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BC GREENS

QUESTION 1. *Impacts of COVID.* *The availability of rapid COVID testing is a critical issue for local business as they work to ensure a safe work environment for their staff and customers. Staff/kids are back...Businesses need their staff back at work, staff need to get back to work. Given the economic impact of uncertainty around COVID in the workplace, what would you do to address the ongoing availability of rapid COVID testing?*

QUESTION 2. *Costs on Business.* *Many small businesses are desperately trying to get their customers back. They are struggling to find ways to get the revenue they need to survive through COVID. We see the increasing burden on business related to costs that government can control such as Property Tax Assessments and the Employee Health Tax. What would you do to help keep the costs for business down so they can maintain the jobs they provide and survive this tremendous downturn?*

Small businesses are the backbone of the Canadian economy. Small businesses create more employment in the private sector than the big corporations. They create good, stable jobs. They offer competitive wages and benefits. And, because they're small, they are flexible and nimble in adapting to changing global markets. Best of all, their success stays local. They circulate dollars in regional economies and improve the communities around them. The BC Green Party will create a \$300-million rent subsidy program for SMEs and roll out programs to support tourism operators. A six-month rent subsidy program would be aimed at small businesses who pay \$50,000 or less in monthly rent. To provide immediate support, qualifying businesses will see 25 percent of rental costs covered. The Canada Emergency commercial rent assistance program ended last month and BC has abdicated its responsibility when it comes to helping with this area. The Greens will work with the federal government to set up a repayable loan program for members of the hospitality sector and large tourism operators unable to meet the criteria for small business support.

QUESTION 3. *Transportation & Housing.* *Employees working in North Vancouver are not able to find reasonable transportation or affordable local housing options. Businesses are suffering, choosing to move, or simply closing as a result. What would you do to ensure transportation and affordable housing investments are made to support the needs of the community and the future of our local small businesses?*

From a transport perspective, the B.C. Greens will:

- Enhance the ZEV mandate
 - Accelerate the ZEV mandate to require 100% ZEV non-commercial vehicle sales by 2035
 - Work with industry to develop additional innovation incentive programs and set new ZEV targets for commercial vehicles and on and off-road medium and heavy duty vehicles
 - Require BC government agencies to shift to 100% ZEV fleets for passenger vehicles by 2030
- Prioritize investments in electrifying our transit systems, including partnering with the federal government to accelerate support for BC Transit and Translink's efforts to electrify their bus fleets

- Undertake a comprehensive build out of public charging infrastructure on all highways in the province, particularly in remote and rural BC, to enable EV drivers to travel across BC with ease
- Make ZEV ownership more accessible by removing PST on used EVs
- Support electric vehicle charging in multi-unit buildings through a variety of tools, including building code changes and establishing “right to charge” rules to facilitate access to home charging infrastructure for British Columbians living in multi-family buildings

Affordable Housing: The Green Party commits to putting \$500 million toward grants for low and moderate income households that are now paying more than 30% of their income in rent. The goal is to close the gap between what people are paying and what people can afford. A means test distinguishes this plan from that of the NDP.

QUESTION 4. *Climate Change.* The issues of climate change remains a concern for the business community. What is your position and your party’s position on the most important steps that need to be taken in the next year to address this issue?

- Commit to be carbon neutral by 2045, matching California
- Set sectoral targets to ensure industry is contributing their fair share to emissions reductions
- Develop a robust strategy to close the gap to 2030 and set an interim target for 2025 to make sure the government is on track to 2030
- Immediately end oil and gas subsidies and redirect that money to spurring innovation, to help grow businesses in BC and help us meet our climate commitments
- Prioritize natural climate solutions, protecting and restoring our forests and wetlands to maximize their potential as carbon sinks

In order to spur innovation, the BC Greens will additionally:

- Establish a \$1 billion strategic investment fund to support business innovation that aligns with the province’s goals, with a particular emphasis on supporting innovations that help the shift to a zero carbon economy
- Support the creation of a biofuels strategy and clean hydrogen roadmap as part of the energy mix we use to replace fossil fuels in our transportation sector
- Integrate a GHG emissions lens into all government procurement processes
- Immediately reinstate the scheduled carbon tax increase and return to regular and predictable increases in the carbon tax of \$10 per year
- Partner in innovation clusters in areas where BC has a strategic advantage, based on the proposal from the Innovation Commissioner’s report
- Enact Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)-enabling legislation

QUESTION 5. *Retraining Underemployed Workforce to Meet Opportunities in the BC Tech Sector.* The NV Chamber has championed a provincial call for the funding of retraining and skill enrichment that will help more fully employ new Canadians and other individuals with technical aptitude to support the growing needs of our growing local and provincial technology sector.

Implement a just transition program for workers in the oil and gas sector and other industries in transition, working with them on a pathway to a guaranteed job in the clean economy.

Establish a clean jobs plan to help us recover from COVID-19 and get people back to work immediately:

- This plan would create thousands of jobs enhancing and restoring BC’s natural assets, remediating environmental liabilities, as well as in climate adaptation and improving community resilience to climate change
- As part of this jobs plan, we will work with industry partners to enhance the Clean BC Better Homes, Better Buildings program, including by:
 - Increasing the short-term incentives offered to stimulate retrofits

- Accelerating the requirements of the building code and efficiency requirements of equipment to drive long-term action and strengthen the business case for retrofits
 - Partner with colleges, technical institutes and private organizations to develop training programs to expand employment in the green retrofit space
- Programming should focus on supporting those sectors impacted by COVID 19, as well as support the just transition program for workers in the oil and gas sector

