

	LIBERAL-George Affleck	GREEN PARTY-Ian Goldman	NDP-George Heyman
Questions on the Issues			
As an MLA, what will you do to help improve the safety of teachers' working conditions in Vancouver?	As a parent with a child in elementary school, I have found the communications inconsistent. I have heard from other parents at different schools that they too feel this way. Simple things like having hand washing stations at portables are not being prioritized or even made possible. Why? I want to make sure that school is safe for the teachers and the kids as we make our way through this pandemic.	We have a policy in our platform to increase PPE for teachers and to offer more online and mixed-model options for students.	
Do you support increasing education funding in both K-12 and Adult Education to ensure provincially mandated expenses are covered and that BC schools are funded to at least to the national average? If yes, what actions will you take to ensure a positive outcome?	As the former Chair of my kids' school PAC, the issue of funding is close to my heart. Funding needs to be a priority. Early education and education in general lays the groundwork for a happy and healthy life. Stable and predictable funding and less downloading to parents needs to be addressed across this province. We want the best for our kids. Let's make our education system the best with the best outcomes.	Yes, we have clear policies in our platform to increase funding for education. Again, please see the details in our platform.	
What will your party do to ensure our district can recruit and retain more certified teachers?	The school system in general needs to stay well-funded. And we must be consistent with our approach. That said, each school district has unique challenges and in the case of Vancouver, affordability is a real problem for all residents. To find and fill positions in the city, we will need to work hard with the city and the school board and see how we can improve things here – whether it be through housing, transportation infrastructure or other agreed upon initiatives.	Again, we have clear policies in our platform related to reducing housing costs including grants for people whose rent is more than 30% of their income. We also have policies to put spaces for early childhood education in schools and free caregiving for children under 3.	
Do you support a specific leave for COVID-19 in these circumstances? If yes, what actions will you take to ensure a positive outcome?	To stop the spread requires isolation when symptoms occur. The BC Liberals position on paid leave is that we need federal support to fund some kind of national sick leave program in response to this pandemic.	It seems obvious that if you are exposed to Covid, then you should be entitled to sick leave if you have to quarantine. A teacher would not have a choice but to be off work. I would work to have sick leave cover that.	
Do you support eliminating the Foundation Skills Assessment? If yes, what actions will you take to ensure a positive outcome?	Because of the Covid-19 crisis, and the fact the NDP have been unable to provide a consistent learning environment, it is probably best that the FSAs be postponed this year.	I don't know if our party has a specific policy regarding the FSA but we do want to fundamentally change the way that education is done in the province.	

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Many teachers and students, in both K-12 and Adult Ed, have been speaking out about the systemic and overt racism happening in our communities and our schools. What is your strategy to address these issues?	We must combat racism and discrimination of all kinds all the time by ensuring all government services are free of racism and prejudice, and require all government offices to follow anti-racism policies. Furthermore, police services must actively adopt anti-racism and anti-discriminatory conduct policies. And establish provincewide standards to eliminate arbitrary racial-profiling practices.	We have a lot of policies on this issue including bringing this topic into the curriculum.	
What steps do you believe need to be taken in order to ensure a respectful bargaining process going forward?	From my point of view, talking with each other all the time is key. Let's not stop the conversation on how we educate our kids after an agreement is set. Covid-19 is seeing us adapt to new ways of doing what we all do every day. This inevitably means we need to keep talking about how things work or don't work.	In our platform, we explicitly support smaller class sizes and improving class composition. Our leader, Sonia Furstenu, is a teacher on Vancouver Island!	
How will you work with Vancouver Elementary Teachers' Association to ensure that public education issues are part of your caucus' and party's priorities?	I recommend an open conversation with all members of the legislature. In Vancouver, I suggest regularly scheduled meetings with MLAs from each of the parties, together and separately. Let's get on the same page with your needs so we can make this less about politics and more about education – in every way.	I will meet with your association and listen to your concerns and suggestions and work to make them our concerns.	
In Student Vote campaigns, children frequently indicate that fighting climate change is their top concern. If elected MLA what actions will you, or your party take to fight climate change?	As was the case when I was on city council in Vancouver and that I stated so often, I think it is important to prioritize things that we can do immediately to reduce GHGs. That means prioritizing public transit, investments in new technology, improve building codes for better energy-efficiency and more. A good example of this was the City of Vancouver's long term green goals. While on one hand perceived as aspirational, we in fact can reach the goals by focusing and fighting for mass public transit. When I was on Council, all three parties united on this front with the goal to reduce GHGs in our city by advocating for better public transit.	This issue is central to our whole being. There are many, many policies that we have about this issue including a plan for the whole province to be net zero emissions by 2045.	