

BC'S PROVINCIAL ELECTION DAY IS OCTOBER 24TH, 2026

MAKE YOUR VOICE AND VOTE COUNT!

FIRST CALL'S 2026 PROVINCIAL ELECTION TOOLKIT

First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society is a registered charity in British Columbia whose purpose is to create greater understanding of and advocacy for legislation, policy, and practice so that all children and youth have the rights, opportunities and resources required to thrive.

First Call has built a broad provincial consensus around the need to ensure all British Columbian children and youth benefit from the **4 Keys to Success for Children and Youth**.

To support conversations with provincial election candidates, we have developed a set of suggested questions for you to use. You can choose to ask all or some of the questions.

LET'S GET BC'S CHILDREN & YOUTH ON THE PROVINCIAL AGENDA!



Provincial Election Questions



Child Care

Access to quality \$10aDay child care allows parents, especially women, to remain in the workforce, encourages children's healthy development, enables families to move out of poverty and benefits the economy by increasing tax revenues for the government.



Questions You Can Ask

Q:

If elected, will you support and fund universal quality \$10aDay child care across British Columbia, including universal access to school-age child care?

Early Support and Intervention for Children with Disabilities

Families raising children with disabilities, including kinship carers, should be entitled to access a core suite of early assessment and intervention therapies for their children prior to school entry, as well as family respite support.



Questions You Can Ask

Q:

If elected, will you support increased funding for agencies and programs to ensure all families raising children with disabilities have timely, universal access to the services they need everywhere in BC?

Q:

If elected, how will you ensure transitions into Kindergarten for children with disabilities are well-supported?

Free Community Family Support Services

Families are central to promoting children's healthy development and must be supported by local, barrier-free early years services that welcome and support mothers, fathers, grandparents, extended and non-traditional families and other caregivers. These programs are especially vital for families that are isolated, low-income, newcomers and facing other challenges.

Questions You Can Ask

Q: If elected, will you support increased provincial funding for non-barriered, free, community-based programs and services, such as Family Resource Programs, StrongStart, Healthy Babies, Parent-Child Mother Goose programs, for all families with young children throughout the province, including rural and remote areas?

Public Education

Parents should not have to fundraise for public schools. Students should not have to wait for learning assessments. Public schools should be funded to meet the learning and support needs of all students, including Indigenous, neuro-diverse, newcomers, children and youth in care and those from low-income families.

Questions You Can Ask

Q: If elected, will you support increasing K-12 public education funding to reduce inequities and financial barriers such as school fees, and increase participation and uphold children's right to inclusive education?

Q: If elected, will you support making sure every primary classroom has an Education Assistant or support worker?

Q: If elected, will you support the use of school facilities as community hubs, through the community school model or partnerships with non-profit organizations?

Supports for Vulnerable Youth

Poor mental health is a rising concern for children and youth in BC. Youth transitioning out of foster care often need extra support in finding a place to live and employment, pursuing further education and connecting with needed community supports. They are at higher risk of homelessness.



Questions You Can Ask

Q:

If elected, will you support increasing youth programming focused on prevention of mental ill health, in addition to opening additional youth-specific treatment programs for youth struggling with substance use and mental wellness?

Q:

If elected, what would be your priority for enhanced youth services in our community?

Q:

If elected, will you support the creation of additional subsidized housing with wraparound supports for youth leaving care and an increase in the rent subsidy amount for former youth in care in private rentals?

Poverty and Economic Inequality

One in 6 BC children are poor, and the poverty rate for children in lone-parent families is a scandalous 45%. The depth of family poverty and income inequality in the province is growing. The majority of poor children live in families with parents who work in the paid labour force.



Questions You Can Ask

Q:

If elected, will you support increasing income assistance and disability assistance rates to bring them in line with actual living expenses and index them to inflation?

Q:

If elected, will you support increasing BC Family Benefit payments for low-income families?

Housing Insecurity

Market rental rates for families with children are completely unaffordable for many families. The Residential Tenancy Act only limits rent increases for existing tenants. When a tenant moves or is evicted, landlords are free to increase the rent as they wish. Transition houses report that they cannot accommodate the number of women and children seeking safety.

Questions You Can Ask

Q: If elected, how will you support affordable rents for low income families in the private rental market?

Q: If elected, will you ensure programs and housing for women and children fleeing violence and at risk of violence are funded and meet current levels of need?

Violence and Safety

Children's right to freedom from violence is threatened by child abuse and sexual exploitation, online and in person. BC youth workers report young teens and preteens being recruited and groomed into criminal gang activity, including being sexually assaulted and trafficked. Sexual abuse of children in the home and other environments also increases children's vulnerability to further exploitation and trafficking.

Questions You Can Ask

Q: If elected, will you work to increase access to school-based preventative programming related to safety and sexual violence for children and youth in both online and in-person environments?

Q: If elected, will you support increased funding for a coordinated provincial strategy that includes prevention education, early intervention, data collection, enforcement and dedicated services for underage victims of sex trafficking?

**Thank You for reading and using the
2026 Provincial Toolkit.**

**Please send it on to friends, family
organizations you belong to. Together,
we can help BC's children, youth and
families thrive!**



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Advocacy Outreach Tools

A Guide to Making Your Voice Heard



Here are some best practice tips for reaching out to candidates at the municipal, provincial and federal levels, along with practical suggestions for supporting and amplifying your concerns.



✉ Write to the candidates

You can send an email through a candidate's website (if an elected incumbent, they already have an easily accessible email). New candidates may not have their websites operable for a while. Check back.

Local Elections: Your municipality or towns' websites will usually list all council and school board candidates with some contact information. Elections BC also lists local election candidates as they register, but contact information is limited.

Provincial Elections: Once the writ is dropped, the [BC Elections website](#) will list all candidates by riding and party affiliation.

Federal Elections: The [Elections Canada website](#) publishes a list of candidates in every riding once the writ is dropped. You can phone the office number listed for each candidate for contact information.

Candidates will usually note who has taken the time to contact them. They or a staffer may get back to you (not answering is also an answer!). If you have time, email all the candidates in your riding whose opinion you want to note.

- Keep your email simple.
 - ▶ You may discuss one or two priority issues from one of our toolkits that are important to you. Copy and paste the priority and questions we have developed here, to your email.
 - ▶ Or, you may want to have them answer multiple concerns that we have raised—we suggest you just copy and paste the questions if that is the case.
- Avoid abbreviations.
- Be courteous, of course.

Remind the candidate that you are a constituent of the riding and are a First Call affiliate/child and youth care service provider/or concerned citizen.





Talk to candidates at your door, or as they ‘main-street’

Seeing a candidate ‘in the wild’ is a great way to get some face-to-face answers in real time. Being prepared with questions really captures their attention.

If a candidate comes to your door, you have an opportunity to really engage. Approaching a busy candidate in public can feel a little more intimidating, but if you’re prepared, that ‘in the moment’ engagement can also yield good results. {Be aware that if there is a lineup, or it’s very busy, you may want to email them instead.}

- **Plan ahead.** Use the educational priorities and questions in our toolkits to brainstorm what you’ll say. Use a sample script, if you like.
- **Identify yourself.** State your name and make it clear that you are a constituent/voter in the riding.
- **Stay on topic.** Use the talking points in our toolkits to guide you.
- **Ask for a written response** if the candidate doesn’t have an answer to your questions. Leave your contact information with a staffer who is accompanying the candidate.



SAMPLE 'TALK TO THE CANDIDATES' SCRIPT:

Introduce Yourself:

"Hello, my name is _____ and I am a concerned citizen in this riding."

1. {Add one question about a concern about children and youth in BC}
2. {Provide two to three sentences about the specific issue you want them to know more about}

Finished Example:

"I'd like to know where you stand on the issue of housing security for children, youth and families?"

Market rental rates for families with children are completely unaffordable for many families.

We are seeing the results in rising homelessness, including among youth and families with children, as well as landlords who take advantage of the situation."

3. {Develop questions you can ask}

Finished Example Questions:

Q:

If elected, will you support accelerating the building of affordable and safe social housing for low-income children and their families?

Q:

If elected, will you support tying rent control to the unit in the private rental market?

Use Social Media!

Publicize your conversations with candidates:

Tag us @FirstCallBC #BCed #BCPoli #endchildpoverty

Follow Us:  [LinkedIn](#)  [X.com](#)