

## BC OMNI Questions – December 20, 2017

We'd like to ask you some questions about issues in the news today.

1 [BC Only] - British Columbia's NDP government recently announced that the province will hold a referendum on proportional representation for future BC elections. Broadly speaking, there are two options for British Columbia's electoral system:

B.C. could keep the current system, called First Past the Post (FPTP), in which political parties run one candidate per riding and voters in that riding cast one vote for the candidate they like best. The candidate with the most votes – even if it's less than 50 per cent of the total number of votes cast – wins the riding.

Alternatively, B.C. could adopt a new system that allocates seats in the legislature roughly in proportion to the total number of votes a party receives, meaning a party that received 30 per cent of the popular vote would also win approximately 30 per cent of the seats. Systems that do this are called, collectively, proportional representation (PR) systems.

Based on what you know, please indicate which of these two broad options you prefer for B.C.

[ROTATE]

The current First Past the Post system  
A new system of Proportional Representation

2 [BC Only] – On December 11<sup>th</sup> the BC NDP government announced it would proceed with the completion of the **Site C hydroelectric dam** in Northern BC. The project was started under the previous BC Liberal government. Construction was already underway at the time of the provincial election on May, and some four billion dollars had already been spent on it.

Site C supporters say it will provide the electricity BC will need in the future. Others are opposed because building the Site C dam will require flooding 5500 hectares in Northern BC, much of it farm land.

After the election, the NDP government asked the B.C. Utilities Commission (BCUC) – the independent energy regulator – to review the project. The BCUC concluded the project was \$2.3 billion over budget.

Calling it a “difficult decision”, the NDP provincial government decided to go ahead.

Based on what you might have seen, heard or read, including this survey would you say continuing construction of the Site C dam was ...

Right decision  
Wrong decision  
Not sure/Can't say

3 In shaping British Columbia's energy policy, what do you see as the biggest priority?

[ROTATE]

Encouraging economic growth

Protecting the environment

4 Which party's candidate did you vote for in this most recent B.C. election on May 9?

[RANDOMIZE FIRST THREE PARTIES]

[ANCHORED] I did not vote

BC Liberal Party

BC New Democratic Party (NDP)

BC Green Party

Another party

Rather not say