



October 3, 2024

Resource Economy Associations of British Columbia

Thank you for the questionnaire regarding the future of British Columbia's resource economy and for outlining the significant concerns affecting our industries and communities. The Conservative Party of British Columbia (CPBC) recognizes the foundational role that resource industries—such as forestry, mining, fishing, hunting, oil and gas, and agriculture—play in driving BC's prosperity, and we share your commitment to ensuring a strong and vibrant future for these sectors. Below are our responses to your questions:

**1. Campaign Commitment to Resource Industries**

- a. Yes, we commit to making a strong, verbal, and written campaign commitment to supporting BC's resource industries, including hunting, fishing, agriculture, forestry, mining, oil, and gas. Our policies<sup>12</sup> prioritize the responsible development of these industries, recognizing their critical role in providing well-paying jobs, supporting communities, and ensuring BC remains a leader in natural resource production.

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<sup>1</sup> Please see the news release for our policy on mining here:

[https://www.conservativebc.ca/john\\_rustad\\_announces\\_plan\\_to\\_unlock\\_british\\_columbia\\_s\\_mining\\_industry](https://www.conservativebc.ca/john_rustad_announces_plan_to_unlock_british_columbia_s_mining_industry)

And the backgrounder for our mining policy here:

[https://www.conservativebc.ca/revitalizing\\_bc\\_s\\_mining\\_industry](https://www.conservativebc.ca/revitalizing_bc_s_mining_industry)

<sup>2</sup> Please see the news release for our forestry policy here:

[https://www.conservativebc.ca/john\\_rustad\\_blasts\\_ndp\\_s\\_catastrophic\\_mismanagement\\_of\\_bc\\_s\\_forestry\\_sector](https://www.conservativebc.ca/john_rustad_blasts_ndp_s_catastrophic_mismanagement_of_bc_s_forestry_sector)

And the backgrounder for our forestry policy here:

[https://www.conservativebc.ca/backgrounder\\_saving\\_bc\\_forestry\\_for\\_workers\\_communities\\_and\\_biodiversity](https://www.conservativebc.ca/backgrounder_saving_bc_forestry_for_workers_communities_and_biodiversity)

## **2. Review of Indigenous Reconciliation Strategies and Environmental Policies**

- a. Our goal is to ensure that reconciliation policy framework advances, not hinders, economic reconciliation. We are opposed to the federal “30 by 30” initiative, and will review BC’s Old Growth Strategy.

## **3. Pledge to Review Economic Development Policies**

- a. Yes, we pledge to review legislation including the Old Growth Strategy, the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework, Clean BC, Marine Protected Areas, the Watershed Security Strategy, and the effects of the federal “30 by 30” initiative. We believe in responsible resource development and need to make sure that legislation is doing its intended job, and not imposing unnecessary or duplicative restrictions on industry.

## **4. Meaningful Stakeholder Consultation**

- a. We fully commit to ensuring proper and meaningful consultation with all stakeholders, including local communities, businesses, and industries. We believe that transparent, community-driven decision-making processes are essential for developing policies that work for all British Columbians. No major decisions affecting the future of BC’s resource economy should be made without the input of those directly impacted.

## **5. Fair Compensation and Economic Reconciliation**

- a. We agree that local communities and industries must not bear the disproportionate costs of reconciliation efforts. We will work to ensure that any loss of beneficial land use is met with fair and appropriate compensation, including financial support where necessary. Economic reconciliation results in a brighter future for all British Columbians.

By addressing these critical issues, we believe the Conservative Party of British Columbia will secure a prosperous future for all British Columbians. We are committed to standing up for the hardworking families and communities that depend on BC’s resource sectors, and we will fight to ensure their voices are heard.

Thank you for your engagement on these important matters. We look forward to continuing our dialogue as we work to build a stronger, more resilient resource economy for our province.

Sincerely,

*John Rustad*

John Rustad,  
Leader, Conservative Party of British Columbia