



Ban Israeli Wine

BC Green Party Toolkit

BC Green Party Leadership Candidates

- Example email below but feel free to write in your own voice.
 - Emphasize **your organization** and **your region** (e.g., South Island, Metro Vancouver, Okanagan, etc.) - shows we are organized across BC.
 - You represent a potential large and pre-organized group of folks they could tap into and they're all desperately seeking supporting members right now. These candidates are seeking local networks to tap into right now because they can't physically or financially be everywhere at once in the province right now.
- Attach the briefing note to the email!!!
- Key points to hit:
 - Seeking a public endorsement
 - Offer a meeting
- **Meeting:** Our understanding is that all of these candidates are pro-Palestinian to some degree; Adam, maybe not. When meeting with them, push them to see just how truly anti-zionist they are. What's their position on, for example:
 - Israel's right to exist
 - Two-state solution,
 - If they were premier, would they allow Netanyahu to visit BC?

Contact Info

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MLA's

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SAMPLE EMAIL

Dear [Candidate] and Campaign Team,

My name is [Name], and I am writing as a member of [Group/collective/organization], [describe your group, its location, its focus, etc.] We stand in solidarity with the global movement for Palestinian liberation and advocate for justice through ethical trade policies and adherence to international law.

As a **non-partisan group**, we engage with all political parties on a principled, issue-by-issue basis.

We are part of a **province-wide coalition** urging the BC government to ban the sale of Israeli wines in BC liquor stores, in alignment with the Palestinian-led **Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS)** movement and Canada's obligations under international law. This issue presents a critical opportunity for the **BC Green Party** to demonstrate leadership and differentiate itself from the BC NDP, which has inconsistently applied ethical trade standards—as seen with bans on Russian and US red-state alcohol.

Key Points:

- **[# - google 'days since October 7, 2023'] days of genocide** in Gaza have passed, with Canada and its provinces complicit through inaction.
- BC has direct jurisdiction over liquor imports and a **moral responsibility** to end complicity in settler-colonial violence.
- The attached **briefing note** details legal precedents, ICJ rulings, and actionable steps for the province.

Our Request:

We ask you, as a BC Green Party leadership candidate, to **publicly endorse this campaign** and amplify calls for justice. We would also welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss how you can champion this issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response.

In solidarity,

Briefing Note

To: [Insert Elected official]
From: [Insert Your Name/Organization]
[Email/contact info]
Date: [Insert Date]

Subject: Ban Israeli Wines in Alignment with Human Rights and International Law

Issue

The British Columbia (B.C.) Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) currently imports and sells seven Israeli wines, including four produced in the occupied Golan Heights and three in illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. This practice raises urgent concerns given the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling on the plausibility of genocide in Gaza and numerous United Nations reports on systemic violence, occupation, apartheid, and now, genocide.

As a province that has made commitments to reconciliation, anti-racism, and gender justice, B.C. must ensure its trade policies align with international human rights law and do not contribute to violence, forced displacement, or the erosion of Indigenous rights – whether at home or abroad – especially where a people's self-determination and very existence are at stake.

Given B.C.'s history of trade restrictions on ethical and political grounds, such as the ban on Russian alcohol (2022) and United States (U.S.) red-state liquor (2025), the province has both the authority and responsibility to take similar action against Israeli wines.

Background

International Law Obligations

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled in [January](#) and [March 2024](#) that Israel was plausibly committing genocide in Gaza. This ruling constitutes an **urgent directive for all states to ensure they are not complicit** in aiding or assisting genocidal acts.
- In July 2024, the ICJ [ruled](#) that Israeli settlements violate the Fourth Geneva Convention. **This convention prohibits economic support of illegal occupation.**
- On March 13, 2025, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel released a report entitled "[More than a human care bear](#)" detailing Israel's systematic use of sexual, reproductive, and gender-based violence since October 7, 2023 in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territory. The report details crimes that constitute genocidal acts.
- On June 16, 2025, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 published a report entitled "[From economy of occupation to economy of genocide](#)" detailing how corporate actors have not only contributed to the destruction of Palestinian life, they aid in the construction of the colonies that replace it. Agribusiness, including wineries, has thrived on Israel-led extractivism and land-grabbing, while erasing Palestinian food systems and accelerating displacement.



- Under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (Article 27), Canada, including its provinces, cannot use domestic jurisdiction as an excuse to violate international law.

Precedent for Action

In 2022, B.C. banned Russian liquor following the invasion of Ukraine 84 days before a federal sanction. In 2025, the province banned alcohol from Republican-led U.S. states in response to trade disputes. The government has demonstrated its ability to restrict liquor sales based on ethical and political considerations.

The Ban Israeli Wine campaign is not new. Community groups have been pressuring the province to boycott Israeli wine since 2008. Further, this campaign carries forward the struggle of labour and the community in the 1980s to end economic complicity in apartheid South Africa by removing South African alcohol from the LDB.

Palestinians can't wait any longer.

Discussion

No discussion of human rights is complete without addressing Israel's decades-long impunity for its violations against Palestinians. The world must act to end complicity in illegal occupation, apartheid and now, genocide and to restore some faith in international law.

The LDB operates under provincial control, giving B.C. full discretion over which products it stocks. **Continuing to sell Israeli wines puts the province at risk of legal liability and economic complicity.** British Columbians should not be on the hook for policies that contradict Canada's treaty obligations.

B.C. took swift action against Russia and U.S. red-state liquor—it must apply the same standard here. Failing to do so exposes a racist double standard. As a province committed to reconciliation, anti-racism, and gender justice, B.C. must take a principled stance: justice and human rights must apply to everyone, not just when politically convenient.

Recommended Actions [Pick One Set of Recommendations – For NDP MLAs]

- Direct the Liquor Distribution Branch to stop the import and sale of all Israeli wines.
- Publicly announce the directive and reiterate B.C.'s commitment to ethical trade policies, international law, and human rights.
- Request a legal opinion from the Attorney General on B.C.'s obligations under international law regarding the sale of settlement goods.

Recommended Actions [Pick One Set of Recommendations – For Green MLAs]

- Publicly endorse the campaign and amplify calls to action.
- Raise this issue in the Legislature during Question Period or appropriate committees.

