

INDIGENOUS POLICIES MUST RESPECT THE PAST AND MAKE BOLD PLANS FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

Chief Archibald: The PPC has the only Indigenous policy that will reverse the broken promises of past political parties.



The re-discovery of cemeteries on the grounds of residential schools across the country has raised back into the public discourse the historical inequities of the residential school system imposed by the Government of the day. That these remains have been found should not be a surprise since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report over five years ago noted it was likely that up to 6,000 deaths would have taken place during the many decades these institutions existed, and it was the practice of the time to inter the deceased on site. The KLCPPC supports learning from our past mistakes and moving forward with policies which improve the lives of indigenous citizens of Canada.

The old political parties have responded with self-serving photo ops and warmed-over platitudes we have been hearing from them for years with no actual changes. It does not help that the media has used overblown rhetoric which inhibits, not enhances, efforts at reconciliation if we don't discuss the issues accurately. The survivors of the residential school system deserve to hear language that reflects reality, not warmed-over slogans from other people's tragedies as if we are too lazy to come up with an accurate accounting using our own words.

More urgently, they deserve that we move forward. The PPC recognizes that colonization of the past is now paternalism of Big Government and that overreach by government continues with, for example, removing children (both indigenous and others) from their families into foster care as if Government knows best. The platform of the PPC calls for the elimination of the paternalistic Indian Act and moving First Nations to a position of self sufficiency and control over their own affairs by applying the principles of Respect, Fairness, Freedom and Responsibility.

Our policy begins with the principle of Respect, and we state that ours will not be imposed on First Nations but developed in consultation. However, in applying the doctrines of Fairness and Freedom, will possibly see the transfer of actual ownership and responsibility leading to full self-sufficiency. It is acknowledged that prior to settlement, indigenous peoples had a close relationship with the land and relied on its resources. By recognizing indigenous resource ownership, a new economic basis could be created where resources extracted from the land generate royalties. Every tree harvested, load of ore trucked, or barrel of oil pumped could have a royalty of at least 5% paid directly to the First Nations equally across the country who thus would have a voice and a stake in the responsible development of our shared natural bounty. This stable, significant financial resource would replace Ottawa's 'handouts' and fund Responsible First Nation governments at two levels. First, reserves would be replaced with municipalities which control education, housing, welfare and crucially, utilities such as water. Next, a new '11th province' recognizing the wide distribution of the indigenous population both on- and off-reserve across the country would have all the powers of taxation and regulation of that level of government. Central Big Government control by Ottawa has held back these communities for generations when simply applying existing levels of government provides needed autonomy.

We welcome Grand Chief Archibald's call to earn First Nations votes and invite a close look at the People's Party platform and an open discussion of the possibilities for a better future.