

5 September, 2019

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for writing, for providing us with the opportunity to speak to your organisation on the issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights in Canada and globally, and for your advocacy. Please find our response below.

Best regards,

Katherine Lorimer
Policy Researcher
Green Party of Canada

Abortion

- 1. Barriers to abortion access in Canada are much worse for people who live outside urban centres, in the North and on First Nations reserves. What steps would your party take to address them?**

The Green Party recognizes the unique challenges faced by people who live outside urban centres, in the North and on First Nations reserves. It is important that these challenges are addressed at a federal level and that vulnerable populations receive equal access to care.

A Green government will restore the federal/provincial Health Accord, basing health transfers on demographics and real health care needs in each province, replacing the current formula based on GDP growth introduced by the Harper government and retained by the Liberals. During renegotiation we will prioritize expansion of mental health and rehabilitation services, reduction in wait times, and access to safe abortion services.

- 2. Due to regulation 84-20, New Brunswick is the only province in Canada where a person must pay out of pocket to get an abortion in a freestanding clinic. What steps would your party take to end this discrimination?**

The Green Party fully supports a woman's right to choose. While responsibility for delivery of healthcare services lies with the provinces, the federal government can and should take a leadership role in addressing unequal access to care. This is why [Greens called on the Health Minister to intervene](#) when the Morgentaler clinic was shutting down in New Brunswick in 2014. A Green government will prioritize access to safe abortion services during renegotiation of the Health Accord with the provinces and, if necessary, provide financial support directly to those affected by regulation 84-20.

- 3. Health Canada publishes a range of health-related information. Meanwhile, anti-choice organizations continue to publish and disseminate misleading information about**



abortion. If elected, what would your party do to make sure everyone could access accurate, evidence-based information about abortion? What strategies would your party propose to eliminate the barriers created by anti-choice organizations on access to abortion care?

The Green Party would consult with stakeholders and sexual and reproductive health experts to see what supports are needed. We would work to tailor programs to the needs of communities, so that local organisations are able to provide quality information, education and access to abortion care.

Sexuality Education

- 1. If any province or territory attempted to roll back their sexuality education curriculum, what action would your party take?**

The Green Party wants to work to improve sexuality education throughout Canada. We would ensure funding for community-driven education and awareness programs that lead to a greater understanding of intersex realities and the diversity of sexualities and gender identities. These programs should be strong and easily accessible to all Canadians, filling any gaps created by provincial rollbacks.

- 2. Does your party support the need for a Government of Canada Strategy to improve sexuality education throughout Canada, that would include funding for awareness raising and training of professional sexual health educators?**

The Green Party agrees that sexuality education in Canada could be improved. We would ensure to fund community-driven education and awareness programs that lead to a greater understanding of intersex realities and the diversity of sexualities and gender identities. We would support public education to end prejudice and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Party would also work with social services, community supports, emergency shelters and other frontline organizations to ensure that all LGBTQI2+ young people are cared for and protected, and that the workers in these fields educated on these issues.

- 3. Canada currently does not collect comprehensive data on sexual health indicators. Would your party task Statistics Canada to collect data around sexual health indicators, to support better public health policy, and strengthen sex ed curriculums and implementation?**

The Green Party agrees that we do not currently have sufficient data on topics related to sexual health. We would review whether that the national census can be designed to properly capture sexual health information in a way that ensures adequate, safe, and effective data collection, and pursue a program to standardize reporting across health centers and between provinces.

Sex work



1. Does your party support the repeal of the 2014 Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act?

Yes, the Green party would repeal C-36 (the ‘Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act’) and pass legislation that develops regulations for legal prostitution between consenting adults.

2. Does your party commit to including sex workers in any consultation and study that leads to policies that affect them and their work?

Yes, sex workers must be consulted on any policy development that affects them.

3. What steps would your party take to eliminate the violence, stigma, and harassment experienced by sex workers under the current legal framework?

The Green Party would reform sex work laws in Canada with a clear focus on harm reduction, given the dangers that sex trade workers face. Forcing sex work further into the shadows by criminalizing it is not a solution. By making the industry legal and public, it will make it easier for those who are being trafficked, harassed, or abused to be found and helped.

Pharmacare

1. Does your party support a universal, single-payer pharmacare strategy? If so, when would such a strategy be launched?

Yes. This is a policy priority for the Green Party and would be implemented within our first mandate.

2. Does your party support the creation of a program to universally cover the cost of all contraceptives in advance of a national pharmacare strategy?

Yes. Improving access to contraceptives and sexual health services is a priority and Greens would support this measure if it made sense as a stopgap.

3. Does your party agree that all medications and devices that support sexual and reproductive health should be prioritized on Canada’s national pharmacare formulary?

The Green Party agrees that medications and devices that support sexual and reproductive do not currently receive enough priority on formularies and that this should be remedied in the national Pharmacare program.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights globally

1. Does your party support a commitment of 0.7% GNI for official development assistance? If so, what timeline does your party propose to reach the target?



Yes. We are currently working with the Parliamentary Budget Office to determine how quickly this can be achieved.

2. Does your party support a targeted investment of at least \$500M/year for the neglected areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in development assistance (abortion, contraceptives, advocacy and adolescent SRHR)?

Yes - the Green Party would re-establish the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that was dismantled by the Harper government, with a mandate to provide overseas development assistance where it is most needed.

The Green Party would also ensure that maternal health programs funded by Canada both at home and overseas do not limit access to any form of family planning and primary health care, including access to safe, legal abortions.

3. What would your party do to ensure increased financial support for local and grassroots women's rights organizations globally?

The Green Party would start a review of federal government policy and spending to align it with the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and develop a mechanism to track progress in meeting these targets both at home and abroad. [Sustainable Development Goal 5](#) is to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and increased financial support for local and grassroots women's rights organizations is the best way to get there.

