

Executive Summary of the Full  
Evaluation, Rank, and Grade Document  
of the British Columbia Political Parties  
in the 2009 BC General Election

Evaluation and Ranking Document Completed by



the

Foundation for Democratic Advancement

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The Foundation for Democratic Advancement is a non-partisan advocate for the public in issues of democracy and elections.  
([www.democracychange.com](http://www.democracychange.com))

Purpose of Evaluation: To determine a non-partisan, objective grading and ranking of the British Columbia (provincial) political parties in terms of viability and better representative of British Columbians as a whole.

This determination is an independent perspective to give the residents, candidates, and parties of British Columbia an informed, non-partisan, objective perspective on the political parties in the 2009 BC General Election.

The views in this non-partisan Evaluation are the views of the FDA. Also, the Determination is an example of a way to assist voters in making their decisions at the ballot boxes and holding political representatives and their parties accountable.

There are 32 registered BC political parties:

Advocational International Democratic Party of British Columbia  
The Annexation Party of British Columbia  
BC NDP  
BC Refederation Party  
BC Youth Coalition  
British Columbia Conservative Party  
British Columbia Democratic Futures Party  
British Columbia Liberal Party  
British Columbia Libertarian Party  
British Columbia Marijuana Party  
British Columbia Party  
British Columbia Patriot Party  
British Columbia Social Credit Party  
Citizen's Action Party

Communist Party of BC  
Democratic Reform BC  
The Emerged Democracy Party of British Columbia  
The Freedom Party of British Columbia  
The Green Party Political Association of British Columbia  
The Herb Party  
Link BC  
The Moderate Democratic Movement  
Nation Alliance Party  
Party of Citizens Who Have Decided to Think For Themselves  
And Be Their Own Politicians  
People's Front  
The People of British Columbia Millionaires Party  
Planting Seeds Party  
The Platinum Party of Employers Who Think and Act to Increase  
Awareness  
The Progressive Nationalist Party of British Columbia  
Reform Party of British Columbia  
The Sex Party  
Western Canada Concept Party of BC  
Western Party  
Work Less Party of British Columbia  
Your Political Party of BC

\*Note, though some of the political parties are outside of the mainstream British Columbia politics, it is important from an objective standpoint, to be open to all ideas and perspectives. Ultimately, the grading and ranking results will determine the merit of the political parties.

Also, the FDA and its members are in no way affiliated with any of the political candidates and parties in this Evaluation.

The Evaluation represents an assessment of the British Columbia political parties based on objectivity, transparency, and

non-partisanship.

Methodology for Evaluation and Grading/Ranking of the BC Political Parties:

Overall: Establish the basic priorities of British Columbians as a whole, and use those basic priorities to evaluate/grade/rank the political parties.

The basic priorities of British Columbians as a whole:

Economy (sound development, management of the BC economy for the benefit of all British Columbians)

Budget (sound, fiscal management of public revenue and expenditure, and fair distribution of government expenditure to all sectors of British Columbia.)

Health: (improved and equality of service across British Columbia.)

Education: (improved quality of public education.)

Housing: (increased low income housing and stabilization of rent increases.)

Environment: (more responsible, sustainable management of the BC environment.)

Methodology for Evaluating, Grading, and Ranking:

Qualitative analysis of the BC political parties, and qualitative results converted into quantitative results.

The evaluation will be based on comparison of political parties in light of the basic priorities of British Columbians.

The political parties will be graded and ranked for each area of evaluation, and then the results will be combined for an overall grade and rank.

Note, there is no perfect evaluation of the BC political parties or any person or organization for that matter. The FDA strives to assist voters with their decision-making and hold political parties accountable. The FDA views its non-partisan grading and ranking results as one perspective of potentially many. Ultimately, voters must decide for themselves which political party is in their better interest.

#### Focuses of Evaluating/Grading/Ranking:

1. Determine the viability of the BC political parties based on the number of party members running in the 2009 election.

Viable political party is defined as a party which runs candidates in 36 BC constituencies (out of a total of 70), and therefore has a reasonable chance of representing British Columbians.

The political parties determined unviable, will be removed from the remaining of the evaluation process.

The determined viable parties in terms of basic structure will be evaluated in terms of party leadership, party vision, incumbency record (if relevant) and party policies.

2. Evaluate party leadership based on the leaders' backgrounds including qualifications and experience. The party leaders will receive a score from 0-10.

3. Evaluate party vision based on the basic priorities of British Columbians. The parties will receive a score from 0-10.

4. Evaluate the incumbency record of the BC Liberals based on the basic priorities of British Columbians. The BC Liberals will receive a score of 0-20. (This score will be added to the total percentage score for the BC Liberals.)

5. Evaluate the policies of the political parties in each policy section

based on a comparison of the political parties' policies in light of the basic priorities: economy, budget, health, education, housing, and environment.

One evaluation criteria will be adopted for each section:

Soundness of policy. It will have a score from 1-10

Weighting:

The policy section will have a total weighting of 60, incumbency 20, and background and vision 20.

So in essence, policies will have a three times the weighting of the background and vision sections, and two-thirds the overall weighting when incumbency is added.

This weighting should not impact the significance of parties' visions, because vision should be reflected in policies. Also, party policy of an incumbent should reflect its past policy, and therefore, the higher weighting for policies should not dilute the incumbency weighting. And party leadership though important, is contingent on what a party does or its policies.

**Information sources:**

Media articles and analysis of political parties.

Political parties policy statements, including policy platforms.

Relevant questions answered by representatives of the political parties on a need basis.

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## Table of Contents:

### Evaluation of British Columbia Political Parties

1. Viable and unviable BC political parties .....	9
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### Evaluation/Grade/Rank of Viable BC political parties

2. Party Leadership .....	11
3. Party Vision .....	12
4. Incumbency of the BC Liberals .....	13
5. Party Policies	
Economy .....	14
Budget .....	15
Health .....	16
Education .....	17
Housing .....	18
Environment .....	19
Grading/Ranking Results .....	20
Overall Grading/Ranking .....	21
Analysis .....	22
Conclusion .....	23

# Evaluation/Rank/Grade of the 2009 BC Political Parties

## 1. Determination of Viable BC Political Parties:

### 2009 registered British Columbia Political Parties:

Advocational International Democratic Party of British Columbia  
The Annexation Party of British Columbia  
BC NDP  
BC Refederation Party  
BC Youth Coalition  
British Columbia Conservative Party  
British Columbia Democratic Futures Party  
British Columbia Liberal Party  
British Columbia Libertarian Party  
British Columbia Marijuana Party  
British Columbia Party  
British Columbia Patriot Party  
British Columbia Social Credit Party  
Citizen's Action Party  
Communist Party of BC  
Democratic Reform BC  
The Emerged Democracy Party of British Columbia  
The Freedom Party of British Columbia  
The Green Party Political Association of British Columbia  
The Herb Party  
Link BC  
The Moderate Democratic Movement  
Nation Alliance Party  
Party of Citizens Who Have Decided to Think For Themselves And Be  
Their Own Politicians  
People's Front  
The People of British Columbia Millionaires Party  
Planting Seeds Party  
The Platinum Party of Employers Who Think and Act to Increase  
Awareness  
The Progressive Nationalist Party of British Columbia  
Reform Party of British Columbia  
The Sex Party  
Western Canada Concept Party of BC

Western Party  
Work Less Party of British Columbia  
Your Political Party of BC

The criteria for determining a viable political party from an unviable political party is whether or not a party is running candidates in 36 BC constituencies (out of a total of 70). A party with 35 or less candidates is deemed unviable.

The FDA established this criterion in order to filter out parties that have no hope of forming the BC government as a result of the 2009 BC election.

The BC Liberals, BC NDP, and BC Green party, are the only parties to have 70 candidates.

The closest fourth party is the BC Conservatives, in which it has 24 candidates. It is reasonable to say that the BC Conservatives have no hope itself of forming the BC government.

Hence, this evaluation is narrowed down to three parties: BC Liberals, BC NDP, and BC Green Party.

## 2. Backgrounds of Party Leaders

### Background Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Leadership--identifies issues and act on them, vision, strength to carry through, independent yet team player, and strong communication with public.

### Sub scores:

	Campbell	James	Sterk
Education:	8/10	5/10	8/10
Profession Experience:	5/10	5/10	7/10
Political Experience:	10/10	7/10	5/10
Total:	23/30	17/30	20/30
Score:	Campbell	James	Sterk
	7.7/10	5.7/10	6.7/10

Rational: Both Campbell and Sterk have equally strong educational backgrounds, and James' education is limited to her experience in the health/social sector.

Through her business experience, Sterk has the strongest professional experience of the three candidates, and Campbell and James have limited professional experience.

Campbell has very strong political experience, followed by James and then Sterk.

### 3. Visions for British Columbia by the Parties

#### Vision Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Future prosperity of British Columbia based on sound development, management of the BC economy for the benefit of all British Columbians, sound, fiscal management of public revenue and expenditure, and fair distribution of government expenditure to all sectors of British Columbia, improved and equality of health service across British Columbia, improved quality of public education, increased low income housing and stabilization of rent increases, and more responsible, sustainable management of the BC environment.

Score: BC Liberals BC NDP BC Green Party

6/10

4/10

4/10

Rational: BC Liberals good vision for economy, but not enough for environment and other sectors. NDP a lot of promised spending on many sectors, but not enough emphasis on economy—contradictory. Green Party not enough emphasis on economy and other sectors besides the environment.

#### 4. Incumbency Record of the BC Liberal Party

##### Incumbency Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Past record of the BC Liberals based on sound development, management of the BC economy for the benefit of all British Columbians, sound, fiscal management of public revenue and expenditure, and fair distribution of government expenditure to all sectors of British Columbia, improved and equality of health service across British Columbia, improved quality of public education, increased low income housing and stabilization of rent increases, and more responsible, sustainable management of the BC environment.

Score: BC Liberals

10/20

Rational: Too much emphasis on big business and economy at the neglect of other areas, and inconsistent, narrow approach to the environment.

## 5. Policies of the Political Parties:

Economy:

Economy Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Policies that reflect sound development, management of the BC economy for the benefit of all British Columbians.

Score: BC Liberals BC NDP BC Green Party

6/10

5/10

4/10

Rational: BC Liberals had the more coherent approach to the BC economy, by having clear policies on spending and small and big business development. The NDP approach was scattered, with lots spending promises, but minimal big business development. The Green Party lacked a clear, realistic focus on economic development.

## Budget:

### Budget Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Policies that reflect sound, fiscal management of public revenue and expenditure and fair distribution of government expenditure to all sectors of British Columbia.

Score: BC Liberals    BC NDP    BC Green Party

6/10

6/10

5/10

Rational: All three parties failed promise balanced budgets, except after 3 or 4 years. The BC Green Party had not stated budget reduction. All three parties lacked specifics on fiscal responsibility and accountability of public expenditure.

## Health:

### Health Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Policies that reflect improved and equality of health service across British Columbia.

Score: BC Liberals BC NDP BC Green Party

6/10

6/10

5/10

Rational: Both the BC Liberals and BC NDP's health policies were undeveloped. The BC Green Party's health policy lacked comprehensiveness.

## Education:

### Education Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Policies that reflect improved and equality of health service across British Columbia.

Score: BC Liberals BC NDP BC Green Party

6/10

6/10

6/10

Rational: All three parties are saying similar things and with minimal specifics. Note, the BC NDP makes no promise to open new schools, despite criticizing the BC Liberals for closing schools.

## Housing:

### Housing Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Policies that reflect increased low-income housing and stabilization of rent increases. The BC Green Party's policy lacks comprehensiveness

Score: BC Liberals BC NDP BC Green Party

7/10

7/10

5/10

Rational: The BC NDP has the more comprehensive health policy in which it tackles homelessness. However, the BC Liberals have a more broadminded housing policy. The BC Green Party's housing policy is vague, undeveloped.

## Environment:

### Environment Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Policies that reflect more responsible, sustainable management of the BC environment.

Score: BC Liberals BC NDP BC Green Party

5/10

8/10

9/10

Rational: The BC Green Party has the more comprehensive, broadminded environmental policy. The BC NDP is less developed, but equally comprehensive. The BC Liberals policy lacks the comprehensiveness and broadmindedness of the other parties. Many areas of environmental concern are not mentioned in the BC Liberal policy like protection of rivers, oceans from the oil and gas sector, and wild fish from fish farms, and payment from big polluters.

## Grading and Ranking Results

Score	BC Liberals	BC NDP	BC Green Party
Background of Leaders:	7.7/10	5.7/10	6.7/10
Vision:	6/10	4/10	4/10
Incumbency:	10/20		
Subtotal:	23.7/40	9.7/20	10.7/20
Policies			
Economy:	6/10	5/10	4/10
Budget:	6/10	6/10	5/10
Health:	6/10	6/10	5/10
Education:	6/10	6/10	6/10
Housing:	7/10	7/10	5/10
Environment:	5/10	8/10	9/10
Subtotal:	36/60	38/60	34/60
Total:	59.7/100 (59.7%)	47.7/80 (59.6%)	44.7/80 (55.9%)

## Overall Ranking/Grading:

- |                   |                  |         |
|-------------------|------------------|---------|
| 1. BC Liberals    | 59.7/100 (59.7%) | C Grade |
| 2. BC NDP         | 47.7/80 (59.6%)  | C Grade |
| 3. BC Green Party | 44.7/80 (55.9%)  | C Grade |

C Grade refers to minimally satisfactory result.

## Analysis

The BC Liberals received a 50% score (D grade—marginal performance) for their incumbency record, and yet the party received 59.7% score (C grade) overall. Perhaps, this higher grade would be reflected in a re-elected BC Liberal government.

The difference of .1% between the BC Liberals and BC NDP is extremely marginal. Also, the BC Green Party is very close to the BC Liberals, with only 3.8% difference. All three parties received C grades.

The BC Liberals had the stronger leadership of the three parties.

The BC Green Party lacked consistency in its policies, through too much emphasis on the environment.

The BC NDP had slightly better policies than the BC Liberals, but lost points due to its weaker leader.

## Conclusion

There is little to choose from the three parties, with only 3.8% separating them.

The BC Liberals offer stronger economic policy and leadership, and the BC NDP offer stronger policies overall, but with weaker leadership. The BC Green Party offers the better environmental policy and reasonably strong leadership, but it has weak economic and health policies.

With merely a C grade for all three parties, the prospects of BC governance from 2009 to 2013 do not look good. Though there is no other reasonable choice for BC voters.

BC politics needs considerable improvement. A C grade for the better political representative in the opinion of the FDA is unacceptable.