

# Provincial Election 2017

## Candidate responses on walkability



*Walk On, Victoria is a non-partisan organization. All Liberal, Green, and NDP candidates in the Capital Regional District were contacted with the same set of questions (see the end of this document for questions). All responses received as of May 5<sup>th</sup> are displayed below, in no particular order.*

### **Saanich North and the Islands**

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#### **From Sarah Potts, on behalf of Adam Olsen (BC Green Party)**

The BC Green Party [platform contains a significant component relating to transportation](#), public assets and infrastructure, including policy positions and proposed actions to address a number of the issues and concerns you raise in your email.

As you may be aware, the Green Party of BC's plan is to transition the Province to a low carbon economy, and sustainable transportation is a key part of that plan. The platform outlines various pathways to reducing emissions, one of which is behaviour change. Knowledge and awareness are critical to behavior change. Social and cultural factors, however, also play a key role. Examples of proposed BC Green Party initiatives pertinent to your email include increasing investment in walking and biking infrastructure, and ensuring road configurations and commuter routes are friendly for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

The BC Greens also believe in an integrated, fiscally sound approach to health and wellness care that focuses on a number of inter-related goals, one of which is promoting wellness. This means supporting people to take active, lifelong measures to stay as healthy as possible. One of the targeted results referred to in the Platform is improved quality of life including physical fitness. A BC Green government would establish a specific Ministry responsible for health promotion, disease prevention and active lifestyles. A significant focus of that mandate would be to promote walkability in all segments of society, and in the design and construction of transportation related infrastructure.

## **From Gary Holman (BC NDP)**

1) If elected, what specific steps would you take to ensure funding is allocated for [Active Transportation](#)?

A BC NDP government will partner with communities to make travelling safer for people walking, using mobility aid devices, riding bicycles and using other forms of active transportation.

2) Walking is an accessible, no/low cost means of exercise for most people. What role should the Provincial Government play in encouraging people to walk more? If elected, what will you personally do to encourage walking and promote walkability in municipalities across BC?

Our \$7 billion dollar infrastructure commitment will provide opportunities for communities to partner with the province to improve community infrastructure, including sidewalks and pedestrian pathways. In addition, our Clean Growth, Climate Action plan includes actions to support communities improving low-carbon transportation options such as walking and cycling.

3) Do you support Vision Zero\* for the Province? If so, what specific policies should the Provincial government implement to achieve the elimination of road deaths?

A BC NDP government will make road safety a priority, however we have not formally adopted vision zero as a commitment. We look forward to working with your organization and others on ways to reduce, and ideally, eliminate deaths on our roadways.

## **Esquimalt-Metchosin**

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### **From Andy MacKinnon (BC Green Party)**

1) If elected, what specific steps would you take to ensure funding is allocated for [Active Transportation](#)?

The BC Green Party's Healthy Lives platform is based on promoting wellness - i.e., supporting people to take active, lifelong measures to stay as healthy as possible. This would obviously include Active Transportation, and would include provincial support for creation of safe corridors for Active Transportation.

**2) Walking is an accessible, no/low cost means of exercise for most people. What role should the Provincial Government play in encouraging people to walk more? If elected, what will you personally do to encourage walking and promote walkability in municipalities across BC?**

The provincial government should encourage and support municipalities and regional districts to provide safe, convenient areas to walk, and should directly promote walking (running, cycling stc.) as part of a healthy (and environmentally positive!) lifestyle.

**3) Do you support Vision Zero\* for the Province? If so, what specific policies should the Provincial government implement to achieve the elimination of road deaths?**

We support Vision Zero for BC. It would certainly involve education, law enforcement, and municipal and regional planning. Setting a target in legislation is helpful.

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## **Victoria-Swan Lake**

### **From Carol James (NDP)**

Walking is my primary mode of transportation, so I really appreciate your advocacy.

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2) Walking is an accessible, no/low cost means of exercise for most people. What role should the Provincial Government play in encouraging people to walk more? If elected, what will you personally do to encourage walking and promote walkability in municipalities across BC?

I am fortunate to live in a community where walking is the primary transportation for many, so I see first hand the value of infrastructure, including sidewalks, pathways, and extended walk lights for those with disabilities and our seniors.

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communities to partner with the province to improve community infrastructure, including sidewalks and pedestrian pathways. In addition, our Clean Growth, Climate Action plan includes actions to support communities improving low-carbon transportation options such as walking and cycling.

3) Do you support Vision Zero\* for the Province? If so, what specific policies should the Provincial government implement to achieve the elimination of road deaths?

A BC NDP government will make road safety a priority, however we have not formally adopted vision zero as a commitment. We look forward to working with your organization and others on ways to reduce, and ideally, eliminate deaths on our roadways.

**From Bob Warwick, on behalf of Chris Maxwell (BC Green Party)**

I'd encourage you to read our platform on health at <http://bcgreens.ca/platform>, along with our climate action strategy. I think you'll be happy to see our focus on modal switching, and on proactive approaches to health.

**Saanich South**

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**From Lana Popham (BC NDP)**

"I see Gary Holman has composed a very strong response and I would echo his sentiments, perspective and commitments. "

*Candidate questions:*

- 1) If elected, what specific steps would you take to ensure funding is allocated for [Active Transportation](#)?*
- 2) Walking is an accessible, no/low cost means of exercise for most people. What role should the Provincial Government play in encouraging people to walk more? If elected, what will you personally do to encourage walking and promote walkability in municipalities across BC?*
- 3) Do you support Vision Zero\* for the Province? If so, what specific policies should the Provincial government implement to achieve the elimination of road deaths?*

*\* Vision Zero is a traffic safety policy, developed in Sweden in the late 1990s and based on four elements: ethics, responsibility, a philosophy of safety, and creating mechanisms for change. The Swedish parliament voted in October 1997 to adopt this policy and since then several other countries have followed suit ([visionzero.ca](http://visionzero.ca))*