

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Civil society groups call on Greens and NDP to cooperate to move BC forward

VICTORIA - A broad range of civil society groups from across British Columbia are calling on the BC Green Party and BC New Democratic Party to agree to work together following the results of the May 9th provincial election.

No single party is expected to win a strong majority of seats after the final results are announced on May 24th, so the Greens and NDP will have a historic opportunity to work together to make progress on their shared values and platform commitments.

A recent poll conducted by Mainstreet Research showed that a majority of British Columbians want the NDP and Greens to work together to govern the province. Only 28% of people said they wanted to see the Liberals returned to power.

“Cooperation between the Greens and NDP is both popular and legitimate. The parties should listen to the majority of voters who want genuine change and commit to work together. If such cooperation is agreed upon, Her Honour, the Honourable Judith Guichon Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia is obliged, at her most earliest convenience, to give the new coalition government the opportunity to prove they have the confidence of the legislature. To do otherwise, will be a scandalous rebuke to all who voted in good faith,” said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President, Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

“Almost 25,000 British Columbians signed a petition calling on the Greens and NDP to work together to defend our environment and strengthen our democracy. Today, we’re urging Green and NDP MLAs to listen to the powerful majority who want them to cooperate,” said Lyndsay Poaps, Executive Director of Leadnow.ca

“Families are counting on the Greens and NDP to find common ground in their commitment to solving BC’s child care crisis” said Sharon Gregson, spokesperson for \$10 a Day Child Care Campaign.

“We’re on the brink of an exciting and unprecedented moment in BC politics, where cooperation between our two progressive parties could catalyze a paradigm shift, and put us on track to a just, modern, low carbon future.” Katie Harrison, spokesperson for Force of Nature

“Health care in BC is in crisis. Both the BC Greens and the BC NDP pledged to strengthen the health care system everyone relies on. We hope the parties will put the health and well-being of people in British Columbia ahead of partisan interests,” said Jen Kuhl, spokesperson for the BC

Health Coalition

"Based on conversations our teams had during the election and our two Cowichan ridings resulting in both a Green and NDP seat, I think it's safe to say voters would like to see the two parties working together. We now have a real shot at making progress on the many issues they have in common that are important to local voters." said Rosalie Sawrie, Organizer with One Cowichan.

"The Green Party and BC NDP have an historic opportunity. Together they can reject dangerous projects like the Kinder Morgan pipeline, and the Site C dam, making BC a climate leader again" said Sven Biggs, Campaigner with Stand.earth.

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