

DRAFT FOR COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

WHERE THE RIVERS MEET AND STAND WITH UKRAINE

2026 BC Provincial Election Candidate Questionnaire

For all candidates in Kamloops Centre and Kamloops-North Thompson, Provincial General Election, October 24, 2026

Why we are writing to you

Every Saturday at 3:00 PM since February 24, 2022, residents of Kamloops have gathered peacefully near City Hall in solidarity with Ukraine. It is the longest-running weekly gathering for Ukraine in Kamloops. We will keep standing no matter who is elected on October 24, and we want to work with our next Members of the Legislative Assembly to stand with Ukraine, and with the about 1.4 million Canadians of Ukrainian origin and their many supporters.

Where the Rivers Meet: Kamloops at a Turning Point is a free public report on Kamloops's Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results. Many of the concerns it names, including housing, mental health and the toxic drug crisis, health care, safety, reconciliation and climate, depend on decisions made in Victoria. This questionnaire points those concerns out to you and gives you a chance to respond. You can read about the report here: <https://krasun.ca/2026/06/15/where-the-rivers-meet-what-i-learned-about-kamloops/>

How it works

- Please answer each question in 100 words or fewer. You may type your answers directly into this document.
- Please reply by Sunday, October 11, 2026, to [return email]. Answers will be published on Monday, October 12.
- Candidates who do not reply will be listed as "no response."

How your answers will be shared

As in 2022 and 2024, every candidate's answers will be published in full, unedited, side by side on krasun.ca and shared with our community. You can see the 2022 municipal answers here:

<https://krasun.ca/2022/10/13/kamloops-stand-with-ukraine-and-more-municipal-election-questionnaire/> and the 2024 provincial answers here:

<https://krasun.ca/2024/10/19/the-engaged-voters-of-kamloops/>

Answers will not be scored or ranked, and this questionnaire is not an endorsement of any candidate. Its purpose is to let residents read what candidates think, in their own words. Every resident, including every member of our community, is free to support whoever they choose.

Part A: Kamloops concerns where the Province holds the levers

A1. A safe and stable home.

Context: Kamloops needed 7,856 new homes between 2021 and 2026. The October 2025 count found 419 people experiencing homelessness, a 341% increase since 2014.

What would you do as MLA to increase housing supply in Kamloops, and to support proven approaches to homelessness such as Housing First?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

A2. The toxic drug and mental health crisis. Interior BC has been hit hard by the toxic drug crisis. What treatment, recovery, harm reduction and mental health services would you push for in Kamloops?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

A3. Safety that works. Residents want to feel safe, and they want police and emergency services that are respected and properly resourced. Would you support provincial funding for a co-responder model in Kamloops, where police are paired with mental health professionals, similar to Vancouver's Car 87?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

A4. Health care. Royal Inland Hospital serves as the health hub for the region. How would you improve access to family doctors, nurses and specialist care for Kamloops residents?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

A5. Reconciliation. BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act commits the Province to shared decision-making with First Nations. How would you support this with Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and other nations in our region?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

A6. Climate, wildfire and emergencies. How would you help Kamloops and the Interior prepare for wildfire, extreme heat, drought and flooding?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

A7. Trust in local government. The Province has introduced a mandatory code of conduct for local elected officials, after years of conflict at Kamloops City Hall. How would you support local councils to work respectfully and effectively?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

A8. Education and a strong economy. How would you support Thompson Rivers University, School District 73 and the local economy, including the mining supply sector and the trades, so young people see a future in Kamloops?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

A9. Accessibility and aging. How would you make provincial services accessible to people with disabilities, seniors, and residents who speak English as an additional language, and help seniors age in place?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

Part B: Standing with Ukraine

B1. Have you ever attended a Stand with Ukraine gathering in Kamloops? If yes, what did it mean to you? If not, you are warmly welcome at any Saturday gathering, 3:00 PM, near City Hall.

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B2. If elected, how will you stand with Ukraine as an MLA?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B3. Recognition in the Legislature. Would you mark February 24 (the anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion) and August 24 (Ukrainian Independence Day) in the Legislature, for example through a member's statement?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B4. Holodomor Memorial Day.

Context: *The Holodomor (from holod, hunger, and mor, mass death) was the 1932 to 1933 famine-genocide in Ukraine. In 2019, the BC Legislature unanimously passed the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act, recognizing the fourth Saturday of November as Holodomor Memorial Day.*

How would you help British Columbians, including students, learn about the Holodomor and mark this day each year?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B5. The internment in BC.

Context: *Between 1914 and 1920, Ukrainian Canadians and others were interned in BC camps including Vernon, Mara Lake, Monashee, Mount Revelstoke, Field, Edgewood, Nanaimo and Fernie-Morrissey. Descendants of internees have asked the Province for a formal acknowledgement.*

Would you support a formal provincial acknowledgement of the internment, and teaching this history in BC schools?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B6. Ukrainian newcomers. Many Ukrainians who arrived in BC since 2022 hold temporary status. What would you do to help them access settlement services, health care and housing, have their professional credentials recognized, and find pathways to permanent residence in BC?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B7. BC and Ukraine partners. Would you support partnerships between BC and Ukraine, for example between BC post-secondary institutions such as TRU and Ukrainian universities, or in trade and rebuilding, including with regions such as Cherkasy?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B8. How will you stay in contact with the Ukrainian community in Kamloops after the election, and how can we reach you?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

Our commitment to you

Whoever is elected, our community will offer to meet with our new MLAs, share what we have learned in more than four years of weekly gatherings, and work together so British Columbia continues to stand with Ukraine.

With respect,

Sasha

Dr. Oleksandr (Sasha) Kondrashov

One of many Kamloops residents who stand with Ukraine every Saturday

Co-organizer, among many, of Stand with Ukraine Kamloops

Author, *Where the Rivers Meet*