

Questions for our Candidates

Huu-ay-aht asked three questions of our major parties, here's how they answered

- Q** 1) Upgrading the Port Alberni-Bamfield Road is the key to virtually every economic and social initiatives of Huu-ay-aht First Nations. Currently, the Province of British Columbia is undertaking an engineering study to bring the current road to provincial standard. If your Party forms the government, what level of funding for the upgraded road will you commit to cost-sharing with the Province?



We understand the importance of the Port Alberni-Bamfield Road to the economic and social life of your communities and nation. The Green Party believes that Canada cannot reach its full potential as a nation until the socio-economic gap between Indigenous peoples and the rest of Canada is closed. We believe that infrastructure is a key part of this for any community. We will prioritize funding for critical infrastructure across Indigenous communities, including the Port Alberni-Bamfield Road for your Nation. Jurisdictional funding disputes should not delay critical infrastructure like this. This issue is one that, under a Green government, could be raised in a forum that would allow for more efficient intergovernmental collaboration. We will establish a Council of Canadian Governments, bringing together not only provincial and territorial premiers, but also Indigenous governments like your own, and municipalities. Issues like this road, which span orders of government, will become easier to discuss under this model.



If a Liberal government is re-elected, we will work with Huu-ay-aht First Nations and the Province of British Columbia to fully fund the upgrading of the Port Alberni-Bamfield Road to provincial standard.



New Democrats are committed to a new fiscal relationship with First Nations people in Canada – a relationship based on secure funding to support programs and services, and access to revenue stream to help close the socio-economic gap and support self-government. Smaller First Nations communities like Huu-ay-aht have been left behind by the current funding model and need dedicated regional economic development support to expand economic opportunities in a way that reflects the community's social and cultural values. A New Democrat government will work with Huu-ay-aht First Nations and British Columbia to determine the federal contribution to the Port Alberni-Bamfield Road.



The Conservative Party of Canada did not respond to the questions from Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

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- Q** 2) The Maa-nulth Final Agreement contains the “Me-Too” clause which allows Huu-ay-aht and the other Maa-nulth First Nations to constitutionally protect the commercial access we negotiated with Canada and additional access consistent with the Ahousaht Court decisions. Creating community-based economic fisheries for Huu-ay-aht citizen’s is one of the key components of the fishery aspirations of Huu-ay-aht First Nations. The Me-Too Side Agreement enables Huu- ay-aht and the other Maa-nulth First Nations to achieve this through negotiations with Canada. Following the spirit and intent of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Reconciliation Strategy, if your Party forms the government, will you commit to engaging with Huu-ay-aht and the other Maa-nulth First Nations as soon as possible on matters related to the Me-Too Clause and the Me-Too Side Agreement?



If the Liberal Party is re-elected, we will engage with Huu-ay-aht and other Maa-nulth First Nations on matters related to both the Me-Too Clause and the Me-Too Side Agreement.



New Democrats believe that the federal government should not be able to pick and choose which Indigenous rights it will uphold and which ones it will ignore. As such, a New Democrat government will engage with Huu-ay-aht and other Maa-nulth First Nations to enable fishers to make a reasonable living, to respond to the salmon crisis, and to reach a conclusion to the Ahousaht et al. case.



We understand creating community-based economic fisheries for Huu-ay-aht citizens is one of the key components of the fishery aspirations of Huu-ay-aht First Nations. Following the spirit and intent of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Reconciliation Strategy, a Green government will commit to engaging with Huu-ay-aht and the other Maa-nulth First Nations as soon as possible on matters related to the Me-Too Clause and the Me-Too Side Agreement. It is critical that any government uphold the spirit and intent of this kind of strategy. Greens will ensure that the right to fish in line with traditional practices is protected. Furthermore, any policy agreements should respect the hard-fought self-government agreements for your nation. We will respect and uphold the Ahousaht decisions, and live up to the heavy responsibility on the Crown. Whether relating to fisheries or otherwise, a Green government will uphold and fulfill Canada's responsibilities in all agreements with Indigenous Peoples.



The Conservative Party of Canada did not respond to the questions from Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

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- Q** - **3) Addressing the shortage of affordable housing is a priority for Huu-ay-aht First Nations, and we have committed to building 10 new affordable housing units over the next four years, yet an additional 40 new units are urgently required. If your Party forms the government, will you commit to funding the construction of 40 new units within Huu-ay-aht First Nation by 2023?**



New Democrats believe that everyone in Canada should be able to find a safe and affordable place to call home. We know that many First Nations across Canada experience overcrowding, mould, unsafe living conditions, and severe housing backlogs. A New Democrat government will address the housing crisis and put an end to long wait-lists by working with Huu-ay-aht First Nations to co-develop a ground-up housing strategy backed up by sustainable and dedicated funding.



The Green Party has committed to enhancing the federal government's contribution to meeting the housing needs of all Canadians across the country through direct investments, changes to tax policies, and leading and granting programs, and putting the government's focus where it is urgently needed. A Green government will prioritize high-quality safe and affordable housing for Indigenous peoples, and ensuring an equitable distribution of resources for energy efficiency retrofits. We will also amend legislation that affects access to financing through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, removing barriers to financing on reserve lands. We are working towards a future where everyone in Canada has access to affordable housing, and First Nations communities should be no exception. Having a Minister of Housing and a National Housing Strategy will help to address this, but funding is crucial. In line with the above, Greens are committed to finding a funding solution for the construction of 40 new units with the Huu-ay-aht First Nation by 2023.



Yes. A re-elected Liberal government will fund the construction of these 40 new units by 2023 - or sooner, if possible.



The Conservative Party of Canada did not respond to the questions from Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

We thank all parties who participated in this process.

Huu-ay-aht citizens, have your voices heard. Vote on October 21, 2019.