

PSAC North Candidate Questionnaire – Northwest Territories

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

BRENDAN BELL CONSERVATIVE PARTY	DENNIS BEVINGTON NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY	SAM GAMBLE GREEN PARTY	GABRIELLE MACKENZIE-SCOTT LIBERAL PARTY	NOELINE VILLEBRUN FIRST PEOPLES PARTY
<p>No response.</p>	<p>New Democrats will take action to ensure the food you buy in the store is safe to eat. We will work in consultation with consumers, workers and industry to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of inspectors at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and increase administrative support so inspectors can spend more time on the floor and less time on paperwork. • Reduce worker injuries, increase the quality of the food, and ensure greater safety of products by introducing regulations on “line speed” in meat processing plants that match existing requirements in the European Union. • Improve the system for immediate public notification of food safety problems. • Require labelling of genetically engineered foods and farmed fish. • Require full accuracy and accountability for labels stating “Made in Canada”. 	<p>No response.</p>	<p>The North is especially vulnerable to food safety standards in Canada, since almost all of the food consumed in the NWT is brought up from down south. With the recent reports of listeriosis in Ontario, and more recently in Alberta, it is vital that we keep the supply of food in Canada free of dangerous bacteria and contamination.</p> <p>The Liberal Party is committed to reversing the cuts made by Harper to ensure that these businesses are regulated by the Government, not by themselves. We will ensure that all areas where food is packaged and processed are well inspected rather just observed through record audits. A Liberal government will add \$50 million additional funds to hire more inspectors, get them the best technology available to do their jobs, and expand the inspection of domestic and imported foods.</p>	<p>No response.</p>

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

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<p>No response.</p>	<p>New Democrats decried the federal Conservative government's move to reduce passenger safety by cutting the number of flight attendants required on Canadian planes. Lobbyists from the airlines had been pushing for these cutbacks. The NDP Transport Critic Peter Julian called the move a clear reduction in safety standards lessening Canadian air safety standards to conform to weaker American ones.</p> <p>Transport Canada senior managers were proposing a reduction in flight attendant crew minimums even though they rejected a similar proposal in 2001 because of safety concerns. Transport Canada had also pushed the previous Liberal government to change these rules. The NDP opposition at the time and the imminence of a federal election forced the Liberals to hold off on applying the regulations. Transport Canada has refused to release the full documents that indicate the gravity and concerns around flight safety, despite repeated requests under the <i>Access to Information Act</i>.</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>Air Safety is a huge concern to many Northerners, often being one of the only way that we can travel outside of our communities. It is vitally important that all aircraft are properly inspected, and all of the people working in air traffic control are properly trained. Canada is currently the only country in the G8 without a National Transportation Strategy, and this is something a Liberal government will work to address. I will work hard to ensure that this Strategy includes the adequate funding for the training and employment of air safety inspectors. We shouldn't continue using the voluntary reporting system like the system in the United States that the Conservative government just implemented.</p>	<p>No response.</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?

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<p>No response.</p>	<p>New Democrats will establish and adequately fund a Canada-wide child care and early learning program. We will make high quality, accessible, affordable, non-profit and licensed child care available to Canadian families, including Aboriginal Canadians. We will enact the New Democrats' <i>Early Learning and Child Care Act</i> – which has already passed Second Reading in Parliament - to establish the program in law for the first time in Canada. These initiatives will create 150,000 new child care spaces in the first year, growing to 220,000 spaces per year in the fourth year.</p> <p>We will also phase in a new Child Benefit. This benefit, modelled on the existing Canada Child Tax Benefit, will expand in phases to \$5000 a year per child, and consolidate the current piecemeal system of benefits and tax credits for children into a single, better, non-taxable monthly cheque to parents.</p> <p>It is important to note that the Conservative child benefit results in only \$600-\$800 per month after tax for working poor and modest income families but does nothing to create quality child care spaces.</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>Child care is one of the biggest problems facing Canada, and the North today. In a recent survey, Yellowknife was ranked in the top five for the cost of child care. The conservatives decided to quash the previous Liberal plan to build a better childcare infrastructure in Canada when they took power, and replaced it with a taxed \$100 a month cheque to all parents of children. Sometimes these cheques pushed the poorest among us out of the range for income assistance and that is just plain wrong. The Liberal Party will aim to create high-quality, universal, community-based early learning and childcare, eventually climbing to 1.25 billion annual nationally. As MP I will fight to ensure that the money needed to implement this strategy is given to the Territories based on need, not per-capita.</p>	<p>No response.</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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<p>No response.</p>	<p>New Democrats will implement the <i>Climate Change Accountability Act</i>, proposed by the New Democrats and adopted by Parliament. This legislation will achieve deep, science-based reductions of climate pollution in the post-2012 period.</p> <p>This will establish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long-term target to reduce Canadian greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. • A medium-term target to bring emissions 25% below 1990 levels by 2020. <p>These are the medium and long-term targets consistent with the Kyoto process.</p> <p>To hold government accountable for meeting these targets, Jack Layton's legislation will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide authority for the government to make regulations in order to meet the targets and set penalties for those who contravene regulations passed under the Act. • Implement our clean air and fighting climate change program. • Make big polluters pay. We will put a price on carbon through a "cap-and-trade" carbon pricing system which establishes hard limits on pollution and a tough charge on polluters who exceed the limits. • All revenue will be applied to environmental solutions. 	<p>No response.</p>	<p>The Liberal Party is committed to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 20% below 1990 levels by 2020. We will aim to lower GHG emissions by 40% from 1990 levels by 2035, and by 60-80% by 2050. If Canada can lead the way on the world stage, as we did when Stephane Dion was Minister of the Environment, we will become a leader in the new global economy. Much of this strategy is explained in the Green Shift, our policy for addressing Climate Change that has been attacked by the NDP and Conservative Parties as too ambitious, too difficult to understand, and too hard. It is not. It would shift the burden of taxation from income, and place it on pollution. Such a strategy was implemented in Sweden, and the economy flourished. It puts the burden of taxation on the individual, who can choose to create less pollution, and thereby pay less in taxes.</p>	<p>No response.</p>

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>Canada was one of only four nations that did not ratify this Declaration. Jack Layton successfully passed a motion to have Parliament endorse the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples—after Stephen Harper and the Conservatives refused to sign on Canada’s behalf. The Conservatives still refused to sign this important document.</p> <p>New Democrats would immediately ratify the UN <i>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i>. We will reverse the Conservative and Liberal governments’ refusal to have Canada sign the Declaration, and ensure its provisions are properly respected in Canada and incorporated into Canadian law and policy.</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>No response.</p>

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

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<p>No response.</p>	<p>New Democrats are responding with a proposal for substantial investment in Aboriginal communities, as required in the Kelowna Accord, an agreement that the Conservatives rejected. We will invest \$5 billion over five years in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities. This will improve health services, help provide adequate housing, water, and infrastructure to include traditional healing, nutrition, fitness, addiction treatment and suicide prevention.</p> <p>We will also implement new efforts in education and training of First Nations children, youth and adults.</p> <p>Throughout we will engage with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women and appropriate organizations to ensure that their rights and personal safety are recognized and protected.</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>No response.</p>