

# Responses to Questions about Crucial Child & Youth Issues from BC Provincial Political Parties - May 2013

In the lead up to the May 14, 2013 Provincial Election, First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition sent questionnaires to all four of the major political parties in BC on a range of issues that related to the **Four Keys to Success for Children and Youth**: 1) A Strong Commitment to Early Childhood Development; 2) Support in Transitions from Childhood to Youth to Adulthood; 3) Increased Economic Equality; and 4) Safe and Caring Communities. We have included the parties' responses in their entirety; however we have **bolded** the sections that were most relevant to the question asked. We did not receive a reply from the Conservative Party.

## KEY #1: A Strong Commitment to Early Childhood Development

Early childhood is a crucial, time-limited period of human development and data from BC's Early Development Index is showing increasing risks of less than optimal development among young children. Without supportive public policy and needed services, young families are stressed by the demands of caring and earning. All young children and their families should be able to access the ECD supports and services that they need. We know what will help and are looking for political commitment.

**QUESTION: Early childhood development programs have been greatly impacted by funding insecurity in BC. If elected, will your party commit to establishing an entitlement for all BC families to a full range of early years supports and services, such as family support programs, quality affordable child care services, early intervention services and others, supported by a multiyear, stable funding base?**



<p>BC Greens are committed to making childcare affordable and accessible for all BC families. BC Greens would see to <b>immediate increases in welfare rates for custodial parents</b> on social assistance so that they can meet theirs and their children's basic educational and nutritional needs.</p> <p>In addition, BC Greens would create a <b>provincial childcare program</b> with a focus on providing childcare <b>in or adjacent to the workplace</b> so that parents can have contact with their children throughout the day. BC Greens would <b>establish more community based childcare and education</b>, and would</p>	<p>Today's BC Liberals are committed to using resources wisely to give children the best start in life that we can give them. Earlier this year, our government announced the British Columbia <b>Early Years Strategy</b>, a long-term commitment to improve access, affordability and quality in child care, early childhood development and early learning services for B.C. children.</p> <p><b>\$76 million in funding over the next three years</b> will deliver <b>up to 2,000 new licensed child-care spaces</b>, with the goal of a further 13,000 over the next eight years. This funding will also support <b>improving the overall</b></p>	<p>The BCNDP believes that early childhood learning and childcare are essential to ensuring all children receive a fair start when they enter kindergarten and that children and families get the support they need.</p> <p>Adrian Dix and the BCNDP will create an <b>Early Years Innovation Fund using \$300 million</b> from the BC Liberals poorly conceived education savings contribution scheme. A BCNDP government <b>will work with early learning experts and families</b> to ensure the design of any new programs is <b>focused on improving early learning outcomes</b>.</p>
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<p><b>provide supplemental funding to community schools that would provide licensed after-school childcare.</b></p> <p>BC Greens believe a government that truly cares for children and families would prove it with <b>better funding for education, healthcare, and safe, affordable childcare.</b></p> <p>Green MLAs would <b>unify all the current income support programs into one comprehensive Guaranteed Liveable Income.</b></p> <p>We believe caring for children requires more than just lip-service. BC Greens would shift government spending priorities to truly care for children and families by providing the adequate, stable funding they deserve.</p>	<p><b>quality of early years services</b>, including child care, and will <b>strengthen the co-ordination</b> of early child development programs and child care services.</p> <p>And we will establish a <b>Provincial Office for Early Years</b> to co-ordinate all policy and service improvements. Working closely with communities and the early years sector, the Office will lead the implementation of a <b>network of early years centres</b> across the province that will offer one-stop access to a range of services.</p>	
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**QUESTION: Several years of flat budgets for contracted early intervention services and the Ministry for Children and Family Development have resulted in cuts to services for children with special needs. If elected, will your party increase funding in order to reduce wait times for young children needing early intervention services?**



<p>We see the results of the government's assault on children everyday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25% of children with disabilities have unmet educational needs.</li> <li>• For 60% of children with disabilities, families pay the costs for the aids that are needed to manage their condition.</li> </ul> <p>BC Greens <b>will vote for any program or legislation that reduces poverty, improves family health, or restores the social safety-net.</b> Therefore, <b>any policy that reduces wait</b></p>	<p>Our government invests more than \$1 billion annually on services and supports for children and youth with special needs. This includes nearly \$600 million of funding towards more than 90 unique services and supports. Working collaboratively, the ministries of Children and Family Development, Education, Health and Social Development provide a continuum of services including prevention, early identification and screening, assessment and diagnosis, early intervention and support, education and planning for transitions.</p>	<p>The immediate priority is <b>to hire additional front line ministry staff to better protect vulnerable children and families at risk.</b></p> <p>The BCNDP education plan includes <b>hiring additional teachers and teaching assistants with a particular focus on assisting children with special needs.</b></p> <p>We have also committed to an <b>Early Years Innovation Fund</b> that will focus on programs that support <b>early learning and developmental readiness.</b></p>
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<p><b>times for children needing early intervention services would have our full support.</b></p>	<p>The Ministry of Children and Family Development spends more than \$292 million to provide a full range of intervention and family support services for approximately 30,000 children and youth with special needs. This includes \$56.6 million for Supported Child Development, which provides the additional supports children with special needs require to participate in preschool and child-care settings. Funding for autism intervention and funding programs has increased to \$49.3 million, more than ten times the 2001 budget level of \$4.1 million.</p>	
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**QUESTION: Child care is largely a parent-funded service and BC has among the highest child care fees in the country, eroding the take-home pay of parents more than taxes do. If elected, will your party implement the \$10 a Day Child Care Plan to begin addressing the child care crisis facing BC families with young children?**



<p>As stated above, BC Greens are <b>committed to protecting children by securing universal, safe, and affordable childcare.</b></p> <p>BC Greens would <b>financially support community programs and schools for increased childcare support</b> and would <b>create tax benefits for companies that provide on-site childcare, flex-hours, and job sharing.</b></p> <p>BC Greens are willing to work with the community and established organizations like First Call, to form the best childcare policy for all British Columbians.</p>	<p>Our government offers a number of child-care programs and services so families can choose from a range of affordable, safe, quality child-care options that meet their needs.</p> <p>We provide more than \$290 million annually to support the delivery of quality child care in B.C., including 100,000 licensed child-care spaces across the province. Additionally, nearly 50,000 families benefit from child-care subsidies, including special need supports for low and moderate income families. Since 2001, we have provided more than \$35 million in capital funding, nearly \$7 million of which has gone to Aboriginal communities to create more than 6,500 licensed child-care spaces.</p>	<p>We understand that for many families childcare is the second highest family expense after housing, putting financial pressure on middle income families and placing childcare out of reach for many low income families. A lack of affordable childcare also prevents many women from re-entering the workforce, especially single parents.</p> <p><b>Adrian Dix and the BCNDP will invest \$60 million to reduce fees for existing licensed infant and toddler care spaces by 20 per cent and will increase childcare spaces with a focus on infant and toddler care.</b></p>
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	<p>Today's BC Liberals <b>have committed an additional \$76 million in funding over the next three years to deliver up to 2,000 new licensed child-care spaces</b>, and our goal is to have another 13,000 spaces over the next eight years.</p> <p>We will also <b>make child care easier to access by requiring local school boards to establish a policy promoting the use of school property between the hours of 7 am and 6 pm on weekdays by licensed child care providers</b>. This will help provide additional child care options for parents of 5-12 year old students who require before or after school care. It will be complemented by a <b>province-wide child care registry</b> to provide parents with better information about the availability of spaces in their community. And <b>beginning in 2015</b>, nearly 180,000 families across B.C. with children under the age of six will benefit from the <b>B.C. Early Childhood Tax Benefit</b>.</p>	
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## Key #2: Support in Transitions from Childhood to Youth and Adulthood

Transitions are times of increased vulnerability when children and youth may need extra support to navigate them safely. Developmental transitions include moving into adolescence and into the expectations of adult life. Other stressful transitions include changes in family, such as when parents separate or divorce or are unable to keep their children safe. Dealing with a mental illness, being new to Canada or coming to terms with a minority sexual orientation are other examples of circumstances and transitions that require extra support. BC's youth need a strong safety net of universal and targeted programs and services to be there for them when times get tough.

**QUESTION: Some youth are more likely to have experience of government care than others, including New Canadians, Aboriginal youth, young people with a disability and those who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual. How will your party work towards addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal, new immigrant, LGBT and youth with a disability in the foster care system?**



The Green Party of BC supports a diverse and progressive BC society. As such, BC Greens believe that **the BC education system should be inclusive and supportive of all peoples regardless of their sexual orientation**. BC Greens **would establish anti-homophobia policies and action plans (build on the ERASE Bullying program)**.

Most importantly, BC Greens are **committed to working with the LGTBQ community and parents to form policy that best suits all British Columbians**. First we must ensure that all basic needs are met, by providing **at-risk British Columbians with a Guaranteed Livable Income**.

We must **address the economic inequities suffered by minorities and women**. And we must **provide integrated, comprehensive social services**.

BC Greens believe more support for all British Columbians, including those at-risk or in a minority group, by means of instituting more integrated and comprehensive social programs. BC Greens believe that **quasi-judicial processes of mediation and arbitration in family law should be promoted and more adequately funded**. Restorative justice also has a place in family restoration.

Nothing is more important to our government than the safety and well-being of children in our care. That's why we are continually looking at ways to improve outcomes for children in government care.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development **recently completed consultations with over 600 participants, including foster parents and children in care, to review the foster care system**. As a result of those consultations, Today's BC Liberal government now has a strong set of recommendations to move forward and we are implementing a **three-year action plan to improve the foster care system**.

**We know that Aboriginal children are best cared for in the context of their communities and customary practices**. So we are taking strategic action with Aboriginal leaders and communities to achieve a vision of Aboriginal children and youth living in strong, healthy families and sustainable communities where they are connected to their culture and traditions.

Today's BC Liberals **will continue to work with First Nations, Métis and urban Aboriginal communities to support them in providing culturally based services**.

**We have committed to better protect vulnerable children by increasing the number of front line ministry staff who are working hard to assist children in very challenging circumstances**.

**We do recognize there are groups that are overrepresented in the foster care system and the reasons for this are multi-faceted and complex**. We will strongly consider this when developing policies and programs for children at risk. With respect to Aboriginal children, we will be moving forward with the devolution of child and family services and child protection to First Nations and aboriginal communities.

QUESTION: Reliance on parent-paid fees and fundraising has created have and have-not schools, and has increased inequality within the public education system. If elected, will your party commit to restoring funding levels to public schools to eliminate the need for school fees and parent fundraising for basic supplies and equipment such as playgrounds?



Chronic underfunding essentially guarantees that a few schools will prosper, while the majority suffer. BC Greens believe to adequately address this, and the many other problems faced by schools, we must completely reform our approach to public education in BC: To begin, we would **turn schools into community centers, offering educational and other programs to youth and adults. User fees for basic school services should be prohibited. Corporate funding of any kind should not be allowed in the public education system.** We also believe that parents, teachers and school administrators should have a greater say in local decision-making.

Using a community school model, and reflecting a broader concept of learning, schools should be utilized for a variety of community functions. For example, library, art and music facilities can be integrated with community facilities. Schools can seek partnerships with various community groups, including seniors, parents, cultural groups, and other educational institutions. Our public education system needs and deserves adequate, stable funding, if we ever hope to tackle the disparity between rich and poor schools. Green MLAs will champion that message in the BC legislature.

**We have a great education system in B.C., one that is well funded** and where student achievement regularly ranks among the best in the world. And Today's BC Liberals continue to provide record-level funding for public education. Since 2000/01, B.C.'s student population dropped by nearly 10 per cent, yet we increased funding by 26 per cent. Despite an estimated decrease of 6,200 students, we **will maintain public education funding at \$4.7 billion next year.**

School fees and property maintenance are both under the jurisdiction of democratically elected boards of education. Boards must provide educational programs free of charge, but do have limited authority to charge fees in certain circumstances. As part of school property maintenance, playgrounds have always been the responsibility of school districts which receive \$110 million through the Annual Facility Grant.

Today's BC Liberals recognize the value of playgrounds - we know that kids who are physically active do better in school. This is why we provided an additional \$8 million for 227 new playgrounds and playground upgrades across B.C. For the same reason, we make sure that every new capital project has \$50,000 included for playgrounds.

A key priority for a BCNDP government will be improving learning conditions for our children, with an additional focus on giving vulnerable children the support they need to succeed. To do this, we **will invest \$100 million annually to hire new teachers, teaching assistants, librarians and counsellors.**

We want all children to be able to overcome barriers and have an opportunity to succeed. The BCNDP will implement a Poverty Reduction Plan that will generate further action to reduce child poverty and strengthen social cohesion in our schools.

**QUESTION:** Students are facing unprecedented levels of debt to finance their education. Average student loan debt has now reached \$34,000. Students from low-income backgrounds are less than half as likely to participate in university as those from high-income families. If elected, will your party remove the financial barriers for low-income students and lower student debt levels through tuition fee reductions, student grants instead of loans, and interest free student loans?



BC Greens believe that **no BC student should ever be denied a post-secondary education because of its cost.** Our public education system currently provides **free tuition** for primary and secondary education. Green MLAs will support the long-range goal of expanding this policy **to include post-secondary education as well.**

We must ensure that entrance to our post-secondary educational institutions is based on academic achievement, rather than personal or family wealth.

In the meantime, to ensure students graduating from post-secondary studies do not start their adult lives indebted because of the cost of their education:

BC Greens **will implement a program designed to eliminate the interest on student loans, to be phased in over five years.**

We **will introduce a needs-based grants program to assist low-income students with tuition.** A student's financial need will be determined by a means test, based upon the

Post-secondary education plays a critical role in preparing students for the high-skilled workforce that awaits them. B.C is home to many world-class post-secondary institutions and our undergraduate tuition is the fourth lowest in Canada. To ensure there are not significant jumps in tuition, Today's BC Liberals **have limited tuition increases to 2 per cent per year since 2005.** Today's BC Liberals are leading the country in **offering post-secondary students free online, open textbooks for the 40 most popular courses.** Each year this will put money back into the pockets of up to 200,000 students - dollars that can go to other expenses.

Although approximately 70 per cent of students graduate without using B.C. and Canada students loan programs, Today's BC Liberals are committed to helping those students who do need financial support. In 2011/12, StudentAid BC provided over \$12 million in upfront grants, scholarships and bursaries, and 66,000 students obtained assistance through financial aid. **For those who struggle to repay their loan, our new Repayment Assistance Program helps reduce payments to make them affordable.**

Adrian Dix and the BCNDP will improve opportunities for young people by **establishing a \$100 million need-based, non-repayable grant program for post-secondary education and skills training students.** This will in particular make it more affordable for students from low-income backgrounds to attend college or university.

We **will also focus on making BC's skills training and apprenticeship system work better** and will encourage more people to enter the system and offer them more support so they are able to complete their training.

<p>students' finances, not that of his or her family. The Green Party of British Columbia <b>will increase core funding to colleges and universities by at least \$200 million annually.</b></p> <p><b>And we will immediately reduce tuition fees by 20%.</b></p>		
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### KEY #3: Increased Economic Equality

Research has long demonstrated that poverty is toxic to children’s health and development. From poor nutrition to family stress to exclusion from social participation, there are many ways poverty is known to raise the risk of life-long ill effects on health and reduce opportunities for individuals to realize their full potential. Growing income inequality in BC is recognized as a threat to the health of both individuals and our society.

**QUESTION: If elected, will your party adopt a comprehensive provincial poverty reduction plan with legislated targets and timelines, a cabinet minister with the authority and responsibility to ensure government is achieving its targets on time, and a goal of reducing BC’s child poverty rate to 7 percent or lower by 2020?**



<p>British Columbia is rich in resources. Sadly, our resources have been mismanaged and this has contributed to unacceptable levels of poverty. The Green Party understands the need for action to ensure that every British Columbian has the opportunity to share in the wealth of this province.</p> <p>Our <b>Guaranteed Liveable Income (GLI) will replace all existing income assistance programs.</b> Cost of living and other factors determine the eligibility and the amount of the income supplement. The GLI provides a basic income and removes systemic barriers</p>	<p>Today’s BC Liberals believe the best way to lift children out of poverty is to ensure their parents have a job. <b>We do not believe that we can legislate away poverty.</b> There isn’t a one size fits all approach to this complex issue – that is why we have <b>regional poverty plans</b> to take into account the needs of communities across the province. Our government has taken major steps to reduce child poverty, including efforts to strengthen the economy and create jobs and targeting investments to better support low income families and those at risk of poverty. Our plan is working: we have seen a dramatic, consistent decline of</p>	<p>Adrian Dix and the BCNDP understand the urgent need to reduce poverty in British Columbia. We are <b>committed to a comprehensive province-wide Poverty Reduction Plan with legislated targets and timelines.</b> We are taking practical steps towards this, including <b>investing \$210 million in a BC Family Bonus Program to provide up to \$829 annually to low and modest income families, allowing a child maintenance exemption for single parents with children on income assistance and doubling the earnings exemption for people receiving employable benefits.</b></p>
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<p>that keep people poor, untrained, unemployed, or underemployed. At the same time, it encourages employment and job creation. When access to assistance is streamlined, the result is a more efficient system and a better quality of life.</p> <p>We will protect children by <b>securing universal, safe and affordable childcare</b>.</p> <p>Green MLAs will <b>reinstate and improve funding for women's emergency shelters and transition houses</b>.</p> <p>We will <b>provide employment assistance for individuals, businesses, and community organizations</b>.</p> <p>And we will <b>modernize services for people with disabilities</b> based on a social model of ability rather than a medical model.</p>	<p>almost 45% in the poverty rate since 2003. Approximately 75,000 children have been lifted out of poverty. B.C.'s child poverty rate is at its second-lowest point in the past 20 years. Only 2008 – before the recession – had a better result.</p> <p>We realize we are not there yet but our efforts to <b>strengthen the economy and create jobs while providing targeted supports to low income families</b> are working.</p>	
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**QUESTION:** Children of single parents on income assistance are currently not benefiting from the child support paid on their behalf. If elected will you restore the income exemption for child support payments for lone parents on income assistance?



<p>The most effective form of child welfare is family restoration. In support of that goal, BC Greens would implement a full range of direct and supportive programs for families that ensure adequate access to remediation services that contribute to that goal. BC Greens are committed to lessening the financial burden on all BC families.</p>	<p>For those on income assistance, the government is a payer of last resort. As such, people who apply for income assistance are required to pursue all other means of support for which they may be eligible, including child support payments. Through the Family Maintenance Program, Today's BC Liberal government assists families</p>	<p>We don't think its right that single parents and their children are being penalized in this way and <b>will allow for child maintenance to be exempted</b>.</p>
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	<p>by enforcing child and spousal support agreements. This ensures that a family breakdown does not impoverish dependent family members or place an excessive burden on taxpayers.</p>	
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QUESTION: Most of BC’s poor children live with parents who are in the paid workforce. If elected, will your party continue raising the minimum wage to make sure that a single person working full-time, full year reaches the poverty line?



<p>BC Greens believe the <b>minimum wage should be indexed to the rate of inflation and subject to periodic review.</b></p> <p>A <b>public process should be established</b> to receive input from employers and service industry workers on how to improve wages, working conditions, and regularity of hours within the service sector.</p> <p>The <b>definition of self-employed should be tightened so that this designation is not used by corporations to pay their employees less than minimum wage.</b></p> <p><b>Minimum wage legislation should be tightened so employers do not pay their employees less than minimum wage</b> through commission and piecework structures.</p>	<p>Today’s BC Liberals increased the minimum wage three times to \$10.25 per hour, the second highest of any province. That increase means an extra \$4,000 each year for a full-time, minimum wage employee previously making \$8 per hour. The average hourly wage in B.C. is \$24.26 per hour – the third-highest hourly wage in the country after Alberta and Ontario. Additionally, B.C.’s average hourly youth wage is \$14.73 per hour – the third highest in Canada after Alberta and Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>Going forward, we will be linking the <b>minimum wage to annual increases in the Consumer Price Index and eliminating the two-tier wage structure for people working in the service industry.</b></p>
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## KEY #4: Safe and Caring Communities

Families should be able to rely on provincial (and federal) legislation to provide minimum standards for keeping children and youth safe in all aspects of community life. This includes employment standards if they enter the workforce and protective legislation to keep the physical environmental clean and healthy for growing bodies. All provincial legislation and policy should prioritize the immediate and long-term best interests of BC's children and youth based on the research evidence of potential harms and hazards. Child and youth rights and well-being should not be an afterthought or subordinate to powerful economic interests.

**QUESTION:** In 2003 the BC government amended the Employment Standards Act to lower the BC work start age to 12 and removed the role of the Employment Standards Branch in issuing work permits for children 12 to 14. If elected, will your party raise BC's work start age back up to 15 and improve legislative protections and enforcement for children in the workforce?



**Children in British Columbia, 12, 14, 15, do not need to be working they need to be learning.** BC Greens strongly support reform to the education system so that it is accessible and affordable to all British Columbian. In the long term, BC Greens would see education universal and free at all levels, primary, secondary and post-secondary. BC Greens also believe in creating more training programs and apprenticeship opportunities through cooperation with education institutions and businesses, taking pointers from successful apprenticeship programs in Europe.

BC Greens believe education is key, and if a **greater number of British Columbian children had access to universal and affordable schooling at all levels, the work start age could certainly be raised back to 15.** BC Greens also believe the Business Corporations Act should be amended so that

Under the B.C. Employment Standards Act, children between the ages of 12 and 14 cannot be employed without the written consent of a parent or legal guardian. **We believe giving parents and families the flexibility to make these decisions themselves is the right approach. Today's BC Liberals are not considering raising British Columbia's work start age.**

**We will be undertaking a review of the Employment Standards Act and will restore child labour standards and consider what other steps may be required to protect children.**

<p>public interest would be represented. Obviously it is not in recent public interest for children 12 to 14 to be employed without protections enforced by the government. BC Greens <b>would commit to developing policy on this with community input.</b></p>		
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QUESTION: Over 100 studies have linked pesticide exposure to both adult and childhood cancers. Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of pesticides because they are closer to the ground and their bodies are still developing. If elected, will your party bring in a province-wide ban on the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides?



<p>BC Greens would legislate a province-wide ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides that applies to institutional, industrial, business, and residential properties and that restricts sales and provides for enforcement. BC Greens recognize the economic and ecological potential of organic farming. We hear the concerns of family farmers throughout the province. Industrial agriculture poses numerous risks to our continued health. Intensive large-scale farming methods make our food supply vulnerable to disease. <b>BC Greens are committed to phasing out synthetic chemical and cosmetic pesticides.</b></p>	<p>We know people want change and legislation is the first step in reducing unnecessary cosmetic pesticide use in B.C. Today's BC Liberal government consulted with the public and received over 8,000 comments, as well as recommendations from a special bi-partisan committee which examined the issue. Our government has taken both the committee's report and public input seriously and this will be reflected in the <b>regulations</b> which <b>will be developed</b> to take a more formal approach. This legislation will allow government to design the regulations to reduce unnecessary pesticide use and <b>ensure cosmetic pesticides are being used safely and responsibly on private landscaped areas.</b></p>	<p>The BCNDP has introduced legislation three times now to ban the cosmetic use of pesticides and will follow through on a legislated ban to protect kids in our playgrounds, parks and neighbourhoods.</p>
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QUESTION: Content analyses of television advertisements have shown that food is the most frequently advertised product category on children’s television, and the majority of these ads target highly sweetened products and are increasingly promoting fast food meals. Is your party in favour of amending BC’s Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act to prohibit commercial advertising directed at children under 13 years of age?



<p>Yes, BC Greens are committed to working with many stakeholders (policy-makers, community, health agencies, multiple levels of government, the private sector) to reduce, eliminate, or overcome those factors that harm health or act as barriers to health enhancement. <b>BC Greens are also committed to instituting a junk food tax, increasing education programs on health and eating right, as well as instituting healthy food service in school cafeterias (organic, locally grown whenever possible, and no junk food).</b></p>	<p>Today’s BC Liberal government has taken a number of steps to address childhood obesity. We <b>have</b> mandated 30 minutes of daily physical activity in schools and <b>removed junk food from all elementary and secondary schools.</b> These measures will help our children develop healthier lifestyles. We are always open to considering further initiatives to combat childhood obesity, and <b>would be pleased to discuss the matter further with First Call’s representatives.</b></p>	<p>We understand that poor eating habits that develop early in a child’s life affects their health outcomes throughout their life and places a tremendous burden on our healthcare system. <b>We will be considering what steps government can take to support children and families with making healthy choices and developing healthy eating</b> and exercising habits early on in life.</p>
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