



**Restore Confidence.
Rebuild BC.**

Special Olympics British Columbia – Election 2020 Questions

1. Will you commit to changing the deadly and unacceptable health conditions faced by individuals with intellectual disabilities?

BC Liberals Response:

Yes. As BC Liberals, we believe in the inherent value, worth, and dignity of all individuals with intellectual disabilities. These individuals are our children, siblings, friends, and neighbours. They have a valuable and essential role to play in B.C. and in our lives.

On a personal level, BC Liberal leader Andrew Wilkinson's younger sister has lived her whole life with a major intellectual disability. Andrew knows exactly what this means for quality of life, living circumstances and opportunities for people with disabilities. This relationship has taught Andrew the responsibility we all bear in safeguarding those who are vulnerable or in need of our support. He knows that, throughout one's life, we have a duty and obligation to make sure that our most vulnerable people are taken care of.

2. Will you engage individuals with intellectual disabilities and their supporters during the policy-making process on all issues that impact their health and wellbeing?

BC Liberals Response:

Yes. We believe in the value of people and in creating the environment where they have the opportunity to live fulfilling lives. A BC Liberal government led by Andrew Wilkinson will be committed to a collaborative and consultative approach to government and the policy-making process. This includes engaging with individuals with intellectual disabilities and advocates on issues which impact their health and well-being.

3. When in government, will you commit to ensuring the Ministry of Health prioritizes improving health outcomes and quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities?

BC Liberals Response:

Yes. The BC Liberals will work to ensure the provincial government, including the Ministry of Health, prioritizes improving health outcomes and quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities. The pandemic has highlighted where there are challenges within the system – and we will take action.

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A BC Liberal government led by Andrew Wilkinson will increase the supply of fully-accessible units for persons with disabilities in newly-built multi-unit residential buildings. We will also expand programs to assist people with disabilities with home renovations, including reinstating the Home Adaptations for Improvement grant program implemented by the previous BC Liberal government and suspended under the NDP. In addition, we will work to eliminate harmful bias against people with intellectual disabilities across government to ensure all services are free from discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities.

4. Will you commit to creating a governmental task force to improve the health of people with intellectual disabilities?

BC Liberals Response:

Yes. We agree that a government task force would provide invaluable insight in ensuring our government takes the appropriate and necessary actions to improve the health of people with intellectual disabilities. We are committed to a collaborative and consultative approach to government and the policy-making process, and that this includes individuals with intellectual disabilities and advocates.

5. Will you commit to supporting sufficient funding and resources to ensure people intellectual disabilities will no longer face inequality in health and in life?

BC Liberals Response:

Under our former government, we brought forward *Accessibility 2024*. This Action Plan was the result of comprehensive public consultation regarding opportunities for government, businesses and communities to reduce barriers and increase accessibility. It is our hope that a task force can revive these efforts that have been left incomplete and ignored by the NDP. We need to continue this important work in order to ensure people with disabilities, intellectual or physical, do not face barriers to equality in healthy living or in their everyday lives.