

April 22, 2025

Dear Janet Butler-McPhee and Sandra Ka Hon Chu,

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to speak to your organization and share the Green Party of Canada's platform. We appreciate your continued advocacy.

Please find our response below.

Best regards,

Karine Cambron  
Coordinator, Survey and Questionnaire Response Team  
Green Party of Canada

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**1. Will your party commit to collaborating with HIV organizations in Canada to restore the diverted and lapsed resources needed to address the gaps in Canada's HIV response and adequately fund the federal action plan on HIV?**

Yes. The Green Party is committed to restoring the resources needed to close the gaps in Canada's HIV response. We've clearly stated our support for fully funding the federal action plan on HIV. Our MPs will work directly with HIV organizations to assess gaps in care and services. This includes responding to past commitments from both the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and the Canadian AIDS Society. We support the Standing Committee on Health's recommendations and believe proper funding must follow those plans.

**2. In light of Canada's commitments to global health, and the dismantling of USAID south of our border, how does your party plan to contribute to international efforts to end AIDS and support HIV prevention, treatment, and care programs in low- and middle-income countries, especially those disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic?**

The Green Party believes Canada has a responsibility to act globally. We support re-engaging with the UN system and increasing Canada's foreign aid — with the goal of reaching 1% of GDP. This creates space for expanded support to global HIV prevention and care programs. We also support earmarking at least 20% of our aid budget to reproductive and sexual health, which includes HIV programs. Our party emphasizes equity and international justice, and we would support health-focused humanitarian aid and partnerships with nations heavily impacted by the HIV epidemic. Our approach to foreign aid is comprehensive, not just reactive — and that includes standing with vulnerable communities in the global fight against AIDS.

### **3. Will your party adopt evidence-based drug policy to protect public health and address the overdose crisis, including by taking the following measures?**

- **Decriminalizing activities related to drug use, which would remove the need for SCS providers to obtain an exemption from criminal prosecution and allow SCS to open and operate in a similar fashion to other health services.**
- **Securing existing SCS and scaling up services by:**
  - **granting an ongoing class exemption to any SCS that meet minimum required conditions, instead of the current, onerous case-by-case application process; and**
  - **committing federal funds to support SCS, including in provinces and territories where authorities are unwilling to fund these essential services.**
- **In consultation with people who use drugs, commit to regulating all substances under a single public health legal framework to increase access to a regulated supply for people who are otherwise at risk of potentially fatal overdose, and other serious injury, from a toxic illegal drug market.**
- **Expanding funding for culturally sensitive and gender-responsive harm reduction programs and services, including for women, Indigenous, Black, and 2SLGBTQ+ communities.**

Yes, the Green Party fully supports adopting evidence-based drug policy to protect public health and address the overdose crisis.

We support decriminalizing drug use. This would remove the need for supervised consumption sites (SCS) to apply for criminal exemptions and allow them to operate like any other health service. We treat addiction as a health issue, not a crime.

We support securing and expanding SCS. We would end the burdensome case-by-case approval process and fund SCS nationally, including in provinces that refuse to do so. Everyone deserves access to lifesaving care, no matter where they live.

We support regulating all substances under a public health framework. This includes providing access to a safe, screened drug supply and expanding low-barrier substitution therapies. These steps help prevent overdose deaths caused by a toxic street supply.

We will expand funding for harm reduction programs that are culturally sensitive and gender-responsive. That means services tailored for women, Indigenous, Black, and 2SLGBTQ+ people, and shaped with input from those most affected.

This crisis can be addressed. We must act with compassion, evidence, and urgency.

### **4. Does your party commit to reforming the Criminal Code in consultation with the HIV sector and in alignment with the key pillars of the CCRHC's Community Consensus Statement?**

Yes, the Green Party commits to reforming the Criminal Code in consultation with the HIV sector, in line with key elements of the CCRHC's Community Consensus Statement.

We support removing HIV non-disclosure, exposure, or transmission from the reach of sexual assault laws. People living with HIV should not face disproportionate punishment or be forced to register as sex offenders due to outdated laws rooted in stigma, not science.

We agree that criminal laws must not further stigmatize or discriminate against people living with HIV or other STBBIs. Our broader commitment to justice reform includes replacing punishment with prevention, especially where public health is concerned.

While we have not yet committed to ending deportation or reviewing past convictions tied to HIV non-disclosure, we believe in a fair, compassionate, and evidence-based system. Our approach would always prioritize health, human rights, and dignity over fear or discrimination.

**5. Will your party (a) support the repeal of all sex work–specific criminal laws, including the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, and (b) engage with sex worker–led organizations and people with lived experiences to develop a holistic vision of law reform, centred on human rights and labour protection?**

Yes. The Green Party would repeal all sex work–specific criminal laws, including the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act. These laws criminalize and endanger sex workers instead of protecting them. We believe sex work between consenting adults should not be treated as a crime. We would develop a new legal framework in full partnership with sex workers and organizations led by people with lived experience. That framework would focus on human rights, health, and labour protections. Sex workers must have the right to organize, access health and legal services, and work without fear of violence, stigma, or criminalization. Our goal is to replace harm with safety, silence with consultation, and criminalization with rights.

**6. Will your party (a) support the implementation of evidence-based harm reduction policies and programs in Canada’s federal prisons, including needle and syringe programs, opioid agonist therapy, supervised consumption services, substance use treatment such as safe supply, sterile tattooing equipment, access to naloxone, condoms, dental dams, lubricant, and bleach and (b) ensure the implementation of trauma-informed, culturally sensitive and gender-responsive care for women, gender-diverse people, Indigenous, Black, and 2SLGBTQ+ people in prison?**

Yes, the Green Party supports bringing evidence-based harm reduction into prisons. That includes needle and syringe programs, and we are open to expanding services like opioid agonist therapy, supervised consumption, and access to safe supply where supported by evidence.

We would also ensure trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and gender-responsive care — especially for women, Indigenous people, Black communities, and 2SLGBTQ+ people in prison. Everyone deserves dignity, care, and support, no matter where they live.

## **7. Does your party commit to the above reforms, in consultation with the HIV sector and migrant rights and justice organizations?**

Yes, the Green Party supports these reforms in principle and would work in consultation with the HIV sector and migrant justice organizations to advance them.

We would terminate the Safe Third Country Agreement. No one should be forced to remain in a country that fails to uphold refugee rights. We believe in restoring access to asylum at all borders, without discrimination.

We support a fair and inclusive immigration system, and while we have not yet made a formal commitment to revoking the “excessive demand” regime, we recognize its discriminatory impact. We would review this provision with input from health experts and migrant-led organizations to ensure no one is excluded from Canada due to health status.

We support public health approaches to HIV and STBBIs and universal access to testing and care. While our platform does not yet explicitly commit to an opt-out screening model for migrants separate from immigration processing, we would explore this approach through consultation, with the goal of expanding access to care and protecting rights. Health must be separated from enforcement, and access must be guaranteed.

These decisions must be made with those most affected. We commit to working with the HIV sector and migrant justice organizations to ensure our policies are rights-based, evidence-informed, and rooted in dignity.

## **8. What policies will your party implement to ensure equitable access to HIV treatment, care, and prevention methods, particularly for marginalized communities, including Indigenous peoples, racialized communities, people who use drugs, and those experiencing homelessness?**

The Green Party would take a comprehensive approach to ensure equitable access to HIV treatment, care, and prevention — especially for marginalized communities.

We would fully fund the federal action plan on HIV and work with HIV organizations to identify and close service gaps. This includes expanding prevention, treatment, and community-led care programs.

We would require provinces to provide culturally safe, inclusive primary care, with targeted support for Indigenous, racialized, homeless, and drug-using populations. This means expanding Indigenous-led health services, fully funding Jordan’s Principle, and guaranteeing access to trauma-informed, land-based healing.

We would decriminalize drug use, support harm reduction, and expand access to a safe, screened drug supply. Substance use would be treated as a public health issue — not a criminal one.

We would also tackle the root causes by implementing a Guaranteed Livable Income, making mental health services fully insured, and addressing housing insecurity and systemic racism in healthcare.

Finally, we would reform the Criminal Code to remove laws that stigmatize people living with HIV, including ending the use of sexual assault charges for HIV non-disclosure.