

Frank de Jong, leader

Yukon Green Party

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Yukon Green Party Leader Frank de Jong's Remarks to CYFN Election Forum,

Good Evening Honored chiefs and elders, citizens of all Yukon First Nations, and Yukoners.

I would like to thank the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, and Ta'an Kwach'an Council who share their traditional territories with us tonight.

I regret that my job as an educator in Faro did not permit my full participation in tonight's forum.

The Yukon Green Party, like Green Parties around the world, has adopted a set of six core values to guide all our political actions and decisions. They are: Ecological Wisdom; Non-Violence; Social Justice; Sustainability; Participatory Democracy; and Respect for Diversity.

We believe that these values mirror many First Nation values, and hope that together we can bring them into Yukon politics. We also believe in applying the principles of consultation, co-operation, and consensus to issues facing governments and their citizens.

We value First Nations as governing partners, and our Key Goals, as outlined in our Policy Book, available at [yukongreenparty.ca](http://yukongreenparty.ca), are:

- To recognize and affirm aboriginal treaty rights in a fair, efficient and respectful manner.
- To ensure territorial government lives up to the spirit and intent of the Land Claims Agreements.
- To equalize funding of all First Nations services with that of non First Nations services

Furthermore:

- A Green Party government would require that First Nations receive "smelter return" royalties from hard rock mining --similar to what Selkirk FN receives from the Minto mine -- and 5% of the value of placer mining, on traditional lands.
- A Green Party government would remove the requirement that First Nations teachers must have a letter from a priest in order to work at Catholic Schools.

The process that began with “Together Today for our Children Tomorrow” and brought us to our current situation respects the vision of finding a way for First Nation culture and economy to mesh with the “Western” culture and economy, and to create ways for them both to thrive.

No matter how carefully crafted and detailed any agreement is, it also needs a willing spirit to implement the agreement.

I hope we have offered ourselves as a political choice with that spirit. Green values are important for every politician, the greener the better.

In closing, I ask that each person listening tonight reflect on who will best represent your values -- and vote accordingly.

If you can't vote Green, then vote as Green as you can.

We certainly appreciate your consideration this evening and hope that this gathering is very successful for all that attend.

Massi Cho   Gunal'chish   Mussi

Frank de Jong, Interim Leader  
Yukon Green Party