i>*81% of members say the province is not doing enough in business affordability and cost of doing business</i> <i>*Source: GVBOT B.C. Votes Election Survey Results, released on October 2, 2024</i>	Complete and implement an “ease of doing business” review. Modernize liquor laws and licensing, based on the Ontario model.	Reduce the provincial regulatory burden by at least 25% over its first term, with a Minister responsible for Red Tape Reduction and Deregulation. Introduce a red-tape reduction law which requires the elimination of one regulation for every new one introduced.	Improve access to credit and capital for new farmers. Tax credits for companies that participate in a 4-day work week.
Fiscal health/prudence <i>*78% of members say it's somewhat to very urgent for the province to return to balanced budget</i>	Ensure debt-to-GDP remains among the lowest in Canada.	Conduct a Respect for Taxpayers Audit. Differentiate between public and private sector jobs in all government communications and statistics. Require approval from voters via a referendum or election campaign for any new tax.	Undertake a systematic review of British Columbia's entire tax and transfer system.
Business tax <i>*Economic/business friendly policies and taxation are ranked as the top priority for GVBOT members in the 2024 provincial election</i>	Increase the Production Services Tax Credit and Film Incentive BC refund to 36% to hire B.C. film workers.	Cut small business taxes to 1%, with a path to 0% when finances allow.	Introduce an additional marginal tax rate for corporate revenue above \$1 billion per year, of 18%.

Housing <i>*Housing is the 2nd top issue for GVBOT members. 85% say housing affordability challenges have some to significant impact on business</i>	Encourage municipal partnerships to build more housing through a new local infrastructure investment fund that's tied to housing starts. Allow additional height for all new co-op, non-profit and public rental housing. Prioritize the construction of affordable, nonmarket housing near new SkyTrain and rapid bus stations. Double construction apprenticeship training. Remove the “no pet” clauses for purpose-built rental apartment buildings. Implement the Opening Doors to Homeownership plan, where the government will finance 40% of the home purchase price.	Introduce the “Rustad rebate” by exempting \$1,500 per month in rent, mortgage interest, and strata fees starting Budget 2026, and increase by \$500 per year until reaching \$3,000. Shorten approval timelines to 6 months for a rezoning and development permit, and 3 months for a building permit Repeal the Step Code, the “Net-Zero” mandate, and Bill 44. Conduct a forensic audit into BC Housing. Create the Civic Infrastructure Renewal Fund – available to municipalities whose zoning allows for viable small-scale multi-unit housing on at least 2/3 of residential land. Amend Bill 47 to ensure each new transit-oriented community is providing space for grocery stores and small businesses. Work with the federal government to reintroduce a MURB tax incentive program.	Apply a 2% tax on residential property values over \$3M and double existing provincial property tax rates for homes valued above \$3M, \$4M, and \$7M. Provide \$1.5 billion annually to construct 26,000 new units of non-market housing each year, with 3,000 units dedicated for Indigenous Peoples. Improve efficiency and transparency at BC Housing. Provide \$650 million annually in infrastructure funding to municipalities. Introduce legislation to formally recognize housing as a fundamental human right. Implement regulations to curb the impact of short-term rentals on the availability of long-term affordable housing. Advocate for federal legislation to ban the sale of residential units to REITs.
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		Allow DCCs to be paid upon project completion, and prevent DCCs from being set at rates in excess of the “growth pays for growth” principle.	
Permit approvals <i>*64% of members say the province is not doing enough in reducing permitting processes in municipalities</i> <i>*47% say provincial permitting has worsened over the past 5 years</i>	Guarantee permit review timelines for priority critical mineral projects. Create a standardized, province-wide online municipal building permit system.	Target cities to reduce approval times for building permits and business licenses, by publishing benchmarks and wait times to hold cities accountable. Introduce a “One-permit, one-process” model for projects.	Simplify and expedite the permitting process by appointing a single regulatory authority within the Ministry of Energy. Transfer water licensing and permitting authority back to the Water Stewardship Branch.
Productivity <i>GVBOT 2024 benchmarking Greater Vancouver report shows that the region ranks 14th among 20 cities for Prosperity factors.</i>	n/a	Work with employers to improve the incentive structure for training and for making investments in technology that enhances worker productivity.	Support pilot programs for a four-day work week by partnering with interested businesses to collect and track data on productivity, employee wellbeing, and employer satisfaction.
Industrial lands/local production <i>*44% of members say the province is not doing enough in protecting and ensuring availability of industrial land</i>	Establish a new Industrial Land Reserve. Inventory existing industrial lands and carry out a land-use needs assessment that anticipates growing economic needs and clean up and revitalize vacant industrial sites.	Review the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) & Launch land access incentives, providing tax relief or subsidies for small farmers renting land. Increase local food processing and expand the Buy BC program. Support a Made-In-BC manufacturing boom by addressing	Make food production and food security part of the Agricultural Land Commission’s (ALC) mandate to protect and prioritize agricultural use. Restrict and regulate foreign ownership of Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land to ensure that farmland remains in local

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	Increase the amount of food processed in B.C.	the shortage of industrial land, and developing a clear pathway to ending the unfair and outdated practice of “taxes on taxes” which inhibits the development of supply chains in BC.	hands and supports food security. Invest \$9 million to bolster local food systems.
Jobs & Talent <i>The GVBOT outlined a comprehensive list of recommendations to the provincial and federal governments in our 2023 labour report</i>	Create a clean energy labour market strategy. Double construction apprenticeship training. Advance Indigenous education and training opportunities. Expand the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund.	Direct more post-secondary funding to programs that give students the skills to succeed in tech and that enhance BC’s research & development capacity. Direct a greater share of postsecondary funding to programs that prepare students for the in-demand occupations of both today and tomorrow. Expand remote learning options. Work with employers to improve the incentive structure for training and for making investments in technology that enhances worker productivity.	Invest \$20 million annually for education and training programs to address the skills shortage in the renewable energy sector and to retrain oil and gas workers. Introduce a careers program for the F&B, and hospitality sector. Collaborate with the Construction Association to promote trades as a career option. Fund training and upskilling programs to support workers finding new job opportunities.
Healthcare <i>*22% of members rank healthcare as a top issue in the election survey.</i> <i>*70% support private sector involvement in healthcare delivery if</i>	Speed up care from out-of-province health providers by requiring B.C.’s health regulatory colleges to issue provisional licenses immediately for Canadian-trained providers and within six weeks for those from approved jurisdictions. Complete a full review of Health	Implement European-style Activity Based Funding. Implement the Patients First Wait Time Guarantee for select diagnostics and surgical procedures. Pay for patients in the public system to receive quality health care	Remove sales of tobacco from British Columbia pharmacies, and eliminate all advertising of vaping and nicotine products. Review the Health Authority model, with a focus on creating a single health authority for

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<i>universal public insurance is maintained.</i>	Authorities with the goal of driving down costs. Build more UPCCs (Urgent & Primary Care Centres) in high demand areas and the hours of UPCCs to include nights. Increase job protected leave to 27 weeks from the current eight day for patients with a major medical condition diagnosis. Ban employers and other service providers from requiring a “doctor’s note” for short absences due to illness.	services in non-governmental clinics for specific priority procedures and diagnostic services. Publicly-funded partnerships with non-governmental clinics. Build a new Children's Hospital in Surrey. Provide Eagle Ridge Hospital with its first MRI machine. Construct a new patient care tower at UHNBC. Deliver 5,000 long-term care beds province-wide by 2030.	province. Legislate to remove the requirement for doctors’ notes for short-term illnesses. Review and remove barriers for externally-trained health professionals. Reinstate the Provincial Chief Nursing Officer role to advocate for the nursing profession. Require health authorities to collect and share data for workforce planning, ensuring alignment with educational institutes.
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Other issues

Issue	B.C. NDP	B.C. Conservative	B.C. Green
Clean economy/carbon tax	Create a clean economy transition fund. Remove B.C.’s carbon tax if the federal government removes its national requirement.	Remove B.C.’s carbon tax.	Keep carbon tax but increase rebate.
Public safety <i>*23% of members rank crime and public safety as a top issue in the</i>	Enhance the seizure of proceeds of organized crime.	Create a new statutory court to hold trials for minor criminal offenses.	Create an all-party select standing committee to oversee policing and

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<i>election survey. 65% say their businesses have been impacted by public safety.</i>	Protect vulnerable groups with new, tough hate crime legislation.	Toughen the Charge Assessment Guidelines.	community safety in British Columbia.
Public transit/infrastructure <i>*Top 3 GVBOT priority infrastructure projects (2024 Election Survey Results)</i> 1. Highway 1 2. Rapid transit to the North Shore 3. Surrey Langley Skytrain	Complete the SkyTrain to Langley. SkyTrain or light rail to the North Shore. Free transit for seniors during off peak hours. Advance work on flood prevention in the Sumas Prairie through integrating flood mitigation infrastructure with highway 1 expansion. Move forward the next leg of Fraser Valley Highway 1 Corridor Improvement Project. Complete the Broadway subway project to U.B.C.	Extend SkyTrain to Newton in Surrey. No road pricing or tolls. Replace the George Massey Tunnel as soon as possible. Expand the new Patullo Bridge to six lanes. Expand highway 1 to six lanes to Chilliwack. New bridge across Okanagan lake.	Free transit for everyone. Immediate funding for TransLink to maintain and expand service levels in 2025.
Immigration <i>*72% say the province's efforts are not meeting services and infrastructure needs for population growth</i>	Lobby Ottawa to reallocate immigration policy and funding to the provincial government.	Take all constitutionally permitted steps within the immigration system to nominate and accelerate applications for medical professionals.	/
Indigenous Reconciliation	Advance Indigenous education and training opportunities.	Provide loan guarantees to assist First Nations in acquiring equity positions in natural resources and other major commercial projects.	Review the Land Act to ensure its alignment with the inherent rights of First Nations peoples and the

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	Continue the shared work of the Declaration Act Action Plan.	Return 20% of BC's forests to First Nations. Invest in the capacity-building, infrastructure, and regulatory changes required. Honour the UNDRIP as it was intended. In partnership with First Nations, develop new legislation to advance economic reconciliation and Indigenous economy.	Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Recognize all Indigenous governments formed in alignment with the principles of Indigenous self-determination.
Education & Childcare	Expand \$10 a day childcare. Spend \$500 million over the next two years to create new childcare spaces.	Expand \$10 a day childcare. Create 24-hour childcare spaces for shift workers and first responders.	Deliver \$10 a day childcare. Introduce a universal ECE funding model.
Opioid crisis	Build B.C.'s first-ever Addictions Treatment Centre for construction workers.	Toughen the Charge Assessment Guidelines. End drug decriminalization. Immediately ban all illicit drug use in BC's emergency rooms and hospitals. Introduce province-wide, robust drug education programs, focusing on children, youth, and young adults.	Continue the expansion of supervised consumption services and evaluate mobile overdose prevention services to reduce access barriers. Require all public hospitals to include spaces for safe, supervised consumption of substances, with capacity for inhalation.

Forestry	Complete a full review of B.C. Timber sales. Review the stumpage system.	Define the land area that will be prioritized for the harvest of primary forest products. Replace stumpage with a value-added end product tax. Undertake a core review of all factors contributing to B.C.'s uncompetitive cost structure. Support utilization of wood fibre for power generation and other secondary products.	Review the tenure and appraisal system to encourage best practices and partial cutting in forestry.
Tech <i>*Top measures members would like to see:</i> 1. Investing in cybersecurity 2. Upskilling and training for current employees 3. Investing in businesses' ability to adopt new technologies 4. New AI training programs for post-sec students 5. Invest in digital connectivity	Leverage emerging AI technology to ease administration costs and burdens in key program areas that require the review of large amounts of non-sensitive data.	Boost access to capital for early-stage firms. Develop a B.C. AI strategy. Support local AI model training. Ensure ethical AI governance.	n/a
Poverty/homelessness	Bring the Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) program to more communities, in line with the provincial decampment strategy.	End tent cities across the province.	Raise social and disability assistance rates to \$2400 per month. Guaranteed income for youth aging out of care.

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	Adjust the spousal rule to help lift more people out of poverty.		
Commuter rail	Develop a business plan to evaluate bringing community rail back to key routes such as Vancouver to Squamish.	Develop a business case to analyze Fraser valley regional rail between Chilliwack, Abbotsford, the Langley SkyTrain, and Surrey.	Determine next steps to bring rail back to Vancouver Island.
Tax/Affordability	Provide a tax cut of over \$1,000 for households and over \$500 for individual British Columbians.	Abolish taxes on tips.	Introduce an additional marginal tax rate of incomes over \$350,000 per year, of 22.5%.
Environmental issues	Ban glyphosate (round-up) to protect watersheds and communities. Expand salmon restoration in estuaries, inter-tidal zones and spawning habitats. Complete 14 recommendations from Old Growth strategy.	Bring back plastic straws.	Enforce a province-wide ban on gas hookups in all new buildings to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Oil and gas <i>*61% of members say the province should find ways to develop more natural resources</i>	Cap on emissions from the oil and gas sector.	Double production by “getting to yes” for the range of proposed LNG plants.	Set a date to phase out gas production in the province. Fully implement the oil and gas emissions cap as a backstop to upcoming federal regulations. Introduce a windfall profits tax on oil and gas companies. Increase the industrial

			carbon tax and redirect revenue from industrial carbon pricing to fund climate action in communities.
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Disclaimer: The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of initiatives proposed by the three main political parties in B.C. For the most comprehensive and up-to-date information, please refer directly to each party's official platform and announcements. Any omission or mischaracterization of these initiatives is inadvertent.