

# Honest. Ethical. Caring. Leadership.

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ELECTION PLATFORM 2019



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# Message from Elizabeth May

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Canadians are a resilient, engaged and caring people. Together, nothing is impossible. We cannot risk being divided by those who seek political advantage through fear-based rhetoric. If we are divided as a people, we may lose the greatest opportunity ever before any society for our economy, our health and progress.

This is a pivotal point in history...

When confronted with an overwhelming challenge, it is human nature to want to avoid thinking about it. We seem to be aware only of the threat – and not the opportunity. It is easier to ignore a looming threat, like the climate emergency, than to face up to the challenge.

The problem is that we cannot *pretend* the climate threat away. And by ignoring it, we only drive a deep sense of concern deeper below the surface. It makes us worried and anxious.

The antidote to worry starts with facing facts. Then confidence in our future grows as we marshal all our resources to meet – and beat – that challenge.

History helps. It helps build confidence to see the times when humanity has responded to a threat – and avoided its worst impact.

## **What can we learn from the Second World War?**

A historical example of success at the level of effort required to confront the climate crisis was that of the Allies taking on fascism and Hitler's ruthless expansionistic regime. What the Allied efforts in the Second World War can tell us is the following:

*Giving up is not an option. Political courage is needed. Incremental actions cannot meet the challenge.*

For five days in May 1940, Prime Minister Winston Churchill was surrounded by military advisors, senior civil servants and Cabinet members demanding that he negotiate terms of surrender with Hitler.

The facts were very bleak. The details were not shared with the British public but citizens knew that much was amiss. The British government prepared a daily report on public morale. In May 1940, “fatalism (was) on the rise...and women, in particular, have stopped listening to the wireless.”

The entire British army was pinned down on a beach in northern France, at Dunkirk. France had just surrendered. England’s coastline was essentially defenceless. Gun turrets along the coast were under construction – hoping to fool German aircraft pilots by using telephone poles instead of guns.

The US government refused to engage.

Churchill was told there was no hope.

Then he thought of something. How many civilian vessels are there in Dover? Just across the English Channel were 861 civilian boats – fishing boats, ferries, vessels of all kinds.

And this is why the Dunkirk story matters – it was not possible, but it happened. Those 861 boats rescued over 300,000 men. Sadly, 243 of these boats were sunk by German fire, but still the entire British army and tens of thousands of French soldiers were rescued. An evacuation against all odds inspired a nation on the verge of surrender to oppose Hitler – and win.

Such leadership has a phenomenal impact on morale. C.S. Lewis, theologian and author of the *Narnia Chronicles*, wrote in his diary, “I find that everyone I meet feels so much more encouraged now that things are so much worse.”

Facing facts and organizing ourselves to confront a challenge is how we will build a robust and resilient society in the face of a changing climate – in Canada and around the world.

In the spirit of Dunkirk, we can ask ourselves, “What can I do with my little boat? Where and how do I pitch in?”

**As in all efforts to tackle big threats and long odds, we need all hands on deck!**

One of the most important things you can do is vote for the kind of unwavering leadership that the climate emergency requires. Now is the time to elect a parliament that is not going to back down, compromise or waffle. We are offering you the slate of candidates and the platform that will get us where we need to go.

By electing a strong caucus of Green members of parliament, you will give Canada the best possible chance to rise to the challenge. And I firmly believe that once we have shaken off the dead hand of the fossil fuel lobby, we can play an effective role in pushing global action.

This is not a one-issue platform. It sets out a deep commitment and action plan to genuine truth, justice and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. The platform speaks to our immediate anxieties about affordability – in housing, prescription drugs and education. It outlines how Canada can function better as a federation through greater cooperation. But underscoring it all is a call to be inspired, to answer the call of species without voices, of children without votes.

With your help, we can be the heroes in our own story.



**Elizabeth May**

Leader

Green Party of Canada

*“The era of procrastination, of half-measures, of soothing, and baffling expedients of delays is coming to a close. In its place, we are coming to a period of consequences.”*

– Winston Churchill



Green leader Elizabeth May and second-elected Green MP Paul Manly (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)



# Introduction

## Honest. Ethical. Caring Leadership.

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### These are unprecedented times.

If the world is to avoid climate breakdown, scientists are warning we must move to a renewable energy economy - starting now and achieved by 2050. At the same time, as Canadians, we have a growing sense of insecurity about the future for ourselves and our children. Yet those in power seem disconnected from scientists' warnings, unaware of our worries, and uninterested in our dreams.

The decisions to be made by the next government of Canada will shape our future as a nation. Will we hunker down to defend the status quo, leaving Canada behind as the world moves on? Or will we embrace the dual challenge of responding to the climate emergency and strengthening the social contract with all citizens?

The Green Party of Canada chooses the challenge.

### To succeed, we need honest, ethical, compassionate leadership.

- Leaders who are honest about what we are facing and the changes we need to make.
- Leaders who are grounded in principles, not self-interest, and committed to the public good, not driven by power or greed.
- Leaders who care about everyone's ability to live a fulfilling life, including future generations.
- Leaders who are prepared to make the decisions needed to transition to a sustainable, caring society.

The Green Party is offering Canadians this leadership. Elizabeth May has proven over and over that she has these qualities. Green candidates from sea to sea are equally committed to ethical leadership and Green Party values:

- Ecological Wisdom
- Sustainability
- Social Justice
- Respect for Diversity
- Non-Violence
- Participatory Democracy

We are at a turning point. Politics-as-usual is leading us down a path we simply cannot survive. The Green Party is proposing a course change. And we are ready to take the lead.

**This is our platform. It is not a conventional set of political promises. It represents a vision for Canada in 2030, which has been sorely missing in public discourse. Our platform commitments represent the types of policy changes needed to make this vision a reality.**

### Why 2030?

The world's climate scientists say that by 2030 we must be halfway towards the goal of virtually eliminating climate-changing pollution – primarily carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide – by 2050. If we miss the 2030 target, we risk triggering runaway global warming.

2030 is also the deadline for the reaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These are a set of 17 goals designed to lift people out of poverty, provide everyone with clean water and air, food security and education, and ensure a livable climate<sup>1</sup>. Canada is committed to these goals, but has no plan to get there. The Green Party endorses these goals and has a plan. Throughout the platform, you will see icons beside those policies that align with the 17 SDGs.

The climate emergency must be the lens through which every policy envelope is viewed – the economy,

health, education, foreign affairs, immigration, public safety, defence, social welfare, transportation.

### Let's get started

Imagine you have a brand-new jigsaw puzzle. All the pieces are on the table in front of you. They are right-side up, brightly coloured, but the top of the box – the completed picture – is missing.

Putting the pieces together will be nearly impossible because you don't know what picture you are trying to assemble. Our vision for Canada's future paints that picture.

## The Green Vision: Canada in 2030

Thanks to visionary leadership and courageous policy decisions, Canada ends this decade having made significant restitution for centuries of gross injustices against the Indigenous Peoples of this territory. Most First Nations are now self-governing and treaty negotiations have concluded. For First Nations, Métis and Inuit, the reconciliation process is ongoing – the devastation of colonialism cannot be undone in a decade – but principles of reconciliation and restoration of rights have been entrenched at all levels of decision-making.

With First Nations, Métis and Inuit fully engaged, Canada has managed an economic and social transition that puts the country on track to meet our obligations in the global effort to limit climate change, while leaving nobody behind.

Homes and businesses are powered by 100 per cent renewable energy thanks to a national electrical grid that enables abundant hydro, wind and solar resources to be shared right across the country.

It only costs pocket change to heat houses and buildings because they have been retrofitted to high standards of energy efficiency. Building codes require all new construction to meet net-zero energy standards: buildings produce their own energy.

All new vehicles on the market are electric, as are public transit buses and trains. It is easy and safe to bike and walk around our cities, thanks to programs that fund municipal active transportation networks.

Beyond cities, efficient bus and rail service has been restored. Rural and remote communities no longer feel abandoned by government. New regional

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1 The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 are: (1) No Poverty; (2) Zero Hunger; (3) Good Health and Well-Being; (4) Quality Education; (5) Gender Equality; (6) Clean Water and Sanitation; (7) Affordable and Clean Energy; (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth; (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; (10) Reduced Inequalities; (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities; (12) Responsible Consumption and Production; (13) Climate Action; (14) Life Below Water; (15) Life on Land; (16) Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; (17) Partnerships for the Goals. Visit <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300> to learn more.

rail networks provide an attractive alternative to travelling by car. High speed rail service linking regions provides a convenient alternative to air travel.

Much of the food we eat is sourced locally and produced organically, thanks to import replacement policies that enabled young people to take up farming. Urban agriculture is thriving, including community and school gardens, and urban farms.

As with farming, the shift to renewable energy and public transportation created meaningful work in a wide variety of fields such as manufacturing, construction and renovations, renewable energy development, and the information technology sectors. These new opportunities more than compensated for jobs lost in the fossil fuel sector.

Due to past governments' failure to prevent global warming in the 1990s, the consequences of climate change have increased. But major investments in infrastructure and restored natural areas are protecting families, communities and transportation links from flooding, fires, sea level rise and extreme storms.

A new social contract has been forged between Canadians and their government.

Prescription medicines and dental care have been added to the universal public health care system that has defined this social contract for over 50 years. Now people do not have to choose between medicine and food, and healthy teeth and gums are no longer a privilege afforded only to those who can pay.

Post-secondary tuition is now free and student debt relief has allowed young people to launch their adult lives without a debt load as high as their parents' first mortgage.

Poverty rates have plummeted now that everyone receives a guaranteed livable income. This has

helped buffer the job losses caused by automation and allowed many people to expand their education and upgrade their job skills, while supporting family caregivers.

All in all, Canadians enjoy a high quality of life and communities are becoming more resilient and self-reliant. These are the measures of progress that the government tracks in its "wellbeing budgets," not GDP growth.

The challenges in the coming decades remain daunting, but Canada is well-placed to face them, and to contribute positively to the world community's efforts to manage global change.

### **How do we get there from here?**

What follows is a policy framework designed to meet the linked challenges of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, climate stability, economic and social justice, and real democracy.

*It is not a wish list.* It is grounded in science and expert analysis. Throughout the platform, we have used endnotes to direct you to studies and further information that support our planks.

*It is not a prescription.* We need to be flexible to adapt to rapid changes in technology, support grassroots initiatives as they arise, and respond to evolving scientific knowledge.

Our window of opportunity is small – 2030 will be upon us before we know it. We have to start the course change now, with this election.

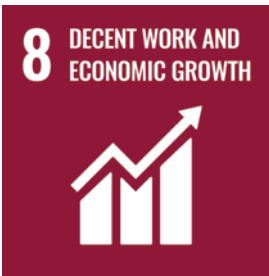
On October 21, you can put your little boat in the water. Choose the Green candidate on your ballot and start the journey towards the Canada we want in 2030.



# UN Sustainable Development Goals

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The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the UN Member States including Canada, is a “shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.” Every SDG is reflected in the Green Party platform. These symbols appear next to policies which will advance the goals.





# Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples



Canada has a profound legal obligation to reconcile and provide restitution for the colonial relations – marked by violent expropriation, displacement, and forced assimilation – that have undermined the cultural, governance and economic foundations of the Indigenous Peoples of this land. The Green Party of Canada recognizes the ongoing leadership, resistance and resilience of Indigenous Peoples in the face of systemic oppression and inter-generational trauma. A Green government will support all Indigenous Peoples’ efforts to emerge from the positions of disadvantage in which Canada has placed them, including support for cultural revitalization and healing. We believe that Canada cannot reach its full potential as a nation until the socio-economic gap between Indigenous Peoples and the rest of Canada is closed.

The Green Party wholeheartedly repudiates the doctrine of *terra nullius*, the doctrine of discovery and other doctrines of superiority, and recognizes the inherent sovereignty and title of Indigenous Peoples. The Green Party fully embraces all 46 articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). A Green government will remove all obstacles within the judicial, legislative and executive branches of government to wholly implement UNDRIP.

The Green Party recognizes the call by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) for Indigenous self-determination. The Green Party acknowledges that Indigenous Peoples have stewarded lands and waters in their traditional

territories for centuries. A Green government will respect Indigenous sovereignty over self-defined and self-governed lands – whether First Nations, Métis or Inuit – and respect all rights that their title to land entails, including the right to stewardship. We respect Inuit sovereignty over Inuit Nunangat. We support the full implementation of treaties and other self-government agreements between Canada and Indigenous governments. A Green government will uphold and fulfill Canada’s responsibilities in all agreements with Indigenous Peoples.

A Green government will re-introduce legislation to enshrine UNDRIP in Canadian law and implement the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The Green Party rejects the Indian Act as racist and oppressive legislation and is committed to dismantling the Act in full partnership and with First Nations taking the lead role in the process. The Indian Act uses race-based criteria to define who is and who is not an Indian and infringes on the right of First Nations people to define themselves. Greens will support Indigenous Peoples’ work and efforts towards self-determination to ensure no one is left behind or excluded from their rightful heritage. While dismantling the Indian Act will be a complex exercise in which Indigenous Peoples have the deciding role, we will establish processes for self-governing Indigenous Peoples and nations who choose to “opt out” of the Indian Act.

A Green government will welcome a genuine nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples in Canada that is truly grounded in the UNDRIP doctrine of free, prior and informed consent.

As described in the Democracy section, a Green government will create an inclusive policy and governance body – the Council of Canadian Governments. This will include Indigenous nations and peoples as equal partners with other levels of government in the development of shared national goals, and will be the vehicle for the revamped First Ministers’ meetings.

Greens endorse the comprehensive agenda prepared by the Assembly of First Nations for the 2019 election, covering a range of policy areas that address the inequities and mistreatment

experienced by First Nations across Canada<sup>2</sup>. These include measures relating to reconciliation, health, education, housing, climate change, environmental protection, justice, rights, economic development, infrastructure and skills training.

A Green government will pledge to work in good faith as partners with the AFN to achieve their agenda, only negotiating the priority allocation of funds in line with the Green Party’s commitment to fiscal responsibility. We will work with the Métis National Council and Congress of Aboriginal Peoples to meet the Supreme Court decision in *Daniels* with meaningful funding and action. We will respect and work with the Inuit through the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and respect their territory, covering one third of the land mass of Canada.

## Treaties and Land Claims

- Uphold Canada’s fiduciary responsibility, fulfil Canada’s responsibilities in agreements, honour treaties, and respect all rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their inherent rights of self-government.
- In partnership with Indigenous Peoples, work towards the creation of an Indigenous Lands and Treaties Tribunal Act to establish an independent body that will decide on specific claims, ensuring that treaty negotiations are conducted and financed fairly and that treaty negotiations and claims resolutions do not result in the extinguishment of aboriginal and treaty rights.
- Immediately implement the lands claims agreements already negotiated and languishing for lack of funding, particularly for First Nations in the territories.
- Ensure that negotiations of treaties and self-government are not based on the extinguishment of Indigenous title and rights, and on assimilation, but on reconciliation of rights and title, and that negotiations recognize the diversity of traditional self-governance.
- Negotiate with Indigenous Peoples over primary hunting, fishing, trapping and logging rights on traditional lands, especially lands under federal jurisdiction, subject to standards of sustainable harvesting and traditional ecological knowledge.

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2 Assembly of First Nations. *Honouring Promises* (September 9, 2019). Draft. See also the list of policy resolutions passed at the Assembly of First Nations’ annual general meeting in Fredericton, July 23-25, 2019: <https://www.afn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019-AGA-Resolutions.pdf>.





## ■ Respecting Indigenous Sovereignty and Self-Determination

- Formally repudiate the doctrine of *terra nullius*, the doctrine of discovery, and other doctrines of superiority.
- With Indigenous leaders at the helm, establish processes for self-governing Indigenous Peoples and nations to transition out from under the Indian Act, grounding this in the doctrine of free, prior, and informed consent.
- Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and reform all judicial, legislative, and executive branches of the federal government so that they are consistent with the Declaration.
- Implement the recommendations of the 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.
- Affirm the inherent right of Indigenous communities to determine child and family services. Support kinship ties and ensure sufficient funding and resources so that families are kept together.
- Include representatives from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit governments on the Council of Canadian Governments to improve policy coherence and optimize public spending with respect to higher order policy priorities (See Good Governance: Intergovernmental Collaboration).

## Cultural Revitalization and Healing

- Implement the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as well as the recommendations from the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Work in partnership with the Assembly of First Nations to implement their agenda for the 2019 election.
- Ensure that every First Nations, Métis and Inuit child has access to quality educational opportunities based on the expressed cultural, political and social priorities of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit governments, following meaningful consultation.
- Support the development of Indigenous education curricula that are language and culture specific.
- Increase access to post-secondary education for Indigenous youth by removing the two per cent funding cap, as well as fully funding the program backlog.
- Support and sustain the transmission, proliferation, and regeneration of Indigenous cultural works and languages.
- Educate non-Indigenous Canadians on the histories, customs, traditions and cultures of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples of Turtle Island.
- Honour the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling to compensate every child who was taken from their home on reserve.

## Health and Wellness



- End drinking water and boil water advisories by investing and upgrading critical infrastructure to ensure safe water access in every community.
- Prioritize high quality safe and affordable housing, particularly in the north, and ensure an equitable distribution of resources for energy efficiency retrofits.
- Improve food security in northern communities by consulting with residents on Arctic farming, working with non-profit groups to build greenhouses or hydroponic towers and funding education programs in nutrition and horticulture.
- Support health-care services that incorporate traditional practices and recognize the role of extended families and elders.
- Together with First Ministers and Indigenous leaders, revisit the *Blueprint on Aboriginal Health: A 10-Year Transformative Plan* abandoned in 2006.
- Devote sufficient resources for maternal and infant care, mental health services and treatment for diabetes and tuberculosis.
- Sustain the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative to continue capacity building in the health care profession for Indigenous communities.





# Addressing the Climate Emergency

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*“Our house is on fire. I am here to say, our house is on fire. [...] I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is... We cannot solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis. [...] And if solutions within the system are so impossible to find, then maybe we should change the system itself...”*

- Youth climate activist Greta Thunberg, speech to the World Economic Forum, January 2019.

On June 17, 2019, the Canadian parliament followed the example of several other countries, states, provinces and dozens of Canadian municipalities and passed a resolution declaring we are in a climate emergency. The next day, the Liberal government, supported by the Conservative opposition, announced its approval, with public funding of at least \$10-13 billion, of the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline, a project that will enable the expansion of bitumen mining in northern Alberta and, in turn, growth in Canada’s climate-changing pollution. This is not treating the climate crisis as an emergency.

Time has run out on this kind of political doublespeak. We must take on our responsibilities as grown-ups, or accept Greta’s condemnation:

*“If we fail...all our achievements and progress have been for nothing, and all that will remain of our political leaders’ legacy will be the greatest failure of human history. And they will be remembered as the greatest villains of all time, because they have chosen not to listen and not to act.”*

- Greta Thunberg, speech to the European Economic and Society Committee, February 2019.

The Green Party has been telling the truth about global warming and climate change for decades. Alone among political parties, the Green Party has a climate emergency response plan that recognizes our house is on fire. We call it *Mission: Possible*.

## Mission: Possible - The Challenge

Climate scientists tell us that if the world does not hold global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees C global average temperature increase above the 1850 baseline we risk triggering runaway heating and a climate catastrophe. Already, the Earth has warmed by 1 degree C on average. Canada has warmed by 2 degrees C and the Arctic by 3-4 degrees C. Even this level of warming is producing unprecedented heat waves, polar ice melting, flooding and extreme storms.

To hold to this critical limit, global emissions of climate-changing pollutants – carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide – must be cut by about half by 2030, and we must get to net-zero emissions by 2050.

Carbon dioxide is by far the largest contributor to climate pollution. In Canada, most of our carbon dioxide emissions (54 per cent) come from producing and burning coal, oil and natural gas. Transportation adds another 28 per cent. Industrial agriculture contributes methane from livestock and nitrous oxide from fertilizer, totaling eight per cent of climate pollution followed by non-energy heavy industries (7.5 per cent) and methane from solid waste landfills (2.5 per cent).<sup>3</sup>

The current federal target is a 30 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels by 2030. This was set by Conservative Prime Minister Harper in 2015 and adopted by Liberal Prime Minister Trudeau in 2016<sup>4</sup>. Not only is this too low, the Liberal and Conservative climate action plans will not even achieve that insufficient reduction, let alone the target that climate scientists say we must meet.

A Green government will pass into law a Climate Change Act requiring a 60 per cent cut in climate-changing emissions below 2005 levels by 2030, reaching net zero in 2050. <sup>5</sup>Interim targets would be set at five-year intervals beginning with 2025.

To achieve this, the government of Canada must utilize every tool in the federal toolkit, including regulations, public spending, and pollution pricing<sup>6</sup>. Indigenous leadership is critical to the climate goals of *Mission: Possible*.

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3 Government of Canada, <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-emissions/sources-sinks-executive-summary-2019.html>.

4 Baseline year is 2005.

5 This steeper cut is for Canada to do our fair share and to encompass all greenhouse gases. Baseline year?

6 Part 4 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act empowers the Minister of Environment to bring in regulated limits of emissions of GHG from any facility in Canada.

## MISSION POSSIBLE - THE GREEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



- Establish a cross-party inner cabinet to deal with climate change to limit the destructive impact of partisan politics which has thwarted strong climate action for two decades. Its mandate would be to ensure that Canada does its part to limit global warming to a level civilization can survive, and mitigate the impacts of climate change on Canadians.
- Set legal emissions limits for industries that decline over time, with penalties for exceeding those limits.
- Maintain a broad-based, revenue neutral carbon fee on all sources of carbon dioxide pollution. Revenues from the carbon fee would be returned to Canadians as a dividend.

## ENERGY

- Since producing and burning fossil fuels is the largest source of emissions, we need to keep fossil fuels in the ground, and retool society to run on non-polluting, renewable energy sources. This is entirely possible, according to studies by the Stanford University researchers and the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project.<sup>7</sup>
- No new pipelines, or coal, oil or gas drilling or mining, including offshore wells, will be approved. Existing oil and gas operations will continue on a declining basis, with bitumen production phased out between 2030 and 2035. Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) operations will be banned outright due to impacts on groundwater quality, methane release and seismic activity.
- Cancel the Trans Mountain pipeline (and its \$10-13 billion cost) as well as other subsidies to fossil fuel industries, totaling an additional several billion dollars a year. This money will be redirected to the Canadian Grid Strategy and renewable energy transition.
- Implement a major ramp-up of renewable electricity. By 2030, 100 per cent of Canada's electricity will come from renewable sources. This includes getting remote and northern communities off diesel generators.
- To enable renewable electricity to flow across provincial and territorial boundaries, implement a

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<sup>7</sup> See [https://spectrum.ieee.org/energywise/energy/renewables/100-percent-renewable-energy-for-139-countries-by-2050?utm\\_source=Stanford+Energy+News&utm\\_campaign=3ea6499ddc-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_201](https://spectrum.ieee.org/energywise/energy/renewables/100-percent-renewable-energy-for-139-countries-by-2050?utm_source=Stanford+Energy+News&utm_campaign=3ea6499ddc-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_201)  
Bataille, C. et al. (2015). Pathways to deep decarbonization in Canada, SDSN - IDDRI.



Elizabeth May being arrested while protesting the dangerous Trans Mountain pipeline, 2018





STOP  
KINDER  
MORGAN

B. LE BLANC  
RCMP  
POLICE

national electrical grid strategy, including building connections between eastern Manitoba and western Ontario, and upgrading connections between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. This will be paid for with money now allocated for expanding the Trans Mountain pipeline (\$1.6 billion announced in December 2018, towards an estimated \$10-13 billion), and create thousands of jobs nation-wide.

- Work with provincial governments to determine which orphaned oil and gas wells are geologically suited to produce geothermal energy. This will turn provincial liabilities into potential income-generating renewable energy, ideally in partnership with First Nations. Those with weaker geothermal energy potential may be used in district energy, including for greenhouses.

## BUILDINGS

- Launch a massive energy efficiency retrofit of residential, commercial and institutional buildings. To make a renewable energy transition possible, we have to eliminate energy waste. According to trade union research, this will create over four million jobs.
- Finance building retrofits and installation of renewable energy technologies such as solar and heat pumps through direct grants, zero-interest loans and repayments based on energy/cost savings.
- Change the national building code to require new construction to meet net-zero emission standards by 2030 and work with the provinces to enact it.<sup>8</sup>

## TRANSPORTATION

The transportation sector produces over a quarter of Canada's climate pollution and this is growing. A Green government will develop a national transportation strategy with a goal of reaching zero-carbon public ground transportation everywhere in Canada by 2040. Rail will be the hub, with spokes of light rail and electric bus connections. This includes service to rural and remote communities, since everyone in Canada must have access to reliable transportation options at affordable rates. Besides reducing pollution, this measure responds to the findings of the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

To get there, Canada needs regulations to shift from gasoline-powered transportation.

- Ban the sale of internal combustion engine passenger vehicles by 2030.
- Exempt new and used electric and zero-emission vehicles from federal sales tax.
- Expand charging stations for electric vehicles, including all parking lots associated with federal facilities.

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8 Building codes are regulated provincially, based on a national code. Achieving this would require provincial cooperation. A net-zero building produces as much energy as it uses.

- Maximize emissions reductions in all transportation through the use of sustainably produced biofuels, made from waste wood by-products and used vegetable oils, where electric and fuel cells not viable, as is the case for fishing, mining and forestry equipment.
- Enact the Via Rail Act to implement a passenger rail transportation policy. Invest \$500 million in 2020-21, rising to \$720 million by 2023 to develop regional rail networks and strengthen rail connections between regions. This will include building several sections of 10 km of track to avoid bottlenecks where heavy freight pushes passenger rail to the siding.
- Build high-speed rail in the Toronto-Ottawa-Quebec City triangle and the Calgary-Edmonton corridor.
- Require all passenger ferries to convert to electric or hybrid systems by 2030.
- Create a national cycling and walking infrastructure fund to help support zero emissions active transportation.
- Develop a Green Freight Transport program to address greenhouse gas emissions and pollution in partnership with the freight industry, shipping companies and delivery businesses. Fund the re-routing of tracks for freight and rail yards away from populated areas and strengthen Canada's rail safety rules, giving regulators the tools they need to protect neighbourhoods from train shipments of hazardous materials.
- Lead an international effort to bring international shipping and aviation into the Paris framework. Introduce an international tax for aviation and shipping fuels earmarked for the Global Climate Fund.



## AGRICULTURE

In August 2019, climate scientists released a report warning that agriculture must be transformed in order to meet climate change goals. Canada has a huge opportunity to become a world leader in reversing climate change through regenerative agriculture practices. The soil will be the unsung hero, a game-changer in fighting climate change.

- Implement national standards for reducing the use of nitrogen fertilizers in crop agriculture, reducing erosion and rebuilding soils to retain carbon, and transitioning away from industrial livestock production (see Food and Food Security).
- Support the transition of industrial agriculture systems to regenerative agriculture. (See Food and Food Security).

## ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE: INVESTING IN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Even the one-degree warming already reached is producing unusually severe flooding, fires, drought and extreme weather events. It is essential that public infrastructure and natural landscapes can withstand and protect Canadians from natural and climate change induced disasters.

- Direct the Canada Infrastructure Bank, revamped to exclude private profit in infrastructure, to invest in climate-proofing essential infrastructure, prioritizing upgrades to drinking water and waste water systems to protect against flooding, droughts and contamination.
- Using the existing Green Infrastructure Fund, launch a national program to restore natural buffer zones along waterways, and carbon sinks through ecologically sound tree-planting and soil re-building.
- Invoke federal powers for peace, order and good government to develop non-commercial aspects of forest management, such as massive tree planting, creating fire breaks and fire suppression, for climate change adaptation.<sup>9</sup>
- Renew the abandoned process of a National Forest Strategy, with the focus on restoring ecologically sound and climate resilient forests, and restoring forests as carbon sinks, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples. Orient federal forest science towards this goal.
- Increase forest fire preparedness, including buying water bombers and ensuring they can be deployed rapidly in high-risk zones.

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<sup>9</sup> Forest management in areas of commercial forest is provincial jurisdiction, but the climate emergency requires that the federal government engage.

WE CHANGE  
PERSON TAX  
CLIMATE WARNING

WE DON'T  
HAVE A  
PLANET B  
#CLIMATESTRIKE





# Transitioning to a Green Economy

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Many people, including those in other political parties, are now talking about the need to transition to a green economy. Like many other policy innovations, the idea originates with the Green Party. Economy and ecology have the same Greek root: *Eco* means home or household. Economics refers to household management – the responsible care and sustenance of its members. Ecology is the study of our collective home, the Earth. Greens understand that managing the human household depends on careful stewardship of the Earth household.

Green parties were started four decades ago by concerned citizens who recognized that the economies of wealthy countries are unsustainable. They depend on ever-expanding extraction of natural resources, non-renewable and polluting energy sources, and unlimited consumerism. On a finite planet, this strategy, which worked well for much of the 20th century, leads eventually to a dead end.

Now we have entered the “period of consequences.” The climate emergency, mass extinctions, the plastic waste crisis, the growing gap between rich and poor, an unravelling social safety net, widespread anxiety and depression – these are the by-products of a growth economy that is out of sync with nature and people.

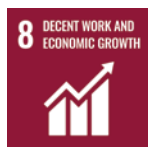
From their beginnings, Green parties have proposed an alternative – a “green economy” that respects nature’s limits, provides everyone with a dignified, high quality of life, embraces diversity, and responsibly stewards public finances. Economic policy flows out of social and environmental policy. In other words, Greens are committed to providing a good living for all within our financial and ecological means.

## HERE ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF A GREEN ECONOMY:

- Measures well-being, rather than gross domestic product, as a sign of progress.
- Embeds “conservative society” values rather than consumer society values.
- Powered by renewable energy.
- Designed around closed-loop production systems.
- Organized for zero waste generation.
- Organized for local food security.
- Guarantees everyone a livable income.
- Provides affordable housing for everyone.
- Provides universal comprehensive health care and education.
- Protects minorities from discrimination.
- Ensures gender equality.
- Builds community resilience and self-reliance.
- Ensures fair taxation and fiscal stewardship.

With these as guideposts, a Green government would have the following priorities:

## The World of Work



The world of work is changing rapidly. Union membership, and therefore protection of workers, is at an all-time low. In the growing gig economy, more and more Canadians are engaged in precarious work without benefits or security. The growth of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies will accelerate workplace automation and eliminate many jobs. And the climate crisis necessitates a rapid transition away from the fossil-fuel dependent economic sectors towards a renewable energy economy (see *Mission: Possible*). We are overdue to modernize our Employment Insurance program to better meet the needs of today, including through portability of benefits.

While such structural adjustments are disruptive and stressful for workers and their families, new opportunities abound in the green economy. In 2017, 268,000 people were already employed in the clean energy sector in Canada.<sup>10</sup> This does not include the 436,000 jobs in the energy efficiency sector and we have not yet begun a serious national retrofit of buildings and industries or a serious transition away

from fossil fuels.<sup>11</sup> Projections put future jobs in energy efficiency retrofits alone at four million. In comparison, 62,000 people worked in the oil and gas sector nationally in 2018.<sup>12</sup>

This shift is already happening in the Millennial generation. In the UK, the number of university graduates going into oil and gas exploration has fallen by 61 per cent since 2014.<sup>13</sup>

Responsible leadership looks to where the puck is headed, not where it is now. In the face of such change, the Green Party has three priorities:

1. Protecting workers whose incomes and work lives are being and will be disrupted, by AI and the transition away from fossil fuels.
2. Enabling the creation of new jobs in the green economy.
3. Facilitating the transition of workers from shrinking sectors into those jobs.

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10 These numbers come from the following report: <https://cleanenergycanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-03-13-Clean-Energy-Economy-FINAL-REPORT.pdf>. The report actually says the total number of clean energy jobs is 298K, broken down as 60K in supply, 47K in electricity grid and storage infrastructure, 20K in buildings (design, technology), and 171K in transportation, mostly public transit. However, the report includes nuclear power, which is not a clean source of electricity, given its emissions of ionizing radiation to air and water and production of highly dangerous radioactive waste. Estimates for jobs in the nuclear energy sector range from 20K to 40K, for an average of 30K. Our numbers, then, subtract 30K from the clean energy supply sector jobs to arrive at our number of 268K in 2017.

11 [https://ohe.energycanada.org/?utm\\_source=energymix&utm\\_medium=website&utm\\_campaign=ohe](https://ohe.energycanada.org/?utm_source=energymix&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=ohe)

12 <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy-and-economy/20062#L6>.

13 <https://theenergymix.com/2019/08/16/fossils-face-crisis-attracting-millennial-work-force/>



## A JUST AND FAIR TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY

- Inevitably, jobs in fossil fuel sectors will disappear. The Green Party is committed to a “just transition” of workers from these sectors into new ones. This will include measures such as income protection, jobs guarantees, retraining and resettlement. The detailed programs would be developed in partnership with workers and their unions.
- A Green government will create a just transition framework for oil, gas and coal sector workers that reflects the unique conditions of each province. This would be modelled on the recommendations of the Task Force on Just Transition for Canadian Coal Power Workers and Communities, which we would implement in full. They are (adapted to all three sectors):
- Embed just transition principles in planning, legislative, regulatory and advisory processes to ensure ongoing and concrete actions throughout the fossil-fuel phase-out transition, including:
  - Meeting directly with affected communities to learn about their local priorities, and to connect them with federal programs that could support their goals.
  - Establishing a dedicated, comprehensive, inclusive and flexible just transition funding program for affected communities.
  - Developing and implementing a just transition plan for workers in fossil fuel sectors, championed by a lead minister who oversees and reports on progress.
  - Integrating provisions for just transition in federal environmental and labour legislation and regulations, as well as relevant inter-governmental agreements.
  - Establishing a targeted, long-term research fund for studying the impact of the sector phase-out and the transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Ensure locally available supports, including funding the establishment and operation of locally-driven transition centres in affected communities.
- Identify and fund local infrastructure projects in affected communities.
- Provide a pathway to retirement by creating a pension bridging program for workers who will retire earlier than planned due to the phase out.
- Transition workers to sustainable employment by:
  - Creating a detailed and publicly available inventory with labour market information pertaining to oil, coal and gas workers, such as skills profiles, demographics, locations, and current and potential employers.

- Creating a comprehensive funding program for workers staying in the labour market to address their needs across the stages of securing a new job, including income support, education and skills building, re-employment, and mobility.
- Investing in comprehensive retraining and apprenticeship programs for industrial trades workers for jobs in the transition to a zero-carbon economy, especially the renewable and energy efficiency sectors.

## **CREATING NEW JOBS IN THE GREEN ECONOMY**

The fossil fuel industry has benefited from tens of billions of dollars in public subsidies over the past 50 years. A Green government will phase out those subsidies and invest the money in green economic sectors.

- Establish a Canadian Sustainable Generations Fund to make critical investments in trades, apprenticeships and education required for the transition to a green economy. These investments in skills training will complement targeted national infrastructure investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy production, digital upgrades, clean-tech manufacturing and emerging technologies, tourism, the creative economy, and the care economy.
- Establish a National Community Benefit Strategy that leverages public procurement to maximize opportunities for social hiring and procurement, including Indigenous procurement, youth employment and demand-driven skills development programs.
- Enhance the federal Youth Employment and Skills Strategy by creating a Community and Environment Service Corps. This will provide \$1 billion annually to municipalities to hire Canadian youth.



## RESPONDING TO AUTOMATION DISRUPTION

Labour market analysts are projecting a massive disruption due to automation. Technological change will always outpace society's ability to adapt, leaving workers vulnerable to losing their jobs and unable to adjust to the new reality. A Green government will prepare for such change.

- Work with provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples to establish a Guaranteed Livable Income to provide basic income security for all, including displaced workers. (See Ending Poverty).
- Study the impacts of adopting a shorter work week, which would distribute paid work among more people.
- Eliminate post-secondary education tuition to help workers train for new employment.

## ENSURING JUSTICE IN THE WORKPLACE

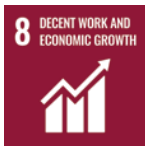
The struggle for fair treatment and good working conditions requires constant vigilance.

- Respect the unionized employees of the federal public service and the bargaining process by rejecting back-to-work legislation as a bargaining tool.
- Ban unpaid internships in private sector workplaces. The exception is work-study or experiential learning placements associated with for-credit courses at post-secondary institutions.
- Fully implement federal pay equity rules.
- Establish a federal Ombudsman to provide impartial and non-departmental help to harassed and demoralized employees. Within the federal civil service, workers are still bullied by supervisors and redress is illusory.





## Fair Taxation



In a Green economy, everyone contributes their fair share to the collective wellbeing. Today, the growing gap between rich and poor indicates that something is wrong. The burden of taxation is not fairly distributed. A Green government will undertake root-and-branch tax reform:

- Establish an arm's length Federal Tax Commission to analyze the tax system for fairness and accessibility, based on the principle of progressive taxation. The last Tax Commission was in the 1960s, so reform is long overdue. This will include recommending an appropriate way to tax cryptocurrencies.
- Close tax loopholes that benefit the wealthy. The *stock option loophole* is one of the most expensive and unfair tax loopholes. Executives with stock options as part of their remuneration package only pay half the rate of income tax on this portion of their income. The *capital gains loophole* allows people and corporations to only add half of their capital gains to their taxable income, while those with only employment income pay taxes on their entire income. Over 90 per cent of the value of this tax break goes to the richest 10 per cent, and about 85 per cent goes to the top one per cent.
- End offshore tax dodging by taxing funds hidden in offshore havens and requiring companies to prove that their foreign affiliates are actual functioning businesses for tax purposes. Provide adequate funding to

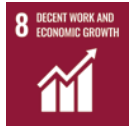
the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to collect tax revenue hiding in offshore tax havens. Several Auditors General have recommended that the CRA should focus on people who hide vast wealth, rather than conduct random audits of ordinary Canadians.

- Apply a corporate tax on transnational e-commerce companies doing business in Canada by requiring the foreign vendor to register, collect and remit taxes where the product or service is consumed. The e-commerce sector – giants like Netflix, Facebook, Amazon, Google, and Uber command a significant share of the Canadian market but pay virtually no tax.
- Impose a financial transactions tax of 0.5 per cent in the finance sector as France has done since 2012.
- Eliminate all fossil fuel subsidies, including payments and tax write-offs, valued at several billion dollars annually. These include the accelerated capital cost allowance on liquefied natural gas (LNG) and tax write-offs for oil and gas wells, coal mining exploration and development, flow-through share deductions for coal, oil and gas projects, and oil and gas properties. Despite a promise 10 years ago to eliminate subsidies to fossil fuel companies, these subsidies have actually expanded for fracking and LNG development.
- Increase the federal corporate tax rate from 15 to 21 per cent to bring it into line with the federal rate in the United States, our biggest trading partner. Mark Carney, former Governor of the Bank of Canada, said corporations are holding “hundreds of billions of dollars in their bank accounts,” rather than reinvesting in the economy. This dead money needs to be mobilized for the transition to a green, renewable economy.
- Maintain the current level of taxation for small business.
- Charge a five per cent surtax on commercial bank profits. Commercial banks accumulate huge profits – \$43.15 billion for the five largest banks in 2018 alone.<sup>14</sup> Credit unions, *caisses populaires* and co-ops will be exempt.
- Prohibit Canadian businesses from deducting the cost of advertising on foreign-owned sites such as Google and Facebook which now account for 80 per cent of all spending on advertising Canada.
- Eliminate the 50 per cent corporate meals and entertainment expense deduction, which includes season tickets and private boxes at sporting events.
- Increase the tax credit for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers.
- Apply a one per cent tax on net (family) wealth above \$20 million.

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14	<b>2018 bank profits:</b>	
	Royal Bank of Canada	\$12.4 billion
	Toronto Dominion Bank	\$11.3 billion
	Bank of Nova Scotia	\$8.7 billion
	Bank of Montreal	\$5.45 billion
	Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	\$5.3 billion

## Fair and Sustainable Trade



Much of the global increase in climate-changing pollution over the past few decades is linked to a massive increase in international trade. While this has created jobs in developing countries, poor working conditions and low wages reflect the global competition for foreign investment. A Green government will work to restructure global trade relations to address climate change and social justice imperatives.

- Revamp national trade policy to align with national and international climate change plans. This includes reducing the distances over which food is shipped by increasing domestic and local food production.
- Protect supply management and ensure that products which are banned in Canada are not imported in food from other countries, for example bovine growth hormone in milk products.
- Facilitate a global effort to reform the World Trade Organization. Building on General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) article XX, which was always intended to insulate legislated domestic conservation efforts from trade disciplines<sup>15</sup>, revamp the World Trade Organization to the World Trade and Climate Organization to ensure that trade is consistent with a global carbon budget. Tariffs will be assigned based on the carbon intensity of imported products.
- Renegotiate Canada's trade and investment agreements to remove the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions that give foreign corporations extraordinary powers to challenge the laws and policies of democratically elected governments, and include binding labour, health, safety and environmental standards.

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15 WTO members may adopt policy measures that are inconsistent with GATT disciplines, but necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health. See "WTO rules and environmental policies: introduction." *World Trade Organization*. Available: [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/envir\\_e/envt\\_rules\\_intro\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/envt_rules_intro_e.htm). [Accessed August 23, 2019].



## Immigration

We have fostered a multicultural democracy that welcomes diversity as an asset, not a threat. Newcomers are a source of incredible skills and potential for our country. We have been enriched as peoples and cultures from all around the world have come to Canada to build their lives here. Other than the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island, we are all immigrants or descendants of immigrants. Immigrants come in search of greater freedoms and opportunities to build fulfilling lives for themselves and their families. Refugees and asylum seekers arrive having fled unimaginable situations in their home countries, and they seek the same things we all aspire to: safety, dignity and community.

Canada must review its immigration policy, especially with the demographic imbalance escalating to the point where younger generations will be required to bear the burden of supporting our aging population. We need to attract immigrants and establish a system that is fair. Recent immigrants make almost 40 per cent less than workers born in Canada make. Fees for citizenship jumped more than 400 per cent in 2014-15. Too many people, many of them children, are held in immigration detention. An unacceptable number of them die there. Almost 500 people are in immigration detention at any given time and in 2018 an estimated 7,300 migrants, 155 of them children, were detained. At least 17 people have died in immigration detention since 2000.

A Green government will make sure that all migrants are supported in achieving their hopes and ambitions as new Canadians.

- Ensure professionals being considered for immigration have the licensing requirements for their professions clearly explained before entry.
- Work with professional associations to create a robust system for evaluating the education and training credentials of immigrants against Canadian standards, with the goal of expediting accreditation and expanding professional opportunities for immigrants.
- Lead a national discussion to define the term “environmental refugee,” advocate for its inclusion as a refugee category in Canada and accept an appropriate share of the world’s environmental refugees into Canada.



- Allocate much greater funding for training in official languages (ESL and FSL) for new immigrants through earmarked transfers to the provinces for primary and secondary public school and free night school programs.
- Work with municipalities and provinces to improve the integration of new Canadians into the multicultural fabric of our country.
- Support multicultural communities by assisting cultural organizations to obtain charitable status.
- Eliminate the Temporary Foreign Workers Program and address labour shortages by increasing immigration, working with employers to establish paths to permanent residency.
- Establish a program to process the estimated 200,000 people living in Canada without official status, providing a pathway to permanent residency for those who qualify.
- Reintroduce legislation to establish a Civilian Complaints and Review Commission for the Canada Border Services Agency.
- Terminate Canada's Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States.
- Regulate the immigration consulting industry to ensure universally fair, legal and accessible services to help people navigate the immigration system.
- Increase penalties for immigration consultants convicted of human smuggling and devote more resources to investigation and enforcement.
- Amend the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Public Safety Act to require that, after a reasonable period, formal charges be brought against all those detained.
- Investigate allegations by the United Nations Human Rights Committee of Canadian officials cooperating with foreign agencies known to use torture.
- Ensure the "lost Canadians" quietly being denied citizenship through archaic laws are protected and that their citizenship is restored. Although some significant progress has been made, some are still "lost."
- Implement the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration to grant permanent resident status immediately to those who have refused or left military service in a war not sanctioned by the United Nations.
- Improve the pathway for international students and foreign workers to Canadian permanent residency and citizenship.
- Speed up family reunification, especially reuniting children with their parents.
- Increase funding of multicultural associations providing immigrant support programs including language programs.





## Re-imagining Canada Post

Canada Post is one of the few national institutions that survived the privatization blitz of the 1980s and 1990s. As such, it retains an important physical presence and, in many communities, stands as the only remaining symbol of a national identity. While its current mandate is narrow, as a self-sustaining public corporation it can be re-imagined as a critical piece of the Green economy.

Canada Post's extensive physical infrastructure can be used to offer a range of services to communities, building self-reliance and helping to cut greenhouse gas emissions. In diversifying services, as recommended by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Canada Post can become more profitable while offering support to rural communities where private sector activities such as banking are being withdrawn. A Green government will start by strengthening Canada Post's existing mandate, and then branch out.

- Reverse the most recent cuts to home postal delivery, a move promised by the Liberals but not delivered.
- Upgrade the Canada Post fleet to electric vehicles.
- Reduce pollution and congestion due to the explosion of package delivery from on-line shopping by establishing "last mile" delivery by Canada Post using zero-emission vehicles in urban centres.
- Increase pay to rural and suburban postal workers, who are predominantly women and are underpaid compared to mostly male, urban counterparts.

Beyond postal service improvements, the Green Party supports a new vision for Canada Post that will be of particular benefit in rural and remote communities where services such as commercial banking have been shrinking. Canada Post is uniquely positioned to:

- Train mail carriers to check on people with mobility issues or who live alone, particularly during heat waves, storms and other emergencies.
- Establish banking services and public high-speed internet access in post offices, particularly in under-served rural and remote communities without banks and libraries.
- Where space is available, allow community meetings to be held in post offices.
- Provide charging stations for electric vehicles in post office parking lots.



## Food and Food Security



Over the last five decades, agriculture has shifted from family-owned mixed farms to industrial production systems – crop monocultures and intensive livestock operations supported by inputs of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, pharmaceuticals and genetically engineered seeds. Crops and livestock are produced for quantity and export, not quality and nutrition.

It is this system that present and past governments have supported. As a result, transnational corporations now control most of our food supply and agriculture has become a major cause of land degradation and pollution. Factory farms crowd chickens, turkeys, cows and pigs into inhumane and unhygienic conditions, causing extreme water and air pollution while creating the risk of food contamination and serious health threats. Estimates of the amount of food waste produced by this industrial system range from 30 to 50 per cent while the demand for food banks in wealthy countries grows and global malnutrition remains stubbornly high. Farmers increasingly rely on off-farm income to survive.

Globally, industrial agriculture contributes nearly a quarter of all climate-changing gases; in Canada, the figure is about eight per cent. Eroded and degraded soil requires heavy use of fertilizers, leading to fertilizer-fueled algal blooms, some deadly, choking lakes

and coastal zones. Chemicals to control insects and weeds are killing pollinators, contaminating food and endangering farm workers. Deforestation, land engineering and irrigation to expand agriculture are driving unprecedented species extinctions.

Shifting to mostly local, organic production systems for both crops and livestock will reduce climate-changing pollution while increasing the soil's ability to store carbon and retain productivity in the face of climate change. It will also reduce air pollution and algal blooms in waterways, protect pollinators and workers, increase food safety and create humane conditions for farm animals. And it will restructure food markets to provide farm families with a fair share of the consumer food dollar.

In June 2019, the government of Canada released a new Canada Food Guide. The Green Party supports most of these objectives and measures as far as they go although we remain concerned that it discourages consumption of Canadian milk products, a relatively inexpensive source of calcium and protein. We support the focus on increasing access to healthy food including a national school lunch program, a Buy Canada program, increasing food security for northern communities and reducing food waste.

The policy says nothing, however, about the need to move away from industrial agriculture to address the serious environmental, health and animal welfare problems this model of food production creates. A Green government will “green” the Canada Food Policy.

- Establish climate change emission targets for all components of the food system, including nitrogen fertilizer use, livestock production and transportation.
- Fund research and extend support for farmers shifting from conventional to organic and regenerative farming systems which work with nature, not against it, to produce food.
- Adopt animal welfare legislation to prevent inhumane treatment of farm animals including in intensive factory farming operations. This will set minimum standards of treatment and have a timetable for phasing out intensive factory farming and other inhumane animal husbandry practices. It will set standards for distances live animals can be transported, and conditions for animals in slaughterhouses and auctions.
- Invest \$2.5 million per year into a land and quota trust program and farming apprenticeship programs to expand local small-scale agriculture and help new farmers get started.
- Protect the right of farmers to save their own seed and promote heritage seed banks and seed exchange programs.
- Set a target to replace a third of Canada’s food imports with domestic production, increasing regional food self-reliance and returning 15 billion food dollars back into our economy.
- Support rooftop and community gardens and urban food production systems to increase access to local food.
- Assist in re-establishing the infrastructure for local food production in canneries, slaughterhouses and other value-added food processing.
- Protect supply management systems while allowing production for local markets outside this system.
- Reinstatement of the Canada Land Inventory program to provide a comprehensive record of existing and potential agricultural land.
- Provide effective fiscal incentives to other levels of government to preserve farmlands under their jurisdictions.
- Renew the national Environmental Farm Plan Program to help farmers protect wildlife habitat areas and marginal lands, maintain water quality in streams, lakes and aquifers, and retain and improve soil quality, increase carbon sequestration and decrease water requirements.
- Restore the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation measures for adaptation to drought conditions.
- Restructure Canada’s Business Risk Management Programs to help farmers cope with climate risk, with the focus on disaster assistance.
- Dedicate \$5 million per year to develop a food waste strategy.



## FOOD FROM THE SEA



Seafood is an important part of a healthy diet and integral to the culture of coastal communities, especially Indigenous communities. Yet it is increasingly difficult to procure a fish for dinner that has come from a healthy stock fished by sustainable methods. Canadians should have access to seafood from sustainably managed fisheries, caught, landed and processed in Canada.

As with agriculture, corporate-industrial fisheries have inflicted great environmental damage, threatening the viability of the industry itself and undermining inshore fisheries. Many commercial fish populations are depleted, some to near extinction, due to overfishing. Trawling gear has destroyed fish habitat, and trap and long lines create extreme entanglement hazards for whales, sea turtles, seabirds and other species. Salmon aquaculture has

undermined the viability of wild salmon populations, created pollution problems and introduced toxic chemicals into coastal waters.

Unlike agriculture, however, the fix is not straightforward. Despite the 27-year moratorium on cod fishing off Newfoundland, the commercial fishery remains closed. Now, ocean acidification, increased water temperatures and decreased oxygen levels associated with climate change are fundamentally altering marine ecosystems and threatening all fisheries, even those that are sustainably managed. Unless climate change is arrested, the ocean's ability to produce food for human populations may be permanently compromised. In the face of this threat, we must do everything possible to minimize the stresses that we can control, giving the ocean its best chance to adapt to changing conditions. (See *Rescuing the Oceans*).



We must also ensure that coastal communities historically dependent on marine harvesting for their livelihoods are actively involved in fisheries management and derive the greatest possible benefit from those fisheries. While the Atlantic inshore fishery has protections against corporate control, in British Columbia fishing licences and quotas can be owned by investors and fish processing companies. This means Canadian fish can be processed in other countries such as China. A Green government will apply fair and consistent fisheries policies to all fishers, whether in the Atlantic, Arctic or the Pacific.

- Fully implement the co-management provisions of the Oceans Act.
- Protect independent harvesters and coastal communities by entrenching owner-operator and fleet separation policies in the Fisheries Act; and implement the 20 recommendations of

the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans report, *West Coast Fisheries: Sharing Risks and Benefits*.<sup>16</sup>

- Increase funding for research on fish stocks to improve management and protect endangered species in the face of rapidly changing ecosystems.
- By 2025, move all open-net pen finfish aquaculture facilities into closed containment systems on land. As with land farmers transitioning from conventional production, provide financial and extension support to fish pen workers to make this transition.
- Remove Fisheries and Oceans Canada's mandate to promote salmon aquaculture and shift regulation of aquaculture to Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, thereby eliminating DFO's conflicting roles of aquaculture promotion and wild salmon protection.

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16 Canada. Parliament. *West Coast Fisheries: Sharing Risks and Benefits*. 42nd Parliament, 1st Session (May 2019). Available: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/FOPO/Reports/RP10387715/foporp21/foporp21-e.pdf>.

## Redirecting Federal Natural Resources Priorities



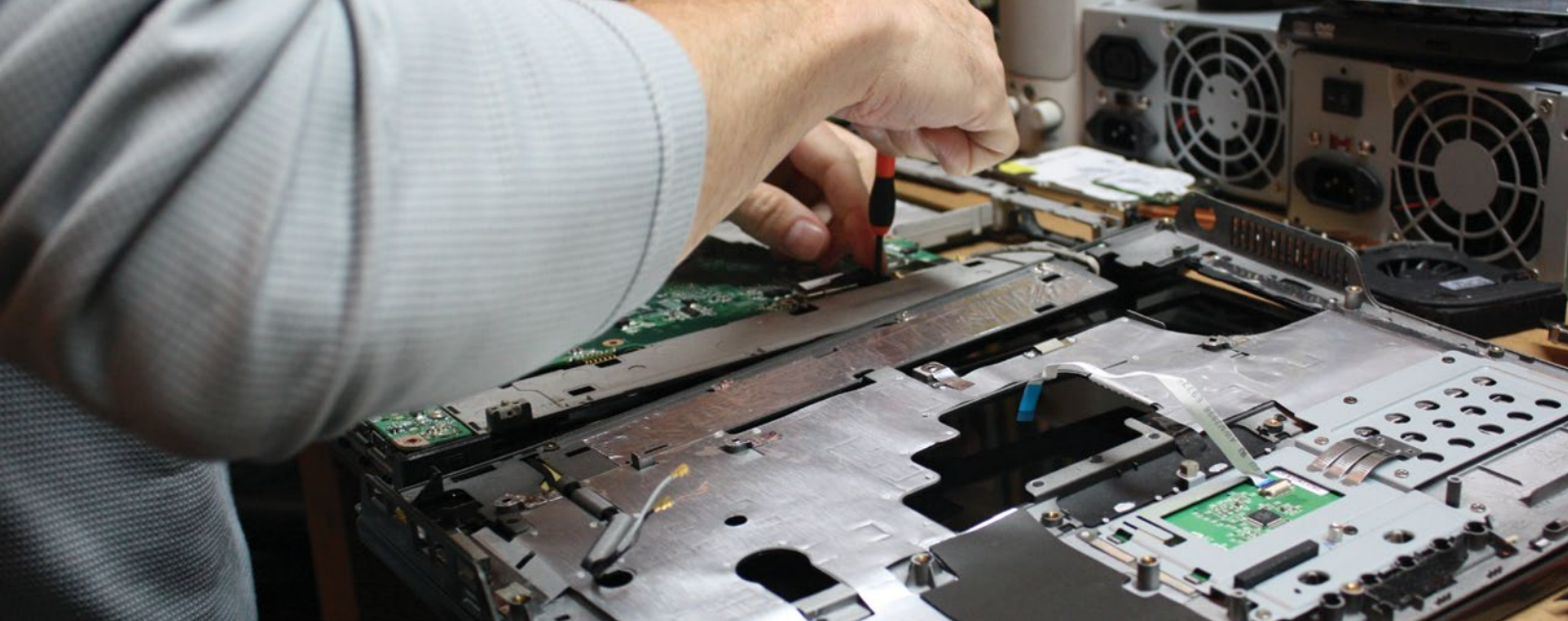
A few decades ago, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) was called the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. It conducted robust analysis of those sectors and substantial research and policy innovation in forestry.

Under Stephen Harper, the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) was devastated. The Pacific Forest Research Centre was closed and budgets of other CFS science centres were cut. Programs like Model Forests and annual State of the Forests reports were cancelled. Changes to legislation and policy priorities were crafted to fast-track pipeline approvals. The level of scrutiny of the mining industry, and research and policy attention to alternative energy sources, shrank.

Today, NRCan is little more than the Department of Oil and Gas. Rather than taking the lead on a national energy strategy that will get us to a carbon-free energy system by 2050, departmental resources are concentrated on expanding the very sectors that must be phased out.

A Green government will:

- Re-deploy the financial, physical and intellectual resources of NRCan towards achieving the goals of *Mission: Possible*.
- Collaborate with provinces, territories, Indigenous Peoples and the public to develop a Pan-Canadian Energy Strategy that gets us to a carbon-free energy system by 2050; phases out bitumen production for fuels by 2030-35; prioritizes Canadian jobs and supply; reduces energy demand across all sectors by 50 per cent; and ensures energy security for Canadians throughout this transition.
- Support the transition of the mining sector to an innovation hub for greener technologies, commercialized and attractive to export markets, including \$40 million for the proposed Sudbury-based mining innovation cluster.
- Collaborate with provinces, territories, Indigenous Peoples and the public to renew the abandoned process of developing a National Forest Strategy which recognizes the role of forests in carbon sequestration and the imperative of retaining and restoring the ecological integrity of forest ecosystems in building resilience in the face of climate change. Increased funds would be dedicated to research and the expansion of tree nurseries in support of these objectives.



## Science and Innovation

The Harper government muzzled scientists and cut funding for key research, including funding for clean water and northern science on climate change. The current Liberal government has talked about funding science and climate change research but has fallen well short of what is needed. Scientific research is the foundation of innovation, and enabling a green future requires switching to an innovation economy. A Green government will make Canada a leader in this space.

- Invest in scientific research and implement the full funding recommendations from Canada's Fundamental Science Review.
- Enhance funding for the granting councils, including the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.
- Restore and augment Climate Change and Atmospheric Research (CCAR) funding to NSERC and ensure ongoing funding for the Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory, which the Liberals failed to restore after the funding ran out.
- Commit to full implementation of Scientific Integrity Policies for all government departments.
- Establish a portal where all government science, including the evidence the government uses to make decisions, is available to Canadians in a comprehensible form.
- Adopt policies similar to Europe's "Plan S" to ensure that scientific publications based on publicly-funded research are available in open access journals or on the portal.
- Supports NSERC's Framework on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in scientific research, and commit to strengthening Canadian scientific and engineering communities to include the full participation of equity-seeking groups, including women, visible minorities, Indigenous Peoples, people with diverse gender identities and people with disabilities.

## Arts, Culture and Media in a Green Economy

Few sectors have such a small ecological footprint but deliver such multi-faceted benefits to communities and our national identity as the arts and culture. A Green government will ensure that they are integral to the green economy.

- Increase funding to all of Canada's arts and culture organizations including the Canada Council for the Arts, the National Film Board and Telefilm Canada.
- Review tax incentives for film production to ensure all parts of Canada are competitive and attractive to the industry, with incentives rising when Canadian artistic and technical talent are employed.
- Implement a federal income tax credit for restoration expenditures to encourage private involvement in preserving Canada's built heritage.
- Establish charitable tax credits for the private donation of easements on heritage properties to charitable organizations or local governments.

A vibrant, diverse media sector is a prerequisite for a healthy democracy. Traditional media are withering and disappearing from small markets due to a combination of digital and on-line competition and corporate concentration of ownership.

A Green government will:

- Reform anti-trust laws to enable the break-up of media conglomerates.
- Close the loophole that exempts social media platforms from collecting taxes on advertising and ensure all government advertising is placed in Canadian publications.
- Invest an additional \$300 million per year in CBC and Radio Canada until the per-capita level of funding is equal to that of the BBC.<sup>17</sup>
- Ensure that Netflix and other foreign internet broadcasters are subject to Canadian Content (CanCon) regulations, similar to those imposed on Canadian broadcasters.
- Invest \$400 million per year to establish a universal broadband strategy to give Canadians across the country and in remote areas access to reliable internet.

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17 In late 2016, CBC/Radio Canada requested \$400 million in additional funding in order to move to an ad-free model like the BBC in the United Kingdom. Per capita funding in the United Kingdom for its public broadcaster is more than three times the rate than in Canada. Additional investments would create thousands more new jobs and add hundreds of millions to the GDP. See <http://future.cbc.ca/recommendations.html>.





## Cannabis

A year into the legalization of cannabis, the flaws in the regulatory framework for cannabis production and sale are evident and a reform agenda is emerging.

Although one of the goals of legalization was to undermine the black market, since October 2018 the percentage of Canadians obtaining cannabis from illegal sources has not dropped below 38 per cent.<sup>18</sup> Contributing to this is an approach to legalization that treats the production of cannabis as uniquely dangerous. Security requirements mean growers must use more energy and water and deal with diseases and pests that thrive in greenhouses, increasing costs and hobbling their ability to meet production expectations. CBD (cannabidiol), used medicinally to reduce pain and anxiety, is not available to many who have prescriptions, increasing the illegal market for cannabis.

A Green government will:

- Lower the federally set price for cannabis to make it competitive with illegal supplies.
- Eliminate requirements for excess plastic packaging on legal cannabis.
- Remove federal excise duties and sales tax on medicinal cannabis products.
- Allow outdoor production and impose organic production standards.
- Exempt CBD from the restrictions of the Prescriptions List, allowing hemp growers to produce it as a natural health product. This would strengthen the hemp industry and increase supply so those who use it for medicinal purposes do not have to purchase it illegally.

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18 Statistics Canada. *National Cannabis Survey, first quarter 2019*. Last updated May 2, 2019. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/190502/dq190502a-eng.htm>. (accessed August 16, 2019). The national surveys from the fourth quarter of 2018 and second quarter of 2019 show higher percentages of purchases from illegal sources, at 43% and 42% respectively.

## Managing Technological Change



### CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

To a great extent, the Green economy is a digital economy. To participate fully, individuals and communities across the country need access to reliable, affordable, high-speed internet. Such infrastructure is as essential today as power and telephone lines were early last century.

Currently there is a digital divide separating those with such access and those without. The Green Party supports the government's Connectivity Strategy but has concerns about the introduction of 5G technology and which companies should be involved in delivering this next generation of connectivity. We are also concerned that the regulatory structure governing cellular and internet service results in Canadians paying much higher fees than people in other countries.

A Green government will:

- Strike a parliamentary committee to examine the implications of introducing 5G technology, including security issues and impacts on weather forecasting, and make recommendations on how and if Canada should proceed.
- Guard against threats to net neutrality.

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies have the potential to do a lot of good for our society and environment but regulation is needed to ensure that these advances benefit everyone. A Green government will make Canada the global leader in AI development and regulation. We must plan for the fact that AI and automation are putting many Canadians out of work. Our regulations will spell out ethics- and safety-centered legal criteria as well as detailing significant issues relating to law, liability, research and innovation, environmental impacts, intellectual property rights, the flow of data, privacy, safety and security, and public education.

- Strike a parliamentary committee to examine the range of issues related to the development of AI. Recommendations would form the basis of a legislative and regulatory framework to govern the ethical, environmental, social and economic implications of widespread dispersion of AI technologies.
- Bring in a Guaranteed Liveable Income to reduce anxiety as the world of work is disrupted in ways we cannot predict.

- Eliminate tuition to increase education and trade level skills to adapt to change.
- Institute a tax for large corporations that is the equivalent to the income tax paid by employees who have been laid off due to AI. Small businesses will be exempt.
- Use this tax revenue to fund educational and transition programs for laid-off workers, including trade schools.
- Track automation in different sectors and non-automatable jobs. Fund job creation, emphasizing a secure future in meaningful work.
- Ban autonomous weapons and fight for a global pact to make them illegal.

## Consumer Protection

Consumerism is the centrepiece of the “grey” economy. GDP growth depends on ever-expanding mass consumption, which in turn drives increased extraction of raw materials, manufacture of largely disposable consumer goods and production of massive volumes of waste at every point in the commodity chain. This linear consumption-production-waste system, the driver of global warming, depends on disposability – a throwaway culture. It also depends on easy credit, which in turn enriches the financial sector and undermines individual and family financial stability.

A Green economy is built on durability. Products are built to last and to be repaired. It also protects citizens from the predatory business practices of credit card and telecom corporations and banks. Setting product and service standards for consumer protection are well within the purview of government. A Green government will drop the hands-off approach. It’s time to intervene.

- Enact Right to Repair legislation that requires producers to provide consumers or repair shops with replacement parts, software and tools for diagnosing, maintaining or repairing their products, for a fair price, and to reset any electronic security that may disable the device during diagnosis, maintenance or repair.
- Limit credit card interest rates to a maximum of 10 percentage points above the Bank of Canada prime rate.
- Limit ATM fees to \$1 per transaction and prohibit financial institutions from charging their own customers ATM fees.
- Amend CRTC regulations to increase competition in the provision of cellular and internet services to consumers and decouple payments for cell phones from cell services.
- Enact provisions to protect consumers and investors from fraud and theft in the cryptocurrency spheres, and direct Revenue Canada and law enforcement agencies to develop practical methods for preventing the use of cryptocurrencies for money laundering and funding terrorism.



# Invoking Ecological Wisdom

Ecological Wisdom, a Green Party core value, means understanding that humans and every other species of animal and plant are integral and interdependent parts of a living planet. When we degrade the Earth or any part of it, we undermine the integrity and viability of all life including our own. Our duty, then, is to live on Earth with the lightest touch possible. As we draw on Earth systems to meet our basic needs and enjoy a high quality of life, we should not do irreparable harm to those systems or to other species. This is an ethical issue as well as a practical one. As part of a global community, our duty is to all life, not just our own.

Sadly, industrialization and consumerism since the mid-20th century have already done irreparable harm. Climate change and mass species extinctions are global proof of this. Soil erosion, water and air pollution, deforestation, the waste crisis and environmental illness are evident at regional and local levels.

Much has been lost, but there is much left to save. Governments have a duty to regulate business practices, commercial products, and behaviours to dramatically reduce the current burden on ecosystems, species and people who are at risk of being trampled on the path of so-called progress.

## Reducing Ecological and Health Risks



Hundreds of thousands of chemicals are in commercial use. Only a handful have undergone independent scrutiny of their toxic effects on humans and ecosystems. Tragically, we only discover after long exposure that some are unsafe and by then the damage has been done. The regulatory system is always playing catch-up. Pollution and toxic chemicals pose serious health threats such as cancer, asthma, learning disabilities and other chronic diseases, with marginalized populations often at greatest risk. The health impacts of exposure to toxic substances are estimated to cost our health-care system tens of billions of dollars annually.<sup>19</sup>

A Green government will:

- Pass legislation to give Canadians the right to a healthy environment, promoting greater transparency in decision-making, public participation rights and access to judicial review mechanisms.
- Set targets for reducing the use of pesticides in agriculture through programs to assist farmers in moving to organic and regenerative farming.

19 Smith, Robert and Kieran McDougal. *Costs of Pollution in Canada: Measuring the impacts on families, businesses and governments*. International Institute for Sustainable Development (June 2017): Page ix. Available: <https://www.iisd.org/sites/default/files/publications/costs-of-pollution-in-canada.pdf>. [Accessed August 23, 2019].

- Strengthen the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) to limit the approval and use of toxic chemicals that affect our health and environment.
- Regulate microfibres as a toxic substance under CEPA.
- Invoke the precautionary principle in making decisions about approvals of products, substances, projects and processes where there is the potential for irreversible harm. If there is no scientific proof of safety, then approval will be withheld.
- Revive and expand the National Pesticides Monitoring and Surveillance Network.
- Create an adverse effects reporting database for doctors and emergency rooms to keep track of health impacts of pesticides and other chemicals.
- Ban neonicotinoid pesticides, which kill bees and other pollinators, and support farmers in shifting to alternatives.
- Ban all forestry and cosmetic uses of glyphosate-based herbicides as well as their use as a pre-harvest desiccant.
- Ban all toxic ingredients in personal care products.
- In collaboration with provinces, territories, municipal/local governments and Indigenous Peoples, develop a national water strategy to ensure safe drinking water for all Canadians.

## Moving Towards Zero Waste

- Set national targets to reduce the production of solid waste and work with provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments to achieve those targets.
- Implement an extended producer responsibility program to hold manufacturers financially responsible for the waste associated with the production, distribution, packaging and end of life of their products.
- Require an increasing percentage of recycled plastic feedstock in durable plastic products.
- Require all products to be fully recyclable using readily available processes.
- Phase out Canada's export of solid waste to other countries. If we produce it, we should manage it.

## A NATIONAL PLASTIC WASTE STRATEGY

Plastics are the fastest-growing component of the solid waste stream. Dalhousie University scientist Dr. Boris Worm says that close to 90 per cent of sea birds have plastic in their guts. Production has increased from two million tonnes annually in 1950 to more than 300 million tonnes today. It is estimated that 80 per cent of all the plastic that has ever been produced – 8.3 billion tonnes – is still around, in landfills or in the environment.<sup>20</sup>The problem of plastic pollution has now become so acute that the public is demanding that governments take action.

A Green government will work with provinces, territories and Indigenous governments to develop and legislate a comprehensive national strategy on plastic pollution to be implemented over 10 years. In the meantime:

- Establish a plastics lifecycle advisory group, comprising representatives from all sectors in the lifecycle of plastic products, scientists, and federal and provincial government representatives, to provide guidance and recommendations in establishing plastics biodegradability, recyclability and sustainability standards.
- Adopt a precautionary approach to limit the production and use of persistent contaminants in plastic, based on evolving research into the human health impacts of micro-fibres and other micro-plastics.
- In consultation with food distributors and sellers, set 2022 reusable and refillable packaging targets for supermarkets and other food stores.
- By January 2022, ban the production, distribution and sale of all unnecessary or non-essential petroleum-based single-use plastics, including: carry-out and produce bags, balloons, straws, plates, cups, lids, cutlery, cotton buds, drink stirrers, cigarette filters, and plastic water bottles (less than four litres); packaging, including multilayer packaging, packing straps, all multipack rings, takeaway packaging, and all expanded polystyrene (styrofoam) packaging; and all single-use plastics that are not easily recyclable or have additives that make them non-recyclable, including thermoset plastics.
- Extend the ban on microbeads to include household and industrial cleaning products.
- By 2021, require all new washing machines sold in Canada to have a removable, cleanable filter to capture micro-fibres that otherwise pass through water treatment plant filters and into water bodies.
- By 2021, fund proper solid waste management systems in Indigenous and Arctic communities.

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20 University of Georgia. "More than 8.3 billion tons of plastics made: Most has now been discarded." Available at:<https://news.uga.edu/scientists-calculate-total-amount-of-plastics-ever-produced/>



## Rescuing the Oceans



The world's oceans are in trouble. Besides overfishing (see Food from the Sea), pollution, acidification, climate change, habitat damage and fishing gear are taking a terrible toll on marine life and ecosystems. Eight to nine million tonnes of plastic enter the ocean every year, the equivalent of one large garbage truck full of plastic every minute. This plastic ends up floating, submerged, or sinking to the ocean floor, often leaching and absorbing toxic chemicals, and harming and killing marine life through either entanglement or ingestion<sup>21</sup>. In short, we have to clean up and back off and give marine ecosystems a chance to heal themselves.

- Turn off the pollution taps flowing into coastal waters including municipal sewage and industrial effluents. Climate protection policies to prohibit new offshore oil and gas development and phase out existing operations will reduce the threat of marine oil spills.
- Slash fossil fuel use (*Mission: Possible*) to protect the oceans from acidification.
- Expand marine protected areas from 10 to 30 per cent of Canada's territorial waters by 2030.
- Legislate cruise ship waste discharge standards that meet or exceed those of our coastal neighbours.
- To reduce and mitigate plastic waste from fishing gear that entangles and kills marine animals, by January 2021 implement an Extended Producer Responsibility program for all companies making or selling synthetic fishing gear which would fund the retrieval of lost or abandoned fishing gear, commonly known as ghost nets, and the collection and recycling of old, damaged, and recovered fishing gear.

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21 European Commission. "Plastics can concentrate toxic pollutants, endangering marine ecosystems." May 2013. Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/326na6\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/326na6_en.pdf).





## Protecting Species and Habitats



Several hundred animal and plant species are currently on federal and provincial lists of species at risk of extinction with more added every year. The most common cause of their decline is destruction of habitat due to economic activity and urbanization. Rarely are species removed from the list. Often their status continues to decline, despite their protected status.

- Increase funding to federal departments to dramatically ramp up the development and implementation of endangered species recovery plans required by legislation, placing tight deadlines on completion and invoking emergency powers of the federal government to protect species when provincial governments fail to do so.
- Protect a minimum of 30 per cent of freshwaters, oceans and land by 2030.
- Commit \$100 million annually over the next four years to create Indigenous-led protected and conserved areas and fund stewardship of these lands and waters by Indigenous guardians.
- Fully restore the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, which was gutted by the Harper government in 2012, and adopt the recommendations of the independent Expert Panel on Environmental Assessment, commissioned by the Liberals and then ignored.
- Increase funding to Parks Canada to ensure that the ecological integrity of our national parks is maintained, and where necessary restored, and that heritage sites are fully protected and maintained.



# Renewing the Social Contract

Canada has a strong tradition of providing the social supports that people need to live fulfilling lives. The social contract between the government of Canada and the people of Canada, funded through progressive taxation, is grounded in the principle that society has a duty to provide social services that give everyone the opportunity to contribute to society and live a dignified, secure life.

After 30 years of government withdrawal from some sectors, such as housing, and failing to keep pace with changing and expanding needs in others, the social contract between government

and citizens is frayed. Rapid economic and social changes have created new conditions that require creative program responses.

Poverty, income insecurity, student debt, lack of affordable housing, unsafe drinking water, lack of access to family doctors and unaffordable child care are not inevitable in one of the richest countries in the world. At worst, they are the result of policy decisions; at best, of policy neglect. Renewing the social contract is a Green Party priority. We must start by recommitting to a vision of Canada as a just society built around a progressive, fair and compassionate social safety network.

## Health Care



Even though the provinces have jurisdiction over health care delivery, the Canada Health Act sets the terms by which this happens. It provides universal primary health care to all Canadians, and ensures that this care is comparable across the country. The ability of provinces to deliver on this mandate depends on health funding transfers from Ottawa. These transfers have not kept pace with the rapidly changing demographics and the emerging crises of mental illness and addiction. At the same time, private health clinics, including blood services, represent a creeping two-tiered system, eroding the universal primary health care model.

The Green Party is committed to the principles and requirements of the Canada Health Act and to extending that model to other aspects of health care. Respecting these principles, we support innovation in the delivery of these services to better meet the changing needs of Canadians. We will work to ensure that

every Canadian has a family doctor and that primary care is centred on the patient and is sensitive to issues of social justice, equity and cultural appropriateness.

The federal government can and should lead the way in demonstrating a better model of health care. Greens recognize the unique challenges faced by defined populations like First Nations people on reserve and Inuit, members of the Canadian Forces, veterans, incarcerated persons and certain refugee claimants. It is important that these challenges are addressed at a federal level and that vulnerable populations receive equal access to care.

The Green Party supports the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on Health to expand the Canada Health Act to include prescription drugs dispensed outside of a hospital. Universal Pharmacare is the best way to accomplish both life-saving and cost-cutting goals.

*“Climate change is the greatest threat to human health in the 21st century.”*

- Pegeen Walsh, Ontario Public Health Association Executive Director, August 2019

As we move into the “era of consequences” of climate change, new health imperatives are emerging. The World Health Organization has stated that “Climate change is the greatest challenge of the 21st century, threatening all aspects of the society in which we live.”<sup>22</sup> Public health associations have raised the alarm that climate-related illnesses are growing and need urgent attention. According to a report by the Canadian Paediatric Society and the Ontario Public Health Association, climate change is exacerbating a number of child health issues including “heat sickness, poor air quality, water contamination and the mental health impacts of natural hazards, extreme weather, and displacement.”

So far, this issue is flying way under the radar of many health professionals and government health departments. A Green government will change that.

- Restore the federal/provincial Health Accord, basing health transfers on demographics and real health care needs in each province, replacing the current formula based on GDP growth introduced by the Harper government and retained by the Liberals.
- Expand the single-payer Medicare model to include Pharmacare for everyone as well as free dental care for low-income Canadians.
- Create a bulk drug purchasing agency and reduce drug patent protection periods.
- Negotiate the Canada Health Accord to prioritize expansion of mental health and rehabilitation services, reduction in wait times, access to safe abortion services and access to gender-affirming health services such as hormones, blockers, and surgery (See Section VI Advancing the Just Society: Advancing LGBTQI2+ Rights)
- Uphold Jordan’s Principle in full, ensuring Indigenous People receive the health care they need without being delayed by bureaucratic disagreements over jurisdiction.
- Implement Calls to Action 18-24 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, improving health care for Indigenous Peoples.<sup>23</sup>
- Support First Nations, Métis and Inuit in (re)building traditional knowledge systems around healing and wellness, including the formal inclusion of traditional healing within mental wellness and home and community care programs. This process must be led by First Nations, Métis and Inuit organizations.<sup>24</sup>

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22 World Health Organization. (2018). COP24 special report: health and climate change. World Health Organization. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/276405>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

23 Truth and Reconciliation Canada. *Calls to Action*. Winnipeg: Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015. Pages 2-3. Available: [http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf).

24 Assembly of First Nations. *The First Nations Health Transformation Agenda* (February 2017). Available: [https://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/fnhta\\_final.pdf](https://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/fnhta_final.pdf). Page 47.



- Reorient Health Canada’s mandate towards mental health and addictions, health promotion and disease prevention, and the health risks of climate change.
- Encourage medical associations to train health-care professionals to understand and engage with climate change related health threats.
- Address the opioid crisis as a health-care issue, not a criminal issue, by declaring a national health emergency. Recognize that fentanyl contamination is why deaths are more accurately described as poisonings than overdoses. Drug possession should be decriminalized, ensuring people have access to a screened supply and the medical support they need to combat their addictions. Increase funding to community-based organizations to test drugs and make Naloxone kits widely available to treat overdoses.<sup>25</sup>
- Establish a national mental health strategy and a suicide prevention strategy to address the growing anxieties plaguing Canadians regarding inequality and affordability, the growing precariousness of work and housing, the climate crisis, social isolation, resurgent racial and ethno-nationalism and other harms and risks.
- Protect our public blood system by prohibiting for-profit blood collection services and removing barriers to blood donations not based on science.

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25 See the list of recommendations from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Mayors caucus: <https://fcm.ca/sites/default/files/documents/resources/submission/opioid-crisis-recommendations.pdf>.

# Ending Poverty



*“I am now convinced that the simplest approach will prove to be the most effective – the solution to poverty is to abolish it directly by a now widely discussed measure: the guaranteed income.”*

– Martin Luther King Jr., *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?* 1967

The most recent Canadian Income Survey reveals that 9.5 per cent of Canada’s population – about 3.4 million people – lives below the poverty line.<sup>26</sup> Poverty rates are even higher within marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as people living with disabilities, single mothers and seniors.<sup>27</sup> In a wealthy country like Canada, this is unacceptable.

Of all Canada’s social problems, child poverty may be the most shameful. In 1989, the old-line political parties voted unanimously to end child poverty by the year 2000. Despite recent improvements, far too many Canadian children still grow up in poverty. Child poverty rates are especially high among Indigenous Peoples, single-parent households headed by women, and new Canadians. Canada now ranks a dismal 25th out of 38 countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development in terms of relative child poverty rates.<sup>28</sup>

In 2018 the government of Canada developed its first poverty reduction strategy, *Opportunity For All*, which has adopted the Market Basket Measure (MBM) as Canada’s official poverty line. The MBM is a measurement tool that considers what an average basket of goods costs for a Canadian and can vary regionally. When compared against median income and wages it gives a general sense of the affordability pressures that families face in different parts of Canada. Using existing income supplements like the Old Age Security and the Child Tax Benefit, the Liberal government boasts that it has lifted several hundred thousand Canadians out of poverty by nudging them from a few hundred dollars under the poverty line to a few hundred over it. While hundreds more dollars a year can definitely help individuals and families, this current effort can and should go much further.

We can eliminate child poverty in Canada. We must start by recommitting to a vision of Canada as a just society built around a progressive, fair, and compassionate social safety network. Unlike the old-line parties, the Green Party believes reducing child poverty is not just about expanding the middle class; we must undertake real structural change to tackle the root causes of poverty. Poverty is a systemic problem that arises from low wages and insufficient income assistance, a precarious job market, a shortage of affordable housing and quality child care, and cuts in social programs. It is also tied directly to issues of bias and discrimination on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation, and citizenship, as well as the

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26 Statistics Canada. *Canadian Income Survey*, 2017. Last updated February 26, 2019. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/190226/dq190226b-eng.htm>. (Accessed August 16, 2019).

27 “Just the Facts.” *Canada Without Poverty*. Available: <http://www.cwp-csp.ca/poverty/just-the-facts/#demo>. [Accessed August 16, 2019].

28 OECD (2019), Poverty rate (indicator). doi: 10.1787/0fe1315d-en (Accessed on 16 August 2019).

ongoing legacy of colonization. Eliminating poverty requires systemic action on all these fronts with safe secure housing as a fundamental human right at its core.

Greens believe reducing child poverty starts with a stronger commitment to guaranteeing that all families have the ability to provide for their children. Research has demonstrated that programs providing a universal basic income reduce expenditure on health care – since poverty is the single largest determinant of ill health – and the justice system, and increase school retention. Such programs are affordable, but the savings and costs of implementation are experienced in different orders of government. To proceed will require cooperation of each province, territory and Indigenous community through a vehicle such as the Council of Canadian Governments.

## SUPPORT FOR INCOMES AND WORKERS

- Establish a universal Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) program to replace the current array of income supports, such as disability payments, social assistance and income supplements for seniors. Building on the MBM, payment would be set at a “livable” level for different regions of the country. The negotiation to implement a livable income across the country would take place through the Council of Canadian Governments. Unlike existing income support programs, additional income would not be clawed back. Those earning above a certain total income would pay the GLI back in taxes.<sup>29</sup>
- Establish the federal minimum wage of \$15 per hour. Canada once had a national wage standard but it was removed by a previous Liberal government and in that time regressive wage policies – like training wages well below minimum wage – have been introduced in various provinces. Reinstating a federal minimum wage will create a wages floor for every Canadian no matter where they live or work.
- Work with the Council of Canadian Governments and Statistics Canada to set municipal minimum wages in accordance with the differential costs of living across the country (See Section VII Good Governance: Intergovernmental Collaboration)
- Design and implement a national mental health strategy to address the link between mental wellness and work productivity (See Section V. Renewing the Social Contract: Health Care)
- Support Private Member’s Bill C-344, An Act to amend the Department of Public Works and Government Services Act, which would require successful bidders on federal infrastructure contracts to maximize the spin-off community benefits of such contracts. This will strengthen opportunities for Indigenous, Métis and Inuit-owned businesses, social enterprise, co-operatives and diverse suppliers in communities or nearby where federally funded infrastructure is being built.
- Enhance use of Community Benefits Agreements to increase economic inclusion and opportunity for marginalized communities of colour.

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29 Other terms for this policy are Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) and Guaranteed Annual Income (GAI). See Stapleton, John. *A Basic Income for Canadians: What would change?* January 2017. Available: <https://metcalfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/A-Basic-Income-for-all-Canadians.pdf>.

## Safe Affordable Housing

Federal incentives for purpose-built rental housing were eliminated in the 1970s. During decades of encouraging home ownership, federal support for co-ops, rental housing, social housing and supportive housing has languished. We now face a national shortage of affordable housing and as a result, a growing problem of homelessness and housing insecurity.

The Liberal government's National Housing Strategy does not address immediate core housing needs across Canada. Funding for affordable housing will roll out over 15 years but it is needed now. The first-time home buyer grant has been criticized for exacerbating housing speculation and commodification.

It is past time that the government of Canada moves to ensure that everyone has access to safe, affordable housing. The Green Party will enhance the federal government's contribution to meeting the housing needs of Canadians through direct investments, changes to tax policies, and lending and granting programs, putting the government's focus where it is urgently needed.

### DIRECT INVESTMENTS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- Legislate housing as a legally protected fundamental human right for all Canadians and permanent residents.
- Appoint a Minister of Housing to strengthen the National Housing Strategy so that it meets the needs for affordable housing that are unique to each province, and oversee its implementation in collaboration with provincial ministers. This recognizes that housing is provincial jurisdiction. The target would be 25,000 new and 15,000 rehabilitated units annually for the next 10 years.
- Increase the National Housing Co-investment Fund by \$750 million for new builds, and the Canada Housing Benefit by \$750 million for rent assistance for 125,000 households.
- Create a Canada Co-op Housing Strategy that would update the mechanisms for financing co-op housing, in partnership with CMHC, co-op societies, credit unions and other lenders.
- Eliminate the first-time home buyer grant.

### FINANCING

- Include new and existing housing as eligible infrastructure for funding purposes, allowing the Canada Infrastructure Bank to support provincial and municipal housing projects.
- Provide financing to non-profit housing organizations and cooperatives to build and restore quality, energy efficient housing for seniors, people with special needs and low-income families.



- Restore tax incentives for building purpose-built rental housing and provide tax credits for gifts of lands, or of land and buildings, to community land trusts to provide affordable housing.
- Remove the “deemed” GST whenever a developer with empty condo units places them on the market as rentals.
- Re-focus the core mandate of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporate (CMHC) on supporting the development of affordable, non-market and cooperative housing, as opposed to its current priority of supporting Canadian lenders to de-risk investment in housing ownership. With many housing markets demonstrably overvalued, and home ownership rates among the highest in the world, individual home ownership should not be the preoccupation of a public service housing agency and a national housing strategy.
- Change the legislation that prevents Indigenous organizations from accessing financing through CMHC to invest in self-determined housing needs.





## Taking Care of Canada's Children



Greens believe it is time to put the interests of our children at the centre of decision-making. If a policy works for our children, it works for our society. Greens will appoint a federal Children's Advocate to ensure that children's rights are protected. Far too many children are in care. Far too many children are in poverty. And far too many of those children are Indigenous. Every Canadian child deserves equal services, from early childhood education to adulthood.

Meanwhile, families need child care. Universal child care is fundamental for women's equality –the “ramp to equality in the workplace for women.”

Canada needs a plan – a road map to affordable child care for all children. A Green government will collaborate with provinces/territories, local communities, Indigenous communities and the child-care sector to ensure that a comprehensive short-, medium- and long-term policy road map – based on the principles of universality, affordability, quality, inclusivity and equity – finally becomes a reality.

Canada must dedicate additional resources to making a universal, affordable, early learning and child-care (ELCC) system a reality. It cannot occur without public funding. Canada needs an ELCC system that contributes to a green Canada. Thus, a Green Party government's child care plan will provide the early educator jobs that sustain local

communities. It will also recognize that sparsely and unevenly available child-care services force parents to take out-of-their-way routes to child care and work, often by car. Green Party plans for child care take into account not only parents' convenience but also climate goals. Location of child care must reflect the diversity of family needs and be placed along existing public transit routes, including neighbourhood schools, other local buildings, workplaces and transportation hubs.

The best evidence suggests that ELCC is best situated within the context of other policies that support families and children. A Green Party government will follow the example of Quebec and other countries, improving and strengthening maternity/parental leave by making it more inclusive, more flexible and better paid.

Well-designed ELCC is also fundamental to meeting broader equity and social justice goals, for fighting poverty, as a foundation for children's life-long learning, and as part of the backbone of a thriving society. Quality child care yields high social and economic returns in the short and long term by:

- Supporting women's workforce participation, education and training.
- Strengthening children's health, development and well-being in the early years to provide a strong foundation for learning and living in later years.
- Strengthening inclusion and respect for diversity for children with disabilities, diverse ethnic and racial groups, newcomers and disadvantaged Canadians.
- Countering Canada's slide towards being a more unequal society.

A Green Party government will immediately begin to ramp up federal child care funding to achieve the international benchmark of at least one per cent of GDP annually, adding an additional \$1 billion each year until this benchmark is reached with a mature ELCC system. We will eliminate GST on all construction costs related to child-care spaces.

## Investing in Post-Secondary Education



Universal access to quality post-secondary education and skills training is a right, not a privilege. Our society is stronger when the citizenry is informed, critical and well educated. Moreover, post-secondary education is part of Canada's treaty obligations to Indigenous Peoples and a key focus for reconciliation.

We need to re-evaluate our approach to funding post-secondary education and skills training. The current model is in danger of collapse. Too many universities are caught in a spiral of fund-raising to provide education of diminishing quality. Dramatic funding cuts dating back to the 1990s mean universities have come to depend on part-time contract instructors, higher tuition fees and fundraising to balance the books. The result is precarious employment for many highly educated academics, crushing debt loads for graduates as they begin their adult lives, and lost opportunities for many who simply forego higher education.

The answer is simple. The federal government needs to reinvest in the system. The Green budget will allocate \$10 billion to post-secondary and trade school supports.

- Make college and university tuition free for all Canadian students. This would be financed by redirecting existing spending on bursaries, tuition tax credits, saved costs of administering the student loan system, and the hundreds of millions of dollars of student loan defaults written off every year. Tuition scholarships provided by colleges and universities can be redirected to offset other student costs.
- Tie funding in federal-provincial transfers to universities, providing more to universities and colleges with a measurable focus on student-professor contact, mentorship, policies of inclusion and tenure track hires.
- Remove the two per cent cap on increases in education funding for Indigenous students and ensure all Indigenous youth have access to post-secondary education.
- Forgive the portion of existing student debt that is held by the federal government.
- Free tuition will eliminate the need for incentives to save for education funds.

## Respecting and Supporting Seniors



Seniors comprise a growing proportion of Canada's total population, a majority of whom are women. They built the society we now enjoy, have a wealth of experience and continue to contribute to the economic and social life of our communities and country.

An essential duty of the social contract between government and citizens is to make sure people can live fulfilling and dignified lives in their senior years. Green Party pledges such as the Guaranteed Livable Income, Pharmacare, public transportation, home retrofits and affordable housing all contribute to seniors' quality of life.

A Green government will also develop a National Seniors Strategy with the following priorities:

- Ensure the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) remains robust and adaptive to changing needs and circumstances by increasing over time the target income replacement rate from 25 per cent to 50 per cent of income received during working years.
- Regulate the CPP Investment Board to require divestment of coal, oil and gas shares and ensure that all investments are ethical and promote environmental sustainability.
- Support innovative home-sharing plans and other measures to allow people to stay in their own homes as long as possible. Create more long-term care beds in neighbourhood facilities.

- Protect private pensions by amending the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act to establish the preeminence of pensioners and the pension plan in the creditor hierarchy during company insolvency proceedings.
- In collaboration with health professionals and provincial/territorial governments, develop and fund a national dementia strategy. Within 25 years, the number of Canadians living with a form of dementia could reach 1.3 million, imposing the highest economic, social, and health costs of all diseases. The strategy would support research, improve quality of life for patients and care givers, and educate the public to increase awareness and reduce stigma.
- Amend the Medical Assistance in Dying legislation to ensure that everyone has the choice of dying with dignity. This includes allowing advance directives and guaranteeing the right to draw up a "living will" that gives individuals the power to limit or refuse medical intervention and treatment.

## Honouring Veterans



- The Green Party values the work and sacrifices of all Canadian Forces and RCMP veterans and active personnel and will ensure that veterans and their families are well cared for. The fact that suicide rates among veterans are climbing is a clear indication that they are not getting the services and supports they need. A Green government will step up to provide long overdue comprehensive services for veterans.
- Provide support for all veterans including disabled veterans that allows them to live in dignity. Ensure that services to veterans and their family members are fully integrated and funded.
- Launch a national re-examination of veterans' issues in December 2019 based on good-faith engagement with military families and veterans, including issues relating to pensions and benefits. The goal is to identify necessary reforms and changes to programs to better meet veterans' needs.
- In the meantime, restore periodic payments to veterans at pre-2006 levels.
- Repeal the section of the Superannuation Act that denies pensions to surviving spouses of certain workers, including RCMP and veterans, who married after 60.
- Work with veterans' organizations to review and update the Veterans Charter and the processes, structure and mandate of the Veterans Review and Appeal Board to ensure all veterans are treated fairly and with respect.
- Ensure that all veterans have access to health care, mental health support and treatments. Military personnel with PTSD must be treated as highly valued people whose health needs to be restored, rather than as liabilities who need to be removed.



# Advancing the Just Society

In a just society, everyone participates freely and benefits fairly from our shared public goods, without prejudice or discrimination. While we have made great strides towards this goal, past gains cannot be taken for granted, and much remains to be done. Social justice is one of the six fundamental pillars of the Green movement. That is why the Green Party believes it is vital to place equity at the centre of policy-making.

## Advancing Gender Equality



Gender-based violence (GBV) is violence committed or threatened against someone based on their gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender. In Canada, GBV disproportionately affects women, girls and gender-diverse people.

Statistics compiled by the Victim Justice Network and the Canadian Women's Foundation show that an estimated 362,000 children witness or experience family violence each year. Each day over 3,000 women (with their children) use an emergency shelter to escape domestic violence, while about 200 women (and their children) are turned away because the shelters are full. Every six days on average a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner.

Domestic violence accounts for about 12 per cent of all violent crime and, since fewer than a quarter of all incidents are reported to police, the real number is much higher. The Department of Justice says that costs associated with the aftermath of spousal violence – emergency room visits, funerals, future costs such as loss of income, and intangible costs such as pain and suffering – total \$7.4 billion annually. This is unacceptable.

A Green government will:

- In collaboration with women's and Indigenous organizations, develop a comprehensive Canada-wide plan of action – with a timetable and dedicated funding – to eliminate violence against women, girls and gender-diverse people.
- Implement all the recommendations of the Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Increase access to shelters by investing \$40 million over four years in the Shelter Enhancement Program, providing more than 2,100 new and renovated spaces in first-stage shelters and hundreds of spaces in transition houses.
- Increase funding to bolster investigations and convictions in human trafficking cases.

## Protecting Sex Workers

The Green Party supports labour rights for sex workers to ensure that they are able to control their working conditions, conduct business in a safe and healthy environment, and have recourse to legal remedies when these conditions are not provided. For those who turn to sex work as their only economic option, our policy of establishing a Guaranteed Livable Income could provide an economic alternative.

A Green government will:

- Reform sex work laws in Canada with a clear focus on harm reduction, given the dangers that sex trade workers face. Making the industry legal and public will allow sex workers to access law enforcement and social services when needed.
- Increase funding of community organizations providing services to those driven to sex work by economic deprivation.

## Advancing LGBTQI2+ Rights



*“Politics is just one piece of the puzzle of how change happens, but it is a crucial piece.”*

- Andrew Reynolds.<sup>30</sup>

There has been considerable progress in the ongoing campaign for LGBTQI2+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\*, queer, intersex, Two Spirit, plus) equality in Canada with significant and rapid changes to legislation on same-sex benefits and pensions and prohibitions against harassment and discrimination. But there is still a lot to do.

The Green Party called for the legalization of same-sex marriage in the 1980s, the first political party to do so. Greens believe that consensual sexual freedom is a fundamental human right and that acceptance and celebration of LGBTQI2+ people and identities are essential for genuine social justice and equity. We affirm that gender identity is each person’s individual experience of gender, that everyone has the right to define and freely express their gender, and that intersex people have the right to live with complete bodily autonomy. We affirm that all young people deserve access to safe and comprehensive sex education based on a thorough understanding of diverse sexualities, diverse genders, intersex biology and informed consent.

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30 Reynolds, Andrew. “The invisibility of transgender people in electoral politics around the world.” *NewStatesmanAmerica*. November 2, 2015. Available: <https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/elections/2015/11/invisibility-transgender-people-electoral-politics-around-world>. [Accessed August 16, 2019].







A Green government will:

- Repeal all federal laws and policies that are discriminatory on the grounds of sexuality, including Section 159 of the Criminal Code, and that refer to intersex reality as a defect, aberration, or by any other derogatory terms.
- Establish a funding program within Health Canada to support community-based organizations offering targeted LGBTQI2+ youth's mental health and well-being programs, including suicide prevention, peer support, coming out, and counselling.
- Fund community-driven education and awareness programs that lead to a greater understanding of intersex realities and the diversity of sexualities and gender identities, and referral programs to direct for trans\*, non-binary and Two Spirit people to appropriate services.
- End the discriminatory blood ban.
- Ban and condemn the practice of medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex children.
- Ban and condemn the practice of conversion therapy, in all its forms.
- Ensure access to comprehensive sexual health care and gender affirming health care, including hormone treatments and blockers, and gender confirmation surgeries.



- Ensure that trans\*, non-binary, and Two Spirit people, without undertaking surgeries, are able to alter their sex designation on all federally-issued official documents, consistent with their gender identity.
- Work with social services, community supports, emergency shelters and other frontline organizations to ensure that all LGBTQI2+ young people are cared for and protected.
- Ensure that the national census is designed to reflect the diversity of sex and gender and ask appropriate questions to ensure adequate, safe and effective data collection.
- Require accessible facilities in all federal buildings, including gender-neutral washrooms, changing facilities, etc. while also re-affirming trans, non-binary and Two Spirit people's right to use whichever facilities with which they identify.

## Protecting Minority Language Rights

- This year is the 50th anniversary of the Official Languages Act. The principles laid out in this landmark legislation were the basis for Section 16 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which recognizes the equality of status, rights and privileges for Canada's French and English linguistic communities. Respect for and protection of the Charter and all its values are non-negotiable. A Green Party government will commit to defending Canada's two official languages in our communities and across our country.
- In the first year of the next parliament, promote and implement a modernized Official Languages Act to protect both national languages.
- Ensure funding for the protection of Indigenous languages at risk of disappearing, across Canada.



# Good Governance

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At the heart of our democratic system of government is a relationship of trust and respect between Canadians and the representatives they elect. We expect those representatives to act responsibly, with integrity, honesty and intelligence. When they do not, trust and respect frays and democracy falters. We must protect that relationship with all our might. As we have seen in other countries, a few loose strands, if pulled, can unravel the whole fabric of society.

All governments seem to have their ethical challenges. Jean Chretien had the sponsorship scandal, Stephen Harper the Duffy affair, and now Justin Trudeau the SNC-Lavalin affair. The recent report of the Ethics Commissioner shines a harsh light on the inner workings of a Prime Minister's Office to which a powerful corporation had easy access, to the point of getting legislation passed that would allow it to avoid criminal prosecution and pressuring the Attorney General to use it. While this may be the worst case, corporate influence on minister's offices and federal boards is entrenched.<sup>31</sup>

The Green Party is committed to honest, ethical, caring leadership. All of the policies set out in this platform represent a deep commitment to ethics in government and a democracy that works for all citizens.

## Integrity and Ethics in Government

There are a host of reforms that could strengthen the checks against abuse of power and influence peddling in parliament and federal institutions and make the House of Commons a more constructive, cooperative and effective institution. A Green government will introduce integrity in government legislation.

- Direct the Speaker to enforce existing rules to minimize the power of party whips over individual members of parliament.
- Remove the requirement for party leaders to sign candidate nominations, accepting proof of a fair and open process at the local (Electoral District Association) level.
- Strengthen the role and protect the independence of parliamentary officers including the Ombudsman, the Auditor General, the Ethics Commissioner, the Information Commissioner, the Commissioner of Official Languages and the Parliamentary Budget Officer.
- Strengthen the Conflict of Interest Act to include financial and other penalties for breaking the law.
- Set up an all-party commission to select a five-member board that will make decisions regarding Governor-in-Council appointments and select candidates for parliamentary officers.

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31 See for example Robyn Allan's withdrawal letter from the National Energy Board hearings for the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, May 19, 2015. Available: <https://www.scribd.com/document/265910093/Robyn-Allan-Withdrawal-Letter-NEB-May-19-2015>.

- Impose strict conflict of interest screening criteria for appointments to federal regulatory boards and agencies, minimizing the potential for bias and preferential access by the regulated industry.
- Replace the secretive Board of Internal Economy with an independent oversight committee to review MPs' salaries, expenses and office budgets.
- Establish a public investigations office reporting to parliament to provide clearer and permanent operating rules for such investigations.
- Strengthen the Lobbying Act to require greater transparency and prevent “revolving doors” between political life, the public service and lobbying.
- Reaffirm the independence and integrity of the public service and strengthen whistle-blower protections for public service employees.
- Launch a federal public inquiry into what the RCMP and other federal agencies knew about money laundering in B.C. casinos and why they did not expose the growing corruption.<sup>32</sup>

## Transparency in Government

The Access to Information Act (ATI) giving individuals the right to access records under the control of a federal government institution has a number of exceptions, including cabinet confidence, that are used increasingly to limit access. To ensure open and transparent government, a Green government will strengthen the ATI.

- Expand access to information about the government and its activities by scrapping all fees, except the filing fee.
- Provide enforceable deadlines so that requests are processed in a timely manner.
- Authorize the Information Commissioner to order the release of information.
- Place the administration of parliament, the Prime Minister's Office and minister's offices within the scope of the ATI.
- Override all exemptions so that public interest comes before the secrecy of the government.
- Provide for exclusions based on claims of cabinet confidences to be reviewed by the Information Commissioner.

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<sup>32</sup> Money laundering in British Columbia skewed the housing market and assisted in the spread of fentanyl, killing people in the opioid crisis. See S. Cooper, S. Bell, and A. Russell, “Secret police study finds crime networks could have laundered over \$1B through Vancouver home in 2016.” *Global News*. November 26, 2018. Available: <https://globalnews.ca/news/4658157/fentanyl-vancouver-real-estate-billion-money-laundering-police-study/>. [Accessed August 17, 2019].

- Require public officials to create a public record to document their actions and decisions regarding all ATI requests.

## Protection of Privacy

The flip side of increasing government transparency is protecting the privacy rights of Canadians. According to Privacy Commissioner Daniel Therrien, Canada's privacy legislation is "sadly falling behind what is the norm in other countries."<sup>33</sup> A Green government will also curtail the surveillance powers of security agencies and prohibit the surreptitious reach of corporations.

- Change the law to require the Communications Security Establishment and CSIS to get a warrant before intruding on Canadians' communications.
- Prohibit the routine surveillance of Canadians who protest against the government and the sharing of protesters and NGO staff information with the National Energy Board, and others.
- Significantly increase the powers of the Privacy Commissioner, in particular to protect identity and personal data, and to enforce privacy laws.
- Require companies to grant access to all information they hold on an individual, and to delete personal information from company databases when requested by that person. Individuals would have the "right to be forgotten."
- Establish a parliamentary inquiry to recommend modernizing privacy laws governing the burgeoning "internet of things".
- Create mandatory data breach reporting for all government departments, companies, banks and political parties.
- Regulate Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms to ensure that only actual people, with verifiable identities, are able to publish on those platforms.
- Prohibit cyber surveillance and bulk collection of data by intelligence and police agencies.
- Require that internet service providers may only release data when required to do so by warrant, except in emergency situations.
- Require political parties to follow the Privacy Act, without exceptions.

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33 Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. 2017-18 Annual Report to Parliament on the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act and the Privacy Act*. September 27, 2018. Available: [https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-actions-and-decisions/ar\\_index/201718/ar\\_201718/](https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-actions-and-decisions/ar_index/201718/ar_201718/). [Accessed August 17, 2019].



## Reforming Democratic Institutions

Integrity in the elections process is foundational to the relationship of trust and respect on which democracy is built. A Green government will ensure that the electoral system produces a parliament that represents the will of the electorate and that the electoral process is beyond reproach.

- Ensure that the 2019 election is the last “first past the post” election. By March 2020, we will launch a Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform with the mandate to make recommendations to parliament on an electoral system that would “make every vote count.” Legislative changes to implement the recommendations of the Citizens Assembly would be made in time for the 2023 federal election.
- Lower the voting age to 16, giving young people more say in their future and instilling habits of civic participation.
- Require all parties to submit their campaign platform cost estimates to the Parliamentary Budget Officer for review.
- Mandate Elections Canada to develop a truth in advertising framework for election campaigns that empowers the Commissioner of Elections to investigate citizens’ complaints related to campaign advertising and impose sanctions if the complaints are found to be justified.





## Inter-governmental Collaboration

Canada's constitutional division of powers between federal and provincial levels of government, together with the constitutional protection of Indigenous treaty rights and our adoption of the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, both enable and constrain the federal government in setting national priorities. We need a mechanism that convenes all governments to discuss and decide upon issues of national importance.

A Green government will support the model of collaborative federalism, working with and ensuring fair treatment for provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous Peoples by establishing a Council of Canadian Governments to set higher order policy priorities, with the goal of policy coherence to optimize public spending. It would include the federal government, provincial/territorial governments, representatives of the local order of government with large city mayors and smaller and rural municipalities, and Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) governments. This is similar to one in place in Australia.

## THE ROLE OF THE MUNICIPAL ORDER OF GOVERNMENT



Around the world, cities are taking leadership on critical issues such as climate change, immigration and refugee protection. Canadian cities are hobbled in this respect because the 1867 constitutional designation of the municipal order of government as creations of the provinces severely limits their autonomy and authority. With only 10 cents out of every tax dollar flowing to municipalities, and no direct powers of taxation, vast inequities in our governance structures and financial stability have been created.

Successive governments have skirted the issue; there is no appetite for re-opening the Constitution. Prime Minister Harper, quite rightly, made the gas tax a permanent form of municipal taxation. The Trudeau administration has also made some progress on funding housing and transit infrastructure. These have helped to stabilize municipal budgets, but it is still insufficient.

- Give municipal governments a seat at the policy-making table through the Council of Canadian Governments.
- Encourage the use of City Charters which give greater autonomy to cities.
- Makes changes to the Canada Infrastructure Bank to reduce interest rates to municipalities on loans for infrastructure projects.
- Institutionalize federal transfers to municipalities through the creation of a Municipal Fund, renaming the Gas Tax funds, which were delinked from gas tax revenue years ago. Ensure a doubling of current funding to ensure predictable and reliable funding to municipalities.
- Allocate one per cent of GST to housing and other municipal infrastructure on an ongoing basis to provide a consistent baseline of funding.
- Answer the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' and Vancouver Mayor's Council's call for a permanent, dedicated federal public transit fund of \$3.4 billion annually starting in 2028, once the existing transit funding program expires.

## Justice Reform

The criminal justice system criminalizes far too many Indigenous persons, members of visible minority communities and people suffering from mental illness, homelessness and addiction. The adversarial family court system does not address the needs of children and families experiencing the trauma of divorce and separation. The civil justice system disadvantages those who cannot afford lawyers.

A Green government will implement a justice reform agenda that will increase access to justice and fairness in Canada's justice system.

- Develop a clear framework for the use of Deferred Prosecution Agreements (DPAs) and require the Director of Public Prosecutions to report on any negotiated DPAs in her annual reports.
- Implement recommendations of the McLellan Report for a clear written exchange of views to avoid some of what was inappropriate in the SNC-Lavalin matter.
- Eliminate mandatory minimum sentences and enable the courts to determine appropriate sentences based on the circumstances of each case.
- Pass legislation to eliminate solitary confinement that fully coheres with decisions rendered in the courts of British Columbia and Ontario.
- Re-invest in prisoner rehabilitation and preparation for reintegration in society, especially for Indigenous people and women.
- Ensure illegal handguns are intercepted and kept out of our cities. Redirect Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) resources to weapons smuggling and reduce pursuit of people living in Canada without proper residency, but who are otherwise law-abiding. Launch a confidential buyback program for handguns and assault weapons.
- Reform the process of record suspensions for simple possession of cannabis to maximize fairness and accessibility for marginalized communities, and review the process of record suspensions as it applies to other offences.
- Reform the policy, legislation, programming, and funding framework for Canada's superior courts so that civil and family justice services become much more accessible to Canadians, following the precedent set by British Columbia and the United Kingdom.





# International Relations and Defence

Multilateral institutions through which sovereign nations talk to each other, collaborate on regional and global initiatives, and attempt to resolve disputes are under immense strain. Commitments to multilateralism are weakening, with potentially serious consequences for global stability and security.

Canada's long-standing commitment to multilateralism builds on Lester B. Pearson's legacy as a Nobel Peace Prize laureate. A Green government will support such international engagement, recognizing that isolationism and nationalistic jingoism create a dangerous path and must be vigorously resisted. We will strengthen Canada's role in promoting peace and global cooperation.

## International Development



International stability rests on all nations being able to provide their people with basic needs and security. These are articulated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- Re-establish the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that was dismantled by the Harper government, with a mandate to provide overseas development assistance where it is most needed. Eliminate the requirement that aid be tied to Canadian business interests overseas, or strategic geopolitics.
- Increase Canada's overseas development assistance budget to reach former Prime Minister Pearson's goal of 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income, which Canada has never achieved but which many in the donor group of our allies have already surpassed.

- Ramp up our national contribution to the Green Climate Fund and Global Environmental Facility to \$4 billion per year by 2030.
- Review federal government policy to align with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and develop a mechanism to track progress in meeting these targets both at home and abroad.

## Foreign Affairs and Security



The security and defence of the nation is a fundamental responsibility of any sovereign government. Not since the end of the Cold War 30 years ago has global security seemed so precarious. Contributing to this is the disruption being caused by climate change – referred to by military analysts as a threat multiplier. This will only worsen as the Earth heats up, including in Canada.

The Green Party is committed to building and keeping peace, including post-conflict work to strengthen civil society and democratic institutions around the world. We are committed to expanding Canada’s peace-keeping role internationally. At the same time, we are fully aware of the dangers of militarism and the need to defend against it, both at home and on the global stage. We support the United Nations’ doctrine of the duty to protect and refuse to place corporate interests ahead of ethical action to protect vulnerable populations.

The Green Party understands that Canadian Armed Forces personnel are appreciated worldwide for their degree of training, quality leadership at all levels and for the can-do and cooperative attitude they bring to international operations. Canada now needs a general purpose, combat capable force that can provide realistic options to the government in domestic security emergencies, continental defence and international operations. This includes protecting Canada’s northern borders as Arctic ice melts. A Green government will ensure that the Canadian Armed Forces are prepared to serve in both traditional and new capacities.

- Ensure a consistent capital investment plan with stable funding so that service personnel have the equipment and training they need to fulfill an expanded mandate. This includes naval and coast guard vessels that can operate in the Arctic Ocean, fixed-wing search and rescue aircraft, and helicopters.
- Normalize the deployment of military personnel to protect civilians and communities from extreme forest fires, flooding and storms caused by climate change, and new pollution threats in Canada’s north.
- Sign and ratify the Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.
- Ban autonomous weapons and work for a global pact to make them illegal.
- Cancel the contracts to provide Saudi Arabia with armoured vehicles and ban importation of Saudi oil.

Security





## Addendum:

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This Addendum contains supplemental information to our platform. It contains policies that were costed but did not make it into the original publication of the platform.

### Financial Transaction Tax

Greens believe that economic policy flows out of social and environmental policy. As such, a green economy demands that everyone contribute their fair share. Large financial institutions are not contributing what is needed for us to make the transition to a sustainable future.

Nobel Prize-winning economist James Tobin proposed a tax of 0.5% on major financial transactions, designed to eliminate the massive movement of funds between different currencies, which fuels short-term currency speculation.<sup>34</sup> A Green government will implement this tax, allowing the federal government to redirect a portion of large-scale financial transactions for the benefit of all Canadians.

This tax will only apply to stock purchases made by large, publicly-traded financial institutions.

### Net Wealth Tax

There is something deeply wrong with the growing gap between rich and poor in Canada. Making this problem worse is the fact that the burden of taxation on families is not fairly distributed and many of Canada's wealthiest people are simply not paying their fair share.

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34 James Tobin, "A Proposal for International Monetary Reform," *Eastern Economic Journal*, 1978, online: <https://ideas.repec.org/a/eej/econj/v4y1978i3-4p153-159.html>.





Our climate plan, Mission: Possible, is designed to meet or exceed all of the commitments in the Green New Deal. With this in mind, a Green government will implement a one per cent tax on net wealth over \$20 million. This measure will help build a more fair and equitable tax system while starting the process of bridging the growing gap between rich and poor in Canada.

## Taxing Sugary Drinks

Canadian parents are facing a troubling reality – for the first time in our history, children will likely be less healthy than their parents. This is a complex, major issue that will require systemic, societal changes to overcome. On the recommendation of Diabetes Canada, the Canadian Medical Association,<sup>35</sup> Dietitians of Canada,<sup>36</sup> and the Heart and Stroke Foundation,<sup>37</sup> the Green Party of Canada will begin that process by adding a special tax on one of the leading causes of obesity and certain types of diabetes – the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.

In order to help ensure a healthier society, the Green Party will institute a 10 per cent tax, before other sales taxes, on these calorie-dense, nutritionally lacking beverages. Internationally, such taxes have not only created useful revenue tools, they've led to a substantial reduction in the consumption of sugary drinks.<sup>38</sup>

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35 CMA, "Federal excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages and artificially-sweetened drinks," August 2017, online: <https://policybase.cma.ca/en/permalink/policy13709>.

36 Dietitians of Canada, "Taxation and Sugar-sweetened Beverages," February 2016, online: <https://www.dietitians.ca/Downloads/Public/DC-Position-SSBs-and-taxation.aspx>

37 Amanda Jones et al, "The tax and economic impact of a tax on sugary drinks in Canada," March 2017, online: <https://www.heartandstroke.ca/-/media/pdf-files/canada/media-centre/health-economic-impact-sugary-drink-tax-in-canada-en.ashx?la=en&hash=0CF692F4AB6343A7536211A818A56ECA4CE09D14>.

38 Andrea M. Teng, Amanda C. Jones, Anja Mizdrak, Louise Signal, Murat Genç, Nick Wilson, "Impact of sugar-sweetened beverage taxes on purchases and dietary intake: Systematic review and meta-analysis." *Obesity Reviews*, 2019; DOI: 10.1111/obr.12868

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# forward together



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