

# PSAC North Candidate Questionnaire – Yukon Territory

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

<b>Darrell Pasloski Conservative Party</b>	<b>Ken Bolton New Democratic Party</b>	<b>John Streicker Green Party</b>	<b>Larry Bagnell Liberal Party</b>
<p>No response.</p>	<p>The health and safety of Canadians should never be put at risk by cost-cutting decisions based on ideology and misplaced priorities. Whether the issue is clean water, food products imported from other countries, or meat processed in Canadian plants, it is essential to have strict regulations, monitored and enforced by properly-trained, on-site inspectors who are free from both undue industry influence and political interference. A New Democrat government would reverse the Harper government's cuts in food safety programs and ensure that proper inspection procedures are in place in all food processing facilities.</p>	<p>As the Green Party MP for the Yukon I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to ensure that assessment and regulation (including inspection) is always arms length from industry.</li> <li>• Support local food economies by enabling local areas, without industrial scale agriculture, to develop area-specific food safety regulations meeting national standards without placing undue financial burdens on local farmers and food processors.</li> </ul>	<p>The Liberal Party believes that protecting the health and safety of Canadians is a primary responsibility of the federal government. A Liberal government is committing to invest an additional \$50 million to build a more robust food safety net. This will include the hiring of additional inspectors who will ensure our food is safe when it reaches store shelves.</p> <p>In addition, to ensure the long-term strength of the food safety system a new Liberal government will conduct a food safety review. This will also ensure that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has the right number of inspectors and resources.</p> <p>By recruiting more inspectors, ensuring inspectors have access to the best technology and expanding inspection efforts of both home-grown and imported foods, Canadians will be able to have greater faith in the food they and their families eat. More inspection means more safety for all Canadians.</p>

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

<b>Darrell Pasloski Conservative Party</b>	<b>Ken Bolton New Democratic Party</b>	<b>John Streicker Green Party</b>	<b>Larry Bagnell Liberal Party</b>
<p>No response.</p>	<p>As in the case of food and water safety, any government that puts multi-billion-dollar tax cuts to big corporations ahead of personal safety is not a government that can be trusted to act in the best interests of its citizens. Canadian and foreign travellers on all our land, water or air carriers have a right to know that the best possible design, construction, maintenance and operational safety standards are in place to protect them. A New Democrat government would ensure that Transport Canada has the resources it needs to provide a proper level of inspection and enforcement on all forms of transportation for which it is responsible.</p>	<p>As the Green Party MP for the Yukon I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to ensure that assessment and regulation (including inspection) is always arms-length from industry.</li> <li>• Develop a national transportation strategy.</li> <li>• Double existing funding to stimulate a massive re-investment in public transportation.</li> </ul>	<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?**

<b>Darrell Pasloski Conservative Party</b>	<b>Ken Bolton New Democratic Party</b>	<b>John Streicker Green Party</b>	<b>Larry Bagnell Liberal Party</b>
<p>No response.</p>	<p>Jack Layton and the New Democrats have pledged to put Canadian families first. We are also committed to eliminating poverty in Canada by the Year 2020. A central part of that commitment is a new Child Benefit that would put \$5,000 a year for each child under 18 directly into their families' hands, exempt from federal taxation. We would also work with provincial and territorial governments to eliminate the clawback of Child Supplement benefits from families receiving social assistance.</p> <p>Our national platform (available at <a href="http://www.ndp.ca">www.ndp.ca</a>) also commits a New Democrat government to creating 150,000 new child care spaces in its first year, growing to 220,000 new spaces annually by the fourth year. These spaces would be staffed by properly trained care providers who are compensated fairly for the important work they do to help prepare our children and grandchildren get off to a good start in life.</p> <p>We would also enact our Early Learning and Child Care Act to enshrine a national child care and early learning program in law for the first time in Canada. In doing so, we will make high quality, accessible, affordable, non-profit and licensed child care available to all Canadian families that need it, including Aboriginal families.</p>	<p>As the Green Party MP for the Yukon I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore and revamp the 2005 agreement reached between the federal government, provinces and territories to achieve a universal child care program in Canada.</li> <li>• Specifically ensure that Canada's universal child care program provides workplace child care spaces wherever possible.</li> <li>• Accelerate 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.</li> <li>• Value the decisions of parents who choose to stay home with children and introduce family income splitting</li> <li>• Promote and facilitate access to Roots of Empathy Program to every Canadian child at some point in their elementary school years.</li> </ul>	<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?**

<b>Darrell Pasloski Conservative Party</b>	<b>Ken Bolton New Democratic Party</b>	<b>John Streicker Green Party</b>	<b>Larry Bagnell Liberal Party</b>
<p>No response.</p>	<p>Building on Jack Layton’s Climate Change Accountability Act, which Parliament passed on June 4, New Democrats are committed to reducing carbon emissions to 25% below 1990 levels by 2020, and to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. We would provide authority for government to make regulations to meet these targets and set penalties for those who do not comply. Based on the principle of making the big polluters pay, we will put a price on carbon through a “cap and trade” system that establishes hard limits on pollution and a tough charge on polluters who exceed the limits. All revenue would be applied directly to environmental solutions. We would also invest in Canadian production of low-emission cars and introduce mandatory emission standards for all vehicles sold in Canada. Our platform also includes substantial new investments in renewable energy solutions, public transit and incentives to encourage individuals and small businesses to make better choices for the environment. We would also halt any new tar sands development until carbon emissions are capped</p>	<p>As the Green Party MP for the Yukon I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut greenhouse gas emissions to 30 % below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 % by 2050.</li> <li>• Put a price on carbon emissions. Revenues generated will be offset by reduced taxes on personal income, payrolls, and on green products and technologies.</li> <li>• Assist small business through Green Venture Capital Funds.</li> <li>• Use cap and trade, with hard caps for some large polluters.</li> <li>• Expand research and development of low-carbon technologies.</li> <li>• Improve energy productivity through smarter regulation of large appliances and vehicles, and a national program to retrofit existing buildings.</li> <li>• Support only bio-fuels that actually save carbon emissions and don’t distort food supplies or prices. That means no corn- or grain-based ethanol.</li> <li>• Participate constructively in global negotiations.</li> </ul>	<p>The Liberal climate change plan will not only help address climate change, it will also help clean the air we breathe, because being more energy efficient, and using more renewable energy sources mean we will spew less smog and pollution into our air.</p> <p>In addition to our green shift initiatives, a Liberal government will pass tough National Ambient Air Quality Standards to reduce the pollutants that cause smog, haze, acid rain and other problems. These new standards will help to protect Canadians from the sources of air pollution in their regions, using health-based levels of safety for the air they breathe.</p> <p>We will also help industry to upgrade their technology by making air pollution control equipment eligible for rapid tax write-offs, and implement a comprehensive Mercury Reduction Strategy, which will help to reduce the presence of this potent neurotoxin in our environment.</p> <p>We also need bold action to protect our water, and that’s what a Liberal government will provide. We will implement a National Water Strategy using regulations, monitoring, enforcement and new investment, to clean up our waterways – and keep them clean.</p>

and significant health and environmental impacts are addressed.  
As part of our commitment to reinforce Arctic Sovereignty, we would also position more Fisheries and Environment protection officers in the North.  
More details on our commitment to address climate change and protect the environment is available in our platform at [www.ndp.ca](http://www.ndp.ca)

Our substantial infrastructure commitments will help our cities and communities to invest in much needed water-treatment infrastructure to manage water demand and preserve a clean water supply.

In addition, we will invest \$400 million in a Canada Water Fund. This new initiative will:

- increase monitoring and reporting of the quantity and quality of Canadian water;
- clean up our waterways, including “hot spots” in the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence and Lake Winnipeg;
- research the impact of emerging pollutants in water on human and aquatic ecosystem health;
- fight invasive species, such as the sea lamprey or zebra mussel;
- map Canada’s underground aquifers that supply our drinking water, so we know where our groundwater comes from and how it is affected by human activities; and,
- support the on-farm and community-based fresh water development programs of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration.

Priorities will be informed and coordinated by a National Water Council, with membership from all orders of government, First Nations, industry, research institutes and community stakeholders.

A Liberal government will aggressively protect Canada’s northern environment. Unlike the Conservative government we will fully enforce the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, the Species at Risk Act and other laws that protect Canada’s environment. We will ensure that economic expansion is not done at the expense of our environment. And at the same time we will make strategic investments in the North to increase economic activity, literacy, education, and investment.

**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?**

<p><b>Darrell Pasloski Conservative Party</b></p>	<p><b>Ken Bolton New Democratic Party</b></p>	<p><b>John Streicker Green Party</b></p>	<p><b>Larry Bagnell Liberal Party</b></p>
<p>No response.</p>	<p>Our opposition to the position taken by both the past two governments is clear. As the NDP's Platform 2008 states (page 35), we will:            "Immediately ratify the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We will reverse the Conservative and Liberal governments' refusal to sign the declaration. We will ensure its provisions are properly respected in Canada and incorporated into Canadian law."            A New Democrat government led by Jack Layton will also accelerate settlement of outstanding final agreements, and implement existing agreements fairly and equitably. We will recognize the legitimacy and jurisdiction of indigenous governments.</p> <p>An NDP government will also invest \$5 billion over five years in First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities. This will be targeted at improving health services and providing adequate housing, water and infrastructure to include traditional healing, nutrition, fitness, addiction treatment and suicide prevention. These are only a few highlights of our commitment to the First Peoples of Canada. I encourage you to read our Aboriginal Platform, entitled "Leadership that moves us forward" at <a href="http://www.ndp.ca">www.ndp.ca</a></p>	<p>My party is opposed to the current position of the Canadian Government. As the Green Party MP for the Yukon I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) by 0.05% of GDP (\$650 million in 2007) to reach the target of 0.7% of GDP by 2016.</li> <li>• Revamp Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to focus more on developing community-based green economies, on poverty alleviation and programs to combat and adapt to climate change, especially strengthening its Partnership Branch for the delivery of ODA.</li> <li>• Fulfill our commitments for the provision of HIV/AIDS retroviral drugs to Africa is fulfilled.</li> </ul>	<p>No response.</p>

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

<p><b>Darrell Pasloski Conservative Party</b></p>	<p><b>Ken Bolton New Democratic Party</b></p>	<p><b>John Streicker Green Party</b></p>	<p><b>Larry Bagnell Liberal Party</b></p>
<p>No response.</p>	<p>As our Aboriginal Platform outlines, Jack Layton and Canada's NDP are committed to ending the racism and discrimination that has been such a destructive element in Canada's history. We are committed to ending the deep poverty and third-world living conditions in so many Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>We recognize that the apology to residential school survivors is only a first step, and we will work to ensure that residential school survivors left out by the current agreement are fairly compensated.</p> <p>As mentioned above, we will immediately sign the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and work to ensure that the spirit and the letter of the Canadian Constitution apply to all people. New Democrats are also committed to making sure that the human rights and personal safety needs of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women are fully met. In order to do that, we will engage directly with them and the appropriate organizations that represent them.</p>	<p>My party is opposed to the current position of the Canadian Government. As the Green Party MP for the Yukon I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledge that Aboriginal women earn on average 46 cents to the dollar; pass pay equity legislation - as recommended by the Pay Equity Task Force; immediately implement full pay equity for women employed in the federal sector; and develop tax incentives for companies to meet the highest standards of gender and pay equity.</li> <li>• Ensure that Canada supports and implements the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</li> <li>• Support the restoration of the \$5.1 billion commitment of the landmark Kelowna Accord reached between federal and provincial, territorial and First Nations governments in Canada in 2005, with the provision that the ensuing programs do not lead to greater infringement on Aboriginal and treaty rights.</li> </ul>	<p>The Liberal Party of Canada remains committed to ensuring equality in our society for all Canadians.</p> <p>Under the previous Liberal government, Parliament established the Standing Committee on the Status of Women, which produced five comprehensive reports related to equality issues, including one on pay equity. In its response, we made a commitment to recognize pay equity as a human right and introduce pay equity legislation early in 2006.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Conservative government did not honour this commitment, and instead turned back the clock on social justice programs that help give voice to the most vulnerable in our society by dismantling the Court Challenges Program, and closing the Status of Women regional offices.</p> <p>A Liberal government will reverse these discriminatory and ideologically-driven cuts, and will work with the provinces, territories,</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set up task forces to address the treatment of Aboriginal people in the Canadian justice system and to investigate and address the disappearance of Aboriginal women.</li><li>• Re-establish funding for Status of Women Canada and for a Women's Program that funds not-for-profit women's groups that advocate women's rights.</li></ul>	stakeholders, and Canadians to create a better society – one which is based on our Canadian values of justice and equality.
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