

## PSAC North Candidate Questionnaire – Nunavut

### Question # 1: *What will you and your party do to protect and enhance our food safety?*

LEONA AGLUKKAQ CONSERVATIVE PARTY	PAUL IRNGAUT NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY	PETER ITTINUAR GREEN PARTY	KIRT KOOTOO EJESIAK LIBERAL PARTY
No response.	No response.	<p>I will press the Government to use the latest science in measuring PCBs and mercury concentrations. These pollution readings from industry stand to be many times higher than the national standard. This problem is compounded by the fact that country food such as Arctic Charr and caribou are our nutritional staples. Inuit rightfully expect to be involved and informed on the environmental impacts that affect country food resources.</p> <p>The Green Party at the national level contends that food safety is tied to the fundamental human right to optimal health. Food safety comes under social justice and a sustainable environment. This is so very applicable to Nunavummiut.</p> <p>In terms of food security at the local level, I am advocating improvements to subsistence regime as required by the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. The Hunter and Trappers Organization is in need of changes to its administration and funding to establish community freezers that serve as food cache for Inuit. Furthermore, this program needs to have full time hunters that maintain this community food supply. This strategy has worked well in Nuanvik, Quebec and is a feature of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.</p>	<p>A recent editorial in the Canadian Medical Association Journal affirms that recent government policy errors helped bring about the Listeria outbreak. As PSAC has pointed out, under the current government, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has not been able to do its job properly because of cuts to the number of inspectors on the floor and because the Conservatives have allowed the industries themselves to play more of a role in self policing.</p> <p>The Liberal Party believes the burden of food safety lies with government. We do not agree with Conservative ideology of an unbridled free market with less government and less services. A Liberal government will invest fifty million dollars to create a more robust food safety net.</p> <p>On a related issue, food security is also an important concern in almost all Nunavut communities. The lack of affordable nutritious food, including country foods for families is the cause of a number of health problems. The food mail program and other food security issues will be reexamined by a Liberal government after the next election.</p>

**Question # 2: What will you and your party do to enhance transportation safety in Canada.**

<b>LEONA AGLUKKAQ CONSERVATIVE PARTY</b>	<b>PAUL IRNGAUT NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY</b>	<b>PETER ITTINUAR GREEN PARTY</b>	<b>KIRT KOOTOO EJESIAK LIBERAL PARTY</b>
<p>No response.</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>Transportation safety is not as pressing in Nunavut as perhaps in Southern Canada. The Arctic-based airlines are chiefly Inuit-owned and based on the Aboriginal business model. Northern Canada is especially adept at air transportation.</p> <p>The discussion about surface transportation to the Kivalliq has been evoked with mining and other industrial development to the region. Eventually, Arviat will become a pilot project for both a highway and railroad. The CNR has been operating between Winnipeg and Churchill since before World War II. I am interested in having railroad development from Manitoba to Kivalliq, Nunavut. The Green Party's advocacy of rail transportation over air travel includes a railroad extension to Nunavut.</p>	<p>Similar to Food Safety, it is essential we have an adequate number of well -trained and accountable inspectors. If elected, I will learn more about the current state of Transportation Safety and work to improve things. In Nunavut, many of us rely on air transport for medical, work related and personal travel: we need to be safe in the sky.</p>

**Question # 3: What will you and your party do to put a national child care program back on the political agenda? What direct funding will your party provide for child care?**

<p><b>LEONA AGLUKKAQ CONSERVATIVE PARTY</b></p>	<p><b>PAUL IRNGAUT NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY</b></p>	<p><b>PETER ITTINUAR GREEN PARTY</b></p>	<p><b>KIRT KOOTOO EJESIAK LIBERAL PARTY</b></p>
<p>No response.</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>Child care is on my political agenda because the chronic issue has not gone away. The problem is represented whenever staff from all sectors phone into the office to say they cannot come to work because a regular baby sitter is not available.</p> <p>For Nunavut, I am calling for a special fund -- Northern Day Care -- that employers of all sectors will benefit from. I propose the contributions to pay for daycare facilities be supplied with federal funds. Daycares do not exist in most communities outside of Iqaluit. I want to have this Northern Day Care program to be administered by the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. That minister already has a special semi-autonomous file called the Women's Bureau.</p> <p>The Green Party is critical of the Conservative government's \$1,200/year cash for child care. Our Party promotes a Child Care national policy with flexibility. It calls for a high quality federally-funded universal child care program in Canada. The Green Party wants to restore and revamp the 2005 agreement reached between the federal government, provinces and territories to achieve a universal child care program in Canada. Also, our Party advocates the creation of workplace child care spaces through a direct tax credit to employers (or groups of employers in small businesses) of \$1500 tax credit/child per year.</p>	<p>I have two kids in daycare and know how essential it is to have a safe, stimulating and reliable place for our young children. I also believe that strong early childhood education programs are key to the future successes of young people in Nunavut.</p> <p>The Liberal Party is committed to developing a National Day Care Plan so that parents have more choice and can join the work force if they choose. I will advocate strongly for more day care spots as well as good training and a living wage for day care workers. On September 17th, Stephane Dion committed 1.25 billion dollars to the creation of 165,000 new day care spots if the Liberals are elected.</p>

**Question # 4: What will you and your party do to ensure the federal government leads the way on enforcement and environmental protection?**

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No response.	No response.	<p>Nunavut is experiencing unprecedented levels of development. Diamond mines, oil and gas exploration stand to change the way of life for indigenous peoples forever. The Green Party has the <i>Green Arctic Strategy</i>. The strategy includes the fact that Canada's sovereignty is in dispute, regardless of the fact the Inuit have maintained the land for thousands of years.</p> <p>We require a circumpolar waste management strategy that includes wastes from all diverse sources as they all share the same Arctic waters, air and land. Most importantly they all directly affect Inuit and the wildlife that sustains them. In negotiations for a circumpolar waste management strategy, I expect to have an impact for Nunavut and the nation on foreign matters. My potential to work well in this area is also facilitated by the fact that the Scandinavian members of the Arctic Council are familiar with the Green Party in their respective countries. Of course, I will lobby the Government to restore the position of Arctic Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs.</p> <p>As stated above under Food Safety, I plan to work to improve and increase monitoring of country food, so that pregnant women and nursing mothers in particular are not being over-exposed to persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals that build up through the global food chain and</p>	<p>The Liberal Green Shift Plan puts a price on Carbon. For every dollar that is raised from carbon pollution there will be a cut in our taxes. The price of gas at the pumps will not go up. Nunavummiut will see tax changes from the Liberal party which include an immediate increase in the northern residents deduction to 7000\$ (from \$6000) and indexing it going forward, a Green Rural Tax Credit of \$150 and a new universal child tax benefit worth \$350 per child. The Liberal Party will also fund centres in the north for Research and Development in the area of Climate Change mitigation.</p> <p>We all need to do our part. I am encouraged by local initiatives such as the composting program of the Bill Mackenzie Humanitarian Society (BMHS) which diverts over 10,000 tons from the landfill annually. The Piruqsiavut Greenhouse in Iqaluit connects people to the food they eat as they grow produce locally. Education is one of the keys to helping people live with a smaller ecological footprint.</p> <p>The Green Shift is designed to have less tax on the things we want more of (like income, investment, and jobs), and more tax on the things we want less of (like pollution and greenhouse gas emissions). It is revenue neutral which means the Auditor General will make sure that every dollar collected from the carbon tax will be returned to Canadians.</p>

		<p>pool at high levels in the Arctic.</p> <p>The Party requires that any foreign ship passing through the six Northwest Passages, or into any Canadian water within 200 miles off any Arctic island, be registered for using the passage. To support this effort, I support the training and equipping of rangers. However, I believe the Rangers should be upgraded in status from Reserve military to full time regimental status. The full time Canadian Rangers will monitor the pristine Arctic environment, and violators of the environment, in addition to their other duties.</p>	
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**Question # 5: Is your party opposed to the shameful position of the Government and in favour of signing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People?**

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<p>No response.</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>The Green Party supports the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. The Party ties its decision on the UN Declaration to the <i>Green Arctic Strategy</i>. I personally want the recognition of the other Circumpolar countries to use the United Nations to rule on the sovereignty of the Archipelago in relation to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. <i>The Nunavut Land Claim Agreement</i> in Article 16 protects the Outer Land Fast Ice Zone (Davis Strait). Because the land claim is a treaty with the indigenous Inuit, I believe that the Rights of Indigenous People are tied to the land claim, and this is recognizable in customary, constitutional, and international law.</p>	<p>A year ago when 143 other countries adopted the Declaration, it was said that “it is a tool for peace and justice, based upon mutual recognition and mutual respect”. For a decade, Canada was deeply involved in developing the Declaration and Aboriginal Canadians and the world were shocked when the Conservative government did not sign on to this non-binding treaty. As an Inuk, and a believer in human rights, I stand with Stephane Dion and the Liberal Party on this fundamental issue. If a Liberal government is in place, we will endorse this important declaration.</p>

**Question # 6: What concrete steps will you and your party take to improve the situation of Aboriginal Women?**

<p><b>LEONA AGLUKKAQ CONSERVATIVE PARTY</b></p>	<p><b>PAUL IRNGAUT NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY</b></p>	<p><b>PETER ITTINUAR GREEN PARTY</b></p>	<p><b>KIRT KOOTOO EJESIAK LIBERAL PARTY</b></p>
<p>No response.</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>The Green Party believes that one of the best ways to break down barriers of discrimination and to advance opportunities for women is through a poverty-eradication. Employment opportunities in resource-based industries on Aboriginal territories are needed, especially in the new natural and mining resource sector.</p>	<p>In our territory, it is Inuit women and their children who are most affected by family violence and caregiver burden. These issues along with others have been identified by the two main organizations advocating for women's well being in the territory: the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women's Council and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada.</p> <p>The Liberal party has committed to working with Aboriginal Canadians to develop a nationwide Violence Prevention Strategy for Aboriginal Peoples. Poverty and lack of affordable housing contribute to the problems, and reinvesting in people through the Kelowna Accord commitments will help make the lives of women better.</p> <p>Around the world when education levels rise for women, their place and involvement in civil society gets better. The Aboriginal People's Survey done in 2001 reported that 1/4 of girls who don't finish high school had to quit because they became mothers or had child care responsibilities. Because child care still falls overwhelmingly to women, the lack of affordable quality daycare is a particularly crucial issue for women.</p> <p>The Liberal party platform also includes the creation of an Independent Commissioner for Gender Equality that will report to parliament. We will also restart the Court</p>

			<p>Challenges program that was cancelled by the Conservatives and will double its funding. This program helped low income people access the justice system. The Conservative government also made it more difficult for non-governmental organizations that advocate for women's rights to get funding. A Liberal government will reopen the regional Status of Women offices that were closed by Mr. Harper. We will also reinstate "Equality" the main goal of Status of Women Canada: equality was a word which the Conservative government had removed.</p> <p>If elected, I will work to put the money cut by the current Conservative government back into women's programs in Nunavut. With adequate funding and partnership with Pauktuutit, Qullit Nunavut Status of Women's Council and the territorial Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I think we can work together for real change in the lives of all Northern women.</p>
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