

Looking Forward

A fresh perspective
on Canada's future

green
PARTY OF CANADA



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Looking Forward

Most political parties base their plans on one looming event -- the next election, and one aim -- staying in power.

The Green Party is different. We look much further forward, and we plan for a far greater goal -- a livable world, with enough for everyone, with healthy communities based on healthy economies; secure for future generations.



Canadian economist John Kenneth Galbraith said "All great leaders have had one characteristic in common: it is the willingness to confront unequivocally the major anxiety of their people in their time."

That is the role for the Green Party.

Some may dismiss us as idealists, utopians and dreamers. But we are the realists. We know our goals can be achieved. We also know that if they're not, our children and grandchildren will be condemned to an unlivable world.

The most urgent threat is the climate crisis. We must move to a low-carbon economy and dramatically reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. We can do this in ways that enhance Canada's economy and the wellbeing of Canadians.

We must also invest in peace.

And we must shockproof our society against unforeseeable events by building in resilience.

In energy, that means relying increasingly on decentralized renewable power and less on mega-project generators. In social policy, it means realizing that looking out for one another is as important as breathable air, drinkable water and healthy food.

The Green Party faces the major threats of our time – the climate crisis, economic instability, increasing militarism and a growing gap between rich and poor -- with clear-eyed realism. It offers practical solutions -- down-to-earth policies. We want to engage Canadians in the positive changes essential to bequeath a livable world to our children.

Please join us!



Leader, Green Party of Canada



Our Principles:

Our policies are based on three main principles:

1. Integrated policies: They support each other and are fiscally responsible.
2. Grassroots democracy: Citizens have the power; government exists to serve them.
3. The common good: Government must work to reduce inequality, ensure quality public services and help citizens to be empowered and engaged.

Goals for our first Green Government:



1. Measure what counts:

Along with the gross domestic product, which tracks how much money changes hands, we will measure whether that economic activity makes us healthier and better educated, and the environment cleaner.

2. Invest in Canada:

We will restore the tradition of investing in public facilities and services – the things that link us across our vast geography.

3. Create healthy businesses:

To ensure strong, Canadian businesses, in addition to carbon-cutting measures that will promote new industries and jobs, we will:

- Assist small businesses through Green Venture Capital Funds and tax shifting.
- Renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement.
- Support the family farm. Provide GST rebates and compensation for protecting ecological services, such as wildlife habitat.
- Encourage production and consumption of Canadian agricultural products, especially organically grown.
- Harness local knowledge to protect fish stocks. Ban offshore dragnets and support only sustainable aquaculture.
- Work with the forest industry to protect jobs and develop value-added products.

4. Make tax sense:

To promote what's good, target what's bad, and ensure we live within our means, we will:

- Bring in a \$50 per tonne carbon tax and develop taxes for toxic chemicals. Use that revenue to cut payroll and income taxes, and reduce employers' contributions to Employment Insurance and the Canada Pension Plan.
- Cut corporate tax by \$50 for each tonne of carbon emission reductions, to create a \$100 per tonne saving when combined with avoided carbon tax.
- Return the GST to six per cent, to invest in infrastructure. Expand the exemptions on food items, and extend them to children's clothing and books. Provide rebates for rural Canadians.



5. Transform our climate, and economy:

In addition to the Green Tax Shift, we will:

- Cut greenhouse gas emissions to 30 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050.
- Use cap and trade, with hard caps, for some large polluters.
- Expand research and development of low-carbon technologies.
- Improve energy productivity through smarter regulation of large appliances and vehicles, and a national program to retrofit existing buildings.
- Support only bio-fuels that actually save carbon emissions and don't distort food supplies or prices. That means no corn- or grain-based ethanol.
- Participate constructively in global negotiations.

6. Improve health care, and health:

Tackling climate change also leads to a cleaner environment. To reduce other threats to Canadians' health, and improve treatment when it's needed, we will:

- Work to reduce cigarette smoking through education and taxes.
- Limit the commercialization of genetically modified crops and impose labeling of GMO products.
- Protect our universal, single-payer public health care system and ensure it works well at disease prevention and treatment.
- Promote physical activity and healthy eating, and reduced exposure to contaminants.
- Work to develop national goals for pre-natal care.
- Rebuild hospital capacity and make smarter use of it by increasing long-term-care facilities, as well as post-surgery recuperation outside of hospital, with access to nursing.



7. Close the gap:

To ensure a thriving and secure middle class, the bulwark of a healthy democracy, and move toward equity, we will:

- Bring in income splitting and low-income support as part of our Green Tax Shift.
- Eliminate income tax for those earning \$20,000 or less.
- Work toward a Guaranteed Annual Income in place of the current maze of programs.
- Ensure universal access to excellent childcare and early childhood education.
- Support parents who take time from their career for child rearing.
- Cut debt for post-secondary students through measures including a Canadian National Student Loan and Bursary Program. Forgive half the loan for students who complete degree or certificate programs.
- Expand industry-based job training and apprenticeship to reduce the shortage of trained workers.

8. Protect rights:

To create a truly equitable society we will:

- Ensure women's rights are respected. Enforce pay equity.
- Honour the Kelowna Accord and resolve land claims in ways that do not extinguish aboriginal title.
- Expand the rights of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transsexual Canadians.
- Enhance support for disabled people.
- Ease the income support levels required for family-sponsorship.



9. Work for peace:

To make the world a better, safer place, we will:

- Meet the United Nations' target that 0.7 per cent of Canada's GDP go to Overseas Development Assistance.
- Address the crises of HIV-AIDs, the Darfur tragedy and impacts of climate change in Africa.
- Restore Canada's peacekeeping role and help to build a permanent UN force to respond to conflicts and climate disasters.
- In Afghanistan, shift from the NATO mission to one led by the UN.
- Press for nuclear disarmament and declare Canada a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.



Looking Forward – Looking Back

If the policies advocated by the Green Party of Canada are implemented, our children and their children will be able to look back and thank this generation for making the world a better place. Failure will leave them on an increasingly unlivable and dangerous planet. These are not merely political choices. They are the moral imperatives of a generation that accepts its responsibilities.

We can look forward to the day our children look back, and thank us.



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Ce document est disponible en français.

Authorized by the Official Agent for the Green Party of Canada