

Green Party of Alberta Land Acknowledgement

Today, Indigenous peoples all over the globe are allocated and caretakers for only 20% of the total landmass, and within those parcels of land 80% of the remaining biodiversity of the entire planet Earth thrives. For me this tells a story of the importance of Indigenous wisdom, land stewardship, and conservation which is embedded into the Indigenous cultures of this land and throughout the world.

These lands are called Alberta, they have been colonially settled through the agreements of Treaty 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10.

When those agreements were made, there was an understanding that all people who reside within these lands would know and hold themselves responsible for upholding those promises made to the Indigenous peoples who have cared for this land since time immemorial. This is why it is important to acknowledge the land, its original inhabitants, and their important contributions to restoring ecological and social balance during this time of global climate crisis.

The Métis Nation of Alberta, Inuit and First Nations people from across Turtle Island also regard Alberta as their home, and contribute to the beautifully interwoven cultures which are bringing the land back to a healed state of balance with Mother Earth. I am grateful to be Indigenous upon these lands during this moment in time, when the earth needs the timeless wisdom of Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Holders, Youth and Two Spirit peoples for healing the wounds we have inflicted on Mother Earth and upon each other.

Written by Heather Morigeau (she/they), member of the Métis Nation of Alberta, ancestral connections to Ktuanxa Nation, Cree Nation, as well as settler French, German, and Celtic ancestors.

2023 Alberta Greens Candidate for Red Deer-North.



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A Message from Jordan Wilkie

Leader, Green Party of Alberta

The political landscape in Alberta is plagued with deep-rooted challenges and it is imperative that we confront them head-on. The failure of the two entitled parties to actually address issues has led to a significant portion of the population disengaging from provincial politics. The two-thirds of Albertans that participate often feel they have to vote against something rather than selecting representatives who truly align with their values and priorities. This has led to the emergence of an American-style hyper-partisan duopoly in Alberta, where political rivals engage in ridicule instead of offering tangible solutions to the most important and pressing issues. Our 2023 election platform addresses these issues directly and provides solutions used around the world to address crime, corruption, poverty, addiction, job creation, climate destabilization, and the proper funding of public services and disaster contingency plans.

We must strive for a political environment that encourages active citizen engagement, empowers individuals to vote for their aspirations rather than their apprehensions, and fosters a spirit of cooperation and collaboration across party lines. It is time for Albertans to rise above the divisive rhetoric and **demand better** from our representatives. We need elected officials who are willing to put aside their personal or partisan agendas and prioritize the greater good for all Albertans. By promoting open dialogue, embracing diverse perspectives, and emphasizing practical solutions, we can forge a new path forward — a path that is anchored in unity, progress, and the shared values that define Alberta.

It has been said that 'You are either part of the problem or part of the solution.' It has never been said that an opponent is the whole problem or that a party can claim to be the whole solution. Any political party that markets itself that way is dividing Albertans and misinforming voters.

When you vote on May 29th, I encourage you to be part of history by helping to elect the first Greens to the Legislature, and possibly altering the course of politics in our province by handing either major party their first minority government.

Even a few Green seats means that a third party would represent you in holding the balance of power and keeping entitled parties accountable and in check.

Thank you for taking the time to read our platform.

Jordan Wilkie, Party Leader 9.22hi

Alberta Green Priorities

Safe & Secure Communities

CRIME IS A POLICY FAILURE



Create well-being communities using an unconditional Basic Income for all Albertans and eradicate poverty.



Support a provincewide Housing First and voluntary harm reduction program for the unhoused population.



Implement a 1.5% rent cap and invest in non-market housing options to help struggling families.

ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS ARE POLICY FAILURES



Increase water bombers, reinstate Rap-attack program and bring back the funding program for rural firefighters.



Stop spraying glyphosate to kill fire-resistant aspen trees and protect our ecology and natural firebreaks.



Protect biodiversity of keystone species through habitat conservation.

CLIMATE DESTABILIZATION IS A POLICY FAILURE



Protect our water from privatization and toxic runoff and ensure Indigenous communities have clean drinking water.



Ensure greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Alberta peak before 2025 and net-zero by 2040.



Create and protect
local supply chain
resilience for yearround food
production by helping
small local farms.

Strong Public Services

PUBLIC HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT



Comprehensive healthcare including universal mental health, physio, pharma, dental, vision, hearing.



Retain, recruit and respect healthcare workers by working with unions - not against them.



Increase hospital capacity and functionality including ambulance response times and ER wait times.

PUBLIC EDUCATION IS A RIGHT



Provide free undergraduate postsecondary education to all citizens and permanent residents.



Establish a culturally inclusive grade school curriculum developed by a diverse group of education professionals.



Funding for a qualified teacher and educational assistant for every twenty students.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS A RIGHT



Establish a Public Transportation Agency for interurban and rural public transportation.



Increase funding to municipalities to expand services, and eliminate or reduce fares for transit.



Build high speed rail starting with Edmonton - Calgary to give access to new job markets and boost tourism.

Sustainable Jobs & Economy

MAKE INCOME A GUARANTEE



Create the Alberta
Resilience Corps (ARC)
job program to end
unemployment and
respond to climate
destabilization.



Introduce a Universal Basic Income (UBI) to provide Albertans a safety net during life changes, training or to support new startups.



Parental support including \$10-a-day childcare and funding support for Indigenous-led childcare services.

SUPPORT ALBERTA FARMERS



Build and expand current agriculture training and tech centres across rural Alberta.



Support sustainable and regenerative agriculture that improves soil quality and reduces inputs such as fertilizer.



Access to land and capital for young farmers through a land trust program and other subsidies.

HELP SMALL & MEDIUM BUSINESSES THRIVE



Raise large corporate tax rate to 12% and utilize the surplus to support innovation.



Cut small business tax and raise small business tax bracket threshold.



Re-start Heritage Fund payments to be put toward infrastructure, economic diversification and job retraining for workers.

Saving for the Future

ACT LIKE AN OWNER



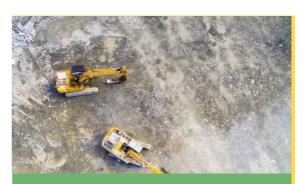
Replace the Alberta Energy Regulator with independent review boards.

Eliminate RSTAR and enforce the polluter pay law.

COLLECT OUR FAIR SHARE



Raise royalties in-line with Lougheed's vision.



Introduce an "excess profit cap" on resource development projects.

GO SLOWLY AND PLAN FOR TOMORROW



Invest in workers and create government-funded programs that protect their identity, seniority and pensions.



Launch a reclamation job boom through cleanup of oil and gas wells, and aging infrastructure.

Jobs and Economy



We must move past the boom and bust economy focused on fossil fuels to create sustainable and secure job opportunities for all Albertans.

The Green Party of Alberta would introduce guaranteed job programs to wipe out unemployment, tackle climate change and address environmental degradation.

There should always be a job for you. The government has the means to create jobs where they are needed when the private sector cannot and guarantee employment for those who lose their job and are in transition.

Collaborate with Unions to Create Good Public Sector Jobs

Workers are stronger when they stand together in solidarity with each other. The Green Party of Alberta stands with them. Unions play a critical role in protecting workers' rights, advocating for their interests, and improving working conditions for everyone. We would bargain with them in good faith, protect and expand the right to form a union, and respect their autonomy. By listening to and collaborating with unions, the government can better understand the needs of workers and implement policies that improve working conditions, stimulate economic growth while distributing its benefits more equally, and advance social and economic justice.

Climate Action is Job Action

Green jobs are essential for mitigating the impacts of climate change while also supporting employment opportunities. Transitions must be done fairly, protecting workers' pensions, benefits, seniority, identity, and allow access to job markets through public transportation. Norway's trillion-dollar fund is a good example of how a government can protect its citizens' pensions and help emerging markets. Alberta's Heritage Fund should do the same.

Launch the Reclamation Job Boom

According to the Alberta Liabilities Disclosure Project report, there were an estimated 300,000 orphaned oil and gas wells in Alberta as of 2021. Reclaiming them is a formidable task but one that would create 10,000 jobs per year, particularly for workers who are no longer employed in oil and gas extraction. The Green Party of Alberta would sharply increase mandatory payments by polluters into the Orphan Well Fund until liabilities decrease to manageable levels. This additional funding would immediately be used to hire additional workers to clean these wells and the sites adjacent to them. This extraordinary effort would mitigate the environmental damage caused by abandoned wells, including fugitive methane emissions, groundwater contamination, and air pollution, while supporting the transition to a green economy.

Cut Taxes for Small Business

The Green Party of Alberta would cut the tax rate for small businesses in half to 1% while raising the small business threshold, which has not been adjusted since 2009, from \$500,000 to \$700,000. Small business owners can reinvest their tax savings into growing their businesses and hiring new employees, allowing them to compete better with large corporations. By having the lowest rates in Canada, Alberta would attract and retain small businesses, promoting job creation and economic growth.

More Support for Small Business

Small businesses are a vital part of Alberta's economy and a major driver of economic growth, employing thousands of Albertans and supporting the communities in which they operate. They have always struggled with startup and operational costs and are at a competitive disadvantage to large corporations. The Green Party of Alberta would support the success of small businesses by increasing access to grants and loans.

Raise Taxes on Large Corporations

Despite making record profits, receiving large subsidies and paying the lowest tax rate in Canada, it never seems to be enough for large corporations. They primarily use their tax savings to buy back stock or pay higher dividends, concentrating wealth and power in the hands of a few while having minimal economic impact. The Green Party of Alberta would increase the tax rate on large corporations from 8% to 12%, reallocating a larger share of enormous corporate profits for the public good. We have ambitious ideas like introducing a universal basic income, expanding the public healthcare system, and building social housing and the additional revenues resulting from this increase would help fund them. At the same time, we would make small businesses more competitive and foster entrepreneurship and innovative research, to promote economic growth and diversification.

This will ensure that large corporations pay their fair share to the people of Alberta and contribute to the growth of the small business sector. By utilizing the surplus from the increased corporate tax rate to support new entrepreneurs, innovation, and small or medium businesses through grants, low interest loans, the government can create a more level playing field for small and medium businesses to thrive. This will also encourage innovation and help diversify the economy, which is critical for long-term growth.

Build the Alberta Resilience Corps (ARC) to End Unemployment

Unemployment is a phenomenon that the government chooses to allow, not an unavoidable feature of our economic system. The Green Party of Alberta would end unemployment by forming a government-funded employment program called the Alberta Resilience Corps (ARC), which is modeled on the success of the Civilian Conservation Corps that provided jobs to hundreds of thousands of unemployed Americans during the Great Depression.

The program would hire Albertans to work in Nature-based Climate Solutions particularly in three areas: Disaster Management, Conservation Management, and Reclamation Management. Although open to everyone, it would focus on creating opportunities for people, areas, and sectors most affected by unemployment, including Indigenous Nations, rural areas, and the fossil fuel industry. By providing meaningful employment, a base of income, and restoring our natural environments, the ARC program can promote economic, ecological, and community well-being while addressing a backlog of work that the private sector is unable to solve.



Healthcare



Strong public healthcare, education, emergency, transportation and social services are the backbone of a healthy and thriving society.

The Green Party of Alberta would not only defend our public services but also strengthen them to provide all Albertans with the services they need.

We must close the gaps of our public system by covering mental healthcare, physiotherapy, prescription drugs, dentistry, vision, hearing and other essential medical care.

Albertans across the political spectrum understand that our public healthcare system, while imperfect, is stronger than private systems. The evidence is clear that public systems deliver better outcomes while saving money and resources. Yet our system remains partially private. Albertans or their employers continue to buy medical insurance and make out-of-pocket payments for various essential medical treatments. Many Albertans forego necessary care because they are uninsured and can't afford it. The Green Party would introduce comprehensive public healthcare by covering mental healthcare, physiotherapy, prescription drugs, dentistry, vision, and other essential medical care under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan.

We don't need to tell you that glasses aren't optional, teeth aren't optional, and mental health is not optional so let's include all these things and more under our public system. This change would make our system more equitable for women, minorities, Indigenous people and those with low incomes, who are especially likely to fall through the cracks, while improving overall public health and conserving resources and funds spent on emergency and acute care.

♦ Work With Unions to Support and Retain Healthcare Workers

Without frontline workers, our healthcare system would cease to function. These staff work tirelessly to keep us safe and healthy and yet they are often overworked, underpaid and taken for granted. The Green Party of Alberta understands that supporting and valuing healthcare workers is essential to the success and sustainability of our healthcare system. That is why we would work with, rather than against, unions to ensure that healthcare workers are properly compensated, treated, and supported for their hard work and dedication and have the opportunity to inform government policy and decision making that affects them.

Frontline workers are, at the same time, dealing with unprecedented levels of stress and trauma. They are exposed to highly stressful and emotionally challenging situations on a daily basis and yet they often do not get the support they need. Many are forced to take leaves or even change professions. We would establish a comprehensive treatment program that prioritizes the mental health of first responders and hospital staff, providing them with the tools, resources, and support they need. These workers should be able to focus on the important work that they do—that is to say, they should be thriving rather than surviving.

Recruit Staff to Deliver Better Care On Time

Albertans are waiting months for necessary surgery and hours in emergency rooms; at times, ambulances are unavailable. The healthcare system is under severe strain that must be alleviated. The Green Party of Alberta would launch a hiring blitz for qualified healthcare workers. We would mandate minimum staffing ratios to prevent nurses from being overstretched and patients receiving insufficient care. To reduce emergency room backlogs and free up paramedics to respond to emergencies, we would hire more triage nurses and physicians.

Rural Albertans, in particular, are often left behind: they struggle to find family doctors and are serviced by understaffed hospitals lacking many of the services and capabilities urban hospitals have. We would increase staffing, including by offering healthcare workers incentives to relocate to and remain in rural areas, and expand capacity for delivery of healthcare in rural areas. Our goal is for all Albertans to receive high quality, efficient and timely care as needed.

Cover Mental Healthcare for Albertans

No one should pay out of pocket for or be unable to afford essential medical care, including mental healthcare. The Green Party of Alberta would cover mental healthcare under the Alberta healthcare Insurance Plan. The lack of inclusion of mental healthcare in our public system is arbitrary and contributes to the stigmatization of mental illness.

Lack of access to treatment aggravates illness, increasing the risk of suicide and use of stopgap emergency services. Many Albertans self-medicate with drugs, including unsafe street drugs, leading to addiction, drug poisoning and other negative effects of drug use. Private delivery of care raises costs to individuals and the government while discouraging seeking treatment due to concerns about costs or inability to afford it.



Inflation & Affordability



The Green Party of Alberta is committed to eliminating poverty and strengthening our economy by holding profiteers accountable and providing unconditional financial support for all Albertans, including students, families, seniors, and small business owners.

Eradicate Poverty through a Universal Basic Income (UBI)

Alberta is a wealthy province yet many live in poverty, including 1 out of 6 children.

This is a policy failure of past governments. The Green Party of Alberta will eradicate poverty by creating a basic income sufficient to cover the basic needs of all Albertans. A basic income for all reducing the bureaucracy and ineffectiveness of our system that leaves many suffering. It gives all Albertans a safety net and the freedom to spend their money where they need it most.

Poverty is an expensive problem and we cannot afford it to continue. The estimated annual cost of poverty in Alberta is \$9.5 billion, before factoring in government-funded payments and social services. This remarkable sum includes \$1.2 billion in additional spending on healthcare, up to \$1 billion in lost tax revenue, and \$96 million for law enforcement.

The potential of a basic income to alleviate poverty and associated problems like crime is well documented. For example, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or CERB contributed to a significant, overall reduction in crime, including a 16% decrease in break-ins, a 20% decrease in theft, an 18% decrease in robbery, a staggering 36% decrease in shoplifting, and a 9% decrease in sexual assault, during its period of payment.

Support the Local Economy and Give Entrepreneurs Freedom

You might have noticed we often mention our proposal for a Universal Basic Income, but it is a transformative policy with wide-ranging benefits. Apart from eradicating poverty and supporting students, it would give people the freedom to start a business, contribute to arts and culture, pursue a different career or raise a family because they could rest assured that, no matter what happens, they have a stream of income to fall back on. Ending the stress of falling into poverty or even houslessness.

Many people are only able to work part-time because they are a single parent, a primary caregiver to an adult family member, or experience discrimination in the job market. They currently do not earn enough and would benefit greatly from any additional income. Due to reduced stress and universal ability to afford the essentials, a basic income would improve overall health and the standard of living for everyone. By increasing and establishing a minimum level for consumers' buying power, it would reduce our economy's susceptibility to cycles of booms and busts, technological changes like artificial intelligence, and external shocks like climate change or pandemics.

Protect Our Pensions

The UCP's plan to pull out of the Canadian Pension Plan would be devastating for the working class. The Green Party of Alberta recognizes the importance of the CPP in providing a reliable source of income to retired Albertans and those with disabilities, and is committed to keeping Alberta in the CPP. We also understand that pensions alone are inadequate to ensuring financial stability; our plans for a UBI and strengthened AISH will supplement CPP payments.

Support for Families

Raising children is hard, not to mention expensive, but the Green Party of Alberta is here to help. We would work with the federal government to fully implement \$10 per day child care while providing supplementary funding to eliminate extra fees, improve the quality of care, and ensure workers are fairly compensated. In light of the legacy of residential schools and the 60s Scoop, we recognize Indigenous children belong with their parents and in their communities. The GPA aims culturally appropriate, community-led child care with service in Indigenous languages as well as English or French. To curtail the high cost of living and improve affordability by implementing a universal basic income, capping rent increases, offering fare-free public transit, and building more affordable housing.

Assistance for Seniors

Seniors deserve to be treated with dignity and respect following long careers of serving our province. Under the current privatized system of long-term care homes, our seniors are often subject to inadequate supports and inhumane conditions. That's why the Green Party of Alberta is committed to expanding publicly-funded long-term care homes, which would be affordable, well-maintained, and provide the necessary assistance for Albertans of advanced age to live fulfilling and enjoyable lives. These homes will focus on quality of life, including the emotional, spiritual and social needs of seniors, as well as healthcare needs. Expanding the option of at-home care, which is currently minimal and underfunded, is also crucial for allowing our seniors the freedom to choose a comfortable living situation for themselves and remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

Empower Albertans with Disabilities

Every Albertan, including those with disabilities, has something to contribute to society. However, in many cases, systemic barriers are preventing them from doing so. The current patchwork of supports in place is inefficient and inadequate, and many individuals slip through the cracks due to burdensome application processes and waitlists. The Green Party of Alberta recognizes that the cost of living for those with disabilities is greater than that of the average Albertan, and is committed to supplementing our Universal Basic Income with a reformed, streamlined, and inflation-indexed version of Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH).

Optimize the Food System

No Albertan should be forced to choose between putting food on the table and keeping a roof over their head. Grocery corporations are price gauging consumers, resulting in record profits. The Green Party of Alberta will hold these corporations accountable by implementing an excess profits cap, and by implementing legislation to eliminate food waste. Approximately 40% of food produced in Alberta goes to waste, much of which is preventable, as food producers and distributors regularly opt to intentionally spoil food in lieu of discounting or donating it. We will prohibit companies from throwing out otherwise perfectly good food, instead requiring them to sell at a reduced price or donate to local food banks.

Address Rising Energy Costs

The price of energy is increasing drastically and previous government measures such as temporarily capping the Regulated Rate Option (RRO) at 13.5 c/ kWh has only deferred payments for consumers to a later date. The Green Party of Alberta proposes following recent US and EU legislation to tax electricity and gas companies for excess profits that are more than 20% higher than the average yearly profits since 2018. A portion of the profits would then go to energy rebates for low income families who are struggling to pay their energy bills. Any additional profit could go into an energy efficiency program to help home owners improve their insulation, windows, or upgrade home appliances to reduce their energy consumption and therefore, energy costs.

Climate Change, Environment & Disaster Readiness



Resource exploitation and the climate crisis is putting the health and wealth of all Albertans, especially those belonging to marginalized communities, at risk.

The Green Party of Alberta will ensure that corporate polluters are required to pay for the damage they cause to human life and our natural environment. We will also create and enforce a framework for a fair energy transition that prioritizes workers and Indigenous communities, in accordance with the guidelines set out in the IPCC Synthesis Report.

Protect Our Drinking Water

Access to clean drinking water is a basic necessity of a life and a human right but in Alberta it is under threat. The Green Party of Alberta would guarantee that water resources remain in public hands, rather than being privatized for corporate gain. We would strengthen regulation of the fossil fuel and agricultural indstrusties to prevent contamination of water and hold polluters accountable. Where access to clean drinking water is unavailable or at risk, we would prioritize the remediation of contaminated sources, especially in Indigenous communities which are disproportionately affected and often ignored.

Stop Habitat Loss and Preserve Biodiversity

Alberta has rich biodiversity but it is in major decline due to habitat loss. Important species are decreasing in number or at risk of extinction. Human activities such as deforestation, urban expansion, and resource extraction have led to the loss of enormous tracts of natural lands, particularly on the territory of the Indigenous peoples of Alberta. Recognizing the urgency of the issue, the Green Party of Alberta would enforce and strengthen regulations that protect natural areas and wildlife corridors, promote urban density and sustainable use of land, and support the restoration of degraded habitats, in order to stop habit loss and preserve biodiversity.

We understand the crucial role pollinators and keystone species play in maintaining healthy ecosystems. For this reason, we would encourage polyculture farming and sustainable forest harvesting while restricting the use of pesticides and herbicides that harm and kill pollinators. Keystone species, such as wolves and grizzly bears deserve more protection for their roles in maintaining the health of the ecosystem we depend on.

Respect Indigenous Peoples and Address Environmental Harms

Climate change and environmental degradation have disproportionately affected the Indigenous peoples of Alberta and their land, part of a long history of state oppression, neglect, and violence. The first step to changing this is ensuring that Indigenous people are included in decision making and that provincial decisions uphold the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People. The Green Party of Alberta affirms the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations, the government's duty to uphold treaty obligations, and the importance of traditional land use practices. All development or natural resource projects would require the full consent of impacted Indigenous communities. If consent is granted, projects would be subject to revenue sharing and co-management with them. We would make Indigenous communities active partners in preserving and protecting watersheds, natural environments, and prime agriculture lands.

Protect Our Parks

Coal exploration in Alberta and particularly in the Eastern Slopes must end immediately to protect our watershed from selenium contamination. Selenium, a naturally occurring element released in higher quantities in coal mining has been linked to mass deaths in westslope cutthroat trout. Coal mining would affect traditional hunting and fishing areas for Indigenous Nations, destroy prime grazing for ranchers, and eliminate grassland prairies that are an important natural carbon sink.

Our provincial parks system must also be accessible to all Albertans regardless of income. User fees such as the controversial parks pass in Kananaskis Country must be removed for day-use activities.

Strengthen Wildfire Response

- Reinstate the Alberta Rap-attack program: This rappelling program has proven to be an effective tool for responding to wildfires quickly and preventing them from growing. Firefighters deployed from helicopters can extinguish fires when they are small before they endanger communities and property.
- Reopen and expand lookout positions: Fire lookout towers are essential for detecting fires early and alerting firefighters to the danger, reducing response times and allowing them to get fires under control before they become large and dangerous.
- Add to our fleet of air tankers: Alberta's stock of air tankers is aging and their number has
 decreased steadily since 2014 even as the risk of wildfires has increased. The time to
 procure additional aircraft to reflect this risk and replace aging models is now. These new
 planes will help protect our pilots and ensure that we have sufficient resources for wildfire
 response.
- Restore funding for rural firefighters: Rural fire departments often struggle to furnish their volunteer firefighters with the tools and training they need to respond to fires safely and efficiently. Through the reinstatement of the provincial training grant and allocating additional funding to help rural departments acquire additional tools and equipment, we can better support our volunteers and protect our communities.

Reinforce Wildfire Prevention Practices

- Stop spraying glyphosate: The practice of spraying glyphosate, apart from the harm to the
 environment, is counterproductive because it kills fire-resistant aspens. Ending this practice
 would preserve these trees which create natural firebreaks that impede the spread of
 wildfires.
- Enhance prescribed burning: Prescribed burning is an effective way of reducing fuel loads and reducing the spread of uncontrolled wildfires. Indigenous traditional knowledge and practices, which encompass a more sustainable and effective approach to wildfire management, can guide our application of prescribed burning.
- Safer forest harvesting: Current practices of harvesting forests leave behind high fuel loads that are a significant contributing factor to wildfires. By regulating these practices better to require the removal of leftover debris, we can reduce the risk of wildfires and manage forests more sustainably.

These policy changes would form part of a broader effort to address climate change and environmental harms in Alberta. We desperately need a government that takes these issues seriously and works toward a more sustainable and responsible approach to managing our natural resources. To create a safer and more sustainable future for our province and its residents, the Green Party would invest in renewable energy, slash greenhouse gas emissions, and protect our environment.

Peak GHG Emissions Before 2025

In line with the scientific recommendations from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Alberta must do its part in reaching peak emissions by 2025 and reducing emissions to 60% of 2019 levels by 2035. This would give us a high chance of limiting warming to 1.5C and provide our children and grandchildren with their best shot at a liveable future.

Cut GHG Emissions to Net-Zero by 2040

Our climate is destabilizing and will not stop without decisive action. The Green Party of Alberta's plan to address climate change entails rapidly curtailing emissions through the proven science based solutions outlined in Project Drawdown. The Green Party of Alberta will not approve new high emitting projects. Electricity production must be decarbonized by replacing coal and gas power plants with low carbon sources like solar, wind, geothermal and green hydrogen. Active and public transportation must be promoted while internal combustion engines vehicles should be transitioned to electric inline with the expansion of our electrical grid. These large infrastructure projects will boost job growth throughout the province. As buildings are a major source of emissions, we would mandate sustainable construction and fund retrofits that improve the energy efficiency of existing building stock.

- Diversifying our energy portfolio and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels
 - Electricity production would be decarbonized by adding renewable energy and low carbon sources like solar, wind, geothermal, and green hydrogen
 - Commit to a clean electricity grid by 2035
 - End subsidies to fossil fuel industry
 - Ban coal mining and exploration in the province and wind down all coal plants as quickly as possible
 - Ban hydraulic fracturing (fracking)
 - No commitments to new oil and gas or pipeline infrastructure
- Re-skilling of energy workers
 - Laid-off energy workers should receive government assistance to retrain or reskill for career transitions into growing sectors such as renewable energy, construction, and clean tech
 - Jobs in nature-based climate solutions such as reclamation, remediation, conservation, and disaster management need government investment through programs like the Climate Corps or the proposed "Alberta Resiliency Corps"
- Green buildings and energy efficiency
 - As buildings are a major source of emissions, we would mandate sustainable construction and fund retrofits that improve the energy efficiency of existing building stock from residential, commercial, institutional, to industrial buildings
 - All new construction must go through LEED certification and meet a minimum standard in order to be approved
 - Re-assess the need for a provincial energy efficiency programs to educate households and businesses to save energy and reduce their GHG emissions through the adoption of new technology like solar PV, heat pumps, high efficiency appliances, and more

• Transportation

- Prioritize funding municipal public transit with a view to increasing service frequency, extending service coverage, and building and improving public transport infrastructure
- Revenues from fares would be replaced with provincial funding, allowing for the introduction of fare-free municipal public transit
- Invest in high-speed rail between Edmonton and Calgary
- Internal combustion engines vehicles would be phased out in favour of electric equivalents
- Expand level 3 charging electric vehicle infrastructure into rural Alberta, major tourist destinations, and provincial parks

Promote Drought Resilience and Water Conservation

Alberta is no stranger to drought, a problem which will only worsen and become more common as climate change progresses. Action to mitigate the impacts of drought and water scarcity cannot be delayed any further. The Green Party of Alberta will work with farmers to introduce and spread sustainable agriculture practices and tools, such as regenerative farming and water-saving technologies, which would improve soil health and water retention while reducing water consumption. Our priority is safeguarding food and water security for all Albertans and proactive measures are needed now to ensure we are prepared.

Support Local Food Production to Rein in Prices and Enhance Food Security

Albertans are struggling to afford the high and rising cost of food. Covid-19-related disruptions and climate-related disasters have exposed the vulnerability of global food supply chains to external shocks. Local food production can help stabilize prices by reducing our reliance on external producers. Smallholder farmers can be better supported by mandating that a larger portion of the price of a food item goes to farmers. Agricultural land must be protected from development. Proactive grants for innovative farming, year-round greenhouse production and urban agriculture like community gardens will help combat local supply chain issues and ensure Albertans have access to food as climate and supply chain issues intensify.



Housing



The cost of housing has skyrocketed in recent years. As a result, thousands of Albertans are forced to live on the streets, while many more are one missed paycheck or unexpected expense away from homelessness. The Green Party of Alberta will ensure that housing is a human right for all Albertans.

Implement a Housing First Program to End Homelessness

The Green Party of Alberta's goal is to end homelessness and ensure all Albertans have permanent housing. The best way to achieve this is through a Housing First program which would provide stable, long-term housing for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. This approach recognizes obtaining housing as the first step towards improving an affected person's overall health and wellbeing, and then provides support services to address any underlying issues.

This model, which has proven successful in Finland, keeps over 80% of participants housed permanently and saves the government \$21,000 per housed person by reducing expenditures on emergency services, hospitals, and prisons. We would also aim to prevent homelessness before it occurs by delivering early intervention services, financial assistance to those struggling to afford their current housing, and outreach services to the homeless population that forge a path to stable housing.

Cap Rent Increases and Build Affordable Housing

Rent control is a policy tool that stabilizes housing costs and precludes unreasonable increases in rent. Currently, landlords may charge as much as they want. Tenants have little choice but to pay exorbitant rates even if they are in financial distress because they need housing and may have no affordable or suitable place to move to. If they cannot pay, they face eviction.

The Green Party of Alberta would limit rent increases to 1.5% annually. This cap, modeled on the success of the British Columbia cap, allows landlords to cover expenses and make a modest profit while protecting tenants' rights by making eviction data publicly available. This data informs policy decisions and helps identify problematic landlords or rental properties. A basic income would make access to financial assistance universal, reducing the burden of housing costs and preventing homelessness.

Just as rents should be affordable, so should options for permanent housing and home ownership. Publicly-owned and operated, net zero social housing should be retrofitted from current vacancies and constructed as needed to provide non-profit and non-market housing options like housing co-ops.

Save Lives by Addressing the Drug Poisoning Crisis

More than four Albertans died each day from drug poisoning last year. This crisis has been ongoing for years and the government has failed to halt it. The Green Party of Alberta will dramatically expand access to evidence-based measures for minimizing harm and treating addiction, such as supervised consumption sites, medication-assisted therapy, and safe supply. Addiction is a health problem, not a criminal justice problem. The Green Party of Alberta supports decriminalization of drug possession for personal use. No one should be arrested or imprisoned because they have an illness.

Electoral Reform



Proportional representation will create a more representative, diverse, and accountable government that reflects the will of Albertans. The Green Party is committed to making this change. We promise to work with other parties to build a stronger democracy.

The current majoritarian first-past-the-post electoral system encourages the ugly and divisive partisan politics we see today. This colonial system prevents politicians from working collaboratively in the Legislature, to the detriment of all Albertans.

To address this problem, the Green Party would reintroduce proportional representation, a system that worked successfully in Alberta for over 30 years. Under proportional representation, the number of seats a party wins is proportional to the percentage of votes they receive.

This electoral system is used around the world and has many benefits:

Fairer Elections

Proportional representation ensures that votes count and parties get the number of seats they deserve. Under our current system, a party with 40% of the votes is often rewarded with more than 50% of the seats while the 10% of the electorate who vote for a third party may get no representation whatsoever.

Diverse Representation

Proportional representation would encourage a wider range of political parties and people to compete for seats in the Legislature. Chronically ignored issues and unmet needs of Albertans would be better addressed. Jurisdictions that use proportional representation have lower income inequality, take stronger action on climate change, and elect more women, minorities, young people, and members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Greater Accountability

Under proportional representation, majority governments where a single party dominates the Legislature and pursues a single-minded agenda would be less likely. Parties would have to work for every vote in every part of Alberta, not just the small number of swing districts, improving local representation.

Reduced Polarization

Proportional representation encourages collaboration and compromise between political parties, as opposed to the combative and hyper-partisan politics characteristic of our winner-takes-all system. When parties and politicians work together, they get more done and serve the people better.

Stronger Democracy

Proportional representation leads to higher voter turnout because voters feel their vote matters, the election is fairer, and they can vote for candidates or parties rather than against them.

Public Education



The Green Party of Alberta will tear down barriers and ensure a strong economy for many generations to come by improving the public education system and providing tuition-free post-secondary education.

Eliminate Tuition Fees at Public Colleges and Universities

This priority aims to make post-secondary education accessible and affordable to all Albertans. Currently, the cost of tuition can be a significant barrier for students who want to pursue higher education. By offering free undergraduate education to all citizens and permanent residents, we can ensure that all Albertans have an equal opportunity to pursue their educational and career goals.

The implementation of this priority would require significant investment from the government, but the long-term benefits would be immense. Not only would it provide greater opportunities for individual Albertans, but it would also help to build a more skilled and educated workforce, which could lead to greater economic growth and prosperity in the province.

♦ Introduce a Basic Income for Students Over 18

Providing a basic income to Canadian students over the age of 18 would help to ensure that they have the financial support they need to pursue their educational goals. This support would be particularly important for students from lower-income families, who may struggle to cover the costs of tuition, textbooks, and other living expenses while attending school.

By providing a basic income, we can help to level the playing field and ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to succeed. It would also help to reduce financial stress for students, allowing them to focus more on their studies and less on how they will pay for their education.

Reduce Class Sizes

Smaller class sizes have been shown to have numerous benefits for students, including improved academic performance, increased engagement, and better social and emotional development. By ensuring that every twenty students have access to a qualified teacher and educational assistant, we can provide a higher level of support and individual attention to each student.

This priority would require additional funding for hiring more teachers and educational assistants, but the benefits to students would be significant. By investing in smaller class sizes, we can help to ensure that all students have the support they need to succeed.

Cooperate With Unions in the Education Sector to Improve Working Conditions

Teachers, educational assistants, and other staff deserve to be fairly compensated for their hard work, retain control over their pensions, and have job security. The UCP government instead threatened them with pay cuts, hijacked teachers' pensions, and laid off thousands of educational assistants and other staff, at a time when teachers sorely needed assistance with adjusting to the challenge of remote learning.

The Green Party of Alberta would cooperate with unions in the education sector to improve working conditions for staff so that they can be healthy and happy and perform at the highest possible level. Turnover and absences would be reduced at the same time as student performance would increase. We believe that this additional support would strengthen our educational system and represent an excellent investment from which all Albertans will profit.

♦ Scrap the UCP Curriculum and Replace It with an Evidence-based Inclusive One

The current K-12 school curriculum in Alberta has been criticized for being too Eurocentric and not sufficiently representative of the diverse cultures and perspectives that make up our province. By working with a diverse group of educational professionals, we can develop a curriculum that is more inclusive and reflective of the experiences and perspectives of all Albertans. A more diverse and inclusive curriculum can help to foster greater understanding and empathy among students, and can help to break down stereotypes and prejudices. It can also help to prepare students for a globalized world, where cultural competence and understanding are increasingly important.

End Funding for Elite Private Schools

Private schools that charge high tuition fees increase inequities in our province. All students deserve to receive a good education but only a minority can afford elite private schools. Funds that could be used to support students in the public system are currently diverted to private schools, effectively acting as a subsidy for a wealthy minority at the expense of the majority of Albertans. Private schools would still be permitted to continue operations without public funding.

Merge School Boards Into One Public System

Currently, there are several school boards in Alberta, including public, Catholic, and francophone boards. This can result in duplication of services and administrative costs, which divert resources away from students and teachers.

By merging school boards into the public school system, we can streamline the administration of the education system saving up to \$600 million annually as seen in other provinces, without decreasing schools in our neighbourhoods. These savings can be allocated to add an educational assistant in each classroom to provide additional support to teachers for students with special needs, and to improve air quality in schools through proper ventilation and deepretrofits.



Public Transportation



A strong and efficient transportation system is necessary to connect the urban and rural population of our province. Public transit is also a climate solution.

Establish a Public Transportation Agency

In many cases, the only option for traversing our large province are private vehicles or, in some cases, air travel. Public transit often ends at the borders of municipalities, outside of which service is very limited or unavailable. Rural Albertans who cannot drive currently have limited mobility, lack access to essential services and job opportunities, and are isolated physically and emotionally.

The Green Party of Alberta believes public transit can and should take all Albertans from their doorsteps to their destinations in every corner of our large province. Accordingly, we would establish a Public Transportation Agency which would plan, build, and coordinate a comprehensive public transportation system in Alberta, including a publicly owned and operated rural and interurban rail and bus system. A centralized agency would improve efficiency and consistency in the delivery of service. Public transit can connect Albertans of all origins, identities, and abilities in an accessible, sustainable and affordable way. The Green Party will take you there.

Improve Service, Safety, and Eliminate Fares for Municipal Public Transit

Despite approaching pre-pandemic levels, ridership of public transit in Alberta's cities is languishing at low levels. It's not hard to understand why so many Albertans choose instead to travel in their own vehicles: public transit service can be unreliable, slow, and, sometimes, unavailable. We can, however, spur a rapid, sustained increase in ridership and reap the benefits of that. The Green Party of Alberta would prioritize funding municipal public transit with a view to increasing service frequency, extending service coverage, and building and improving public transport infrastructure. Revenues from fares would be replaced with provincial funding, allowing for the introduction of fare-free municipal public transit.

Public transit lowers emissions from transportation, air pollution, traffic congestion and vehicle noise. Its cost to individuals and the government is far lower than that of vehicle ownership. It allows workers to get to their job sites; the elderly to make their doctor's appointments or visit family; and people with disabilities, who may be unable to drive or use other forms of transportation, to travel across their city. A source of good, green union jobs, it stimulates the local economy and improves public health by promoting an active lifestyle.

Municipalities are responsible for providing public transit to their residents but they don't have the tax base to increase budgets significantly or forgo revenue from fares. For too long, the provincial government has provided insufficient support for municipal public transit, contributing to low ridership and poor or inadequate service. The Green Party would change this by making public transit a priority and sharply increasing provincial funding including funding for de-escalation professionals to help with safety especially in off-peak hours.

Connect Edmonton and Calgary with High Speed Rail

High-speed rail is a safe, proven technology that can move people and goods much faster and more efficiently than cars or trucks. A high-speed rail line between Edmonton and Calgary would save lives, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality by reducing traffic on Highway 2 and provide an alternative to short flights between Edmonton and Calgary.

By connecting these major urban centers and improving access to jobs and economic opportunities, it would stimulate economic growth, attract new investment, and boost productivity in the province while helping businesses attract workers and improving their access to markets and suppliers.

The reduced travel time between these cities would make it easier to commute to job sites, attend business meetings, visit family and friends, and travel leisurely, boosting the tourism and hospitality sector. This major investment would be a significant catalyst for economic development and job creation in the construction sector. The construction of a high-speed rail line requires a large amount of labour, equipment, and materials, bolstering local economies and creating jobs for skilled tradespeople, construction workers and service providers. The line would eventually pay for itself and generate profits through additional tax revenues resulting from increased economic activity, decreased costs associated with mitigating environmental harm, and payments for fares and shipments.



Oil & Gas Sector, Royalties, and **Workers**



The wealth of Alberta belongs to all Albertans, not a select few. Corporations and the rich must pay their fair share in taxes and royalties. The Green Party of Alberta would make them, opening the door to paying down environmental liabilities, boosting employment, and filling the coffers of the Heritage Fund, not to mention reining in the high cost of living.

Mismanagement of public funds is preventing the government from serving Albertans effectively and hampering the prospects of Alberta. We would take back control of our resources to realize a modern vision of Peter Lougheed.

◆ Replace the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER)

A body that serves the interests of the industry it is supposed to regulate cannot fulfill its duty. The privately incorporated Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), founded by the then Progressive Conservative government in 2013, is notionally responsible for overseeing oil and gas extraction in the province. However, it has proven itself to be captive of the oil and gas industry and thus incapable of regulating it, leading to immense harm to the health and safety of Albertans and the environment.

The Green Party of Alberta would replace the AER with review boards that work in the public interest and are truly independent from the industries they are regulating. This change would put the AERs large budget to good use, improving transparency and accountability. By enforcing regulations, the AER can make polluters clean up the messes they create and pay sizable fines.

Scrap the RStar Giveaway

Danielle Smith and the UCP want to reward oil companies to the tune of \$20 billion dollars for polluting Alberta's environment and remediating wells that they are already legally obliged to remediate. They call it RStar; we call it a massive corporate giveaway. This scheme is a gross violation of the polluter pay's principle and a spectacular waste of public money. The Green Party of Alberta would scrap it immediately. We would never do anything that is so manifestly contrary to the public interest.

Raise Royalties

For as long as resource extraction continues in our province, Albertans should be getting the lion's share of the profits. Under the Premiership of Peter Lougheed, Alberta charged higher royalties on resource development, leading the Heritage Fund to grow rapidly. The Green Party of Alberta would restore royalties rates to their prior level, increasing government revenues and creating a surplus that can be saved and invested for the future.

Tax the Richest

Owing to low rates and deductions, the richest Albertans often pay lower taxes than middle and low income Albertans. Most Albertans, including many conservatives, would agree that people who live in mansions with 10-car garages should pay a lot more taxes. The Green Party of Alberta would implement a steeply progressive income tax, lowering taxes for low earners while increasing them for high earners, especially the highest. Income above \$1 million would be taxed at a rate of 40% as compared to 15% currently. This additional revenue would be used to end poverty and fund programs that benefit all Albertans.

Stop Corporate Profiteering

The revenues of Alberta's oil and gas industry ballooned to nearly \$250 billion in 2022. Rather than share in this enormous wealth, most Albertans struggled to pay for housing, food and other costs that rose sharply. This two-tiered economy that enriches a tiny minority while the majority fight for the scraps must end. The GPA would introduce a cap on excess profits from resource development to distribute the benefits of resource development more evenly, fund the mitigation of its harms, and ensure that all Albertans enjoy a good standard of living.

Grow the Heritage Fund

If Alberta met the royalty targets set when Peter Lougheed was Premier, the Heritage Fund would have grown to \$1 trillion by 2039. This found would allow the province to balance our budgets using the massive interest gains each year by our fund. Instead, its value stood at \$19 billion at the end of 2022, only \$6 billion more than when Lougheed left office in 1985. Where has the missing money gone? To international shareholders and corporate executives while Alberta has accrued clean-up liabilities of over \$260 billion.

The Heritage Fund, founded in 1976, was intended to save resource revenues for future generations of Albertans, invest in diversifying the economy, making it less reliant on the oil and gas industry, and improve the general welfare of Albertans. However, the fund currently goes years without receiving any deposits and income from investments is added to general revenue, meaning it has actually decreased in size after adjusting for inflation. Of what money remains, a significant portion is invested in or profits from the oil and gas industry, contrary to the fund's purpose of supporting economic diversification.

In line with the original aims of the Heritage Fund, the Green Party of Alberta would resume regular deposits into it, divest its holdings from fossil fuel industries, and invest in green technology and industries to diversify its holdings and improve its performance. Excess funds would be used exclusively for projects or purposes that improve the lives of all Albertans, including addressing climate change, ending poverty, and eliminating tuition fees.

Invest in Workers

Alberta's economy has always been closely tied to the energy industry, and the boom and bust cycles of the industry have had a significant impact on the province's workers. The GPA believes that the government should invest in workers during the boom times to prepare them for the bust.

The government should create government-funded programs to ensure that workers in the energy sector have the necessary skills, pensions, and seniority transfer options to transition to other industries when the boom times end. This will help to ensure that workers are not left out in the cold when the energy sector experiences a downturn.

Cleanup is Energy Transition

The transition away from fossil fuels must include a focus on cleaning up the mess that has been left behind by the oil and gas industry. The cleanup of oil and gas wells, pipelines, and other infrastructure is an important step in the transition to a sustainable energy future.

Decades of full-employment, without comparatively negligible capital, retraining, or relocation costs. By enforcing reclamation, riggers and idle equipment can be put to work locally everywhere for cleanup. The GPA proposes to create government-funded programs to put unemployed riggers and idle equipment to work cleaning up the legacy infrastructure left behind by the energy industry.

Support Our Farmers



Agriculture is an important industry in Alberta, contributing significantly to the economy, providing jobs and creating food security. However, the province is facing a challenge of losing its next generation of farmers, as many young people are leaving rural areas in search of better opportunities elsewhere.

To address this issue, the following priorities can be considered:

Build Agriculture Training and Tech Centres of Excellence Across Rural Alberta

The GPA will establish agriculture training and tech centrs across rural Alberta to teach and support new technology in farming. These centers can provide hands-on training, mentorship, and access to the latest equipment and technologies to help young farmers and entrepreneurs establish successful and sustainable agricultural businesses. The Green Party of Alberta would support universities and technical schools to offer courses on agriculture and related fields. In addition, apprenticeship programs and mentorship opportunities will provide hands-on training for young farmers. Agricultural extension services, which provide technical assistance and resources to farmers, would also be a priority to assist young farmers seeking to start or expand their businesses.

Support Farmers as Land Stewards by Celebrating Them and Subsidizing Their Stewardship

Farmers are not just producers of food and commodities, but also land stewards who play a crucial role in maintaining the health and biodiversity of ecosystems. By celebrating and recognizing farmers as stewards of the land, Alberta can encourage more young people to choose farming as a career and promote sustainable agricultural practices that benefit both farmers and the environment. Subsidies can be provided for methane reduction feed, ecoagriculture, organic farming, and other stewardship practices that contribute to sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture.

Access to Land for Young Farmers

Access to land is a critical barrier for young farmers. One approach to addressing this issue is through land trust programs, where the government or non-profit organizations purchase land and then lease it to farmers at affordable rates. This model ensures that the land remains in agricultural use and can help young farmers access land that they would not be able to afford otherwise.

Access to Capital for New Farmers

Access to financing is often a major challenge for young farmers, as they may not have the credit history or collateral needed to secure traditional bank loans. The Green Party of Alberta will provide loans or grants specifically targeted for young farmers. Tax incentives, such as tax credits for investment in sustainable agriculture practices or equipment, can also help young farmers finance their operations.

Support for Sustainable Agriculture

Young farmers are often interested in sustainable and regenerative agriculture practices, which can improve soil health, reduce carbon emissions, and improve biodiversity. Governments can support these efforts by offering grants or subsidies for sustainable farming practices, such as cover cropping or reduced tillage. Technical assistance and education on sustainable agriculture practices can also help young farmers adopt these methods.

How Do We Pay For It?

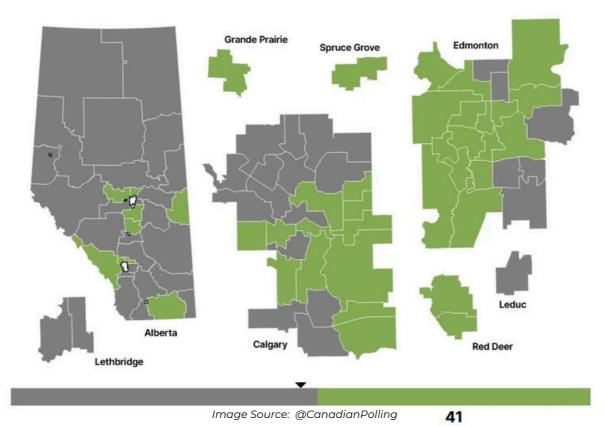
The Green Party of Alberta is dedicated to earn our fair share for Albertans and to build a prosperous future for our province. Inspired by the actions of Peter Lougheed, it is time to raise royalty rates in the oil and gas sector to levels that truly reflect the value of our resources. By valuing our resources properly, we will inject billions of dollars into our treasury, enabling us to fund the vital initiatives of this platform.

Alberta has the lowest corporate tax rate for large corporations in Canada. To address this imbalance, the large corporate tax rate should be raised to 12% to match our neighbouring provinces. This ensures that large corporations contribute their fair share to the growth and development of our province.

Finally, there is proactive savings when we eradicate poverty, end homelessness, reduce crime, streamline services, mitigate disasters and create healthier communities. We are the party that focuses on the systemic solutions that will boost our economy and end unemployment.

How can we afford not to?

Map of the 41 ridings across Alberta Green candidates are running in.



GREEN PARTY OF ALBERTA - PLATFORM 2023

25 · How Do We Pay?



The Alberta Greens Demand Better For Alberta.

We are a collection of everyday Albertans who come from all walks of life. We are teachers and students, farmers and ranchers, first responders and healthcare workers, small business owners and managers, filmmakers and artists, and more.

We are united in our struggle to leave behind a liveable planet for our children, our grandchildren, and all living beings. We strive to be good ancestors, responsible land stewards, and generous community members.

This election campaign is our largest since reorganizing in 2012, with 41 passionate candidates of high caliber on the ballot across Alberta. They range from doctors and college instructors to small business owners and service workers. Nearly half of all Indigenous candidates running this election are running as Greens. We stand as Alberta's third-largest party in candidate representation, demonstrating our commitment to fostering a diverse and truly progressive political option for Alberta.

We will continue to build the fair and sustainable province we all deserve. We do it because we love our families, communities, nature, and our beautiful province.

We do it for all of us - each and every one.