

1. It is the Yukon First Nation's position that certain amendments to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA) proposed by Bill S - 6 undermine the spirit and intent of our Agreements. The unilateral changes to YESAA are a breach of our agreements. If elected, what will you and your party do to right the wrong that Bill S - 6 imposed on the Yukon?

The Green Party fought against Bill S-6 in Parliament and sought to amend in committee the unilateral changes to YESAA that were in direct contradiction to the Umbrella Final Agreement. Green MPs in a new Parliament will immediately work to repeal those reprehensible parts of Bill S-6 and work nation-to-nation with Yukon First Nations to finalize the review process.

2. Self-government Agreements empower Yukon Self-Governing First Nations to govern ourselves in a manner that is responsive to the needs and interests of our people. Acting in good faith and ensuring that our agreements are implemented is crucial to their success. The Government of Canada signed these agreements and often seems to forget its obligations. How will you and your government ensure that the implementation of our agreements is a priority; is done in a timely manner; and respects their spirit and intent?

True reconciliation will take time, but while we work to build a new, nation-to-nation partnership based on mutual respect and understanding, there are urgent and important steps that must be taken by the federal government to put the relationship on firmer footing. Greens will begin by recognizing indigenous rights and title, and will negotiate in good faith to settle land claims, establish treaties and self-government arrangements. We will respect the rights of First Nations to take leadership of development projects on their traditional territories.

3. There are a staggering number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women across the country, a problem that has visited the Yukon as well. What is your position on a national inquiry for missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

The ongoing crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women must be

urgently addressed. We will launch a national inquiry and fight to ensure that structural violence against indigenous communities is addressed. As Lorraine Rekmans, the Green Party of Canada's Indigenous Affairs Critic, stated in a press release calling for an inquiry earlier this year: "We cannot view violence against Indigenous women as individual crimes – they stem from a history of colonialism, racism, and poverty. We must address the complex background of this violence and we must do so immediately to prevent further tragedies."

4. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) completed their work this year and made 94 broad and diverse recommendations for repairing the relationship between First Nations and Canada, a vital step in making our country whole. Of those recommendations what do you see as the most important to address? What will your party do to ensure the recommendations made by the TRC are implemented?

Green MPs will be unwavering advocates in Parliament for the swift and full implementation of all recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. While all 94 recommendations must be implemented, we will first act on those within the federal sphere and then facilitate federal leadership in those that require provincial and municipal action. A Council of Canadian Governments – representing the provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous governments – would meet to draft a comprehensive strategy. Of the federal action items, in our platform we highlight: investing in education by abolishing tuition fees for First Nations youth by removing the 2% post-secondary funding cap; significant new federal investment in defending languages and cultures through culturally appropriate education in traditional languages; and, addressing the ongoing crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women by launching a national inquiry.

The path to justice, healing and reconciliation begins with accepting a painful truth: the horrors of the residential school system constituted a policy of cultural genocide. There is no way to undo the damage nor to compensate for the grief and loss of many generations of children and families. The truth is hard to absorb, but absorb it we must.