



ABBOTSFORD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



UFV Student
Union Society

2026 Provincial Election

Abbotsford Business Community Report: Candidate Responses



FRASER VALLEY
REAL ESTATE BOARD



CANADIAN
HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION
FRASER VALLEY



FVICBA

Abbotsford Business Community: Candidate Questionnaire

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, together with our business and community partners, is inviting candidates seeking election to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia to share their positions on the issues shaping Abbotsford's economic future.

These questions reflect the priorities identified by participating organizations and their respective communities, including business competitiveness, housing affordability, public safety, agriculture, infrastructure, education, workforce development and community growth.

Our organizations are committed to providing a non-partisan platform that helps voters understand where candidates stand and what actions they would take if elected.



FRASER VALLEY
REAL ESTATE BOARD



Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce

1. Business Competitiveness and Taxation: Will your party commit to permanently cancelling the proposed PST expansion, and what specific measures would you introduce to reduce the cumulative cost of doing business and make British Columbia a more competitive place to invest, hire and grow?
2. Agriculture and Food-Processing Modernization: Will your party commit to removing the 50% rule and modernizing ALR regulations to enable greater investment in food processing and value-added agriculture? What additional measures would you introduce to increase B.C.'s domestic food-processing capacity?
3. Workforce Development and Skills Training: What specific actions would your party take to strengthen the connection between post-secondary education, trades training and employer needs, ensuring Fraser Valley businesses have access to the skilled workforce they need to grow?
4. Trade Diversification and Economic Resilience: What concrete measures would your party take to help B.C. businesses diversify export markets, reduce interprovincial trade barriers and strengthen the competitiveness of Fraser Valley manufacturers, agricultural producers and exporters?
5. Investment Attraction and Regulatory Certainty: What specific changes would your party make to accelerate provincial approvals, improve access to employment and industrial lands, and attract new private-sector investment to Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley?

Abbotsford Downtown Business Association

6. Downtown Public Safety and Repeat Property Crime: What specific provincial action would you advocate first to make downtowns like Abbotsford's safer?
7. Supporting Independent Downtown Businesses: What specific provincial change would you make to help locally owned downtown businesses remain and grow?
8. Supportive Housing Operations and Accountability: When the Province funds supportive housing, what enforceable operating standards and accountability measures should it require to support residents while maintaining the safety and vitality of nearby businesses and neighbourhoods?

Fraser Valley Indo-Canadian Business Association

9. Agricultural Land and Industrial Growth: How would your party protect farmland while helping local businesses and industry find suitable land to grow?

10. Transportation and Goods Movement: What additional transportation investments would your party prioritize to improve goods movement and connect Abbotsford's businesses, airport and regional transit?

11. Health-Care Infrastructure: As Abbotsford grows, what specific plan does your party have to expand local health-care facilities and ensure those investments keep pace with population growth?

12. Sumas Prairie Flood Mitigation: What funding and timeline would your party commit to for the next phase of flood mitigation, working with First Nations, local governments and the federal government?

13. Community Amenities and Growth: What funding partnerships would your party offer growing cities like Abbotsford to build the recreation, cultural and community amenities that help attract and retain workers and families?

Canadian Home Builders' Association – Fraser Valley

14. Taxes on New Homes: Would your party commit to working with the federal government to introduce meaningful tax relief for all buyers of newly built homes in B.C.?

15. Development Cost Charges: What would your party do to improve transparency and accountability in how municipalities set these charges and ensure they do not unnecessarily increase the cost of housing?

16. Building Codes and Construction Costs: Would your party commit to reviewing the cost and regional impact of new building code requirements before implementation, while maintaining appropriate safety standards?

17. Energy Step Code Requirements: Would your party support a consistent, province-wide approach to Energy Step Code requirements, including reviewing the costs of mandatory increases for single-family homes?

18. Housing Approvals and Permitting: What specific steps would your party take to speed up housing approvals, establish predictable timelines and make greater use of qualified professionals to get homes built sooner?

19. Residential Construction and Local Jobs: What would your party do to support residential construction businesses, protect local jobs and create the conditions needed for more homes to be built?

UFV Student Union Society (SUS)

20. Provincial Funding for Post-Secondary Education: Would you support increasing provincial operating funding for public post-secondary institutions to help address these pressures and protect students from program and service cuts? If elected, what specific actions would you take?

21. Protecting the 2% Domestic Tuition Cap: Do you support maintaining the provincial policy limiting annual increases to domestic tuition and mandatory fees to 2%? How would you balance student affordability with the need to ensure institutions have sufficient funding to maintain educational quality and access?

22. Transparency in the Post-Secondary Sustainability Review: Will you commit to publicly releasing the full report, and what principles would guide your decisions on implementing its recommendations?

Fraser Valley Real Estate Board (FVREB)

23. Missing-Middle Housing Supply: What steps would you and your party take to ensure the missing-middle housing needed in our community actually gets built?

24. Provincial-Municipal Housing Coordination: How would you ensure a more coordinated approach with City Hall in this community on housing policy targets?



Pam Alexis, Leah Ballantyne, Jules Cote

Political party: BC NDP

1. Business Competitiveness and Taxation

We paused the proposed PST expansion to professional services. Our focus is also on practical support for businesses facing higher costs and trade uncertainty: interest-free loans of up to \$1 million for eligible businesses affected by tariffs or wildfires, a \$5,000 tax credit for hiring a young person into their first full-time job, and \$6 million a year in added support to find new markets. We also plan to lower fuel costs by up to 30 cents a litre.

2. Agriculture and Food-Processing Modernization

We have proposed expanding food-processing opportunities on ALR land that is less suited to growing crops, while protecting prime farmland. The proposal would allow processing plants on lower-quality soils, with a requirement that at least 5% of the main product comes from B.C. The existing 50% rule would remain on other ALR land. We are also supporting food processing and local agriculture through a planned Lower Mainland food terminal and added help for businesses seeking markets beyond the United States.

3. Workforce Development and Skills Training

Businesses need workers with the right skills, and young people need a first chance to build experience. Our plan supports both: we are adding 1,000 health-care training seats, and a \$5,000 refundable tax credit will help small businesses hire a young person aged 18 to 30 for their first full-time job. We will keep working with employers and training institutions so people can train for jobs in demand across the Fraser Valley.

4. Trade Diversification and Economic Resilience

We are helping businesses reach markets beyond the United States with \$6 million a year in added market research grants, one-on-one advice and support to diversify supply chains. We are also working with Canada to open new markets and will use public purchasing to support B.C. and Canadian suppliers when they can deliver on time and on budget. Exports to non-U.S. destinations are up 16% this year.

5. Investment Attraction and Regulatory Certainty

B.C. has \$130 billion in major projects underway or planned, built in partnership with First Nations. Those projects support jobs, suppliers and local businesses. Our approach is to build with communities and First Nations, create good local jobs, and connect B.C. products to new markets. Abbotsford should have a strong voice in decisions about the land, infrastructure and approvals needed for local growth.

6. Downtown Public Safety and Repeat Property Crime

People should feel safe at work, in their neighbourhoods and downtown. We have added 240 police training seats and expanded teams that focus on repeat violent offending. Abbotsford's new Chronic Property Offending Intervention Initiative (C-POII) hub is a meaningful step toward improving public safety for local businesses. The hub focuses on a small group of repeat offenders who are responsible for a disproportionate amount of theft, vandalism, and street disorder — issues that directly affect storefronts, staff, and customers. In Abbotsford, 25 individuals are now being actively monitored through the local hub, combining targeted enforcement with supports like housing, mental-health, and addiction services to reduce reoffending.

7. Supporting Independent Downtown Businesses

Independent businesses create local jobs and support the community. Our plan gives small businesses practical help: interest-free loans for eligible businesses affected by tariffs or wildfires, a tax credit for hiring a young person, and support to reach new markets. We are also lowering fuel costs and taking on corporate price gouging, both of which affect business costs

8. Supportive Housing Operations and Accountability

Supportive housing should provide stability for residents and safety for the people who live and work nearby. B.C. has set operational standards for wellness checks and guest policies, and supportive-housing providers must have a process for handling complaints. Tenants can also use the Residential Tenancy Branch's dispute process. We have proposed further tools to help operators respond to serious safety risks while protecting tenant rights. We will keep working with housing providers, tenants, First Nations and communities to make supportive housing work well. According to the latest count, the number of unhoused people is down which indicates the great working relationship with the Ministry and local organizations

9. Agricultural Land and Industrial Growth

Abbotsford's farmland is a major part of its economy and should be protected. Business growth also needs suitable land and infrastructure. We should focus growth where it can be supported while helping farms and local businesses add value to what they produce. The proposal to increase processing on ALR could help alleviate the pressures on industrial land in Abbotsford. Our plan to improve access to local food supply chains and help businesses reach new markets supports that goal.

10. Transportation and Goods Movement

We are investing \$2.65 billion to widen Highway 1 from Mount Lehman Road to Highway 11. The work includes a new Highway 11 interchange, HOV and bus-on-shoulder lanes, truck parking and a new Peardonville Road crossing. The Mount Lehman interchange upgrades will improve connections to the Fraser Highway and Abbotsford International Airport. These projects will help people travel more reliably and keep goods moving through the Fraser Valley.

11. Health-Care Infrastructure

As Abbotsford grows, people need care close to home. Our plan includes moving ahead with seven paused long-term-care projects, including Abbotsford's, using a model designed to lower costs and shorten construction time. We will add 20 team-based primary-care clinics and expand same-day, evening and weekend appointments. We will add 1,000 training seats and launch a first-in-Canada bridging program to help qualified international medical graduates already living in B.C. practise family medicine.

We are also increasing diagnostic capacity across B.C. with eight MRI machines and 10 CT scanners, and creating regional surgical waitlists so patients can choose the closest hospital or shortest wait. Our U.S. health-care recruitment campaign has recruited 800 workers, and we are tripling its budget from \$5 million to \$15 million, with a goal of recruiting 2,400 more.

12. Sumas Prairie Flood Mitigation

The 2021 and December 2025 floods showed the need for lasting flood protection on Sumas Prairie. The Province has provided \$3.3 million for planning, design and assessment work. That work brings together the Province, Semá:th, Máthxwi and Leq'á:mel First Nations, and the cities of Abbotsford and Chilliwack. Partners are assessing flood risks, habitat, water flow and pump-station needs to guide future projects. Since 2021, the Province has provided about \$220 million for recovery, preparedness and mitigation in Abbotsford and Sumas Prairie, including \$76.6 million for Barrowtown pump-station upgrades. The Province is also seeking federal partnership for further flood-reduction infrastructure. We will keep working with First Nations, local governments and the federal government to advance long-term protection for homes, farms, businesses and critical transportation links

13. Community Amenities and Growth

Abbotsford's growth needs to be matched with the amenities that make a community livable—from parks and recreation to cultural spaces and transit. The Province's one-time Growing Communities Fund gave local governments flexible support for growth-related infrastructure, including parks and recreation facilities. In Abbotsford, \$2.2 million from the fund helped pay for the Montrose Avenue transit exchange, through a partnership with the City, the Province and Canada. We will keep working with Abbotsford and community partners to identify local priorities and bring governments together so services and amenities keep pace with growth.

14. Taxes on New Homes

Housing affordability means building more homes and making it easier for people to buy them. Our government expanded B.C.'s Newly Built Home Exemption: eligible buyers of a newly built principal residence can receive a full property transfer tax exemption on homes valued up to \$1.1 million, up from \$750,000. It also raised the value threshold for the First Time Home Buyers' Program to \$835,000. We will keep working with the federal government on housing affordability, build the homes people need and bring more finished condos onto the market for people to live in.

15. Development Cost Charges

Housing costs matter to families, renters and the workers that homebuilding supports. Our plan is to increase housing supply and keep homes from sitting empty while people need them. We will keep working with local governments to get more homes built and make sure growth supports the communities where people live.

16. Building Codes and Construction Costs

People need safe homes they can afford. Our government updated B.C.'s code to allow single-stair apartment buildings up to six storeys, opening more small lots to housing while requiring sprinklers, smoke-management systems and wider stairs. For adaptable-home requirements, we consulted the building sector and phased in the rules at 20% of units in large buildings, citing cost and affordability. We will keep building more homes while grounding code decisions in safety, evidence and local conditions.

17. Energy Step Code Requirements

We need more homes, and builders need clear rules to plan projects and costs. We will keep working to deliver the homes people need while considering affordability and the costs families face.

18. Housing Approvals and Permitting

We have removed local zoning barriers so communities can build 300,000 more middle-class homes. That includes making room for more housing choices in neighbourhoods. We will keep working with local governments to turn those changes into homes people can afford and to keep housing costs down

19. Residential Construction and Local Jobs

Homebuilding supports jobs across the Fraser Valley, from trades and suppliers to local services. Our plan is to keep housing construction moving by removing zoning barriers and making room for more homes. We are also supporting small businesses through the trade war with interest-free loans, a youth hiring tax credit and help to reach new markets.

20. Provincial Funding for Post-Secondary Education

Students need access to good education and training, and employers need people with the right skills. Our government's Budget 2026 invests \$241 million over three years to double skilled-trades funding, with up to 5,000 new training seats in 2026–27, including about 3,100 at public post-secondary institutions. In Abbotsford, nearly \$7 million is going to UFV instructional space for heavy mechanical, automation and farm technology programs. Our plan also adds 1,000 training seats for health-care workers and a \$5,000 refundable tax credit for small businesses that hire young people aged 18 to 30 into their first full-time job. We will keep working with training institutions, employers and unions to connect students with good jobs in demand.

21. Protecting the 2% Domestic Tuition Cap

Our government's current Tuition Limit Policy caps annual increases to domestic tuition and mandatory fees at 2%. Our plan also expands access to training for good jobs, including additional health-care and trades training seats, and helps young people get their first full-time job.

22. Transparency in the Post-Secondary Sustainability Review

Students and institutions need clarity about decisions that affect access to programs and training. Our focus is on making education and training lead to good jobs, and on working with students, institutions and employers to build a strong post-secondary system for B.C. Continued conversations between UFV and the Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Futures Skills is necessary to address current funding challenges. Fraser Valley Candidates for the BC NDP are prepared to advocate for this in Victoria

23. Missing-Middle Housing Supply

People need more choices between a detached house and an apartment. We have removed local zoning barriers to allow 300,000 more middle-class homes, including more homes in existing neighbourhoods. We will keep building on that work so families, workers and young people have more options and housing costs stay down.

24. Provincial-Municipal Housing Coordination

Housing targets only matter if homes get built. We have removed zoning barriers so communities can build 300,000 more middle-class homes. We will keep working with City Hall to turn those changes into housing that meets local needs and supports the people who live and work in Abbotsford



Darryl Kropp, Bruce Banman, Korky Neufeld

Political party: BC Conservatives

1. Business Competitiveness and Taxation

Yes. A Conservative government will permanently cancel the PST expansion to professional services. We will also exempt productive capital from PST for three years, including machinery, equipment and business software, whether bought or leased. We will cut red tape back to 2017 levels by the end of our first term, introduce a "one-in, two-out" law, and legislate firm project approval timelines. A blue-ribbon panel will report within 180 days on simplifying BC's tax system and attracting investment. We will also raise the Employer Health Tax exemption and re-establish the Small Business Roundtable so business has a direct voice in policy.

2. Agriculture and Food-Processing Modernization

Our plan commits to modernizing the 50/50 on-farm processing rule so farmers have greater freedom to process and sell products year-round and keep more food processing in BC. We will remap the ALR using modern soil and mapping technology and reform the ALR Act to put food security first. Beyond that, we will cut agricultural red tape, protect farm water allocations, prioritize on-farm worker housing permits, and work to make BC a world leader in food processing. Our target is 10 per cent less reliance on imported food by 2030.

3. Workforce Development and Skills Training

We will bring back shop classes, build shop facilities in new schools, and expand dualcredit programs, apprenticeships and paid work experience with post-secondary institutions and employers. We will make it easier for schools to hire qualified Red Seal tradespeople, and easier for apprentices to stay employed during technical training. We will audit SkilledTradesBC to make sure it is meeting its mandate, and introduce a First Job Tax Credit on the first \$5,000 of payroll for a young British Columbian's first job.

4. Trade Diversification and Economic Resilience

We will appoint a BC representative in Washington, D.C., joining five other provinces in defending our interests, and make softwood lumber a first-rank priority in every negotiation with the US. We will work to reduce trade and labour barriers within Canada and expand the port, rail and transportation capacity that connects producers to new markets, including Roberts Bank. For Fraser Valley producers, our goal of making BC a world leader in food processing will help add value here at home, for domestic and export markets alike.

5. Investment Attraction and Regulatory Certainty

We will legislate firm approval timelines and cut red tape to 2017 levels, and trust qualified professionals to do the work they are certified to do, as BC did before 2018. We will defer PST on designated major projects until they are in service. A Premier's Advisory Council on Investment and a "BC Open for Business" Investment Summit will bring investors to the table. On land, remapping the ALR with modern technology will give a clearer, evidence-based picture of the land.

6. Downtown Public Safety and Repeat Property Crime

Our first priority would be stopping the revolving door for repeat offenders. Our plan strengthens bail and warrant enforcement, creates a dedicated repeat-offender court stream and expands electronic monitoring. It adds 250 police recruits and 500 RCMP officers over five years, plus 50 Crown prosecutors, so arrests lead to real accountability. The province should be a true partner to Abbotsford in keeping our streets safe, and downtown businesses shouldn't carry the cost of crime alone.

7. Supporting Independent Downtown Businesses

The specific change we would push first is our three-year PST exemption on machinery, equipment and business software, whether bought or leased. It directly lowers the cost for independent businesses to invest and grow. Alongside that, cutting red tape to 2017 levels, raising the Employer Health Tax exemption as the books allow, and re-establishing the Small Business Roundtable will give main-street businesses both relief and a real voice in Victoria.

8. Supportive Housing Operations and Accountability

Supportive housing must be safe for the people who live there, the people who work there and the neighbourhoods around it. Our plan commits to enforcing safety and drug rules in shelters and supportive housing, and to no longer forcing drug-consumption facilities on communities that don't want them. We believe the province should expect clear operating standards, real consultation with neighbours and businesses, and a focus on connecting residents to treatment and recovery, not just housing them.

9. Agricultural Land and Industrial Growth

We will remap the ALR with modern soil and mapping technology and reform the ALR Act to put food security first, with merit-based Agricultural Land Commission decisions. That protects truly productive farmland while giving clarity where growth makes sense. We will also allow secondary uses that strengthen farm businesses, and speed up approvals with legislated timelines so local businesses aren't left waiting years to expand.

10. Transportation and Goods Movement

Our BC Future Corridors plan commits to building the roads, bridges, lane expansions, rail and transit a growing economy needs, with projects set through business cases and costshared with federal and municipal partners. Completing the transportation links that connect Abbotsford to the rest of the Fraser Valley and Vancouver is a priority for us. We'll also work with federal partners, the railways and the ports to move goods faster, and we'll grow transit where people are actually using it.

11. Health-Care Infrastructure

Our plan restarts the seven long-term care homes the NDP shelved, including Abbotsford's, redesigned to cost less per bed. We will train and recruit more doctors and nurses, launch a 100-day Patients First review to cut wait times and keep ERs open, and introduce a Universal Health-Care Guarantee so patients get publicly funded treatment elsewhere when surgical wait benchmarks are exceeded. We will also build a new women's and children's hospital in Surrey so Fraser Valley families aren't sent into Vancouver for specialized care.

12. Sumas Prairie Flood Mitigation

Our plan commits to dikes, drainage and flood protection for the Fraser Valley, with projects backed by sound business analysis, and cost-shared with federal and municipal governments. We'll push hard to make Sumas Prairie a top priority, working with First Nations, Abbotsford, Ottawa and Washington State, because the water that floods us starts south of the border. This community can't go through another flood like 2021 or 2025.

13. Community Amenities and Growth

We will create a matching funding program to help municipalities build more fields, arenas, pools and recreation facilities. We will also double the Playground Equipment Program to \$10 million a year and promote arts, culture and festivals as drivers of local economies. Our plan also commits to ensuring growth comes with the roads, transit, health care, schools and utilities communities need.

14. Taxes on New Homes

Our plan commits to cutting construction taxes and charges and scrapping unnecessary costs that add to the price of new homes. We would welcome working with the federal government on meaningful tax relief for buyers of newly built homes, since affordability depends on both levels of government pulling in the same direction.

15. Development Cost Charges

Our plan commits to scrapping unnecessary charges that add to construction costs and making new homes cheaper to build. It doesn't yet set out a specific mechanism for municipal DCCs, but we believe charges should be transparent, tied to the real cost of the services they fund, and not used in ways that push up the cost of housing.

16. Building Codes and Construction Costs

Yes. Our plan commits to simplifying and harmonizing the building code and development process. New requirements should be judged on what they add to safety and quality against what they add to cost, and regional differences should be taken into account.

17. Energy Step Code Requirements

Yes. Our plan commits to overhaul the step code, which has nothing to do with safety and quality construction. As noted above, we will simplify and harmonize the BC Building Code. That means one consistent set of rules across the province, not a different standard in every municipality. We'll also stop municipal bans on gas connections and mandatory heating technologies, and restore choice in energy for home heating and cooking. On costs, we support reviewing every mandatory increase, including the ones coming for single-family homes, based on what they add to safety and quality against what they add to the price of a home. Buyers in Abbotsford are already stretched. New requirements need to earn their place.

18. Housing Approvals and Permitting

We will approve homes in months, not years, and legislate firm approval timelines. We will trust qualified professionals to do the work they are certified to do, as BC did before 2018. We will work with municipalities so zoning bylaws match official community plans, and dramatically shorten approvals for communities seeking family-oriented growth.

19. Residential Construction and Local Jobs

We will cut construction taxes and charges, overhaul the Step Code, restore energy choice and speed up approvals, all of which will bring down the cost of building. We will prioritize BC wood in government-funded housing, and our income tax cut puts up to \$1,000 a year back into working people's pockets. Building more homes faster is how we protect the trades, suppliers and professionals who depend on this industry.

20. Provincial Funding for Post-Secondary Education

Our platform doesn't include a specific commitment on post-secondary operating funding, and we won't make one ahead of our leader. We do recognize the real pressure the federal cuts to international study permits have created for institutions like UFV. Our plan's focus on dual-credit programs, apprenticeships and connecting education to employers points to post-secondary as a key partner, and we would want to hear directly from students and UFV leadership about how to protect programs. choice and speed up approvals, all of which will bring down the cost of building. We will prioritize BC wood in government-funded housing, and our income tax cut puts up to \$1,000 a year back into working people's pockets. Building more homes faster is how we protect the trades, suppliers and professionals who depend on this industry.

21. Protecting the 2% Domestic Tuition Cap

Our platform doesn't address the tuition cap. Affordability for students matters to us, and so does making sure institutions can deliver quality education. If elected, we would want to understand BC's full financial picture before taking a position, starting with a sustainability review

22. Transparency in the Post-Secondary Sustainability Review

We believe in transparency. Our plan commits to telling British Columbians the truth about the province's books. A report paid for by taxpayers about the future of our public institutions should be made public, and we would advocate for its release. Decisions on its recommendations should put students and their quality of learning first.

23. Missing-Middle Housing Supply

Our plan commits to approving homes in months, not years, cutting construction taxes and charges, and overhauling the Step Code, all of which make missing-middle projects more viable. We will hold municipalities to locally developed Official Community Plans with appropriate density targets, so decisions about where density goes are made locally, with predictable approvals once those plans are in place.

24. Provincial-Municipal Housing Coordination

We believe the province should be Abbotsford's partner, not its overseer. Our plan gives local governments a real say in where density goes, through locally developed Official Community Plans rather than decisions made by bureaucrats in Victoria. We will work with municipalities so zoning matches those plans, and ensure growth comes with the roads, transit, health care, schools and utilities it needs.



Lakhwinder K Jhaj, Gurpreet Chahal

Political party: CentreBC

1. Business Competitiveness and Taxation

Yes. CentreBC supports permanently cancelling the proposed PST expansion to give businesses greater certainty and protect affordability. We will reduce the cost of doing business through targeted Employer Health Tax relief for tariff-affected sectors, expanded PST exemptions for production equipment, and stronger research and development incentives. We will also cut provincial red tape by 25% by 2030, streamline permitting, and establish clearer approval timelines. Our goal is to make B.C. a more competitive place to invest, hire, innovate and grow, while helping businesses create good-paying jobs and strengthen our economy.

2. Agriculture and Food-Processing Modernization

CentreBC supports modernizing agricultural regulations to encourage investment, expand food processing and help B.C. farmers compete. The Fraser Valley is an agricultural powerhouse, generating approximately 38% of B.C.'s gross farm receipts. We must protect this valuable farmland while making it easier for farmers and processors to grow our food economy. We will review the ALR 50% rule to identify ways to reduce unnecessary barriers to agricultural investment and value-added food processing while protecting productive farmland. We will also streamline approvals, improve access to suitable land and infrastructure, and encourage investment in modern equipment, irrigation, greenhouses and food-processing facilities. CentreBC will also scrap PST on farm equipment and food production to reduce costs for farmers, encourage investment and help make B.C.-grown food more affordable. Our goal is to create local jobs, strengthen food security, reduce reliance on imported food and ensure more B.C.-grown products are processed right here at home. We want to turn the Fraser Valley's agricultural strength into greater economic opportunity while protecting our most productive farmland for future generations.

3. Workforce Development and Skills Training

CentreBC believes post-secondary education and trades training must lead to real job opportunities and meet the needs of local employers. We will invest an additional \$60 million annually in skilled trades training to help address labour shortages and ensure Fraser Valley businesses can find the qualified workers they need. We will strengthen partnerships between employers, colleges and training institutions to better align programs with industry demand, expand apprenticeship opportunities and help students move directly into the workforce. We will also support faster recognition of qualifications for skilled workers coming from other provinces and countries. Our goal is to give young people practical pathways to good-paying careers while helping local businesses fill vacancies, increase productivity and expand their operations. When businesses can find the right workers, they can invest with confidence, grow locally and create more opportunities for families across the Fraser Valley.

4. Trade Diversification and Economic Resilience

CentreBC will help B.C. businesses become more competitive by opening new export markets, removing interprovincial trade barriers and strengthening local manufacturing and agriculture. Our platform commits to doubling B.C.'s exports outside the United States to \$62 billion by 2033. We will increase funding for Export BC by \$10 million annually to help businesses enter new markets, and work to remove B.C.'s remaining exceptions under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement by July 1, 2027. We will also double the Manufacturing Jobs Fund to \$60 million annually to support manufacturers, food processors and businesses investing in value-added products here in B.C. For the Fraser Valley, this means helping agricultural producers reach more customers, enabling manufacturers to expand production, and making it easier for local businesses to sell their products across Canada and internationally. Our goal is to help Fraser Valley businesses grow beyond our borders, create good-paying local jobs and build a stronger, more diversified B.C. economy.

5. Investment Attraction and Regulatory Certainty

CentreBC will work to make Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley a more attractive place to invest, build and create jobs by speeding up provincial approvals, reducing red tape and improving access to employment and industrial lands. Our platform commits to reducing provincial red tape by 25% by 2030 and introducing a single online portal for business permits and licences by the end of 2028. We will establish clearer approval timelines, coordinate reviews for major projects and hold government accountable for unnecessary delays. We will also support the availability of industrial land and infrastructure needed by manufacturers, agricultural producers and food processors to expand. By doubling the Manufacturing Jobs Fund to \$60 million annually, CentreBC will help businesses modernize facilities, increase production and create more value-added products here in B.C. Our goal is simple: make it easier to invest, faster to build and more affordable to grow a business. Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley need the jobs, infrastructure and investment opportunities that allow local businesses and communities to thrive.

6. Downtown Public Safety and Repeat Property Crime

CentreBC's first priority would be to establish a dedicated downtown safety and outreach team for Abbotsford, bringing together police, outreach workers, local businesses and community partners to address crime, street disorder and repeat offending. Our platform commits to funding safety and outreach teams in 20 B.C. downtowns by 2028, alongside hiring 500 additional provincial RCMP officers over five years and expanding access to mental health, addiction treatment and supportive housing. We will work with the City of Abbotsford and the business community to improve public safety, hold repeat offenders accountable and ensure people in crisis can access appropriate support. Our goal is to make downtown Abbotsford safer for residents, businesses, employees and visitors, so local businesses can thrive and people feel comfortable coming downtown again.

7. Supporting Independent Downtown Businesses

CentreBC would introduce a \$50 million Main Streets Fund to help revitalize downtowns, support locally owned businesses and create more welcoming commercial areas. We would reduce unnecessary red tape, simplify business permitting and introduce a 14-day provincial approval timeline for liquor licences for patios and events, helping restaurants and other businesses expand their services and attract more customers. We will work with municipalities, business associations and local business owners to identify barriers to growth, improve downtown safety and make commercial areas more attractive to residents and visitors. We also want to make it easier for entrepreneurs to invest, open new businesses and expand existing operations without being held back by unnecessary government delays. Our goal is to help independent businesses stay, grow and create good local jobs. A thriving downtown means more opportunities for local entrepreneurs, stronger neighbourhoods and more economic activity staying right here in Abbotsford.

8. Supportive Housing Operations and Accountability

CentreBC believes supportive housing must come with clear operating standards, strong accountability and respect for the surrounding neighbourhood. When the Province invests public money, providers must be responsible for ensuring facilities are well-managed, residents receive appropriate support, and nearby businesses and communities remain safe. We would require clear operating agreements, appropriate staffing, regular safety inspections, prompt incident reporting and timely responses to concerns from residents and neighbouring businesses. Provincial funding should be tied to measurable performance standards, regular reviews and transparent reporting, with corrective action when providers fail to meet their obligations. We would also strengthen coordination between housing providers, municipalities, police and local businesses, while ensuring residents can access mental health care, addiction treatment and pathways toward greater independence. Our goal is to make supportive housing work for everyone: providing dignity and support for residents while maintaining safe, clean and welcoming neighbourhoods where local businesses and families can thrive.

9. Agricultural Land and Industrial Growth

CentreBC believes protecting farmland and growing our economy must go hand in hand. The Fraser Valley has some of the most productive agricultural land in Canada, and protecting it is essential to our food security, farming industry and future generations. We will modernize outdated regulations, streamline approval processes and encourage industrial development on appropriately designated land with the infrastructure businesses need. We will also support better use of existing industrial areas and investment in local food processing and value-added agriculture, allowing farmers and businesses to grow without putting unnecessary pressure on productive farmland. Our focus is on smarter land-use planning, greater certainty for investors and stronger collaboration between provincial and local governments to ensure communities have room to grow responsibly. Our goal is to protect the Fraser Valley's agricultural strength while creating jobs, attracting private investment and ensuring local businesses have suitable land to expand and succeed.

10. Transportation and Goods Movement

CentreBC would prioritize transportation investments that reduce congestion, improve goods movement and connect Abbotsford's businesses to regional and international markets. We would work with local governments and transportation partners to improve truck routes, highway connections and access to industrial areas and Abbotsford International Airport. We would also prioritize safer roads and intersections to help agricultural producers, manufacturers and exporters move goods more efficiently. Our platform also commits to increasing transit service by 15% by 2030 and introducing a refundable B.C. Commuter Credit covering 15% of eligible transit passes. Combined with our commitment to reduce provincial red tape by 25% by 2030 and invest an additional \$60 million annually in skilled trades training, these measures would help businesses access workers and expand with greater certainty. Our goal is to improve connections between workers, businesses and markets, reduce transportation barriers and strengthen Abbotsford's role as a hub for agriculture, manufacturing and trade.

11. Health-Care Infrastructure

CentreBC believes health-care infrastructure must keep pace with population growth in Abbotsford and across the Fraser Valley. Our priority is to expand local capacity, reduce pressure on hospitals and ensure residents can access care closer to home. Our platform commits to building approximately 500 new long-term care beds in Abbotsford, with opening targeted for 2029–30, using prefabricated designs to accelerate delivery. We will also add 300 nursing education seats annually across B.C. and expand medical residency positions to help address staffing shortages. We will work with Fraser Health and local communities to ensure future health-care investments reflect population growth and local demand, while improving access to family doctors, urgent care and hospital services. We will also publish clear performance measures so residents can track progress on access and wait times. Our goal is to ensure Abbotsford's health-care facilities, staffing and services grow alongside the community, so families can get the care they need without unnecessary delays or having to travel outside the region.

12. Sumas Prairie Flood Mitigation

CentreBC will prioritize long-term flood protection for Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley, recognizing that protecting Sumas Prairie is essential to our residents, agricultural industry, transportation network and local economy. Our platform commits \$75 million annually through the existing Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to help cover the local share of critical infrastructure, including dikes and pump stations. We will work with Semá:th, Leq'á:mel and Máthxwi First Nations, local governments and the federal government to coordinate funding and advance priority flood-mitigation projects. Our focus will be on developing a coordinated, multi-year plan with clear project milestones, transparent reporting and shared funding responsibilities. We will prioritize urgent infrastructure needs while ensuring Indigenous communities are meaningfully involved in planning and decisions. Our goal is to move from planning to construction, strengthen flood protection before the next major event, and protect families, farms, businesses and critical infrastructure across the Fraser Valley.

13. Community Amenities and Growth

CentreBC believes growing cities like Abbotsford need the infrastructure and community amenities to keep pace with population growth. Recreation centres, sports fields, parks, libraries and cultural facilities are essential to attracting skilled workers, supporting families and building vibrant communities. Our platform commits an additional \$240 million annually to a growth fund that cities can apply to for infrastructure needs. We would work with Abbotsford, the federal government and community partners to pursue funding for priority projects, improve coordination and reduce unnecessary approval delays. We want to help communities plan ahead so investments in recreation, culture and public spaces keep pace with new housing and population growth. These facilities support healthy families, bring people together and create opportunities for local businesses. Our goal is to ensure Abbotsford grows into a complete community, with the parks, recreation facilities and cultural amenities that help attract talent, retain families and make the city a great place to live, work and invest.

14. Taxes on New Homes

CentreBC would work with the federal government to advocate for meaningful tax relief for all buyers of newly built homes in British Columbia, not just first-time buyers. We believe hardworking families, young professionals and people looking to downsize should have a fair opportunity to own a home without facing excessive upfront costs.

We would push for broader GST relief on newly built homes while working to reduce provincial taxes, red tape and unnecessary construction costs that drive up housing prices. We would also focus on speeding up permitting and approvals so builders can bring more homes to market and respond to the needs of growing communities like Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley. Tax relief must go hand in hand with increasing housing supply. By making new home purchases more affordable and creating a more predictable environment for builders, we can encourage construction, support jobs and help more British Columbians achieve homeownership. Our goal is simple: make buying a newly built home more attainable, help families put down roots in their communities and ensure B.C. builds enough homes to meet the needs of future generations.

15. Development Cost Charges

CentreBC believes municipalities must be transparent and accountable for development charges so unnecessary costs do not make housing less affordable. Homebuyers and builders deserve to know what they are paying for, how fees are calculated and how that money is being spent. Our platform commits to cutting development cost charges in half on new rental and below-market homes across B.C., backed by an additional \$240 million annually in provincial growth funding to help municipalities pay for essential infrastructure. We would also establish a \$125 million annual housing performance fund for municipalities that meet housing targets and approval timelines. We would introduce consistent provincial approval standards, including six months for rezonings and eight weeks for building permits, with fees refunded when deadlines are missed. We would also support public reporting on development charges, approval times and progress toward housing targets. Our goal is to improve accountability, reduce unnecessary costs and ensure infrastructure keeps pace with growth without passing excessive charges on to homebuyers and renters.

16. Building Codes and Construction Costs

Yes. CentreBC supports reviewing the cost and regional impact of new building code requirements before implementation, while maintaining appropriate safety standards. New regulations should be evidence-based, practical and proportionate, without adding unnecessary costs that make housing less affordable. We would advocate for consultation with builders, engineers, municipalities and industry experts to assess the financial impact on construction, particularly for smaller homes and communities with different regional conditions. Where possible, we would phase in costly changes and provide clear guidance so builders have time to adapt. Our approach is to balance safety, quality and affordability through transparent reviews and consistent standards. The goal is to build safe, durable homes without introducing avoidable costs or delays that make it harder for British Columbians to find affordable housing.

17. Energy Step Code Requirements

CentreBC supports a more consistent, province-wide approach to Energy Step Code requirements, with a thorough review of the costs before new mandatory increases are introduced, particularly for single-family homes. We would advocate for meaningful consultation with builders, developers, municipalities and industry experts to understand how new requirements affect construction costs, housing affordability and different regions across B.C. Builders need clear, predictable standards and sufficient time to adapt, rather than facing sudden regulatory changes that add to the cost of new homes. We believe energy efficiency and long-term affordability should go hand in hand. New requirements should be practical, evidence-based and assessed for their upfront costs as well as their potential long-term energy savings, while maintaining appropriate safety and building-quality standards. Our goal is to create clearer, more consistent rules across B.C., avoid unnecessary construction costs and help more families afford to build or buy a home.

18. Housing Approvals and Permitting

CentreBC will make housing approvals faster, more predictable and less costly by setting clear provincial timelines and reducing unnecessary red tape. By January 2028, we will establish consistent standards across B.C. of six months for rezonings and eight weeks for building permits. If approval deadlines are missed, builders will receive a refund of their fees. We will also establish a \$125 million annual housing performance fund for municipalities that meet housing targets and approval timelines, with transparent reporting so residents can see results. To get homes built sooner, we would support greater use of qualified professionals, such as architects and engineers, to review plans and certify compliance with building requirements, while maintaining appropriate safety and accountability standards. We would also streamline overlapping reviews and improve coordination between provincial and municipal approvals. Our goal is simple: reduce delays, give builders certainty and help get more homes built sooner, so families in Abbotsford and across B.C. have better access to housing.

19. Residential Construction and Local Jobs

CentreBC will support residential construction businesses by reducing red tape, lowering the cost of building and creating a more predictable environment for investment. Our platform commits to provincial approval standards of six months for rezonings and eight weeks for building permits by January 2028, with builders receiving their fees back when deadlines are missed. We will also cut development cost charges in half on new rental and below-market homes, supported by an additional \$240 million annually in provincial growth funding to help municipalities pay for the infrastructure needed to support new housing. We will rebate PST on building materials for eligible purpose-built rental projects starting between 2027 and 2032. To protect local jobs and strengthen B.C.'s construction industry, we will invest an additional \$60 million annually in skilled trades training and support the growth of prefabricated and B.C.-made mass-timber homes, with a target of 5,000 homes annually by 2030. Our goal is to help builders overcome unnecessary delays and costs, keep skilled workers employed and get more homes built so families across Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley have more attainable housing options.

20. Provincial Funding for Post-Secondary Education

CentreBC recognizes the financial pressures facing B.C.'s public colleges and universities and the risk that program and service cuts pose to students and communities. Our platform commits \$125 million annually to a Post-Secondary Stabilization and Skills Fund to help institutions manage financial pressures and protect core teaching and student services. Access would be tied to accountability measures, including reducing administrative costs while prioritizing students and educational programs. We will also increase B.C. student grants by 20%, with future increases indexed, and add 300 nursing seats and 200 teacher education seats annually to address workforce needs. Our priority is to protect access to quality education, maintain essential programs and services, and ensure colleges and universities can continue preparing the skilled workforce B.C. needs.

21. Protecting the 2% Domestic Tuition Cap

CentreBC believes students should be protected from steep tuition increases while public colleges and universities receive the funding they need to maintain quality education and essential services. We support maintaining the 2% annual cap on domestic tuition and mandatory fee increases, while strengthening accountability so institutions can protect teaching, student services and access to programs. We would work toward more sustainable operating funding, improve financial transparency and encourage institutions to reduce administrative inefficiencies without compromising educational quality. Our platform also proposes a \$125 million annual Post-Secondary Stabilization and Skills Fund and a 20% increase in B.C. student grants, with future increases indexed, to help institutions manage financial pressures and make education more affordable. Our goal is to balance affordability with quality: students should not face excessive fee increases, and institutions should have the resources to deliver strong programs and prepare the skilled workforce B.C. needs.

22. Transparency in the Post-Secondary Sustainability Review

Yes. CentreBC supports transparency and accountability, and we would advocate for publicly releasing the full report, including its findings and recommendations, so students, faculty, staff and the public can understand the proposed changes. Any decisions on implementation should be guided by student affordability, educational quality, fair access to programs and the long-term sustainability of our public post-secondary institutions. We would consult meaningfully with students, educators, institutional leaders and employers before making major changes, and assess the financial and practical impacts of each recommendation. We would also expect the government to publish a clear response explaining which recommendations it will implement, which it will not, the reasons for those decisions and the timelines for action. Our principle is simple: no major changes without transparency, meaningful consultation and clear accountability. Students and the public deserve to know how decisions are made and how those decisions will affect the future of education in B.C.

23. Missing-Middle Housing Supply

CentreBC will focus on turning housing plans into actual homes by reducing red tape, lowering construction costs and giving builders clear, predictable approval timelines. Our platform commits to province-wide standards by January 2028, allowing six months for rezonings and eight weeks for building permits, with builder fees refunded if deadlines are missed. We will also establish a \$125 million annual housing performance fund for municipalities that meet housing targets and approval timelines. We will provide an additional \$240 million annually through a provincial growth fund to help municipalities pay for infrastructure such as roads, water and sewer systems. We will also support more missing-middle housing, including duplexes, townhomes and multiplexes, and aim to deliver 5,000 prefabricated and B.C.-made mass-timber homes annually by 2030. Our goal is to make housing faster and more affordable to build, give families more housing choices and help Abbotsford grow responsibly while keeping homes within reach for working people, young families and seniors.

24. Provincial-Municipal Housing Coordination

CentreBC would work closely with Abbotsford City Hall to establish clear, shared housing targets and ensure provincial policies reflect local needs and infrastructure capacity. Our platform commits to consistent province-wide approval standards by January 2028, including six months for rezonings and eight weeks for building permits. We would also establish a \$125 million annual housing performance fund for municipalities that meet housing targets and approval timelines. We would strengthen coordination between the Province and the City through regular progress meetings, transparent reporting and joint planning for housing, roads, water, sewer systems and other essential infrastructure. We would also work with local leaders to identify barriers that delay projects and help ensure new housing includes a mix of townhomes, multiplexes, rental housing and homes families can afford. Our goal is to replace disconnected planning with a coordinated approach that gives builders certainty, holds all levels of government accountable and ensures Abbotsford has the housing and infrastructure needed to grow responsibly.



Robin Roy

Political party: OneBC

1. Business Competitiveness and Taxation

OneBC has actually promised to LOWER the provincial PST to 5% and not just cancel the expansion or freeze it BUT LOWER THE PST. I am absolutely disgusted the Conservative Party of BC refused to take part in the Chamber debates showing they do not want transparency or any form of discussion before the election and this is why we must submit all our policy this way. Also the exclusion of OneBC from the debate was very bias of the Chamber of Commerce so as to not allow all parties to participate in an open debate on party policy. Shamefully done by Conservatives and Chamber of Commerce.

2. Agriculture and Food-Processing Modernization

Farmers should have the right to FULLY process their crops on their own property so that cost of middle man processing plants can be taken out of the equation thus bringing more profit to the farmers and taking control from large corporations that hold monopolies on the food processing plant.

3. Workforce Development and Skills Training

The expansion of the in secondary school programs for the trades is a must and OneBC will push for that. WE will also greatly reduce the amount of seats in our universities for international students thus allowing Canadian citizens to get into programs like healthcare and they will then stay in Canada upon graduation instead of going south to USA or even more profitable markets like Saudi Arabia. Canadian schools for Canadians.

4. Trade Diversification and Economic Resilience

OneBC would work to fully remove interprovincial trade barriers and fight the federal government on restricting any Canadian product from going to any market that it can be sold into. The blocking of our natural resources in any form needs to end and sovereignty for decisions on trade need to be at the provincial level since Ottawa works so hard to restrict the westcoast while allowing Ontario and Quebec to do as they please.

5. Investment Attraction and Regulatory Certainty

OneBC is committed to removing ANY and ALL unnecessary government red tape to speed up the approval process for all private sector business. Business needs to grow and government needs to shrink.

6. Downtown Public Safety and Repeat Property Crime

I would advocate for more provincial funds to Abbotsford for increasing the Abbotsford Police force for constant patrols to cut community crime and end the courts releasing criminals back to offend the same day instead of giving them appropriate sentences.

7. Supporting Independent Downtown Businesses

OneBC has committed to cut as much red tape in government as possible, to lower corporate tax levels and make BC friendly to businesses once again.

8. Supportive Housing Operations and Accountability

People in supportive housing need to be held accountable and if those that use it are caught committing crime then they will be banned from the system and appropriate sentences given out. Those that run these housing programs need to stop the "we do not see" policy and become part of the crime solution or lose their job running the program.

9. Agricultural Land and Industrial Growth

ALR is 100% to be locked into ALR use and ONLY ALR use. THERE is NO exception to this rule. It does not matter if you know a politician, ALR is locked PERIOD!!! WE all know that is not how the NDP have run this.

10. Transportation and Goods Movement

16th ave should be turned into an alternate 4 lane route to take pressure off of HWY 1. ALSO the promise the NDP made then went back on for 4 more lanes to Chilliwack from Langley needs to be done. Yes a lot of the work is already done BUT we need to look to the future instead of always building for the need 5-10 years ago. WE must build to the future in mind

11. Health-Care Infrastructure

OneBC will hire back all the doctors and nurses that got removed during COVID, we will work to find money from waste within the system like removing the excess management and hire more patient level care personnel. BC does not need the level of management in healthcare that it has and it can run way better with more doctors and nurses and less management positions.

12. Sumas Prairie Flood Mitigation

OneBC would advocate for more federal money to be proactive in prevention from future flooding instead spending the money to fix what we could have prevented. I would also audit the \$75 million that Abbotsford got and the current city administration was not transparent on where the funds went.

13. Community Amenities and Growth

OneBC has spoken out clearly for more funding for sports and leisure centers for Abbotsford as they are greatly behind cities like Surrey and Langley in the facilities that those cities have if population was equal. More sports and leisure centers keep kids/teens out of trouble and out of the criminal justice system.

14. Taxes on New Homes

We would advocate for cuts with federal government on GST on new homes. We would also remove any unnecessary codes in BC building code that have been lobbied and pushed into our building code to drive up the cost of housing. WE would also make a legal maximum time a city municipality can delay building permits or risk very stiff fines from the province for every day past that deadline a permit takes to be approved. 1-2 years to get a building permit like some of these cities/municipalities are is ridiculous unnecessary red tape.

15. Development Cost Charges

We would advocate for a set percentage maximum province wide. Cities/municipalities work to drive up DCC's to increase their general revenue and this is wrong and we will fight to bring those development fees down so housing is affordable again.

16. Building Codes and Construction Costs

As I stated above any company lobbying for changed to the building code with a new product must prove clearly the true cost benefit OR IT WILL NOT be approve to go into the building code. Thus keeping building costs down.

17. Energy Step Code Requirements

OneBC has spoken out clearly that they will remove the Step Code if it cannot be proven to truly help the homeowner and if cost increase to the home cannot be justified. A blanket policy for th whole province comparing Victoria to the most northern towns in BC is ridiculous.

18. Housing Approvals and Permitting

As stated above we will be forcing cities/municipalities to speed up their process or risk fines (that they are not allowed to pass on to builders). The cities must hire more staff to get the permitting process done quicker or riak fines from the province.

19. Residential Construction and Local Jobs

The trades are one of the most important economic driving forces in the province. More houses built brings more moeny into the economy so we at OneBC are committed to building the trades, protecting them and working with builders to help build the BC economy.

20. Provincial Funding for Post-Secondary Education

I firmly support post secondary education and the ever present increase on costs must be balanced with student tuition so provincial funding for Canadian students is something we support. International students that are coming should pay and even higher premium if they expect to take a spot from a Canadian student.

21. Protecting the 2% Domestic Tuition Cap

This is a hard one with our dollar value deflating more and more. We need to find a balance of government funding while not putting a huge burden on the taxpayer to pay for all student's tuition. We will be consulting on economic advisors to bring a balanced solution that works for all.

22. Transparency in the Post-Secondary Sustainability Review

ALL GOVENMENT report will be public and available to the public as government is here to serve the people. The lack of transparency in this current NDP government is what is getting us into the mess BC is in.

23. Missing-Middle Housing Supply

As mentioned above we would work to remove red tape, unnecessary building code policies and products to drive down the price of housing in BC making it more affordable.

24. Provincial-Municipal Housing Coordination

OneBC would work with local municipalities/cities to remove red tape while not forcing blanket high density housing legislation on the entire province like the NDP did. Communities should have the right to say NO to high density housing if they want.