

Resource Sector Coalition
c/o Scott Ellis
Sent via email

October 8, 2024

Re: BC NDP Response to the Resource Sector Coalition,

Dear Scott Ellis and the Resource Sector Coalition,

Thanks for the opportunity to share our plans with you. Please see the BC NDP's response to your questions below.

- 1. Will you make a verbal and written campaign commitment to ensuring a vibrant resource industry in British Columbia, including hunting, fishing, agriculture, forestry, mining, oil and gas?**

David Eby and the BC NDP are committed to building a province where everyone can prosper – and we're showing good results.

- BC has had the fastest growth in GDP of any of the big provinces since 2017.
- In the past 12 months, we created the third most private sector jobs of any province and currently have one of the lowest unemployment rates, well below the national average.
- Investment in the province is booming — with one of the biggest new mines in BC history starting construction this summer, a billion-dollar hydrogen project underway in the lower mainland, a major zero-emission vehicle engine manufacturing plant moving forward in the Interior, and the largest First Nations-majority owned energy projects in Canada under construction in northern BC.
- BC's natural resource industry has grown since 2017 — including through LNG Canada, the largest private-sector investment in Canada's history — and now employs nearly 200,000 people and makes up \$33 billion in GDP.

The natural resource industry is foundational to BC's economy. It is the lifeblood of rural communities across our province and provides good, family-supporting jobs with above-average wages. It also contributes to the prosperity of all British Columbians by providing billions in tax and royalty revenue that governments need to pay for vital public services and new infrastructure - including new schools, hospitals, and highways. We will continue to take action to support the natural resource industry to grow, remain vibrant, and create good jobs.

Yes, the BC NDP will continue to be accountable for its approach to integrated land and natural resource management, including land and marine environments, managing cumulative effects, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples,

and strengthening environmental sustainability.

2. Will you commit to reviewing Indigenous reconciliation strategies under DRIPA, BC's Old Growth Strategy, and the federal "30 by 30" plan to ensure they support sustainable economic development?

We commit to the ongoing review of our strategies and policies — including their impact on sustainable economic development — and to continue proactive and regular engagement with industry, local communities, stakeholders, workers, and First Nations. David Eby and the BC NDP know that British Columbia can have a thriving, growing economy while protecting its land, air, water and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

3. Will you pledge to review the implementation of policies that impact economic development in the province, including the BC Old Growth Strategy, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework, Clean BC, Marine Protected Areas, Watershed Security Strategy, Indigenous reconciliation strategies, and the effects of the federal "30 by 30" initiative?

We commit to the ongoing review of our strategies and policies — including their impact on sustainable economic development — and to continue proactive and regular engagement with industry, local communities, stakeholders, workers, and First Nations. David Eby and the BC NDP know that British Columbia can have a thriving, growing economy while protecting its land, air, water and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

4. Will you ensure proper and meaningful consultation with all stakeholders, including local communities, businesses, and affected industries as policies are developed and implemented?

We commit to the ongoing review of our strategies and policies — including their impact on sustainable economic development — and to continue proactive and regular engagement with industry, local communities, stakeholders, workers, and First Nations. David Eby and the BC NDP know that British Columbia can have a thriving, growing economy while protecting its land, air, water and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

5. Will you commit to ensuring that local communities and industries are not unfairly burdened with the costs of reconciliation, and that they receive fair and appropriate financial compensation for any loss of beneficial use?

BC is our home. We all want to build a good life here — for too long, court rulings about rights and title have created uncertainty across the province, and Indigenous

peoples have been denied basic rights and opportunities. Real reconciliation means working together and finding a path forward that works for everyone.

As we move towards a more secure and prosperous future for British Columbia, the treaties, agreements and partnerships that David Eby and the BC NDP are building with Indigenous peoples across the province have never been more crucial. Coming together is the secure path forward for our province. It's a path that replaces lawsuits with agreements, costly trials with consensus, and endless conflicts with certainty.

John Rustad wants to take us back to conflicts and fighting in court — an approach that didn't work for people or the economy. This failed approach only brought uncertainty and delay that cost us good jobs and investment in our communities. John Rustad is still focused on dividing communities rather than bringing people together to find solutions.