

## NDP Response: BC Wildlife Federation

### Watershed and Fisheries Sustainability

- 1. How will you support the recovery of wild salmon? Please include objectives, funding levels, and ministry, governance, legislative, regulatory, and on-the-ground actions you will take.**

**NDP Response:** New Democrats have relentlessly advocated for saving the wild Pacific salmon population. We face a wild salmon emergency that requires federal leadership to act immediately.

New Democrats successfully worked with stakeholders to ensure that the House of Commons recognized the threat to wild salmon and need to federal funding for restoration efforts.

A NDP government will commit to increasing investments in habitat conservation, protection, and restoration. We will fully implement the Cohen Commission and work with the province and Indigenous peoples to support the transition to land-based closed-containment systems. We also commit to closing all coastal BC open-net pen aquaculture farms and ensure that workers at these farms can transition to other well-paying jobs in coastal communities.

A NDP government will work in partnership with stakeholders, Indigenous peoples, coastal communities, and other on-the-ground salmon advocates who have the expertise in leading the work to restore the wild salmon population.

- 2. Will you support the Province of British Columbia's watershed sustainability fund and strategy with matching federal funding commitment?**

**NDP Response:** This summer's climate-related disasters in British Columbia and across the country have further emphasized the need for federal leadership. New Democrats know that communities need permanent, strategic approaches to the climate-related emergencies.

New Democrats believe protecting watersheds is a key nature-based solution to addressing the climate crisis and creating a sustainable future. A NDP government would work with our provincial and territorial partners to support watershed conservation efforts, which are critical to our ecosystem. We will build upon existing work led by stakeholders like the B.C. Wildlife Federation and B.C. Watershed Security Coalition, which have successfully campaigned for watershed protections.

## Landscape and Wildlife Sustainability

3. The BC Wildlife Federation supports the protection of land and waters for conservation purposes as long as the protection initiatives include established uses such as hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, and hiking. ***When moving to increase protection or conservation of lands and waters, what will your policy be on including stakeholder groups, such as the BC Wildlife Federation, in discussions about the selection and setting of objectives for new protected areas?***

**NDP Response:** Canadians deserve transparent federal leadership that demonstrates the courage to address the climate emergency. This is a core principle of New Democrat values that shape our policy initiatives. New Democrats have proposed an ambitious climate plan that requires collaboration and partnership with all levels of government, stakeholders, and Canadians.

Liberal and Conservative governments held secret consultations and made decisions behind closed doors with little to show in advancing climate initiatives. A NDP government will ensure that public stakeholder consultations are a standard approach to developing and implementing our climate goals.

4. The BC Wildlife Federation believes that funding for wildlife and habitat management is woefully inadequate across Canada. ***Will you support an increase in budgetary allotment to fish and wildlife management? If so, what are your ideas for new sources of funding for wildlife and habitat management?***

**NDP Response:** Yes, New Democrats would support funding increases to fish and wildlife management as part of our whole-of-government approach to taking climate action. For years, the NDP have called for adequate investments to protect endangered species like wild salmon, reverse biodiversity loss, and expand conservation areas.

New Democrats recognize that the well-being of our communities is reliant upon the health of our marine and freshwater ecosystems. A NDP government would implement a bold climate plan to make Canada a global leader in ocean and freshwater sustainability.

In order to expand our climate investments, a NDP government will re-direct public dollars that the Liberals and Conservatives have spent on fossil fuel subsidies and corporate tax cuts towards climate initiatives. It's a matter of priorities – Jagmeet Singh and the NDP know that we need to fight climate crisis like we want to win.

## Firearms

1. ***Bill C-71, an Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms, received Royal Assent on June 2019. Do you support repealing Bill C-71? Yes / No***
2. ***Do you support or oppose Bill C-21, now before parliament?***

### **NDP Response:**

Too many lives have been lost to gun crime in Canada. Everyone deserves to feel safe in their community. Time and again, Liberals and Conservatives have used the issue of gun control to divide and polarize Canadians.

New Democrats are committed to public safety while taking a balanced approach to gun legislation. The rules need to ensure that responsible gun owners, hunters, and gun clubs are able to enjoy their sport responsibly, while ensuring that we keep guns out of the hands of criminals and address the very serious issue of gun crime in our cities. Bill C-71 passed several years ago, and was aimed ensuring that best practices already followed by the vast majority of gun owners and suppliers across the country were being followed by everyone. Bill C-21 is no longer before parliament due to the election being called. New Democrats remain committed to keeping assault weapons and illegal handguns off our streets and tackling gun smuggling and organized crime.

3. ***Do you support or oppose the May 2020 Order-in-Council prohibiting 200,000 firearms owned by RCMP-vetted Canadians?***

**NDP Response:** New Democrats want Canadians to feel safe in their communities. While New Democrats are supportive of gun safety measures, we were concerned with the secretive manner that the Liberals took to developing the list of banned firearms.

4. ***Do you support or oppose allowing municipalities to ban handguns?***

**NDP Response:** The NDP supports municipalities in having the ability to determine the type of public safety interventions that works best for keeping people safe in their communities, including allowing municipalities to ban handguns.