

FINAL AGREEMENT

COOPERATION AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT ACCORD 2025

The 2025 Cooperation and Responsible Government Accord (CARGA) sets out agreements and understandings reached between the BC Green Party Caucus (BCGC) and the BC NDP Caucus (NDPC) (collectively “the Parties”) on a variety of matters.

This agreement is effective March 12, 2025, and builds off and replaces the Agreement in Principle which came into effect December 12th, 2024.

Section 1 - Introduction

The NDPC and the BCGC have a shared commitment to ensuring stable governance that is focused on delivering progress and tangible outcomes for British Columbians. Accordingly, they agree to form this political agreement (accord) to work together on the following shared initiatives and cooperate in the legislative process to ensure good governance and respect for our democratic institutions.

The accord between the BCGC and the NDPC provides a four-year framework for cooperation and responsible government. This accord is subject to annual renewal at the sole discretion of each of the Parties. As part of annual renewal discussions, the Parties will review the implementation of the accord and outcomes achieved, and work together to identify new and renewed policy initiatives, deliverables and budget implications for the future years.

Section 2 – Foundation of Relationship

This accord establishes the basis for which the BCGC will provide confidence in an NDP Government (Government). It does not lay out the full program of the Government, nor does it presume BCGC support for Government initiatives and other matters not addressed within this agreement.

Section 3 – Policy Initiatives & 2025 Deliverables

1. Health Care
 - a. Government will support the growth of the Community Health Centre (CHC) model for primary care facilities. The BCGC will work with Government to establish targets for the opening of community health centres in 2025 and 2026, to be funded by government.
 - b. Performance analysis of the health system is critical – Government will assess all elements of the primary care system, CHCs, Urgent and Primary Care Centre’s (UPCCs), and family practices. This will involve an analysis of the performance of CHCs and UPCCs. The Minister of Health’s Special Advisor will work with the BCGC, NDPC and Ministry of Health officials to develop terms of reference for this analysis. The terms of reference are subject to the approval of the Minister of Health and the BCGC. The resulting report will be made public within 45 days of completion.

- c. The Government and the BCGC agree to assess and address the barriers that exist for health professionals and communities who want to establish a CHC and to allocate \$15 million in funding to assist in the creation of new, or support for existing, CHCs.
2. Mental Health Care
 - a. Government will work with the BC Psychological Association (BCPA) and BCGC to expand public coverage of psychologists with an investment of \$50 million. This investment will benefit all British Columbians, including youth and children.
3. Housing
 - a. Government will work with the BCGC to actively support non-profits, cooperatives, charitable societies and local governments to protect, purchase, and build 30,000 units of affordable non-market housing over the mandate of Government, with a 2025 target of 7,500 units. Both parties will collaborate to reach agreement on this initiative and active support parameters.
 - b. Government commits to jointly reviewing existing funds within the Rental Protection Fund in 2025 and will plan on re-capitalizing the Rental Protection Fund over the course of the mandate to ensure annual needs are covered.
4. Renters' Protection
 - a. Government will expand access to SAFER and RAP, boosting support and increasing eligibility and removing clawbacks, and increase funding to SAFER and RAP by \$75 million in 2025, with provision for a further \$75 million in 2026.
5. Homelessness
 - a. Government will work with the BCGC to actively support local communities to advance appropriate housing models, like the Village Model, that provide wraparound services to reflect local conditions, moving funds more quickly and reducing barriers to meet local demand and provide solutions for those most vulnerable. \$30 million of Heart and Hearth, a dedicated fund, will be deployed for this initiative. In the event that federal funding for the Heart and Hearth fund ends, provincial funding will be used to continue supporting Heart and Hearth. Both parties will collaborate to reach agreement on this initiative and active support parameters.
6. Transit
 - a. Government will commit, in collaboration with BCGC, to implement frequent, reliable, affordable regional transit on key interregional routes on Vancouver Island, along Highway 16, and along Highway 1, with a focus on Sea to Sky corridor transit in 2025.
7. Climate
 - a. Government will initiate and complete a review of CleanBC in 2025, one year earlier than the scheduled review. Government will work with the BCGC to establish the detailed terms of reference for this review, which are subject to the approval of both parties. The BCGC will be fully involved in all elements of the review and the resulting report will be made public within 45 days of completion.

- b. Government will commit to contribute \$50 million annually toward electric heat pumps for fiscal years 2025 and 2026, ensuring they are accessible to low- and moderate-income households, after which Government will review the program to ensure it is meeting its climate and affordability objectives – subject to BC’s fiscal situation.

8. Environment

- a. Government will work with the BCGC to undertake a review of BC forests with First Nations, workers, unions, business and community to address concerns around sustainability, jobs, environmental protection and the future of the industry. Government will work with the BCGC to establish the detailed terms of reference for this review, which are subject to the approval of both parties. The BCGC will be fully involved in all elements of the review and the resulting report will be made public within 45 days of completion.
- b. Pending the resolution of existing legal proceedings and community negotiations, and in partnership with the Ditidaht and Pacheedaht First Nations, the Government will move forward to ensure permanent protection of the Fairy Creek Watershed.
- c. Government will strengthen collaborative local processes around water management at the watershed level and identify clear actions to improve local governance that will be implemented in later years of its mandate.

9. Social and Economic Justice

- a. Government commits to ending the spousal clawback on disability payments to lift people out of poverty in 2025 and ensuring people can keep all of the Canada Disability Benefit.
- b. Government will review social assistance and disability rates and make recommendations for future increases subject to fiscal constraints.

10. Taxation

- a. Government will end the property transfer tax loophole for sale of properties by trusts.

11. Democratic and Electoral Reform

- a. The Parties will work together to create a special legislative all-party committee to evaluate and recommend policy and legislation measures to be pursued beginning in 2026 to increase democratic engagement & voter participation, address increasing political polarization, and improve the representativeness of government. The committee will review and consider preferred methods of proportional representation as part of its deliberations. The Government will work with the BCGC to establish the detailed terms of reference for this review, which are subject to the approval of both parties. The terms of reference will include the ability to receive expert and public input, provide for completion of the Special Committee’s work in Summer 2025, and public release of the Committee’s report within 45 days of completion. The committee will also review the administration of the 43rd provincial general election, including consideration of the Chief Electoral Officer’s report on the 43rd provincial general election, and make recommendations for future elections.

12. United States Tariffs and Trade Action

- a. Government commits to prior meaningful consultation with the BCGC with respect to the shared initiatives as listed in this agreement in relation to the United States Tariffs and Trade Actions. The BCGC commits to participate in such consultations in a timely manner.

Section 4 – Legislative Efficacy

The BCGC will support the NDPC on establishing good governance in the Legislative Assembly, legislative efficacy, confidence votes, and agreed upon proposed legislation. The BCGC will determine its own position in relation to any policy or legislative matter not covered by areas of cooperation set out in the Agreement.

Outcome

The Government House Leader and the House Leader of the BCGC (the House Leaders) agree to establish a relationship of trust based on good faith and no surprises for the duration of this Agreement.

The House Leaders agree that this Agreement is designed to provide stability for the Government in return for the BCGC supporting confidence, agreed upon government legislative proposals and various motions in proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and its committees.

Deliverables

The Government House Leader (GHL) will:

1. Regularly meet with the BCGC House Leader to discuss business of the Legislative Assembly at an agreed upon cadence.
2. Provide a list of the Government's projected Legislative Agenda to the BCGC House Leader for each legislative session at the earliest opportunity, that includes the number of bills and a description of the legislation. The list will also specify the last day of introduction for legislation that is intended to be passed in the current sitting. The GHL will keep the BCGC House Leader updated of any changes in a timely manner.
 - Discuss with the BCGC House Leader any legislation that could be eligible as exposure legislation and will take those discussions into account when determining scheduling of legislation
 - The GHL and Cabinet retain the ability to make the final determination on proceeding with any legislation.
3. Provide the BCGC briefings that include technical and consultative drafts of each piece of proposed legislation prior to introduction that respects Cabinet confidentiality and parliamentary privilege.
4. Provide advance notice of the legislative week to the BCGC House Leader that includes introduction, 1st and 2nd readings as well as Committee of the Whole debates.
 - Discuss with the BCGC House Leader to ensure the BCGC is prepared to fully debate legislation. The GHL will take those discussions into account and will attempt to schedule legislation for Committee of the Whole debate at least 24 hours after second reading.

5. Provide 24 hours' notice of planned government amendments; should the need arise for unplanned amendments, the GHL will assess the opportunity of standing down clauses to allow for consideration.
6. Prioritize the consideration of extending sitting hours in agreement with the BCGC House Leader before considering the opening of the third house.
7. Limit the amendment of a single piece of legislation to once per legislative session for the same policy consideration, except upon agreement or in emergency situations.
8. Move a motion to modernize and digitize the petition process that includes a reasonable process for timely response from Government.
9. Work with the BCGC House Leader to establish a process to accept and respond to written questions in question period within a prescribed amount of time.
10. Commit to working with the BCGC House Leader collaboratively and cooperatively to address other issues related to legislative efficacy.

The House Leader of the BCGC will:

1. Ensure the BCGC supports all confidence votes and agreed-upon motions and Government bills at readings and in committee stage.

The House Leaders agree:

1. To discuss other motions and amendments at the earliest opportunity.
2. That the following will qualify as confidence votes:
 - a. Motions respecting the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne;
 - b. Motions for the House to move into Committee of Supply;
 - c. Motions for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd reading of any Supply Act;
 - d. Motions for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd reading of the Budget Measures Implementation Act;
 - e. Explicit motions that state the Government does not have the confidence of the House; and,
 - f. Other motions or bills agreed upon to determine as a question of confidence between the GHL and BCGC House Leader.
 - i. All other motions and matters not included in the accord do not assume BCGC support.
 - ii. In the event the GHL determines a motion to be a matter of confidence that is not on the above list, and the BCGC House Leader determines it should not be a confidence matter, then the BCGC reserves the right to vote freely on such vote.
3. To support the GHL in agreed upon actions between the House Leaders, to allow for stages to be completed for passage of agreed upon bills or motions that the BCGC has agreed to support or is covered in the agreement.
4. Inform the GHL of motions or bills to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly or its committees with 24 hours' notice being given by any BCGC MLA, with the opportunity for discussion between GHL and BCGC House Leader.

Section 5 - Implementation

1. The Parties agree to work in good faith, and with no surprises. This means both parties commit to open and honest communication on areas relating to the agreement. It includes advance notice of major policy shifts on areas that are outside of, but may impact, the agreement.
2. Both Parties will have prior approval of, and have the opportunity to be present at, any public communications or events relating to the specified list of initiatives in the agreement. Prior approval will be timely and will not be unreasonably withheld.
3. The Parties agree to the limitations and clear scope of the agreement. Areas outside of the agreement, including aspects of portfolios that aren't covered, will operate under standard Legislative processes. This includes the ability of the BC Green Caucus to publicly advocate for or against, or propose adjustments to, Government decisions and actions.
4. Ensure an opportunity for BCGC to receive from Finance MO detailed briefings on BC's budget making process and fiscal update, early detailed briefing on main budget themes, second more detailed briefing on main budget themes and ability to comment on themes, early morning briefing on budget day of the full budget and attend budget lock up. These briefings will be equivalent to that provided to Ministers.
5. The Parties commit to regular consultation and dialogue. This includes monthly meetings of Party leaders, quarterly meetings of a team leadership main table, regular meetings of the respective House Leaders, and as-needed meetings between individual MLAs and their respective staff.
6. This agreement is subject to regular monitoring of outcomes. Reports on quantitative and qualitative progress towards agreed initiatives will be provided and made public within 30 days of the end of each calendar quarter.
7. Any breaches or disagreements about progress will be discussed between House Leaders and will be escalated to Leaders if consensus cannot be reached. No comments will be made publicly prior to a Leaders discussion.
8. Meetings on an annual basis to consider renewal of the agreement and to determine priority initiatives for the following year will be held. The timing of this will be determined to ensure that the outcome of the initiatives can be incorporated into the Government's Budget.

Section 6 – Applicable Law

The terms of this agreement are subject to applicable law, including the *Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the *Financial Administration Act*, and other enactments. This includes any commitment on the part of Government to share information. Such commitments shall be subject to applicable law.

Nothing in this agreement requires or permits the Government to direct or attempt to influence statutory decision makers (SDMs) in the independent exercise of their statutory functions in relation to projects, permits, orders or any other matter. Nor will the Government be able to discuss specific projects or permits where decisions are, or will shortly be, in front of SDMs.

Section 7 – Confidentiality

Where briefings or other consultations are provided by Government to the BCGC with respect to legislation, policy or budgetary matters, all discussions or records or information shared by Government shall be confidential unless otherwise agreed, subject to the provision of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* or as otherwise required by law.

Non-disclosure agreements must be executed before there is any disclosure of information by Government that is subject to Cabinet confidentiality (including draft legislation) or any type of privilege, including solicitor client privilege or any privilege of the House.

Section 8 – Signatures

This final agreement is signed on March 12, 2025, by the following on behalf of their caucuses.

BC NDP CAUCUS (NDPC)

David Eby, KC
NDPC Leader and Premier

Niki Sharma, KC
Deputy Premier

Mike Farnworth
Government House Leader

Stephanie Higginson
NDPC Chair

BC GREEN PARTY CAUCUS (BCGC)

Jeremy Valeriote
BCGC Leader

Rob Botterell
BCGC House Leader