

2026 Provincial Election Priorities

CANDIDATE BRIEFING AND QUESTIONNAIRE

CENTRAL RECOMMENDATION

Commit to implementing and funding the Outdoor Recreation Strategy, protecting high-value access, improving motorcycle safety through education for all drivers, and developing wildfire policies with the powersports industry.

About this briefing

BCPDA is providing this non-partisan briefing to candidates in British Columbia's 44th Provincial General Election. Every candidate is being asked the same questions, and responses may be shared with members and the broader powersports community without endorsement or editorial alteration.

Powersports includes on-road motorcycles, three-wheel motorcycles, off-road motorcycles, ATVs, side-by-sides, snowmobiles and emerging electric vehicles. Provincial decisions affecting these activities influence road safety, recreation access, skilled employment, tourism, small businesses and rural communities.

Priority	Commitment requested
1 Implement and fund the Outdoor Recreation Strategy	Recognize powersports and motorized recreation as contributors to B.C.'s economy, tourism, skilled employment and rural communities; establish a dedicated Ministry of Outdoor Recreation with appropriate authority and funding.
2 Establish the Road to Recreation Working Group	Create a consistent process to assess high-value Forest Service Roads before closure or deactivation and transition suitable routes into recreation management.
3 Modernize licensing and educate all drivers	Improve motorcycle licensing and training while strengthening education and awareness for every road user to reduce collisions and support safe riding.
4 Develop wildfire restriction policies together	Include BCPDA and recreation organizations in a standing working group that develops evidence-based, proportionate closure policies and communication protocols that protect communities.

About the sector

BCPDA's economic-impact work estimates that more than 140 powersports dealerships contribute approximately \$808 million in economic output and support about 3,820 jobs. Related powersports tourism contributes an estimated \$423 million. On-road motorcycle touring and off-road motorized recreation both generate visitor spending across British Columbia. The broader outdoor sector contributes an estimated \$11.1 billion and supports approximately 127,500 jobs.

Sources

1. Government of BC, “B.C. Outdoor Recreation Economic Indicators” (Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, 2024 data). www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/economic-development/support-business-community/outdoor-recreation-economic-indicators
2. MotoCanada, “BC Motorcycle & Powersports Economic Impact Study 2024, [Reports & Statistics | Moto Canada](#)

Priority 1 Implement and fund the Outdoor Recreation Strategy

The issue

BCPDA supports the provincial government’s new strategy issued in May 2026 and is asking the next government to recognize both on-road motorcycle touring and off-road motorized recreation within its implementation. This requires dedicated leadership, stable funding, formal sector representation and investment in tourism experiences, infrastructure and the skilled workforce that supports responsible recreation and rural communities.

BCPDA asks the next government to

- Establish a dedicated Ministry of Outdoor Recreation with appropriate authority and predictable multi-year funding.
- Publish an implementation plan with budgets, timelines and measurable outcomes.
- Include BCPDA and motorized recreation on provincial advisory and decision-making bodies.
- Recognize on-road motorcycle touring and off-road recreation within tourism and regional economic-development strategies.
- Invest in scenic route development, rider-friendly destinations, trails, staging areas, access routes, connectivity and visitor amenities.
- Make powersports tourism and infrastructure projects eligible for tourism, recreation and regional-development grants.
- Support apprenticeship, technical training and retention of multi-skilled technicians in rural communities.

Question for candidates: Will you support a dedicated, funded implementation plan for the Outdoor Recreation Strategy that formally recognizes powersports and motorized recreation?

Priority 2 Establish the Road to Recreation Working Group

The issue

Forest Service Roads often provide the only practical access to recreation sites, trails and rural destinations. Current processes can allow roads, bridges and culverts to be removed before their continuing public value is assessed.

BCPDA asks the next government to

- Establish a Road to Recreation Working Group with Indigenous Nations, local governments, recreation organizations, tourism partners and BCPDA.
- Require a public-value assessment before irreversible deactivation.
- Create funded transfer, designation, licence and shared-management options.
- Publish proposed closures and final decisions with reasons.

Question for candidates: Will you support establishing a Road to Recreation Working Group and requiring an assessment before high-value Forest Service Roads are closed or deactivated?

Priority 3 Modernize licensing and educate all drivers

The issue

Motorcycle safety depends on effective rider training and responsible behaviour by every road user. Licensing must remain practical and evidence-based, while Class 5 education, testing and public campaigns must do more to teach drivers how to recognize and safely share the road with motorcycles. Safe, accessible licensing also supports training providers, dealerships, events and motorcycle touring throughout British Columbia.

BCPDA asks the next government to

- Maintain practical motorcycle licensing timelines and recognize approved training.
- Create an appropriate three-wheel motorcycle training and testing pathway.
- Strengthen motorcycle awareness in Class 5 education and testing.
- Deliver recurring public campaigns addressing visibility, distracted driving, intersections and safe passing.
- Connect motorcycle safety and education with provincial touring and tourism initiatives.
- Use collision and training data to measure results.

Question for candidates: Will you support evidence-based motorcycle licensing, approved rider training and stronger motorcycle-awareness education for all drivers?

Priority 4 Develop wildfire restriction policies together

The issue

BCPDA supports restrictions necessary to protect communities and responders. The 2026 closure demonstrated the need for earlier sector involvement, regional evidence, consistent communication and defined review and reopening protocols.

BCPDA asks the next government to

- Establish a standing Wildfire Recreation and Powersports Working Group before the 2027 fire season.
- Develop objective risk criteria and proportionate regional or activity-specific measures.
- Review broad restrictions at defined and recurring review dates, normally at intervals of no more than 14 days
- Consider different ignition profiles where evidence supports differentiated treatment.
- Use dealers and recreation organizations as communication and education partners.

Question for candidates: Will you support a standing wildfire working group with BCPDA and recreation organizations to develop evidence-based closure, communication, review and reopening protocols?

Provincial Candidate response form

Candidate name _____

Political party _____

Electoral district _____

Email and telephone _____

Priority	Support	Do not support	Additional comments
1 Outdoor Recreation Strategy	☐	☐	
2 Road to Recreation	☐	☐	
3 Licensing and all-driver education	☐	☐	
4 Wildfire policies and protocols	☐	☐	

Candidate statement

Please provide any additional commitments or comments concerning British Columbia's on-road and off-road powersports community:

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return the completed response to info@bcpowersportsdealers.com by October 21st. BCPDA will not rank or endorse candidates and all responses will be published as and when received.