

ALL CANDIDATES QUESTIONS – Jonah Gowans, Liberal Party of Canada

TAXATION

- **With all of your proposed tax cuts, what services will you cut to balance the budget?**

As with all of the other parties as of now the Liberal Party of Canada is committed to running four deficits that will decrease in size. At the same time we will make sure to decrease our Debt to GDP ratio which is already the best in the G7.

- **Why we are all not taxed the same in Canada with respect to our income brackets? Certain segments of our population pay no taxes and yet enjoy all the services government provides.**

We aren't all taxed the same because Canada does not have a flat tax. Those who make less than 13000 dollars a year right now do not pay income tax. The Liberal Party is committed to raising that number to 15000 dollars a year as we feel those people making that level of income should not be taxed.

- **Do you plan on eliminating subsidies for oil and pharma? If so, how do you plan on keeping the lack of subsidies from increasing their products?**

For oil subsidies we're committed to removing 8/9 generally. Some of the ones we would keep currently are subsidies for First Nations groups using oil, and even in those cases we are working on alternatives from our Clean Power Fund which will help them in the transition that we find ourselves in. In terms of Pharma, with the Liberal Party of Canada committed to Pharmacare negotiations will not be directly with consumers.

- **Is it true that, if elected, a new Liberal government would institute a Capital Gains Tax on one's principal residence?**

No! The Liberals will introduce a version of the Provincial Spec tax with more specific rules. To qualify an individual would have to not live in Canada, not be a Canadian citizen and not be renting the property. For those individuals there will be a 1% tax.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **How would you respond locally to the warning issued by climate scientists that our oceans are in crisis?**

I would want to meet said scientists. I know there has been a lot of good work done via the Ocean Protection Plan which I think was a good step, but there is more to be done and if expert scientists have ideas those are ideas I as the MP would want to hear and make sure are making their way to Ottawa to protect our Oceans.

- **What incentives will your party offer ordinary citizens to help them take personal actions to reduce climate change upheaval?**

We will continue to give rebates for those purchasing zero emission vehicles. As well we will provide rebates up to \$2000 dollars for those by used Zero Emission Vehicles. For those wanting to retrofit their houses we are offering \$40000 dollar interest free loans. For those interested in buying new homes, if the home is certified as zero emissions then we will give them a Net Zero Homes Grant of up to \$5000 dollars.

- **How will a proposed energy corridor function in ensuring Canada will be able to meet our greenhouse gas emission targets under the Paris Agreement under UNFCCC?**

- **There has been much said about eliminating the use of fossil fuels and converting to alternative sources of fuel. What would you say is a realistic time frame to achieve this goal?**

I believe the start is already occurring and will need to continue to happen. The Liberal Party of Canada is committed to reaching net zero emissions by 2050. That has been studies by both economists and scientists and they do believe it is achievable. With specific fossil fuels particularly coal that transition will be much faster.

Obviously technology will play a huge role in that transition and most would agree that sooner would be better. That's one reason I am excited about the Liberal plan to cut Clean Tech companies taxes by 50% as I think those companies are our future and giving them the cut now will benefit Canada going forward with the innovations they will bring.

- **If elected, what renewable energy projects and renewable energy jobs will you promote in Parliament now, not in 10 or 20 years?**

To help workers transition to the new economy we are investing in retraining, we plan to introduce The Just Transition Act which will be a commitment to the workers in industries at risk of being left behind as we transition from fossil fuels to a clean energy economy. Specifically for projects it depends on what area of the country, Canada is vast and logically the projects that will make sense in BC such as tidal, solar and hydro are not the same as say the prairies where tidal would make no sense at all.

- **Do you and your party support the Federal Grant for purchase of electric vehicles?**

Yes, and we believe it should be expanded and if elected we will do so.

HEALTH

- **What is your party's position on mandatory medical procedures (i.e. vaccination)?**

Vaccinations are critical and should definitely be encouraged by the federal government. Making them mandatory would be provincial in nature. What I would like to see is more support for educating the value vaccinations bring and fighting against the myths that exist.

- **Do you support changes to Bill C-14 to allow advanced directives for MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) requests?**

Yes

- **What are your party's plans to combat drug use, mental disorders and the crime rate?**

The Liberal Party has a few plans that will help with all of these issues. First for drug use we will invest at the local level in community based services, build more in-patient rehab beds and scale up the most effective programs such as extending hours for InSite and other safe consumption sites. To help drug users get quicker access to treatment we will make drug treatment court the default option for first time non-violent offenders charged exclusively with simple possession. We need to crack down on gang violence so we will be investing an additional \$50 Million dollars each year as a dedicated funding stream to help municipalities. Finally for mental health we will set national standards for access to mental health services so those who need it will always have it available to them.

TRANSPORTATION

- **What actions would you take to support rail initiatives, particularly passenger rail service, on Vancouver Island? What I would be interested in working on is a light rail system to help move citizens up and down the island, especially in an environmentally advantageous way.**
- **Would you support the DFO reducing quotas for the commercial fleet and giving them to the sportfishing community with expanded areas?**

No, as commercial fisherman are already struggling to work with DFO, putting more roadblocks in their way seems to me to be a mistake.

- How do you plan to work with other parties to achieve the changes Canadians want?**

Collaboration and cooperation are crucial and a bit of a forgotten skill in parliament at times. I've seen MPs who disagree on everything still be able to find common ground. The key is finding common ground more often and that starts by reaching out across the aisle and asking. If everyone is stuck in their camp not talking the Canadian people are the ones hurt. My job as your member of parliament is to work for you, finding the best solution starts with discussion with all sides.
- The NDP leader has indicated that he will give the provinces the right to refuse Federal initiatives such as the energy corridor. Should provinces have the right to veto initiatives that are in the national interest?**

No, I believe that a veto is not in the best interest of Canada and that tensions would only increase with a veto. As I mentioned in the question above I believe strongly in working collaboratively, which for me starts with discussions. I believe a veto stifles those discussions.
- How does legalising narcotics bring about positive change for our youth who are personally affected by drugs & alcohol?**

I and the Liberal Party of Canada are not in favour of legalizing all narcotics. We did legalize marijuana, but there is no discussion of legalizing further. Around the world this issue exists and there have certainly been interesting experiments. In Portugal for example they have decriminalized all drugs. I am not saying I agree but I certainly am saying it's a model that deserves consideration.
- What will you do in the next four years to remedy the lack of affordable housing and make tent cities a thing of the past?**

This is two questions to me, first affordable housing. The Liberal government created the National Housing Strategy which is a 55 Billion dollar investment in housing to make housing affordable for Canadians again. I specifically think the Strategy needs to place a focus on young families and on Seniors, both of whom struggle with housing. Homelessness is a larger issue than just the lack of a home (though that obviously is a priority and something that as your MP I will work to improve). Homelessness starts earlier whenever the system leaves someone behind. We are committed to making access to a family doctor or primary health care team universal. We're also going to set clear national standards for access to mental health services so Canadians get the support they need quicker. Homelessness is a systemic problem that has to be attacked from all angles not just a housing issue.
- How will you improve services, pensions, health care and benefits for all of Canada's veterans? Veterans have served our Country, we owe it to serve them.**

We will move forward with a plan to give every veteran \$3000 in free counselling services before a disability claim is required. Along with this we will simplify and shorten the process by providing automatic approvals for the most common disability applications, including depression, PTSD and arthritis. Finally, to address Veteran's Homelessness we will be building purpose-built accessible and affordable housing units with a full range of health, social, and employment supports for veterans. To do this we will invest 15 million per year and the 3000 veterans who used the services of an emergency shelter are 3000 too many.
- What is your party doing to ensure seniors have a "living wage" in their retirement?**

We are committed to raising OAS for those over the age of 75 by an additional \$729 dollars a year and increase CPP survivor benefits by 25%. Along with these two key initiatives are the National Housing Strategy which will put a focus on seniors housing, and Pharmacare which will put more money back into the pockets of seniors who certainly have earned their retirement and should be honoured for their contribution to helping create Canada.