

April 8, 2025

Dear R.J. Simpson,

Thank you for writing, and for providing us with the opportunity to speak on how we will advance the well-being of your communities, governments, economy, and environment, and share the Green Party of Canada's platform. We appreciate your continued advocacy.

Please find our response below.

Best regards,

Karine Cambron
Coordinator, Survey and Questionnaire Response Team
Green Party of Canada

1. RECONCILIATION & GOVERNANCE

The Northwest Territories is a leader in co-governance and co-development, with Indigenous governments playing a pivotal role in shaping our future.

- How will you partner with Indigenous governments and the GNWT to advance land claims, self-government agreements, and other shared priorities?**

The Green Party of Canada is committed to true nation-to-nation relationships. We would work alongside Indigenous governments and the GNWT as full partners. We would support the creation of a Council of Canadian Governments, where Indigenous Peoples have equal representation in decision-making.

We would work to fully implement self-government and land claim agreements. This includes those delayed by lack of funding. We reject any process that seeks to extinguish Indigenous rights and title.

We would also establish an Indigenous Lands and Treaties Tribunal to resolve outstanding claims fairly and efficiently.

- **What would your approach be to ensuring Northern and Indigenous communities receive equitable and culturally appropriate support across all areas, including health, housing, emergency management, and other essential services?**

We support a new fiscal relationship with Indigenous governments. We see them as national governments in their own right. We would provide stable, long-term funding to meet community-defined priorities.

In health, we would invest a significant amount each year for mental health and addiction services. We would ensure culturally safe care by implementing TRC Calls to Action 18–24.

For housing, we support Indigenous-led solutions like land trusts and co-ops. We would also remove financing barriers on reserve. We would invest in modular, climate-resilient homes.

In emergency management, we would climate-proof infrastructure and fund Indigenous-led conservation work. We would commit to implementing all TRC and MMIWG recommendations, and would fund Indigenous-led essential services.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE & NATION BUILDING

Strategic infrastructure investment is essential for enhancing connectivity, promoting economic growth, and strengthening Arctic sovereignty. From the Mackenzie Valley Highway to the Taltson Hydro Expansion, the potential for transformative projects exists if supported by meaningful federal partnership.

- **What would your government's approach be to closing the infrastructure gap in the NWT, including the high costs of energy, transportation, housing, and communications?**

The Green party would close the infrastructure gap by investing directly in Northern communities. We would switch from diesel to clean energy like solar, wind, and geothermal. This would lower energy costs and protect the land.

We support a national power grid to connect the North. We would improve roads, rail, and local transit to make travel safer and more reliable. We would build strong, safe, and affordable homes. Housing projects would be community-led and climate-ready.

We would fix rules that block housing loans on Indigenous land. We would invest in fast, affordable internet through public funding. We would also change telecom rules to lower prices and improve service. We support local control of projects and fair access to resources.

Every community deserves modern, reliable infrastructure. Our approach is guided by climate action, equity, and respect for Indigenous rights. We believe all Northerners should have the tools they need to thrive where they live.

- **How would you advance needed infrastructure if there is limited industry support or available P3 partners?**

The Greens would act even without private partners. We would invest public funds to build what people need.

We would reform the Infrastructure Bank to give low-cost loans to Northern and Indigenous governments. We support Green Bonds and public banks to help fund big projects. One part of the national sales tax would go directly to local infrastructure.

We would treat Indigenous governments as equal partners with full decision-making power. A new Council of Canadian Governments would help all levels work together. We would make sure the North has a real voice in national plans. We do not believe profit should decide what gets built. If a project helps people, we would support it. We believe public investment should meet public needs.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The impacts of climate change are disproportionately severe in the North, with increasing wildfires, floods, and permafrost loss.

- **What is your plan to address climate change and support the North in responding to these impacts?**

The Green party would treat the climate crisis as an emergency. We would end fossil fuel expansion and invest in clean, local energy. The North would shift from diesel to solar, wind, and geothermal.

We would fund climate-proof infrastructure like roads, water systems, and homes. Northern voices would guide these changes. We would support Indigenous-led land protection and value traditional knowledge.

Our plan would help prevent wildfires, floods, and permafrost loss. We would give money and tools directly to Northern communities to lead climate solutions. Our focus is local, resilient, and sustainable. The North must be ready for the future, and we would make sure help comes fast, fairly, and with respect.

- **What role do you envision your government playing in supporting Northern and Indigenous communities during emergencies?**

The Green party would step up when disaster hits. We would create a national emergency agency with teams ready to respond.

We would work with Northern and Indigenous governments, not against them. We would fully fund local emergency programs and responders. That includes Rangers, firefighters, and search and

rescue teams. We would support Indigenous-led training and planning.

We would acquire water bombers and extend firebreaks. We would revise flood maps and strengthen evacuation plans. We would make sure help is fast and fair for the most at-risk. We would change EI rules so workers don't suffer after disasters. The North needs real support, not delays. We would be ready.

4. HOUSING

The Northwest Territories is experiencing a severe housing crisis, marked by high construction, maintenance, and repair costs—particularly in remote communities. Overcrowding, inadequate access to transitional and supportive housing, and a lack of culturally appropriate solutions are persistent challenges, especially for those facing mental health issues, addictions, or homelessness. Indigenous governments are seeking equitable funding regardless of their land claim status, but the demand for housing support far exceeds available resources.

- What would your approach be to addressing the critical housing shortage in the NWT, including investments in public, transitional, and supportive housing?**

The Greens would treat housing as a human right. We would invest in public, non-profit, and co-op housing. We would fund transitional and supportive homes for people with mental health needs or those escaping violence.

CMHC would go back to building and funding affordable housing. We would offer low-interest loans to local builders and non-profits. We would grow housing that meets the needs of the North, not developers. A rural housing plan would guide investments in remote areas like the NWT.

We would support shelters, rent protection, and housing for people facing homelessness. We would also retrofit old buildings to make them safe and energy efficient. Our goal is homes people can afford, close to family, work, and community.

- How would you ensure equitable housing funding for Indigenous governments, regardless of land claim status?**

The Greens would support Indigenous-led housing, no matter what the land claim status. We support a For Indigenous, By Indigenous housing strategy. This means stable, long-term funding, not one-time projects.

We would work directly with Indigenous governments and organizations. We would transfer land to Indigenous housing groups when asked. All Indigenous communities deserve support.

We would break down funding barriers and listen to local solutions. Indigenous people know what works for their families. Housing funds would be fair, direct, and respectful of Indigenous rights and self-determination.

• How would your government support Northern communities in developing sustainable, culturally appropriate housing solutions?

The Green party would fund housing built by and for Northern communities. Homes must reflect the land, climate, and culture. We would support Indigenous-led design and planning.

We would use modular housing to cut costs and speed up builds. Every home we fund would be energy efficient and climate-ready. We would invest in green retrofits for older homes. Research into low-carbon housing would guide new builds.

We would follow universal design rules so all homes are accessible. We would support training and jobs in local construction. Community leadership is key to real solutions.

5. ARCTIC SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY

The best way to assert security and sovereignty in the Arctic is by investing in the people who live here.

•What approach would your government take to ensuring Canada's Arctic is secure and prosperous?

The Green Party believes Arctic security comes from strong, healthy communities. We will invest in Northern infrastructure. This includes clean water, roads, broadband, and climate-safe buildings.

We will back local businesses and create jobs. We aim to do this through renewable energy, retrofits, and green technology. Food security is essential. This is why we'll support local farming, greenhouses, and traditional foods. Mental health care and youth programs would help build safe, thriving communities.

We would work with the Arctic Council and support a treaty to protect Arctic waters. We will increase Arctic surveillance and patrols. However, we will keep our focus on peace, diplomacy, and sustainability. A secure Arctic must also be prosperous, self-sufficient, and rooted in Indigenous leadership.

• How would you engage with the NWT and Indigenous governments to enhance Arctic security and sovereignty?

The Green party would treat Indigenous and Northern governments as full partners. We will create a Council of Canadian Governments. This council will include leaders from the federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous levels. All would have a seat at the table on Arctic matters.

We support Indigenous rights and self-governance, whether or not land claims are settled. We would work with Northern leaders to shape Arctic policy. We would implement UNDRIP and ensure free, prior, and informed consent on all projects. We support Indigenous stewardship and would fund Indigenous-led conservation. Security begins with respect, investment, and listening to the people who live in the Arctic. True sovereignty means Indigenous and Northern voices lead the way.

6. NORTHERN AFFAIRS

The Northwest Territories is unique within Canada, defined by its diverse landscapes, cultures, and peoples, along with a governance system that differs from other jurisdictions. Our consensus government model, working alongside the leadership of many distinct Indigenous nations, represents an innovative and collaborative approach to governance. Through mechanisms like the NWT Council of Leaders, we continue to demonstrate that co-governance and co-management can be successful and effective. Dividing Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada between two Ministers has proven beneficial for advancing NWT priorities across federal departments. Having a dedicated Minister responsible for Northern Affairs has provided essential support for navigating complex intergovernmental relationships and addressing the distinct needs of the North.

- If elected, how would your government engage directly with Canada's North?**

The Green Party aims to work closely with Canada's North. We want Northern and Indigenous governments to be full partners in decision-making. Northerners know their communities best, so they must have a voice in decisions that impact them. We will also create a new fiscal relationship with Indigenous governments, recognizing them as national governments. Our focus is on long-term partnerships based on respect, accountability, and reconciliation. True engagement means listening, sharing power, and addressing what Northern peoples need for their future.

- Would a government led by you maintain the position of Northern Affairs Minister?**

The Green party would maintain a dedicated focus on Northern affairs. Whether through a Minister of Northern Affairs or a Council of Canadian Governments, we would prioritize the North in federal policy. This includes supporting direct partnerships with territorial and Indigenous governments. It's not just about titles, but about real power, resources, and accountability. Northern voices must be central in decisions. Leadership for the North would be embedded across all ministries. This leadership will be backed by action and real investments in the region's needs.

- **What is your vision for the North, including the greatest opportunities and challenges you foresee over the next decade?**

The Green Party sees a North that is independent, prosperous, and key to Canada's future. The North can lead in renewable energy, sustainable innovation, and climate resilience. We aim to create clean energy, housing, infrastructure, and local food systems.

We also want to protect Indigenous cultures and lands. The North needs to provide good education, healthcare, and jobs. This will help keep young people in their communities.

We must address issues like climate change, the housing crisis, food security, and internet access. Federal investment should reflect the North's situation: small populations, high costs, and fragile infrastructure. We also value the North's role in Arctic sovereignty. A strong, sustainable North is essential to Canada's future. We will support Northern leadership and avoid imposing Southern solutions.

- **How would you ensure that the aspirations and interests of Northern and Indigenous communities are meaningfully reflected in your government's national agenda?**

As previously stated, the Green party would treat Indigenous and Northern governments as equal partners. We would use the Council of Canadian Governments to ensure these leaders are involved.

We would fully implement UNDRIP and ensure free, prior, and informed consent in all decisions affecting Indigenous lands. Traditional knowledge would guide climate action and land use. We would honour land claims and self-government agreements and fund initiatives reflecting community visions for well-being.

Our policies would ensure reconciliation, self-determination, and sustainability. The voices of the North won't just be heard, they will shape national policy.