



BUILDING A CANADA
THAT WORKS. **TOGETHER.**
2015



AT HEART, I AM AN OPTIMIST.

Though my job constantly requires me to look to the challenges and dangers on the horizon, I know that Canadians working together can solve any problem, overcome any hurdle. I think that is what makes us Canadian – a profound faith that together, through hard work, compassion and cooperation, we can build a better future.

This platform is about Canada. Our democracy, our economy, our communities – our future. This platform is about people, each and every one of us, and the role we play in our country and the essential services we all need to live safe, happy, fulfilled, and enriched lives.

I know many may think of the Green Party as a single issue party – yet, nothing could be further from the truth. Granted, you know me as someone who for the past forty years has stood firm to protect the air we all breathe, the water we drink, and the land that sustains us. But you also know me as a staunch defender of democracy, of economic policies that make sense, of fairness and openness, of justice and equity.

Have a look at what we are proposing to build a Canada that works together, but don't stop there. Ask the tough questions of how we will work in the next parliament in collaboration with all parties to do what's best for Canadians and our country. Then ask the other leaders those same tough questions. You deserve answers – promises are just not good enough.

Our platform is organized around four key issue areas: economy, communities, government, and climate. The policies within have been developed democratically, by people from all walks of Canadian life, from every province, territory, and traditional land.

Canadians inspire me. As Leader of the Green Party, I want to work for citizens to be heard. I want to work to help people who need help, and support small business and local communities as we grow stronger. Canadians in this election, more than ever, can vote from hope and from conviction, not from fear. In this platform you will find optimism, confidence, and sensible Canadian-made plans for a better future.

I hope they inspire you to join us, and to vote Green on October 19.



Elizabeth May
Leader, Green Party of Canada

BUILDING A CANADA THAT WORKS. **TOGETHER.**

OUR VISION FOR A STRONG, SECURE,
AND SUSTAINABLE CANADA.



In a world filled with conflict and uncertainty, Canada stands as an island of peace, freedom, and stability.

Canadians are a people united by cooperation, hard work, and mutual respect. We know that it is our families, our communities, and our teamwork that make us strong. We view the diversity of our nation not as a liability, but rather as a shared strength and source of pride.

Together, we have built one of the wealthiest countries in the world, blessed with a skilled and resourceful population, abundant natural resources, and a highly productive economy. We have built a country with universal health care, public education, a social safety net that safeguards us in times of hardship, and a public pension plan that provides us security in retirement.

But, in recent years, the national values, natural environment, and individual qualities that allowed us to build the Canada we know and love have come under threat.

The Harper Conservatives have skewed and weakened the Canadian economy, focusing solely on higher polluting industries, instead of on creating good, stable, high-paying jobs. They have failed our communities by slashing funding to critical public services, instead subsidizing foreign multinational corporations and providing tax cuts to the wealthiest few. They have granted special privileges to foreign corporations and made us subservient to the interests of foreign investors. They have failed to unite us in the face of conflict and uncertainty, instead cynically opting to divide our nation for partisan gain. They have failed to act in the face of an ever-growing climate crisis, instead gambling our future on more pipelines, more fracking, and risky tankers on our coasts.

This platform lays out a plan to move Canada forward, to overcome the last ten years, and restore the shared values and principles that built the country we love.

Our economic plan invests in people and creates good jobs, focusing on skills, knowledge, and sustainable resource development. Our plan envisions strong communities as the foundation of a

strong country, and will provide the investments in infrastructure, education, and health care necessary to make that vision a reality.

Our plan proposes democratic reforms that will make our politicians more accountable, our parliament more accessible, and our voting system more representative. Our plan takes bold climate action, by embracing the solutions that we already know work, encouraging research into those we have yet to discover, and increasing the taxes paid by corporate polluters.

We understand that in a federation like Canada, no one level of government and no one political party has all the answers. Canada stands apart from every other industrialized country in lacking any national goals or strategy to respond to pressing issues. We are the only country in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with no national policy for energy, housing, education, transportation, health care, climate, or culture.

We need to reinvent the way we make decisions. Greens will press for the creation of a Council of Canadian Governments. Building on the First Ministers' Conference (a body ignored by Stephen Harper), we will convene a council comprised of federal, provincial-territorial, municipal-local, as well as First Nations, Métis and Inuit leaders. Gathered around the same table, national goals will be developed, publicly and transparently. Each level of government will then implement that part of the plan within its jurisdiction. Policy alignment will ensure the wise use of public dollars. All levels of government, pulling in the same direction, will put Canada on the path to a prosperous, sustainable future built on fairness and justice.

Green Members of Parliament, united by this vision for Canada, will be your local champions in Ottawa – working on behalf of you, your family, and your community.

It's time to build a Canada that works. Together.

OUR KEY

COMMITMENTS

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

BECAUSE TOMORROW
IS SERIOUS BUSINESS.

- 10** Establish a Canadian Sustainable Generations Fund
- 10** Roll out a National Sustainable Jobs Plan
- 13** Slash Canada's student debt today, and abolish tuition fees for college, university, and skills training programs for students and their families
- 14** Partner with First Nations for truly responsible resource development in the long-term public interest
- 14** Put Canadian small businesses first
- 15** Support healthy local food and food security

STRONG COMMUNITIES

BECAUSE CANADA
DEPENDS ON IT.

- 18** Defend Canada's public health care
- 19** Implement a National Seniors Strategy
- 20** Eliminate poverty and challenge inequality
- 21** Strong First Nations and Indigenous communities
- 22** Re-invest in the CBC and Radio-Canada, Canadian arts and culture, television and film
- 23** Protect Canada Post
- 23** Ensure safety, defense, and disaster preparedness for our communities



GOOD GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT'S TIME TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY.

- 26** Elect Members of Parliament who are honest, ethical, hard-working representatives for their constituents and champions for their communities
- 26** Restore Canadian science and the role of evidence-based decision making
- 28** Create a Council of Canadian Governments to set national goals and priorities in collaboration with all levels of government
- 29** Repeal Bill C-51 to defend Canadians' Charter rights and privacy
- 30** Fix our electoral system
- 31** Defend Canada's sovereignty
- 31** Reverse Harper's legacy and get our country back

BOLD ACTION ON CLIMATE BECAUSE WE LIVE HERE.

- 36** Defend our coastal waters from risky pipelines and oil tankers
- 36** Halt oil sands expansion
- 39** Implement a robust Canadian Climate and Energy Strategy
- 39** Create a National Transportation Strategy with strict new rules on rail safety
- 40** End thermal coal exports
- 40** Demonstrate climate leadership at the United Nations Climate Summit in Paris

OUR DETAILED **ACTION PLAN** ►





NIRA DOOKERAN
OTTAWA - VANIER

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

BECAUSE TOMORROW IS SERIOUS BUSINESS.

Canada is teetering on a recession for the second time since Stephen Harper became prime minister. His ill-advised political pledge to eliminate the deficit he created, just in time for this election, is now risking a deepening recession.

Despite Conservative mismanagement, our economic fundamentals remain sound. We have the technology, we have the people, and we have the resources. We are one of the wealthiest nations in the world in every sense of the word. Today, our economy produces 50 percent more wealth per capita than it did a generation ago.

Nevertheless, Canadians are feeling more squeezed economically than ever before. Despite a shift to two-income households, the current generation of young families faces increasing costs for housing, education, and childcare, and unprecedented household debt. For the first time in our history, older Canadians are saying that their children will not enjoy the same standard of living as they did at the same age.

Meanwhile, our political leaders repeat the mantra that government cupboards are bare. Deep cuts in the tax rate for large corporations have led to a hoarding of cash in big business bank accounts. The former Governor of the Bank of Canada called it “dead money” – and there’s a lot of it. Over \$600 billion, equivalent to 32 percent of our GDP, is held in corporate bank accounts – not being

re-invested, not working at all. Dead money. Old-line parties have ignored places to fund needed programs and instead claim there is no new money for health care services, education, pensions, infrastructure, public safety, or scientific research.

There is a serious disconnect between the unprecedented wealth produced by the Canadian economy and the increasing economic insecurity of Canadians. We must take decisive action to build a sustainable economy that benefits all Canadians over the long-term.

We need to immediately build those sectors that benefit from the lower Canadian dollar – manufacturing, tourism, value-added forest products and cultural industries. We need to resurrect federal engagement in tourism promotion and support. We need to embrace the 21st century economic revolution of clean technology.

These steps will assist in confronting the biggest threat to our economic future – the decline in the Harper years of Canadian productivity. For the first time since records have been kept, Canada is falling far behind the U.S. in productivity. More R & D and innovation will come from manufacturing and clean technology. We are a nation of innovators. While Harper’s policies reversed our economic progress, hitching us to our 19th century role as hewers of wood and drawers of water, Canadians are ready for a sustainable, clean 21st century economy.

BECAUSE TOMORROW IS SERIOUS BUSINESS,
OUR TOP ECONOMIC PRIORITIES ARE TO:

1 ESTABLISH A CANADIAN SUSTAINABLE GENERATIONS FUND

Secure Canada's economic leadership over the coming decade by creating a fund to invest in skills-training, education, energy efficiency, renewables, and emerging technologies.

We will capitalize this fund by expanding revenue through returning corporate tax rates on large corporations to the 2009 level (19 percent), eliminating tax havens and tax credits used by the extremely wealthy, taxing pollution and waste, increasing the efficiency of our tax system, and working with provinces to increase resource extraction royalties.

The time has come to redesign our tax system for the 21st century economy. As a starting point, in line with fundamental principles of fairness, efficiency and equity, we will eliminate the exemptions, special

cases and tax breaks for favoured interests. These boutique tax cuts have complicated our tax code, needlessly increasing complexity. We must ensure the tax system helps, not hinders, Canadians. These changes will ensure that we capture and secure economic benefits for all Canadians.

Canada is one of the safest places in the world to invest. Rather than investing abroad, the majority of the Canadian Sustainable Generations Fund will be invested here in Canada – in Canadian jobs, education, infrastructure, small-business, and communities.

2 ROLL OUT A NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE JOBS PLAN

Put Canadians to work by investing in well-paying, local, and sustainable jobs in our communities.

Building a sustainable economy is serious business. Boom and bust cycles in the extractive industries have taken a heavy toll on Canadian families and communities, and it's long past time for us to invest in reliable, long-term, local jobs.

The Canadian Sustainable Generations Fund will make critical investments in trades, apprenticeships, and education, and will ensure that all Canadians have the skills and training to prosper today and contribute to building the Canada of tomorrow. These investments in skills training will complement targeted national infrastructure investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy production, digital upgrades, clean-tech manufacturing, tourism, the creative economy, and emerging technologies.

The gap between the infrastructure funding our cities and towns need, and the funding they receive, is reaching crisis levels – Canada's infrastructure deficit is estimated to be upwards of \$350-billion. We will work to close this gap by committing \$6.4 billion per year, one point of the GST, to municipal infrastructure – providing stable, long-term funding to Canadian municipalities, creating good local jobs, and building vibrant, safe, and livable Canadian towns and cities.

We will create a Canadian Infrastructure Bank to provide more robust and innovative financing and investment partnerships, in order to build safer bridges, better roads, world-class water treatment facilities, affordable housing, efficient public transportation, and expanded broadband access – putting thousands of Canadians to work in the process.

We will create additional sustainable jobs by re-introducing and expanding the home renovation tax credit, to create incentives for individuals and companies to make their homes and businesses more efficient and accessible by installing high-efficiency insulation, solar heating and electricity, energy-efficient appliances, and accessibility upgrades. And we will unleash an army of carpenters, electricians and contractors to take outdated and leaky public buildings – schools, universities and hospitals – and plug the leaks that increase greenhouse gases and costs. These changes alone will reduce carbon emissions by 30 percent nationwide.



FRAN HUNT-JINNOUCHI
COWICHAN – MALAHAT – LANGFORD



GLENN SOLLITT
COURTENAY – ALBERNI

It's time to break the status quo on education in Canada and abolish tuition fees for college, university and skills training programs.

3 SLASH CANADA'S STUDENT DEBT TODAY, AND ABOLISH TUITION FEES FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

It's time to break the status quo on education in Canada and abolish tuition fees for college, university and skills training programs. Whether Germany, Austria, Norway, Sweden, or Finland, many of the world's most successful economies have proven that expanding the public education system to include post-secondary increases prosperity, equality, productivity, and economic competitiveness.

We will start investing in Canada's future by abolishing tuition fees for students without adequate financial means, including removing the inadequate 2% annual cap on increased funding for post secondary education for all First Nations and Inuit students. Through consultation and collaboration with provincial governments and universities and colleges, by 2020 we will abolish tuition fees for post-secondary education and skills training for Canadians, guaranteeing that income is never a barrier for qualified students. It is widely recognized that Canada's success depends on an educated population, yet we burden youth with tens of thousands of dollars in student debt.

As our plan to abolish tuition fees is being phased in, we will invest in the success of current students, jumpstart the Canadian economy, and give our

graduates a hand-up by implementing a debt-forgiveness program. Our plan will eliminate any existing or future student federal debt above \$10,000. We will abolish charging interest on new student loans and will increase available funding for bursaries.

It is unacceptable to the Green Party, and should be unacceptable to every Canadian, that the unemployment rate among Canadian youth is twice the national average. The actual youth unemployment rate is likely much higher as many young people have given up on finding that first job and are no longer counted.

Investment in Canadian skills, training, and education is a proven means to create real jobs, and is the backbone of Canada's future as a sustainability superpower. But for many young people just getting out of school, they face a Catch-22. They cannot get hired in new jobs because they lack experience. But unless they get that first job, they'll never have experience. Greens will create a national Community and Environment Service Corps, which will provide \$1 billion/year to municipalities to hire Canadian youth to do work that needs to be done.

4 PARTNERING WITH FIRST NATIONS FOR TRULY RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE LONG-TERM PUBLIC INTEREST

Building a new era of nation-to-nation respect and partnership starts with recognizing First Nations' inherent rights and title.

We will work together to negotiate comprehensive Indigenous self-governance arrangements, and bury the Indian Act. Our Council of Canadian Governments will, for the first time, engage First Nations, Metis and Inuit leadership as full partners in inter-governmental decision-making – for the good of us all and not solely on indigenous issues.

We recognize that First Nations communities have been at the forefront of stalling irresponsible resource development projects like the Enbridge pipeline. We will work with First Nations and with the provinces to ensure that the responsible development of Canada's natural-resource wealth benefits all Canadians, beginning with the consent of the peoples on whose traditional territories they exist.

Truly responsible resource development means securing Canada's endowment of living systems and natural wealth, by setting strict rules on industrial development to eliminate waste and environmental pollution, limiting foreign control over Canadian resources, and putting an end to high-risk plans for new raw bitumen export pipelines and tankers.

By investing heavily in advanced skills training, expanding support for trades and apprentice programs, and capturing additional value by processing resources here in Canada, we will create good jobs in the resource sector and in local communities. All while ensuring Canadians who call this place home have a say in developing our resources.

5 PUTTING CANADIAN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS FIRST

Ensure Canadian small business owners and entrepreneurs have access to the funds they need to create local jobs and revitalize local economies.

Small businesses and the Canadians who own them are the central driver of our economy. They create more jobs than any other part of our economy. And those incomes and profits remain in the community, providing stable employment. As an added bonus, their flexible nature allows them to respond to environmental and market demands well before large corporations take action.

Putting Canadian small businesses first means reducing red tape for small business owners and enacting "Think Small First" legislation to ensure that new federal laws and regulations enhance, rather than hinder, an economic environment where local businesses and entrepreneurs can thrive.

We will create federally-funded \$1 billion per year Green Technology Commercialization Grants to accelerate emerging technologies and give Canadian entrepreneurs a head start. By facilitating increased access to early-stage financing, the Green Technology Commercialization Grant will help our entrepreneurs compete internationally. It will help good ideas and emerging technology get to market, growing our sustainable economy and creating good local jobs and opportunities in our communities.

SUPPORTING LOCAL FOOD AND SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS

In a time of dominance by global industrial food systems, we want to rebalance the equation by creating resilient local economies fueled by local growers, farmers, and producers.

Markets for local and organic food are growing rapidly, and a new generation of young Canadians want to try their hand at farming, yet starting out remains a daunting prospect, requiring financial risk that many young would-be farmers are unwilling to take.

We believe that Canadians who want to enter into agriculture should be supported to do so. We will fund community supported agriculture, farmers' markets, small-scale farms and producers, and the wineries and microbreweries that Canadians love.

Finally, we will shift government-supported research away from biotechnology and energy-intensive farming and towards organic and sustainable food production. We have the successful twenty-plus year legacy of Environmental Farm Plan assessments to build upon in which tens of thousands of family farms voluntarily adopted more efficient farming practices.





JO-ANN ROBERTS
VICTORIA

STRONG COMMUNITIES

BECAUSE CANADA DEPENDS ON IT.

At its heart, Canada is a community of communities, working together with a shared sense of purpose. Our nation needs a government that will invest in the fundamental building blocks on which our neighbourhoods rely – from healthcare to transit, child care to public parks, bridges to local agriculture. All with the aim of increasing the affordability and livability of the towns and cities we call home.

The current situation is not working for many Canadians. The dream of homeownership and affordable rental housing is slipping away. Canadians are being asked to pay out-of-pocket for everything from prescription medicine to dental care, while child care is becoming increasingly unaffordable. Today, even two-income households are having trouble making ends meet month in, month out.

To add insult to injury, consecutive federal governments have allowed critical infrastructure to go without needed maintenance. Lack of investment in the infrastructure that makes our cities productive and our towns livable is risky behaviour. Crumbling bridges, aging and insufficient transit, nonexistent rail infrastructure – these problems are no longer rarities, they have become the norm. We want to invest in our communities just as previous generations invested in the systems we have allowed to fall into disrepair. A modern 21st century economy is undermined by deteriorating infrastructure.

BECAUSE CANADA DEPENDS ON IT, OUR TOP PRIORITIES FOR
BUILDING STRONG CANADIAN COMMUNITIES ARE TO:

DEFEND CANADA'S PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

Defend single-payer universal health care. Bring all parties back to the table for a renewal of the Health Accord. Innovate in health care through electronic health records, patient-centred team medicine built around the family physician working with nurse-practitioners, pharmacists, midwives, naturopaths and others.

Expand health care to cover prescription medication for all Canadians and public dental coverage for low-income youth (under 18 years of age), and increase the emphasis on preventative health care.

Every developed country in the world with a universal health care system provides prescription drug coverage, except Canada. Truly universal health care means guaranteeing that all Canadians have access to the medication they need, and the Green Party will fight to expand public health care to cover prescription medication.

We will implement a National Pharmacare Plan that, through the advantage of bulk buying, will actually save Canadians \$11 billion each year. It will especially benefit senior citizens, who spend the most on prescription medication, and it will allow physicians and doctors to better track if patients are at risk of dangerous over-medication. We will be far more rigorous in assessing new drug applications. We will apply the gold standard for pharmaceutical review to ensure we reject drugs shown to hurt more people than they heal. At the same time, our Pharmacare Plan will provide much needed coverage to the millions of Canadians who are forced to pay out-of-pocket for prescription medication every year.

It is appalling that in a country as wealthy as Canada, our children do not have guaranteed no-cost access to high quality dental care. In order to address the crisis among the most marginal in our society, we will expand our public health care coverage to include dental coverage for low-income Canadians under the age of eighteen.

Canadians know that the best way we can reduce the burden on our health care system is to work to ensure we don't get sick in the first place. Despite this, our medical system focuses disproportionately on cure and not enough on prevention. We will work with the provinces to develop preventative health care guidelines that incentivize active lifestyles and healthy diets, saving our system millions by keeping Canadians healthy from childhood onwards.

As a first order of business after the election, we will ensure the National Conference on Lyme Disease, required by law in the Green Party's first bill, will develop a national strategy to confront this growing threat. It is scheduled for November to be chaired by the federal Minister of Health.

As part of the big picture project of creating healthy communities, we will adopt stricter regulations to prohibit cancer-causing chemicals in our food and consumer products.

The Green Party supports expansion of CPP as the most reliable and predictable pension plan.

2 IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL SENIORS STRATEGY

The Conservative approach to public policy is a series of unrelated, gimmicky, vote-buying schemes. Canada's seniors deserve better. We will work through the Council of Canadian Governments to develop a National Seniors Strategy with the following elements:

- A Housing plan, with affordable, predictable home care support;
- A Guaranteed Livable Income to ensure no Canadian lives in poverty;
- Pharmacare – strongly benefits seniors;
- A National Dementia Strategy, including more long-term care beds in neighbourhood facilities;
- An approach that supports “aging in place”;
- Pension protection, expansion of CPP;
- Promotion of intergenerational programs that allow our kids – from toddlers to high school students – to visit seniors and develop relationships that have proven benefits to both generations;
- Convenient and safe public transport to support independent living;
- Access to the equity in homes to support day-to-day living expenses;
- Addressing the Supreme Court of Canada decision to allow physician-assisted death.

The most extreme challenges of aging are experienced by seniors living in poverty, a disproportionate proportion of whom are women. While the percentage of seniors living in poverty dropped dramatically from a high of approximately 30 percent in 1976, to a low of 4.7 percent in 2007, the poverty rates for seniors have begun to move up once again – 5.8 percent in 2008. We cannot be complacent about the economic struggles of seniors.

The Green Party supports expansion of CPP as the most reliable and predictable pension plan.



3 ELIMINATE POVERTY AND CHALLENGE INEQUALITY

Implementing a Guaranteed Livable Income, ensuring equal pay for equal work, and ensuring high quality child care for every Canadian family who wants it, while providing a school nutrition program – providing healthy food to kids in school to help them learn better.

Despite the growing number of two-income households, Canadian families are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet. Green Party programs and policies will reduce income inequality, and ensure all Canadians have the opportunity to prosper.

We will phase-in a national Guaranteed Livable Income, to ensure that no person's income falls below what is necessary for health, life and dignity. Through the Council of Canadian Governments we will work with the other levels of government whose inadequate poverty band-aid solutions (such as welfare, disability programs) can be rolled up in order to fund Guaranteed Livable Income.

Providing our most at-risk citizens with the resources they need to make ends meet greatly reduces the burden on our emergency and social services, our health care and criminal justice systems – saving Canadian society money and empowering all citizens to overcome periods of hardship. As an immediate first step, the Green Party would implement a federal minimum wage of \$15 an hour. By providing a cheque to every Canadian over 18, the carbon fee and dividend system will also assist in providing help to those who need it most.

We will implement a National Housing Strategy based on Housing First principles. Housing First is a proven, recovery-oriented approach that centres on quickly moving people experiencing homelessness into independent, permanent housing, and then providing additional supports and services as needed. This strategy will guarantee dignity and support for Canadians at the margins of our society, and will help address homelessness while at the same time reducing the burden on our emergency and health services.

Our Housing Strategy will address the continuum of needs – from social housing for those in poverty or dealing with mental health and addiction problems, to First Nations, Metis, and Inuit housing crises, to the market failures depriving those with even a decent income of access to the affordable housing they need. We can ensure that all housing needs are met – whether seniors, youth, or the stressed middle class.

It is a black mark against Canada that, in 2015, Canadian women earn, on average, \$8,000 less per year than their male counterparts for doing the same jobs. We will fight to end gender-based discrimination in the workplace and in Canadian society at large, and ensure that Canada eliminates the gender wage gap once and for all.

Although we must continue to work to address deeply-rooted gender bias in Canadian society, it will take time. One important step is ensuring high-quality affordable child care. We will work with the provinces, territories and Indigenous communities to establish accessible, convenient, enriched and affordable child care spaces for any Canadian family that seeks it. We will support women to re-enter the workforce whenever they choose after having children. The Green Party believes that workplace childcare has many advantages – enhanced parenting time and access to children through the work day, extension of breast-feeding opportunities, improved employee productivity, and improving the convenience of public transport when parents and kids share their morning destination. Tax breaks to employers for the creation of child care spaces is one tool among many we will use to ensure that families have the spaces they need.

4 BUILD STRONG FIRST NATIONS AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

We need to move to implement the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The path to justice, healing and reconciliation begins with accepting a painful truth: the horrors of the residential school system constituted a policy of cultural genocide. There is no way to undo the damage nor to compensate for the grief and loss of many generations of children and families. The truth is hard to absorb, but absorb it we must.

True reconciliation will take time, and while we work to build a new, nation-to-nation partnership based on mutual respect and understanding, there are urgent and important steps that must be taken by the federal government to put the relationship on firmer footing.

We begin by recognizing indigenous rights and title, and will negotiate in good faith to settle land claims, establish treaties and self-government arrangements, and move to repeal the Indian Act should that be the consensus of First Nations. We will respect the rights of First Nations to take leadership of development projects on their traditional territories.

Creating opportunity for indigenous communities and their people means ensuring access to quality public services for all First Nations, Metis and Inuit. It requires adequate funding for housing, education, and health care, both on and off reserves. We will work to expand rural health care infrastructure by investing in telehealth and mobile medical units, to ensure indigenous communities have access to critical care.

The ongoing crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women must be urgently addressed. We will launch a national inquiry and fight to ensure that structural violence against indigenous communities is addressed.

We also recognize the critical importance of defending languages and cultures, and will provide new federal funding for culturally appropriate education in traditional languages.



5 REVERSE CBC-RADIO CANADA FUNDING CUTS

Investing an additional \$285-million in the first year of our new Green Parliament and \$315 million in every subsequent year to protect our national broadcaster.

We will ensure Radio Canada and CBC have adequate and stable funding, reversing the Harper Conservatives' \$117-million cut, and investing an additional \$168-million and \$315 million every year thereafter to rebuild the CBC and Radio-Canada's local coverage and capacity. We will also restructure the governance structure of the public broadcaster to end the political influence of partisan cronies being appointed to the board.

We need to re-invest in a CBC/Radio-Canada that is distinctly public and distinctly Canadian, ensuring our public broadcaster has the resources and expertise to provide quality local news coverage from our biggest communities to our smallest. The CBC and Radio Canada define what it means to be Canadian by covering the unique, the unconventional, and the truly Canadian. We'll make sure it has adequate and sustainable funding so it can continue to enrich our lives for years to come.

In addition, we will increase funding to all of Canada's arts and culture organizations including the Canada Council for the Arts and Telefilm Canada.

In addition to restoring funding to CBC and Radio-Canada, we will work to rebuild the arm's length governance of our arts and cultural institutions to prevent political interference, prevent further monopolization of Canadian media, and defend the freedom and integrity of the internet by enshrining the principle of "net-neutrality" in Canadian legislation.

We must be very concerned about the threat of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and its Crown Corporation provisions. If adopted, it could undermine our ability to maintain many public services provided through Crown corporations, including to our cultural industries.



JOSÉ NÚÑEZ-MELO, VIMY
BRUCE HYER, THUNDER BAY – SUPERIOR NORTH

6 PROTECTING CANADA POST

Daily mail service to everyone's front door.

Canadians in the 21st century deserve postal service to their doors. Canada Post is experiencing a decline in letter service, but an increase in parcel delivery. The impact of the internet cuts both ways: more emails reduce letters by post; on-line shopping has increased parcels. Small business is very dependent on postal service. We cannot afford to lose a strong Canada Post.

Fortunately, Canada Post is still profitable. It can be sustainable and profitable into the future. CUPW has long advocated a diversification of services. This is particularly valuable as Canada Post is in

every community – big and small. As commercial banks have withdrawn their physical presence in many communities, Canada Post can offer much needed services. Other countries have allowed their postal services to sell insurance, provide banking services and other services to remote communities. Perhaps the best model is Israel where postal service has been diversified with over 70 different products and services.

We will reverse recent decisions to reduce home delivery and we will set Canada Post on a profitable course for its future.

7 KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

Creating peace of mind for Canadians by reversing funding cuts and re-investing in disaster preparedness, training, and equipment for our forces on the frontlines of keeping our communities safe.

We must make sure that the Canadians tasked with keeping us safe are fully-resourced, well-trained, and equipped to fulfill their mission – from the Canadian Forces to civilian forces like the Coast Guard, Park Rangers, Fisheries Patrol, Canadian Space Agency, and Northern Rangers. We will re-open the shuttered Coast Guard stations on our coastlines.

Keeping our communities safe means strengthening Canada's defence capacity by prioritizing roles and missions for our forces that focus on peacekeeping; defensive missions with our allies; border, northern, and coast guard patrols; search and rescue missions; and patrolling our parks.

Recognizing the critical role that our forces play also means respecting and truly taking care of our veterans. Canadian veterans deserve our grateful and ongoing support, including secure and generous pensions. Our veterans should never be forced to fight in the courts to secure their long-term benefits or to ensure that Veterans Affairs disability pension promises are honoured.

We will re-open the Veterans Affairs offices across Canada, reversing the \$200 million cut to Veterans Affairs. Our veterans deserve more than to be left on hold with a government 1-800 number that is never answered, instead of the help they need from a compassionate person who knows their situation. We will ensure access to service dogs trained to assist veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Perhaps most importantly, keeping our communities safe means building Canada's disaster preparedness capacity. We will invest in comprehensive earthquake, forest fire, flooding and tsunami response plans to bring Canadian disaster readiness up to world-class standards, so we can more ably respond to the extreme weather events that are becoming more common as the climate changes.



MARY LOU BABINEAU
FREDERICTON

GOOD GOVERNMENT

BECAUSE IT'S TIME TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY.

Good government is founded on prudent planning and rational, evidence-based decision-making in the public interest. Good government provides long-term stability, security from threats both domestic and abroad, and a vision that stretches well beyond four-year election cycles.

To deliver on these basic principles, government needs to engage with, and be responsive to, the concerns of Canadian citizens. The critical first step in this process is to ensure we have a government that represents the will of the people – that means an end to first-past-the-post voting, an end to false majorities, and the creation of a voting system that ensures all Canadians have a voice in our government.

The Green Party is the only party committed to ending whipped votes. MPs from the other parties in Parliament routinely face whipped votes – they must vote the party line or face punishments, such as not being allowed to speak in the House or even being thrown out of the party. No Green MP will ever face a whipped vote. They will be free to put their conscience and their constituents first.

That is the commitment Green candidates make, to be your voice in Ottawa, your local champions.

BECAUSE IT'S TIME TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY,
OUR TOP PRIORITIES ARE TO:

1 ELECT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO ARE HONEST, ETHICAL, HARD-WORKING REPRESENTATIVES FOR THEIR CONSTITUENTS AND CHAMPIONS FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES

When you look at the Green candidates across Canada you will not find a single “career politician.” You will find people with impressive resumes – whether in science, law, academia, teaching, public policy, small business, the arts, journalism, First Nations leadership, municipal government, community organizing and volunteerism, and medicine.

The health of our democracy depends on electing Members of Parliament who are accountable to their constituents. Following Elizabeth May’s example, Green Members of Parliament will work tirelessly on behalf of their communities and never abuse the public trust placed in them.

Green MPs will conduct themselves with integrity and civility, treat others with respect, and never heckle in the House of Commons. Green MPs will always keep the interests of Canada paramount and never be told to vote against the interests and well-being of their constituents.

Green MPs will seek constructive solutions to issues in their local communities, striving to create dialogue and solve problems when they arise.

Green MPs will publish their expenses online, to ensure maximum transparency and accountability, and never use Parliamentary resources for party or personal benefit.

2 RESTORE CANADIAN PUBLIC SCIENCE AND THE ROLE OF EVIDENCE IN OUR DECISION MAKING

Good policy and keeping government accountable depends on good information.

Under Stephen Harper, Canada moved from evidence-based policy making to policy-based evidence-making.

Funding for basic research and scientists in Canada is at an all-time low; research at small universities is disappearing and we are rapidly losing our capacity for long-term innovation. As a result of the Harper Conservatives’ decision to eliminate the long-form census, Canadian researchers, tracking everything from poverty to public health, know less and less about our country as time progresses.

Science, evidence, and transparency together form the backbone of informed decision-making. We will immediately restore the long-form census to ensure that Canadian researchers and policy-makers have access to the latest data.

Canadian scientists, both inside and outside of government, must have the freedom to pursue important discoveries, without looking over their shoulders and worrying about whether their work is “industry relevant” or subject to political interference in funding decisions.

We will fight to ensure Canada remains a world leader in discovery science by enacting Public Access to Science legislation to ensure our scientists are

unmuzzled and free to discuss their findings with the media and the Canadian public without censorship or political interference. Our open science legislation would also ensure that all government-funded scientific research is publicly accessible by law.

We will begin to rebuild the public scientific capacity lost during the past decade by providing \$75-million annually to add critical science capacity to Environment Canada, Health Canada, Parks Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans.

We will implement new legislation to ensure that any new laws or regulations are based on sound evidence that is transparent, rigorous, ethically produced, easy to access and understand, based on the best available information and free from political manipulation. Elizabeth May’s bill (which died on the order paper due to the August 2 writ) will be re-entered to mandate that all publicly-funded science must be published.

We are committed to restoring the role of Canadian science as part of our wider vision of bringing back evidence-based planning and decision-making around climate change, criminal justice, drug policy, harm reduction, homelessness, and more.



KEN MELAMED

WEST VANCOUVER – SUNSHINE COAST – SEA TO SKY COUNTRY

3 CREATE A COUNCIL OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS WITHIN CANADA, AND WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH OUR ALLIES ABROAD

Canada's success has always depended on people working together. We are a country of vast geography and distinct regions. Good and effective government in Canada depends on bringing people together with a shared sense of purpose. In an era of global insecurity, it is more important than ever that we work together here at home.

In the 21st century, we need to reinvent the way we work as a federation. We need to work together to develop national goals and national strategies. To this end, we will create a Council of Canadian Governments to address shared challenges and ensure more effective collaboration between the various levels of government in Canada – federal, provincial/territorial, municipal/local, and First Nations, Metis and Inuit.

Chaired by the federal government, the Council will regularly bring together the provinces and territories, municipal governments, and Indigenous leadership to ensure constructive collaboration to find real solutions for the problems that concern all Canadians from security to infrastructure to health care. In order to make progress on these critical issues, it is important that all levels of government are pulling in the same direction. With a transparent process, a published agenda and a clear path to set in place national strategies – on energy, transportation, culture, health care, and climate.

It is simply absurd that Canada has more internal domestic barriers to trade and movement of workers than the European Union has among 28 separate and sovereign nation states. Canadian workers should be free to move anywhere in the country, without worrying about whether their certifications are recognized in one place or another. The Council of Canadian Governments will be the catalyst for a new era of cooperation that establishes common standards to improve interprovincial labour mobility and work towards recognition for international accreditations.

The bottom line is this – when our federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations governments work together, we can bring down barriers that restrict our employment opportunities and keep families apart.

From climate change to terrorism, we will work together with our allies to counter threats and ensure a safer world. We will strengthen our international influence

by investing in our diplomatic skills and talent, and shift our focus and funding away from NATO military contributions, towards United Nations peacekeeping, poverty alleviation and disaster relief efforts. We will commit to ending poverty globally by contributing 0.7% of GDP to official development assistance. We will not purchase the F-35 stealth fighter jets. We will invest in new military equipment that fits Canada's defence requirements. We will purchase fixed-wing search and rescue planes, ice-breakers and replace dangerous old military hardware to ensure that threats to our military are not posed by the equipment we give them.

We will overhaul our immigration and refugee protection system to ensure that Canada is seen as a welcoming and compassionate home for people fleeing violence and persecution. Our immigration system should welcome and integrate new Canadians over the long term. The short-term employment focus of the Temporary Foreign Workers Programs both exploits those workers, often denied a route to Canadian citizenship, while denying Canadians those job opportunities.

We will reverse numerous changes to our laws that have created two-tiers of Canadian citizenship – with some deemed more Canadian than others. The matter of citizenship should never be political. It must be based on facts. You are born here or you are naturalized a Canadian citizen. Canadian citizens who violate the law go to jail. But to create the notion that citizenship can be revoked for anything other than fraud in obtaining that citizenship is to move into a shifting and uncertain understanding of what it is to be Canadian.

We will act to resolve the confusion created for the "lost Canadians" – one million Canadians have effectively been denied recognition of their citizenship – including thousands of our war dead.

We will repeal as unconstitutional the Foreign Accounts Tax Compliance Act (FATCA). It essentially deprives any Canadian with US connections (even those short of dual citizenship) of full rights to privacy and treats them as a lesser Canadian. We will also repeal Bill C-24 which allows the minister of citizenship to revoke citizenship. Other threats to Canadians will be eliminated with the repeal of Bill C-51.

4 REPEAL BILL C-51 TO DEFEND CANADIANS' CHARTER RIGHTS AND PRIVACY

Presented as an "anti-terror" bill by the Harper Conservatives, Bill C-51 needlessly expands the powers of Canada's spy agencies, without creating the necessary oversight. At the same time, it actually undermines our policing efforts to abort terrorist plots. It is a dangerous piece of legislation that does not make us safer.

We were the first party to oppose Bill C-51 in the House of Commons, and we will continue to fight to repeal this Bill and defend Canadians' constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms.

Among the thousands of ordinary Canadians of all political stripes who spoke out in opposition to Bill C-51, four former Prime Ministers, five former Justices of the Supreme Court, and over 100 independent legal scholars expressed profound concern with this ineffective, harmful, and overreaching new law.

Canada already has effective anti-terror laws that do not trample on our rights as egregiously as Bill C-51 does. The RCMP has used these existing powers to keep Canadians safe; for this they deserve Canadians' gratitude.

Bill C-51 allows widespread government surveillance and intrusions into Canadians' privacy, will not make Canadians safer, and, in fact, will make us less safe. Without any oversight or obligation to share information with RCMP, CSIS is allowed to secretly intervene in suspicious activity without coordinating with other security forces. This is a recipe for disaster.

We now know that the Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC) already collects millions of Internet communications every day from average Canadians. Canada Border Services also has no review or oversight mechanism. And none of these agencies, all tasked in one way or another with confronting terrorism, have any oversight individually and no requirement to share information with each other. This is unacceptable. At a time when the United States is beginning to rebalance the relationship between government surveillance and the privacy of its citizens, the information sharing provisions in Bill C-51 will decisively tip the scales toward unchecked government intervention into our personal lives.

Bill C-51 must be repealed, as it infringes on the political and civil rights granted to all of us under the Canadian Charter. For these reasons, Green MPs will make the repeal of Bill C-51 a top priority in Parliament.



5 REPLACE THE FIRST-PAST-THE-POST SYSTEM WITH PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Our current voting system is outdated.

It is the only voting system that allows a minority of the votes to elect a majority government with 100 percent of the power. It makes voters feel as if their vote just doesn't count. It is time to replace it.

The first-past-the-post voting system has lost the confidence of Canadians. Our promise is to replace the first-past-the-post system with a form of proportional representation within the first year of the next Parliament. We will determine the form of proportional representation best suited to Canada through extensive public consultation by an all-party committee.

We will overhaul the "Fair" Elections Act, establishing mechanisms that increase voter participation, and ensure greater fairness, transparency, and accountability in election financing. We will make the Commissioner of Canada Elections (CCE) responsible for investigations into campaign irregularities,

reporting directly to Parliament, and give him or her the power to fully investigate and hold to account anyone who breaks Canada's electoral laws. The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) should be clearly mandated to encourage voter turnout. Both the CCE and CEO should be appointed by an impartial Public Appointments Commission.

To strengthen local democracy and enhance the freedom of MPs to stand up for the interests of their constituents, we will amend the Elections Act to remove the requirement that party leaders need to sign the nomination papers of candidates, giving this power instead to the local organizations. In opening up the Elections Act, we will un-do damaging changes made in the Harper era that undermine Canadians' right and ability to vote, whether living within Canada (youth, First Nations, homeless and others) or living overseas.



LYNNE QUARMBY
BURNABY NORTH – SEYMOUR

6 DEFEND CANADA'S SOVEREIGNTY

Of all the damaging things done to Canada in the last nine years, ratifying the Canada-China Investment Treaty – in secret, by Cabinet alone, without any parliamentary or public hearings – poses the greatest long-term threat to our sovereignty.

The treaty, known as a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement or FIPA, is lop-sided, benefiting the Peoples' Republic of China, while providing no advantage to Canada. In fact, it locks us in until the year 2045, giving State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) superior rights to those of Canadian companies. Beijing's SOEs now have the right to bring arbitration claims against Canada in secret tribunals. These are not courts, but private arbitrations in which arbitrators gain personally and financially through a system that lacks the fairness and predictability of our national courts. Thanks to Stephen Harper, our sovereignty has been significantly eroded.

In the next parliament, Green MPs will press for legislation to require that any and all complaints from Beijing under this treaty, even early diplomatic complaints, must be made public. We must ensure

that all the other party leaders understand that Canadians want to fight for our laws and push back against complaints from SOEs from the People's Republic of China.

If Beijing complains about a municipal by-law or proposed legislative change, such as reversing the damage to the Fisheries Act, Environmental Assessment or Navigable Waters Protection Act, we will not cave. We will not let FIPA-chill cause government to pull back from doing the right thing. We need a transparent commitment to aggressively defend Canada's policies and decisions, and, if we must, to write a cheque for damages under FIPA, rather than cancel planned laws or repeal existing ones.

We will vigorously oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA).

Greens will also work with Green MPs in governments around the world to open a full-scale global review of all investor-state agreements with the goal of revising and improving all of them to rebalance rights to democracies and reduce global corporate rule.

7 REVERSE HARPER'S LEGACY TO PUT OUR GOVERNMENT BACK ON TRACK

Over the last decade there have been unprecedented changes to the way our government operates. Our government now functions in the least transparent, least accountable, most partisan and divisive manner in Canadian history.

The Harper Conservatives' invented the use of omnibus budget bills – bills that cover dozens of diverse and unrelated changes to law and policy. Such bills have been rammed through Parliament time and time again since 2011, without proper study. With the "might makes right" style of Stephen Harper, over 99 percent of opposition party amendments were routinely rejected.

Omnibus budget bills have severely damaged our democracy. The Harper administration has used omnibus bills to devastate centuries-old environmental legislation, curb free speech, and cut billions in funding from health care. A single omnibus bill in spring 2012 (C-38) changed 70 laws, which even former Conservative ministers said undermined our fisheries and environment.

The Green Party will work to end the illegitimate use of omnibus bills. These sweeping bills have no place in our democracy. In addition to ending the use of omnibus bills, Green MPs will restore all the environmental protections that the Harper government has eliminated over the past ten years.

Due to Stephen Harper's shocking use of prorogation to avoid political embarrassment and confidence votes he knew he would lose, Canada now needs to control access to prorogation by requiring a 2/3 vote in Parliament. We need new rules to require the summoning of a new parliament (within 30 days of an election) and for the dissolution of Parliament.

We will work to end the "American-style" attack politics that is slowly becoming the norm in Canada, slashing the budget of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) by 50 percent. The PMO is a taxpayer-funded office that has become a partisan central agency, controlling all government MPs, Cabinet ministers, all operations, and even attempting to force non-partisan civil servants into partisan schemes.

The PMO now constitutes a daily contempt of Parliament. It spews out negative, partisan, and divisive campaigns. The PMO has exerted control over parliamentary legislative committees, demanding Conservative MPs attack witnesses who disagree with Conservative policy and whipping votes in committee. The PMO has (in violation of our Constitution) also dictated votes in the Senate and even attempted to interfere in an audit of Senate expenses.

We will slash the advertising budget of the federal government. All contracts must be publicly tendered on a website with decisions being removed from political operatives.

We must empower parliamentary committees to fully discharge their oversight responsibilities: appoint committee members for a full session of Parliament; select chairs through secret ballots and ensure adequate budgets; strengthen the mandates and establish genuine independence

for officers of parliament (Parliamentary Budget Officer, Privacy and Information Commissioners, Auditor General, Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Science Advisor, National Security Advisor).

We will overhaul Accountability, Conflict of Interest, Privacy and Access to Information legislation.

It is time to curtail patronage through use of an independent Public Appointments Commission.

We need to act to diversify and enliven the media in Canada. A robust news media is essential for an informed citizenry and a healthy democracy. Canada's media has become dangerously concentrated in a few hands. Recommendations have been made in numerous reports and Royal Commissions. It is time to act on these recommendations and apply anti-trust legislation to corporate media, while restoring our public broadcaster and its essential role.

We will enshrine in the Constitution the right to a healthy environment. We will act to reform the Senate. A comprehensive proposal for an elected Senate by proportional representation must be developed and approved by Canadians in a national referendum. It is time to grasp the nettle and amend the constitutional amending formula to approve changes through a referendum mechanism.

The PMO is not part of our system of government. It is not even mentioned in the Constitution. It was invented in 1970. While initially exerting a minor level of control it has become too powerful, too centralized, and too unaccountable – its budget needs to be cut and practices reformed.

We must protect the fundamental principle that the prime minister reports to parliament; not the other way around.

We must protect the fundamental principle that the prime minister reports to parliament; not the other way around.



PAUL MANLY
NANAIMO – LADYSMITH



BOLD CLIMATE ACTION

BECAUSE WE LIVE HERE.

Climate change is both the biggest challenge and the biggest opportunity that Canada has ever faced. While the consequences of failing to address climate change would be catastrophic, our transition to a green, sustainable economy will create good local jobs, shorter commutes, more livable cities, and cleaner air and water.

Our plan is to move to the virtual elimination of fossil fuel use in Canada by mid-century. Our short-term target is 40 percent below 2005 levels by 2025, while we are calling for 80 percent reductions below 1990 levels by 2050. These are ambitious targets, yet the scale and urgency of this challenge demands nothing less. As Canadians, we will rise to this challenge and,

in doing so, create a strong, stable, and prosperous economy today and for our children and grandchildren tomorrow.

For Canadians to benefit from this transition, we need to elect Green Members of Parliament. Only Green MPs will stand up to defend our coastlines from increased tanker traffic, our rivers and parks from reckless pipeline projects, and our economy from further pursuit of high-risk extractive schemes that threaten Canada's long-term prosperity. Only Green MPs will position our economy to reap the full benefits of the inevitable global shift to a fossil-fuel free economy.

It is time for Canada to take bold climate action.

BECAUSE WE LIVE HERE,
OUR TOP ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES ARE TO:

1 DEFEND OUR COASTAL WATERS FROM RISKY PIPELINES AND OIL TANKERS

Only Green MPs will put our coastal communities first by standing against all new raw bitumen export schemes.

Kinder Morgan proposes a seven-fold increase in oil sands tanker traffic through Vancouver and Burnaby, while Energy East proposes to increase tanker traffic through the Bay of Fundy. These tankers would carry bitumen from the oil sands, mixed with toxic diluents to make it flow, a mixture that is impossible to clean up if spilled.

A single tanker accident would ruin our coast and the lives and livelihoods that depend on its health. That is why we recognize that the economic, social and environmental consequences of approving these projects is simply too high. We will take a stand and defend our coastline.

Poll after poll shows that the people of the West Coast will not allow this risky project. More than half of British Columbians say they oppose the Kinder Morgan expansion, including more than three-quarters of young British Columbians. Even the Ontario Energy Board has ruled that Energy East poses more risks than benefits. While the old parties use complaints about process to avoid taking a stand, or even fast track and support these projects outright, the Green Party is the only party standing up for the people and communities threatened by these projects.

2 ARREST THE GROWTH IN OIL SANDS EXPANSION

Protecting existing jobs in the industry, creating new jobs by upgrading and refining existing production, and providing skills training for workers who have been laid off or who want to transition to more stable, long-term jobs. This strategy (more Peter Lougheed and less Ralph Klein) would actually help Alberta's economy avoid the disruptive boom and bust cycle.

Given climate realities and volatile international oil prices, expanding oil sands production is simply not on. Most of the bitumen in the Alberta oil sands must remain in the ground. We will create new jobs in Canada's oil and gas sector by refining the product we already produce, rather than shipping it out raw for refining in other countries.

In addition to increasing our refining capacity, Canada should be home to leading the global clean technology industry – an industry that has boomed in other countries like Germany, where over 1.4 million clean-tech jobs generate over 11 percent of the country's GDP.

We need to respect the oil sands workers whose livelihoods still depend on the industry, and to support the tens of thousands of oil sands workers who have recently been laid off. Canada should provide these workers with retraining to ensure they find good, long-term reliable jobs close to home, not jobs that are vulnerable to cycles of boom and bust and often thousands of kilometres away from their families.

We must also provide urgent support to First Nations living downstream from the oil sands, whose communities and traditional foods are being contaminated by oil sands pollution in the Athabasca water and air sheds, with devastating health consequences.





3 IMPLEMENT A ROBUST CANADIAN CLIMATE AND ENERGY STRATEGY

Partnering with the provinces to price carbon, implement a Canadian Fee and Dividend Plan, rapidly phase out coal-fired electricity, and transition to a prosperous, decarbonized economy.

Climate and energy are two sides of the same coin. We urgently need a comprehensive, science-based national climate strategy to address rising sea levels, drought, extreme weather events, changing rainfall patterns, increased forest fires, melting permafrost and crumbling Arctic infrastructure.

A robust Canadian Climate and Energy Strategy begins with eliminating all fossil fuel subsidies. Canada currently provides more than \$1 billion dollars a year in subsidies to the fossil fuel industry, meaning, on a per capita basis, Canadian taxpayers provide more handouts to the fossil fuel industry than almost every other country in the G20.

Next, we must work together to put a national price on carbon. In the complete absence of federal leadership, the provinces have taken up the challenge of climate change on their own. Although some progress has been made, notably in British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec, this patchwork of climate strategies is an inefficient way to tackle an issue that faces all Canadians.

The Carbon Fee and Dividend Plan is the smartest, most efficient, and most effective way to shift away from burning fossil fuels. We will place a fee on carbon, and pay the funds it generates directly to every Canadian over age 18 in the form of an annual carbon dividend. This plan will defend our climate, diversify our energy mix, grow our economy, and ensure energy security for Canadians.

Most economists and climate scientists agree that fee and dividend provides an efficient and comprehensive solution to a complicated problem. British Columbia has had a carbon pricing plan in place since 2008, during which time BC's fuel use has dropped 16 percent, while GDP has outperformed the rest of Canada. It incentivizes investment in sustainable jobs and green technology, discourages waste and pollution, and puts money directly back into the pockets of average Canadians.

We need to invest in an infrastructure that promotes renewable energy, and a more robust east-west electricity grid to promote renewable energy transmission between provinces, while reducing the enormous waste in our energy systems. We still waste more than half the energy we use. It's time to save money and reduce pollution by going after waste.

4 CREATE A NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY WITH STRICT NEW RULES ON RAIL SAFETY

Strict new rail safety laws and new investment for Canada's rail system – Restore Canadian railways with new funding and stronger rules to ensure efficient rail travel and safe movement of hazardous industrial goods including oil and gas.

Canada's national rail systems are in decline. In much of Canada, rail routes that once moved thousands of people are abandoned. Edmonton to Calgary, Saskatoon to Regina, Halifax to Sydney have all been axed, despite their profitability.

Green MPs will re-invest in our national rail systems, building more train cars in Canada, increasing train speeds, phasing in high-speed rail where feasible, and creating green transportation and energy infrastructure corridors in key regions. An improved rail system will make Canada more economically

competitive, create thousands of new jobs, reduce traffic congestion, and provide a fast, inexpensive and safe mode of transport in key commuter corridors.

We will develop a national transportation strategy – investing in local public transit and expanding VIA Rail to provide more modern, efficient, and frequent passenger rail service. We will invest \$600 million in 2016-2017, building to \$764 million by 2020 in VIA Rail.

Rebalancing the relationship between passenger trains and freight cargo will begin with a

comprehensive plan to limit the burden on our rail system that has been created by exporting unprocessed oil by rail.

Further, in order to reduce the risk to our communities and ensure that a tragedy like Lac Mégantic can never again occur, we will strengthen Canada's rail safety rules and give regulators the tools they need to protect our neighbourhoods from train derailments, especially those involving hazardous materials. We will fund the re-routing of tracks for freight and rail yards away from populated areas.

5 END THERMAL COAL EXPORTS

Work with provinces to ensure the rapid phase-out of coal fired generation plants within Canada.

Like the now-shuttered asbestos industry, it is wrong for Canada to profit from the export of coal destined to be burned in foreign power plants to create pollution and dirty energy abroad, while at the same time we work to eliminate its use within Canada.

Although solar energy is now cost competitive with the construction of new coal-fired power plants, existing coal-fired infrastructure at home and abroad is keeping the world on an unsustainable path. We must do our part by curtailing the export of thermal coal from Canadian ports.

6 DEMONSTRATE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AT THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE SUMMIT IN PARIS

The United Nations 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) will take place in Paris – starting a mere forty days after our federal election. COP21 represents the last, best and only chance for humanity to avert an intensified climate crisis and to prevent runaway global warming.

Only by electing Green Members of Parliament can we ensure Canada can lead in these critical negotiations. We are committed to serious action to avert a climate crisis. Our MPs will always work across party lines, because we understand the only way to make progress is through cooperation and mutual respect.

Canada has played a shameful and destructive role at climate negotiations during Stephen Harper's time in power. It is time to restore Canada's role as a leader. With the old parties' support for new pipelines,

increased tanker traffic, and expanded oil sands production, only Green MPs will show the way with realistic and pragmatic climate leadership. We do not care who gets the credit for Canada's return to the world as a climate leader. We just need to be elected to make sure it happens.

We will fight to restore Canada's reputation as a nation that makes us proud at a pivotal time in human history.

In this election, we will take back our country and be Canada again.



RICHARD HOSEIN
FLEETWOOD – PORT KELLS

BUDGET OVERVIEW

ALL TOTALS IN \$MILLIONS	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
STATUS QUO					
Budgetary Revenues	\$294,500	\$307,600	\$318,600	\$332,800	\$347,900
Program Expenditures	\$263,900	\$273,000	\$281,300	\$292,200	\$299,600
Public Debt Charges	\$28,700	\$30,400	\$32,300	\$33,800	\$35,200
Budgetary Balance (Deficit)	\$1,900	\$4,200	\$5,000	\$6,800	\$13,100
GREEN PARTY INITIATIVES					
Personal Tax Changes	\$4,472	\$4,556	\$4,642	\$4,728	\$4,815
Revenue Increases	\$34,899	\$37,885	\$37,913	\$37,966	\$38,040
Spending Increases	\$38,895	\$42,010	\$42,077	\$42,498	\$42,723
Green Party lowers deficit over status quo by	\$476	\$431	\$478	\$196	\$133
Budgetary Balance (including Green measures)	\$2,376	\$4,631	\$5,478	\$6,996	\$13,233
Budget balance (status quo)	\$1,900	\$4,200	\$5,000	\$6,800	\$13,100
Federal Debt (including Green measures)	\$613,946	\$609,315	\$603,837	\$596,841	\$583,609
Federal Debt (status quo)	\$613,900	\$609,500	\$604,400	\$597,600	\$584,500
PERCENT OF GDP (INCLUDING GREEN MEASURES)					
Budgetary Revenues	14.7%	14.9%	15.0%	15.2%	15.5%
Program Expenditures	13.2%	13.2%	13.2%	13.4%	13.3%
Public Debt Charges	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%
Budgetary Balance	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%
Federal Debt (Debt to GDP Ratio)	30.6%	29.5%	28.4%	27.3%	26.0%
GDP \$M	\$2,003,451	\$2,064,561	\$2,125,671	\$2,186,780	\$2,247,890

For full budget details go to greenparty.ca/budget



CHRIS TOLLEY
TORONTO – DANFORTH



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