

Independent BC Team Response: April 5, 2024

Perceived Limitations of Independent MLA's

The idea of limitations in Independent Candidates can actually be advantages.

Recently ousted MLA Adam Walker was an NDP member and vacated his seat to become "Independent". He was explaining to us in a recent meeting, that he was able to help constituents in certain cases by freely being able to speak on issues he would normally be muzzled with. One situation involved working on a private members bill that can be brought up during the budget process to make public the fact that the current government is clawing back money from vulnerable children. We also discussed the fact that party politicians know these problems exist, but they spend too much time worrying about whether they will get elected in the next run and following the party narrative, and not about what is right for the people. So, who gains by these perceived "advantages" of party politicians? Certainly not us.

This is a big change in mind set, but also the way BC was originally governed, with Independent representation.

The only limitations an Independent MLA has is a lack of allegiance to a party first, constituent second behaviour. Being able to speak freely and not be censored when needing to represent the community is an advantage and we need more of it, not less. The true disadvantage is for the true majority of people in BC, when any party sits in power. Our own experiences over the last four years show us clearly the parties are being driven by agendas that are not for the people in our communities. How many MLA's have talked openly about the truth about the last four years, current election cycle promotions aside?

Confusion over Provincial vs Federal Parties

Yes understandable... BC Conservative Leader John Rustad and many of his candidates repeated ad nauseum WE ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE FEDERAL PARTY... just to be seen together in several photo ops in BC with Pierre Poilievre.

The entire Independent BC platform is about educating BC voters. That includes explaining to them that much that gets done in party politics is done via "backroom deals", which is hardly transparent, so how exactly would people understand it? Bill 36, now Legislation is a burning example of how it is people in BC are caught off guard or perceived to be uneducated. And many still are unaware of this legislation. The public is misled, as we know. And the media does little if anything to help. It is a coordinated dance that only those deeply involved seem to truly understand. Some might even say by design, to keep the public confused.

Independence Party

A quick glance at many of the materials Independent BC have put out for the public state We do not support any political party. In fact, our slogan is THE PARTY IS OVER...It is even on our t-shirts! If there is confusion around this, we have not come across it until now. Please share more about this, if there is more to clarify.

Rights for Independents to reply

Yes, the party system makes it difficult for a lone wolf, Independent while "in session", but in the sphere of public opinion, an Independent is free to inform anybody, without party whips or discipline to worry about, a massive advantage in our opinion and in many others in the public who want truth and transparency.

Coalitions are rare

Coalitions are not rare. Simply consider what is currently happening federally, and in BC, as recent as 2017 under Christy Clark's Liberals – they became instantly outnumbered when the NDP took on 3 Greens to hold a balance of power in the BC Legislature. There are endless examples of this kind of thing under the Westminster voting system.

Independent MLAs are also able to form coalitions. Right now, in BC there are 2 Independents currently in our Legislature. Party status can vary from province to province, in BC it is 2 members, (if a certain number of candidates have run in the election). We should run Independents in all 93 ridings, if we can educate enough of the public about the new way to vote.

Game Plans, Rules and Tough Negotiator

The team is doing an excellent job educating potential candidates who come to us for such support. Again, that is our purpose, to educate the public. We speak in terms of a "team captain" who of course would have the leadership skillset and ability to create a game plan, be able to negotiate and understand the rules.

Closing

Well over 1.5 million voters in BC have lost complete confidence in the current system, they did not vote in 2020. They need a reason to vote. We have everything we need for historic change in 2024. We just need to educate the province. We only need 47 Independent MLA's for a majority win in BC. Timing and conditions require a full court press and a united team to make the changes we need it what we all know is really a do or die situation for the Province of BC's future. Nova Scotia feels the same. This is urgent.

It would be great if you joined us!