

Platform 21.

Be Daring.



**Message from
Annamie Paul**



**Green
Future**



**Life with
Dignity**



**Just
Society**



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Message from the leader

270, 49, 815 and 4: the numbers tell the story.

270 FOREST FIRES:

270 fires were burning in British Columbia on the day this election was called.

49 DEGREES:

The temperature hit 49°C in Lytton, B.C. this June, and the ongoing drought on the prairies is the worst ever recorded.

815 CANADIANS:

815 Canadians died suddenly in June because of the devastating heat dome.

4TH WAVE:

A fourth wave of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic is underway as our children head back to school, and businesses attempt to re-open.

There was a time when calling an election under these circumstances would have been unimaginable; a time when any one of these events would have provoked an emergency recall of Parliament. Instead, we find ourselves in an election.

Public health has lost out to partisan ambition, and common sense has lost out to the quest for power.

It is now up to you what happens next and who will be sent to Ottawa to work for you. I believe Canadians are ready to be daring and choose to send more Greens to Ottawa.

I believe that the people of Canada are ready for change. The pandemic has provoked a desire to strike out in a new direction towards a better destination.

My election as Green Party Leader was an historic moment for Canada. In electing me leader, the Green Party of Canada proved, once again, that big things are still possible. In these unprecedented times, that is exactly what we need: a party that is matched to the moment because it believes that big things are still ahead for Canada.

In my past 11 months as Leader, I have emphasised that we need to seize three great opportunities for Canada: turbo-boosting our move to a green future, ensuring a life with dignity for every person in Canada, and forging a just society.

Climate change is here. By acting now, Canada has the chance of a lifetime to accelerate its transition to a net-zero economy and become a world leader in cleantech and renewable energy. It's where the jobs of the future are, and how we will stay globally competitive and build a prosperous sustainable future.

While our party is best known for its climate focus, our innovative social policies have shone through during the pandemic. The urgent need for a guaranteed liveable income, long-term care reform and a safe supply to combat the opioid drug poisoning epidemic; sadly, the pandemic has proved their value these past months. There is now a growing cross-party and civil society consensus around these and other Green Party of Canada ideas.

People in Canada have clearly said that they don't want to go back to the way things were. They now realise that we can't keep treading the same old road and hoping to arrive at a different destination. They want more cross-party collaboration – a flagship Green value – and less hyper-partisanship. They are ready to be daring.

So, I ask you: as we prepare to face down the great challenges of our time, won't our next Parliament be better off if more Green voices are in the House?

For those who say Greens are dreamers, of course we are. We are also leading scientists, entrepreneurs, students, creatives, and civil society leaders from diverse backgrounds across the country. Take a look in your community for the great Green who is running to represent you, and is ready to be your fearless, daring champion.

In honour of the 815 Canadians who lost their lives in June's heat dome - Canada can become a global leader in limiting global warming, securing our planet's future.

In honour of the more than 15,000 who lost their lives in LTC during the pandemic, Canada can become known as the country that best guarantees a life of dignity for all from their first day to their last.

In honour of the Indigenous children whose unmarked graves are still being discovered, Canada can become a global model for Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination.

My election as Leader of the Green Party of Canada was proof that Canada can still be a country of firsts; a country that can still make history.

To every person that is ready to be daring, I say now is the time.

I. GREEN FUTURE

***Canada has the chance of a lifetime.** If we can combine the determination and ambition of the people of Canada with real political will and leadership, Canada can become a global leader in limiting climate change, and in creating one of the most competitive green economies in the world.*

—Annamie Paul, Leader of the Green Party of Canada

We need you to join us in supporting an ambitious plan to go beyond weak climate targets that have never been met by Liberal or Conservative governments. **Green policies are bold and collaborative and can achieve net-zero emissions well before 2050.**

Climate Change is Here.

Climate change is already impacting our communities and we need you to help us implement resilient measures to keep them safe. Nearly 600 people died a sudden death from the extreme heat in B.C. in just one week this summer. That is more than the number of people who died in B.C. during the deadliest month of the pandemic. As hundreds of fires burn across Canada, crops wither in the field on the prairies, and marine life bakes in the ocean, people in Canada are experiencing first-hand the destructive impacts of our warming planet in real time.

We have been given an alarm bell to act on climate change. The August 2021 report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was the latest and most explicit warning of the role of human activity in climate change and its impact on our planet. The UN Secretary General has described it as “Code Red for Humanity.”

Human activity is the cause and the solution. The IPCC reported that human-induced climate change is the main driver behind many weather and climate extremes, including heatwaves, fire weather, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, in every region across the globe. Our actions caused global warming, but the actions we choose to take now can limit it as well.

We need to limit further climate change. The difference to our planet in holding global warming to 1.5°C global average temperature as against pre-industrial levels cannot be overstated. While 1.5°C global warming will cause extreme weather and climate events, at 2°C global warming and above, such events will become much more frequent and intense.

We need to double our resolve to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, because we know that, with every additional increase of global warming, the frequency and intensity of hot extremes, marine heatwaves, flooding, droughts, and intense tropical cyclones, reductions in Arctic Sea ice, snow cover and permafrost will continue to grow.

Six Years of Failure

The Liberal government has caused Canada to fall further and further behind our international partners in climate action ambition and in doing our fair share. The UK has achieved 43 per cent GHG reduction below 1990 levels and recently pledged to achieve 78 per cent below 1990 by 2035. The 27 countries of the European Union recently pledged to cut GHG emissions by 55 per cent below 1990 levels by 2030 and have set out a detailed and ambitious climate plan.

The results of the Liberal government's lack of ambition for the past six years are clear. Under the Liberal government:

- Emissions are 21 per cent above 1990 levels;
- Canada has never achieved a climate target;
- Canada has an emissions reduction target that is well below global peers;
- GHGs have risen in every year since 2016;
- Liberals bought a pipeline and have increased subsidies to fossil fuels;
- Canada is now one of the top three worst per capita GHG emitters in the G20.

There is a great deal of hope and a great deal we can do.

Moving towards net-zero emissions as quickly as possible is the greatest economic opportunity in generations, and Canada can be at the front of the line.

If we can combine the determination and ambition of Canadians with real political will and leadership, Canada has the chance of a lifetime to become a global leader in

limiting climate change, securing our planet's future, and creating one of the most competitive green economies in the world.

The Green Party of Canada has a plan. We have been calling for a non-partisan, collaborative approach to the climate emergency for years. A **Green Future** is possible, through an ambitious and doable plan that will secure Canada's sustainable prosperity.

ENERGY AND EMISSIONS:

Transitioning to a Green Future

A Green government will:

1. Achieve net zero emissions as quickly as possible.

- Ensure a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 60 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030, with clear enforceable targets and timelines starting in 2023
- Achieve net zero emissions as quickly as possible, while aiming to be net negative in 2050

2. End all extraction of fossil fuels.

- Cancel all new pipeline projects (beginning with Trans Mountain)
- Cancel all new oil exploration projects, including in the off-shore
- End leasing of federal lands for fossil fuel production and retire existing licenses
- Ban hydraulic fracturing (fracking)
- End all subsidies to the fossil fuel sector
- Phase out existing oil and gas operations, so that they continue on a declining basis with bitumen production phased out between 2030 and 2035
- Require federal public investment funds (including the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board) to divest from fossil fuels
- Ensure companies are held accountable for paying for the costs of cleaning up and restoring land, instead of passing these to the public

Green Innovation: Just Transition through Renewable Energy

The renewable energy sector holds tremendous promise in helping to support a just transition for workers in the fossil-fuel sector in Canada. We must protect workers in regions that are still highly dependent on the fossil fuel sector for a significant percentage of their budget, that have been left dangerously exposed to the volatility of global energy markets which they are unable to control, and are in desperate need of economic diversification. If we invest wisely, these regions can use their energy sector expertise to capitalize on a variety of new opportunities in renewable technologies.

A Just Transition for Workers

3. Support a Just Transition for workers

- Introduce a **Just Transition Act** before the end of 2021 that takes care of workers and communities during the transition.
- Plan for a fair and carefully planned transition of workers towards a decarbonized economy, that protects communities from displacement, and in which affected people (workers in greenhouse gas-intensive industries, Indigenous Peoples, marginalized communities) are leading the preparation of their transition strategies.
- **Replace every high paying fossil fuel sector job with a high paying green sector job** through wage insurance, retraining programs and early retirement plans.
- Reduce wealth inequality in Canada. Ensure that current wealth holders, particularly those in the fossil fuel sector, pay their fair share. Close tax havens and loopholes to redistribute wealth towards communities that have been underinvested in.
- Introduce laws that incentivize green investment and the creation of green jobs (such as in sustainable transport and energy efficiency), and that disincentivize

unsustainable investments (such as by raising taxes on environmentally harmful goods and services).

- Invest in the cleantech sector and in renewable energy, which will create more, and higher paying jobs than those lost in the fossil fuel sector.
- Enact legislation on green jobs training programs, such as the creation of a youth climate corps; for example, jobs related to ecosystem restoration, particularly for people who have been displaced or severely affected by COVID-19.

Green Regulation

4. Enact a detailed Carbon Budget, determining the cumulative amount of GHG that Canada can emit to do its part to keep warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

- Revamp the World Trade Organization to the World Trade and Climate Organization to ensure that trade is consistent with a global carbon budget
- Ensure that tariffs are determined based on the carbon intensity of imported products

5. Accelerate the increase in carbon taxes.

- Beginning in 2022 and up to 2030, increase carbon taxes by \$25 per tonne each year.

6. Improve waste management and circularity.

- Reduce consumption, waste, and planned obsolescence.
- Promote green procurement practices (procuring goods and services that have a reduced environmental impact), as recommended by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- Promote sustainable waste management practices, such as waste treatment, recycling, and safe handling of healthcare and biochemical waste, by adopting legislative provisions on issues including tax rebates or waivers on recycling initiatives.
- Proceed with regulations to ban non-essential, single-use plastics before the end of the year, and expand the list of items to be banned. Champion a legally binding global plastics agreement, ratify the Basel Ban Amendment and strengthen Canada's rules for plastic waste trade to ensure Canadian plastic waste doesn't pollute other countries.

7. Introduce a Carbon Border Adjustment.

- Enact a Carbon Border Adjustment, which will ensure Canadian companies paying carbon taxes are not placed at a competitive disadvantage with foreign companies located in countries with no such taxes.
- Continuously evaluate the impact of the Carbon Border Adjustment on developing countries through a lens of global environmental justice.

Green Innovation: Carbon Border Adjustments

A Carbon Border Adjustment (CBA) could well be the single most impactful action Canada could take to encourage other countries to adopt strong emissions reduction policies. In the fight against the climate emergency, Canada should always be seeking to show leadership in international efforts to reduce global GHG emissions. Not only would a CBA allow us to access the financial benefits that come with a CBA, and protect Canadian companies, it will also signal a strong intention to assume a leadership role in the global fight against the climate emergency.

Green Infrastructure

8. Develop a national renewable energy electricity grid.

- Ensure that 100 per cent of Canadian electricity is produced from renewable sources by 2030
- Create a national coast to coast to coast energy corridor for green renewable energy by building up the inter-ties needed to link existing provincial grids
- Implement a national, non-emitting electricity grid to help Canada meet its target of net-zero GHG emissions

9. Support Green buildings.

- Create and implement a national green retrofit of existing residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings

- Support agencies and institutions working to create innovative, efficient, and cost-effective programs to carry out green retrofits in different areas and for different communities, thereby creating local jobs and reducing emissions
- Change the national building code to require that all new construction and major renovations to older buildings meet net-zero standards by 2030
- Undertake a green retrofit of all federal government buildings, including government agencies

10. Invest in Green transportation.

- Ban the sale of all internal combustion engine passenger vehicles by 2030, and expand charging stations for electric vehicles, including charging stations in smaller communities and rural areas.
- Develop programs to encourage the retirement of existing gas-powered vehicles, including government-funded grants for the purchase of new and used electric vehicles and 'buy-back' programs to encourage vehicle users to give up their existing vehicle.
- In every sector, from airline travel to passenger rail, and from freight to ferries, mandate and support a faster transition to renewable energy.
- Ensure access to zero-carbon public transportation, with high-speed rail networks between major cities, and spokes of light rail and electric bus connections across the country.
- Guarantee every Canadian safe, reliable and accessible access to affordable, net zero ground transportation by expanding VIA Rail to a rail and bus system. Enact a VIA Rail Act to ensure the VIA Rail mandate for a national passenger transportation network.
- Expand cycling and walking infrastructure, working with municipalities and provincial governments to develop infrastructure that is accessible to all communities and individuals.

11. Ban the development of new nuclear power in Canada.

- Institute a ban on further development of nuclear power in Canada.

Green Innovation

12. Invest in state-of-the-art assessment of climate change impact risks and planning with associated disaster management measures.

- Ensure that Canada utilizes the best available scientific expertise to advance research and development for assessing climate change impact risks. The focus will be on mitigating the impacts such as storms, droughts, floods, wildfires and related air quality impacts on health.
- Increase funding for the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) to support climate resilience projects critically needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change including: wildfire mitigation activities, rehabilitation of storm water systems, and restoration of wetlands, shorelines, and other natural infrastructure.
- Develop transdisciplinary partnerships with governmental, non-profit organizations, academic institutions and industry, and invest in research and the necessary equipment, including the possibility of a shared climate supercomputer.

Green Innovation: Building a Global Climate Super-Computer

Top climate scientists did not predict the intensity of the extreme weather and climate events that hit Europe and North America this summer. That's because scientists say that their computers aren't powerful enough, and that IPCC climate computer models are inadequate. They are calling on the international community to invest in creating a shared climate super-computer capable of producing the climate models for extreme climate events. The cost of the computer is estimated to be a small fraction of the costs associated with extreme events if Canada and other countries continue to be caught unprepared.

Canada can answer this call and demonstrate climate leadership by investing in creating this super-computer, or by bringing together a group of wealthy countries to do so.

13. Develop pathways for Canada to go carbon negative.

- Develop plans and policies to go carbon negative, taking up the challenge of reducing the total amount of CO₂ accumulated in the atmosphere and placing Canada on a new path towards addressing the climate emergency.
- Use skills and knowledge from the oil and gas industry to become world leaders in new technologies.

FULFILLING OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

A Green government will:

1. Fulfill existing commitments to international climate change efforts.

- Shape all climate change policies in order to fulfill existing commitments to international climate change efforts, as policies to mitigate climate change will only be effective through international collaboration and coordination
- Submit a revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement that reflects Canada's fair share of emissions reductions (60% reduction below 2005 by 2030) in meeting the 1.5°C warming target
- Ramp up climate finance to \$USD 4 billion per year to support climate mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage in developing countries
- Participate actively in future international efforts, positioning Canada as a leader on global climate change initiatives

2. Invest in green infrastructure in developing countries to offset energy poverty.

- As one of the world's highest per capita emitters of GHGs, Canada has a responsibility to support the climate action efforts of other countries and Indigenous communities. We will do so by supporting local green infrastructure in developing countries to offset energy poverty

3. Ban the export of thermal coal from Canada.

- End the export of millions of tons of US coal from Canadian ports.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

A Green government will:

1. Establish a high-level Office of Environmental Justice at Environment and Climate Change Canada.

- Support swift passage of the proposed National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act (Bill C-230).

2. Create an independent, scientific, non-partisan, diverse Climate Council to advise the government.

- Create an independent, non-partisan council, composed of First Nations, Inuit and Métis representation, climate scientists and researchers, youth and representatives from communities that are the most affected by the climate emergency, to advise the government on the development and implementation of its climate change policies through a lens of environmental justice and eradicating environmental racism.

3. Provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces.

- Ramp up programs to help all people in Canada benefit from nearby nature, especially racialized communities and others facing systemic barriers. Expand funding for federal programs as well for partnerships with municipalities and local organizations to leverage networks and knowledge in reaching all communities and tackling discrimination and racism in green spaces.

4. Mobilize Canada's fair share of international climate finance, calculated at approximately \$1.84 billion per year to 2025,¹ and lead negotiations towards the achievement of a post-2025 international climate finance target.

¹ <http://aidwatchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Corrected-December-2019-Climate-Report.pdf>

CONSERVING AND RESTORING OUR NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS

Many Indigenous Peoples, researchers, conservation groups, and global citizens have been communicating the same messages for some time: **the biodiversity and ecosystems we depend on are degrading rapidly**, the trajectory we are on is not sustainable, and our window of opportunity to change course is closing in the next decade. Biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation are largely a result of changes in land use, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution and invasive species.

Canada has a global responsibility to conserve nature due to our high standard of living as well as our abundant natural resources. Global resources are unevenly distributed - Canada stewards 20% of the earth's wild forests, 24% of its wetlands and almost one third of its stored land carbon. Canadians overwhelmingly support protecting our abundant natural resources and a few key national policies would result in significant direct and indirect environmental, economic and social benefits in Canada and abroad.

A Green government will:

1. Protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems.

- Support Indigenous-led protected and conservation areas and fund stewardship of these lands and waters by Indigenous guardians
- Implement Canada's international commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and follow-up protocols
- Protect a minimum of 30 per cent of freshwaters and lands in each Canadian ecosystem by 2030 and 50 per cent by 2050, prioritizing carbon-rich ecosystems
- Halt habitat destruction by 2030 and restore the most negatively affected ecosystems such as wetlands by 2050, prioritizing carbon-rich ecosystems
- Expedite recovery plans and implement national and international commitments to reverse species loss
- Scale-up funding for nature-based solutions
- Initiate a national urban biodiversity regeneration strategy to expand greenspace, address environmental racism and protect urban-sensitive species such as birds

- Enhance federal science capacity to inventory and prioritize ecosystems, species at risk, and invasive species

2. Modernize the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

- Prioritize legislation to modernize the Canadian Environmental Protection Act
- Ensure the right to a healthy environment, enforceable in law
- Prevent exposures to toxins and pollution by requiring labelling of chemicals and GMOs in consumer products, including cosmetics, cleaners and furniture

3. Develop and implement a National Forest Strategy.

- Create fire breaks and fire suppression, provide physical resources to deal with fires quickly and effectively, and include fire mitigation subsidies to owners of rural properties, allowing them to better manage the health of their forests.

4. Protect oceans and freshwater.

- Include Indigenous Peoples and their governance systems in all aspects of site selection, management, and decision-making around economic development within the marine and freshwater realms
- Transition to sustainable seafood: work with Indigenous and provincial governments to phase out open net-pen finfish aquaculture in Pacific waters by 2025 and all Canadian waters by 2030; support a just transition of impacted workers, and incentivize the move to land-based closed containment facilities.
- Reduce threats to ocean ecosystems, including supporting a moratorium on deep seabed mining at least until 2030
- Protect and restore coastal and marine areas, and support marine nature-based climate solutions

GREEN INNOVATION

Innovation is the engine to economic growth – it allows Canada to remain competitive on a rapidly evolving global technological landscape. Canadian universities routinely rank among the top in the world and our research laboratories are world renown.

However, Canadian investment in research and development has been declining for years, and at 1.7% of GDP is among the lowest in the OECD. Despite being the country

that discovered insulin in 1921, when the pandemic broke Canada had zero capacity to manufacture COVID-19 vaccines. This must change.

There will be massive opportunities for the countries that develop breakthrough solutions to combat climate change. Nearly \$150 billion (USD) was invested globally last year in solar installations alone. Emerging clean technologies could soon reach this same scale. A green revolution is coming, and Canada has the opportunity to be at the forefront. Along the way, we can create good jobs and be a global leader in the innovation needed to combat climate change. But we must be bold and act now.

Whether it is the forefront of quantum computing, clean technology, next-generation medicine, or artificial intelligence, the federal government has a crucial role to play in de-risking emerging disruptive technologies so that they may scale. It must invest in scientific research and development, in our incredible university systems, and renew our national lab infrastructure for the 21st century.

Scientific Innovation

Scientific research is the foundation of innovation, and creating a Green Future requires switching to an innovation economy. Previous governments muzzled scientists and cut funding for key research, including funding for clean water and northern science on climate change. Recently, there has been more funding for science and climate change research², but it has fallen well short of what is needed. **The Green Party of Canada will make Canada a leader in research and innovation.**

A Green government will:

- Invest in scientific research and implement the full funding recommendations from Canada's Fundamental Science Review.
- Increase R&D spending to 2.5% of GDP, bringing Canada in line with the OECD average.
- Increase funding for the granting councils from \$22.4 billion³ to \$30 billion, including the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR). Ensure all grants by the federal

² Government of Canada. (2021, June 15). *Government of Canada makes major investment in Canadian science, research and engineering*.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-makes-major-investment-in-canadian-science-research-and-engineering.html>

³ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/210317/cg-d001-eng.htm>

granting councils consider Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) outcomes of the research it supports.

- 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.
- Establish a dedicated innovation agency that focuses on developing joint projects across universities, private industry, and national labs.
- Support NSERC's Framework on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in scientific research across all federal grant funding programs, 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.
- Create a dedicated, long-term funding program for water infrastructure, building on the success of the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund that operated between 2016 and 2018

Green Innovation: Entrepreneurs-in-Residence

The Green Party would establish an "Entrepreneur-in-Residence" Program in Canada's national labs, such as the National Research Council, to spur innovation of breakthrough technologies discovered in our national lab system.

Small Business

Small businesses are the backbone of the Canadian economy, creating more employment in the private sector than the big corporations. They create good, stable jobs. They offer competitive wages and benefits. And, because they're small, they are nimble in adapting to changing global markets. Best of all, their success stays local. They circulate dollars in regional economies and improve the communities around them.

COVID-19 pandemic restrictions significantly impacted small businesses leading to business closures, debt burdens and loss of jobs.⁴ The Liberal government is ending the financial support for small businesses, including Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) before COVID-19 restrictions have been fully lifted, leaving small businesses to deal with post-pandemic recovery alone.⁵ CEWS is being replaced with the Canada Recovery Hiring Program (CRHP) which does not cover pay for employees on paid leave, putting both small businesses and employees at risk.⁶ **Small businesses still need support, and the Green Party will make sure they have it.**

A Green government will:

- Extend wage and rent subsidies until COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions are fully lifted.
- Hold the small business tax rate at no more than 9%.
- Reduce the paperwork burden on small businesses by eliminating duplicative tax filings and red tape.
- Ensure all new legislation considers the impact on small businesses.
- Reduce bureaucracy and streamline approvals for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to adopt technologies.
- Promote entrepreneurship training and business support, especially for women, young, racialized and Indigenous entrepreneurs.
- Provide affordable and accessible internet services across Canada, including rural areas.
- Establish a federally funded Green Venture Capital Fund of \$1 billion to support viable small local green business start-ups.
- Subsidize the implementation of new clean technologies across all SMEs

⁴ Tam, S., Sood, S., & Johnston, C. (2021, June 3). Impact of COVID-19 on small businesses in Canada, second quarter of 2021. *Statistics Canada*. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2021001/article/00022-eng.htm>

⁵ Canadian Federation for Independent Business. (2021, July 22). *Small business petition campaign urges federal government to halt phase out of wage and rent subsidies*. <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/media/news-releases/small-business-petition-campaign-urges-federal-government-halt-phase-out-wage>

⁶ Government of Canada. (n.d.-b). *Compare the CRHP and the CEWS*. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/recovery-hiring-program/crhp-compare-cews.html>

Intellectual Property Commercialization & Innovation

While Canadian innovators are among the most ingenious in the world, they face challenges in translating their inventions and intellectual property (IP) into commercially viable products and services. In order to scale up, domestic companies are increasingly selling their valuable IP to foreign firms in exchange for capital.

Between 1998 and 2017, the number of Canadian-invented U.S. patents that were retained by their original inventor fell from 32% to 13%.⁷ Unfortunately, this means that foreign businesses and countries – not Canadians – reap a majority of the economic and social benefits of Canadian innovation.

The ability of Canadian innovators to retain ownership and control over their inventions and IP is critical to exploiting their economic value, for example through licensing use in downstream production or to researchers who can build upon them to make further discoveries.⁸

Capturing revenues from licensing, start-ups and spin-offs is important for economic growth and ensuring that Canada can develop the necessary infrastructure to mitigate and adapt to climate change while funding the health and social programs that foster equity and well-being.

A Green government will:

- Increase direct federal funding for private and student-led business R&D
- Strengthen Canada's venture capital (VC) ecosystem
- Implement a national Buy Clean strategy to increase government procurement of Canadian low-carbon technologies
- Provide access to federally funded IP at a discount to Canadian companies with Canadian operations

⁷ Gallini, Nancy, and Aidan Hollis. 2019. *To Sell or Scale Up: Canada's Patent Strategy in a Knowledge Economy*. IRPP Study 72. Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy.

⁸ Giuseppina D'Agostino. From Start-up to Scale-up Innovation. *Intellectual Property Journal*; Toronto Vol. 32, Iss. 1, (Dec 2019): 1-5.

- Fully implement the House of Commons Report on IP and Technology Transfer⁹ to:
 1. Require Statistics Canada to launch an annual survey on technology.
 2. Collaborate with stakeholders to create a 'toolkit' of flexible IP licensing practices.
 3. Investigate new ways to support Canadian enterprises engaging in technology transfer with post-secondary institutions.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

The agriculture and food sector is an engine of the Canadian economy. The system employs more than two million people in Canada (as a comparison, the oil and gas sector employs about 500,000), it is vital to the economic viability and social fabric of rural communities, key to ensuring a safe and secure food supply, and essential to the health of the environment and ecosystem services.

Agriculture and food systems are highly vulnerable to environmental and economic risks. Because of this, they receive significant policy support from the government in the form of subsidies and other transfers. Support for the agriculture sector in Canada totaled over \$7 billion CAD in 2020¹⁰ and is a powerful tool that can tip the scale and determine which food systems prosper and which decline.

Unfortunately, in Canada, federal government policies have contributed to the growing consolidation of agriculture at all levels, including the radical decrease in farm numbers, and a shift from family-owned mixed farms and local processing to industrial production systems based on crop monocultures and intensive livestock operations.

Agriculture and climate

Canada needs to recognise the importance of agriculture and food systems in meeting our climate targets, and there is still a long way to go in reducing the system's net emissions.

⁹<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/INDU/Reports/RP9261888/indurp08/indurp08-e.pdf>

¹⁰ https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/agriculture-and-food/data/oecd-agriculture-statistics_agr-data-en

The agriculture sector is the third largest contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Canada (after energy and transportation), with estimates ranging between 8 and 12 % of Canada's total emissions. Nitrogen fertilizer synthesis, fossil fuel use, and livestock enteric fermentation are the main sources of these emissions. Agriculture GHG emissions have grown significantly since the nineties, driven by the growth of fertilizer use in crops and intensive livestock operations, and contributing to Canada's lack of success in achieving its emission reduction targets.

These systems are supported by high levels of inputs of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, genetically engineered seeds, and large, globalized processing, marketing, and distribution. Transnational corporations have benefited directly from taxpayer-funded policies and programs and now control a large share of our food supply and how it is produced.

Threats to Canadian Agriculture and Food Systems

Industrial production systems based on monocultures and intensive livestock operations are less resilient and more vulnerable to pests, diseases, and weather extremes. With climate change and more extreme weather, we are seeing evidence of this vulnerability as drought and floods threaten farms' survival particularly in the Prairies. Corporate buyers transfer most of the business risks to the farmers, who are the first to suffer.

Industrial agriculture models have contributed to land degradation, biodiversity loss, water and air pollution, plant, animal, and human health threats. Factory farms crowd animals in poor welfare conditions and create an artificial abundance of animal products that contribute to unhealthy diets. Estimates of the amount of food waste produced by the system range from 30 to 50 percent while food insecurity persists, even in wealthy countries, including Canada, where the demand for food banks continues to grow.

Scientists have been warning us for decades that, as a result of **climate change**, extreme weather events will become more prevalent, threatening crops and livestock. In 2021, the Canadian prairies are experiencing what perhaps is the worst drought in the history of the country, together with unprecedented heat waves, with potentially devastating consequences for farms in the region and the communities that depend on them.

The **vulnerability of our food systems** is not limited to farm losses. Canada, with its large land area and relatively small population, is the world's fifth largest agricultural exporter but, amazingly, we are also the sixth largest importer and the number one per-capita food importer in the world. This ranking is not because of bananas, oranges

and coffee other things that cannot be produced in our climate. It is driven by our imports of massive amounts of other goods, mostly value-added, as well as ingredients for further processing which could be easily produced in Canada but we have chosen, by way of **our trade and economic development policies**, to source elsewhere.

Labour and succession are also critical risks for this sector, which is increasingly dependent on temporary foreign workers and facing an aging workforce. Squeezed by low profit margins prevalent in the industrial model, too many farmers must rely on off-farm income to survive.

Despite the Liberal government's narrative, **investments** in policies, programs, R&D, and regulatory modernization to support farming based on ecological principles, localized food systems, small regional value chains, and northern agriculture continue to be very limited in comparison. This constrains the development of these areas and hinders their competitiveness as the bulk of program dollars continue to prop up the industrial model.

A Green government will:

- Restructure the \$3 billion Next Policy Framework (NPF- 2023-2028) to shift program dollars from supporting corporate-controlled industrial agriculture to supporting agriculture that is based on ecological and animal welfare principles, including organic and regenerative practices, permaculture, localized food systems, higher welfare farming systems and short value chains.
- Recognize and act on the enormous potential of carbon sequestration in soil and by implementing policies and programs that provide incentives for sustainably increasing organic matter (carbon capture) in the soil through regenerative practices while ensuring that these incentives are equitable, inclusive, and do not disadvantage small farmers.
- Restructure business risk management programs to make them more equitable, inclusive, and responsive in helping farmers cope with climate risk.
- Reallocate research and development priorities, as well as investments in infrastructure to further strengthen support for local and regional value chains by the National Food Policy

Improving the agricultural system's environmental performance

In agriculture, **climate change mitigation and adaptation are complementary goals**. The changes that contribute to reducing emissions and retaining more carbon in the system - regenerative practices, diversified landscapes, moving away from intensive

livestock operations - also improve adaptation by improving resilience in the face of drought, pests, diseases, and other climate-related threats.

A Green government will:

- Invest in science, infrastructure, and business development that supports farming practices which both mitigate climate impacts and improve adaptation.
- Invest in supporting a shift to farming systems based on ecological principles, which work with nature and not against it.
- Work with the provinces to fund the research and development of environmental farm plans 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.
- Establish climate change emission targets for all components of the food system, including nitrogen fertilizer use, livestock production and transportation, and food procurement in federal institutions.
- Re-establish the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration measures to support adaptation to drought conditions.
- To support humane and sustainable food systems, promote more plant-based eating and reduced consumption of animal-source foods to levels the ecosystem can sustain, which is consistent with the dietary recommendations of the Canada Food Guide.

Restoring the food system's social, economic, and environmental roles

A Green government will:

- Assist farmers and support small and medium enterprises to transition away from the industrial model controlled by large agri-business and toward locally and regionally based, ecologically sound and humane agriculture and food systems
- Work with the provinces in creating land trusts to set-aside arable land across Canada to help control the price of land and protect it from being permanently removed as viable farmland
- Support research, development and investments in local markets and urban agriculture to increase access to local food
- Protect supply management systems while allowing small scale production for local markets outside this system
- Support the development of a food waste strategy

- Address interprovincial trade barriers that hinder the development of regionally based food systems and value chains
- Support the phase-out of prophylactic antibiotics in farming to promote higher welfare practices and preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics for human medicine

Green Innovation: Replacing Imports with Locally Grown Food

During the early days of the pandemic, we saw how our overreliance on global supply chains can threaten our food security and, with it, our sovereignty. A Green government will replace one-third of Canada's food imports with domestic production. This would bring \$15 billion food dollars back into our economy to foster economic diversification and rural revitalization.

Strengthening social license

- Adopt comprehensive animal welfare legislation to prevent inhumane treatment of farm animals. This will set minimum standards of treatment, housing density, distances live animals can be transported, and conditions for animals in slaughterhouses and auctions
- Protect food sovereignty, the right of farmers to save their own seed, and fund and promote seed banks, seed exchange programs, and agrobiodiversity conservation
- Support the recommendations of the Canada Food Guide and will encourage Canadians to reduce their animal protein consumption as recommended in the Food Guide, while being inclusive of social and cultural diversity in recognizing what constitutes a healthy and environmentally sound diet
- Support mandatory labelling of genetically modified foods

Preserving the system resource base: land, human resources, and succession

- Fund an apprenticeship program to connect young aspiring farmers with operating farmers. This will maintain and increase the workforce, knowledge, and skilled labour necessary to have a robust agricultural sector
- Reinstate the Canada Land Inventory program to provide a comprehensive record of existing and potential agricultural land and provide fiscal incentives to other levels of government to preserve farmlands under their jurisdictions

FISHERIES AND OCEANS

There is increasing recognition of the critical role our ocean plays in a just, sustainable and healthy society, from providing seafood that supports livelihoods and good nutrition, to ecosystem services from flood protection, recreation.

Record-breaking heatwaves and ocean acidification threaten the integrity of all ocean ecosystems, including shellfish and finfish fisheries they support.

Canada must ensure that our ocean industries and Blue Economy Strategy support the goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, reducing emissions from marine vessels, and advancing nature-based solutions in the marine environment.

Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in marine conservation and resource management

For tens of thousands of years Indigenous peoples have practiced their own forms of ecosystem-based management. However, the dismantling of Indigenous traditional governance systems and imposition of strict regulations on the lives of Indigenous peoples through treaties and statutes, such as the *Indian Act* (1876) and the *Fisheries Act* (1868), gave ultimate power and authority to colonial institutions. Several treaties have sought to recognize and support Indigenous rights and title, but unclear interpretations of those treaties, paired with systemic racism, have given rise to conflict and discrimination against Indigenous communities over their fishing rights.

In Atlantic Canada, the 2020 Mi'kmaq lobster situation revealed racism and a weak commitment to Indigenous treaty rights through unclear interpretations of laws. In 1999, the Supreme Court's Marshall ruling recognized First Nations' rights to earn a moderate living from fishing, however the definition of moderate living has yet to be defined by the government.

To further Reconciliation through all marine sectors, and empower Indigenous leadership in the conservation and management of protected areas, a Green government will:

- In partnership with Indigenous governments and organizations, develop a National Framework for Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) that includes collaborative governance arrangements, co-management decision-making bodies, and supporting administrative structures
- Invest in Indigenous-led sustainable ocean economies and Indigenous Guardians Programs
- Include Indigenous Peoples, their worldviews, knowledge, and governance systems in all aspects of design, site selection, management, and decision-making around economic development within the marine and freshwater realms of their territories
- Facilitate and support meaningful Nation-to-Nation engagement at the local and regional levels on the management of shared marine resources to avoid future disputes over lack of clarity on fisheries law

Ensuring Sustainable Seafood

Many of Canada's marine fisheries are at risk of over-exploitation due to suboptimal management or lack of data. Only 34% of Canada's fisheries are stable, 13% are known to be in critical condition, and there is not enough data for the remaining fisheries. There is a clear need for more data and resources to prevent the collapse of fisheries, and to ensure **sustainable livelihoods for current and future generations of coastal communities**.

Canada's geography and federalist system of governance presents unique challenges where certain marine areas and fisheries might span municipal, provincial, and federal jurisdiction. There currently exist policy inconsistencies among Canada's different coasts; for example, 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. **Fair and consistent fisheries policies must be applied to all fishers**, whether in the Atlantic, Arctic or the Pacific, to protect local communities whose

livelihoods depend on Canadian fisheries. Canadian fishers must be protected from predatory systems that privilege large corporate interests allowed to hold licences.

Aquaculture may be a sustainable option in several contexts, however certain types of seafood farming can be environmentally harmful. In the case of open net-pen farmed salmon on the coast of British Columbia, the extremely high densities of fish have caused disease outbreaks among the farmed fish which gets transmitted to important wild salmon populations migrating near the farm sites.

A Green government will:

- Allocate funding to fill knowledge gaps for stocks whose sustainability status is uncertain, and where stock assessments have not been completed within a five-year period. Funding will contribute to field surveys, assessments, mortality estimates and monitoring and evaluation of rebuilding plans and management measures
- Complete rebuilding plans by 2024 for the 26 stocks currently in the critical zone by including measures and objectives that are science and ecosystem based
- Work with Indigenous and provincial governments to phase out open net-pen finfish aquaculture in Pacific waters by 2025 and all Canadian waters by 2030.
- Support a just transition of impacted workers and incentivize the move to land-based closed containment facilities.
- Support sustainable shellfish and seaweed aquaculture and community-owned operations and ensure meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities and other stakeholders when making aquaculture siting decisions.
- Protect independent harvesters and coastal communities by entrenching owner-operator and fleet separation policies in the Fisheries Act.
- Commit to timely and transparent access to fisheries management plans and data as well as records of fisheries management advisory committee processes in order to more effectively involve Indigenous peoples, civil society and communities in the process of managing our fisheries as public resources.
- Implement the 20 recommendations of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans report, *West Coast Fisheries: Sharing Risks and Benefits*.

Reducing threats to ocean ecosystems

Resource extraction such as deep-sea mining, and pollution from sewage and plastics are examples of the many threats to marine ecosystems. Noise pollution from deep sea drilling and shipping traffic threaten endangered marine species such as Southern Resident Killer whales, and plastics from household items and fishing gear alike

entangle marine life and impact human health from the accumulation of microplastics in human tissues.

A Green government will:

- Finalize a ban on single-use plastics by the end of 2021, and expand the list of banned plastics to include other harmful long-lived plastics such as polystyrene
- Require that all plastic packaging contain at least 50% recycled content by 2030 and support the shift to reusable products and packaging by (A) adjusting federal procurement practices and supporting municipalities that adopt equivalent or better reuse standards; and (B) introducing targets for refillable beverage containers.
- 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.
- Support a moratorium on deep seabed mining until at least 2030, in tandem with increased investment in deep sea science
- Legislate cruise ship waste discharge standards that meet or exceed those of our coastal neighbours.

Protecting and restoring coastal and marine areas

Establishing effective systems of marine protected areas (MPAs) and restoring at-risk ecosystems is a key strategy to reversing environmental degradation and ensuring the long-term integrity of marine ecosystems.

A Green government will:

- Accelerate Canada's commitment to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity of 30% protected marine areas by 2030.
- Deliver a new comprehensive ten-year biodiversity strategy and action plan, with goals, measurable targets, and resources to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in the ocean by 2030 and fulfill Canada's commitment to the G7 Nature Compact and UN CBD by the end of 2023.
- Commit permanent A-base funding for marine conservation, including the management of MPAs and stewardship of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas by Indigenous partners.

- By 2022, present a clear action plan to achieve this target that includes the implementation of minimum protection standards; completion of Marine Protected Area networks and new MPAs in five priority bioregions; and completion of all current proposed MPAs and National Marine Conservation Areas; and identify new Areas of Interest in the remaining marine ecoregions and bioregions.
- By 2022, develop a Species At Risk Act (SARA) compliance plan with specific actions for all critical habitat protected under Section 58. Compliance promotion should target all users of the critical habitat of each specific Species At Risk.
- By 2025, complete independent scientific reviews of the effectiveness of recovery measures for all threatened and endangered species listed under SARA.
- Align measures under the Fisheries Act with potential measures under SARA for all COSEWIC-assessed species as part of species-at-risk transformation within DFO.

Addressing the ocean-climate nexus

Rising sea temperatures and acidification threaten ocean ecosystems and the species they support. Rising sea levels will require proactive planning to mitigate loss and damage to coastal communities. Conversely, investing in the restoration and protection of marine carbon sinks such as marine sediments, kelp forests, seagrasses, and salt marshes and reducing emissions from marine industries such as shipping will have co-benefits for the oceans and human coastal communities.

A Green government will:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂ emissions, black carbon, Nitrous Oxide, Sulfur Oxide (NO_x and SO_x)), and methane from the marine transport sector, including shipping, ferries and fishing vessels.
- Setting the achievable target of 100% zero-emission vessels in Canadian inland waters by 2030 and marine vessels by 2040. All federally-owned ferries should be net-zero by 2035.
- Commit to zero-emission ports by 2030 through the development of port hydrogen hubs and develop ties to international ports to support the development of green shipping corridors and hydrogen export markets. This should include a zero- emission port infrastructure fund and a commitment to have all marine vessels at berth connected to shore power by 2030 to dramatically lower port emissions while reducing harmful air pollution for communities living near ports.
- Commit to no further expansion of offshore oil and gas activity while implementing a just transition for offshore oil and gas workers by 2030
- Develop a marine-focused Nature Based Climate Solutions strategy that integrates ocean-based carbon sinks (blue carbon) into Canada's Climate Plan

and emissions counting system. The strategy would include objectives, timelines and funding to prioritize protection and restoration of existing blue carbon sinks, support research to map and quantify blue carbon, and provide guidelines for evaluation of blue carbon in environmental assessments for proposed projects.

- Amend the Oceans Act and Fisheries Act to consider climate impacts on the marine environment and marine species and include climate change in spatial and fisheries management objectives. Conduct climate vulnerability assessments for marine species and habitats.

RURAL REVITALIZATION

Twenty per cent of people in Canada live in rural and remote environments. In some regions that number rises to nearly 50 per cent. **Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, rural communities were struggling.**

The prevalent economic model has undermined the social, economic, and cultural fabric of rural communities, and for many years, these communities have been deprived of the resources and investments necessary to strengthen their basic foundations.

Challenges faced by rural communities include:

- Lack of sufficient support for localized economic development
- Lack of infrastructure and services – Municipalities are not permitted to run deficits, yet they own and are responsible for core infrastructure assets. Limited tax bases mean that rural municipalities struggle to generate sufficient revenue to upgrade ageing infrastructure and provide essential services, such as telecommunications, health care and public transport.
- Ageing population - The rural population is ageing faster than their urban counterparts. There are significant disparities between urban and rural health delivery for seniors and people with diverse abilities.
- Youth retention - Limited services and lack of employment opportunities in rural communities, paired with greater access to learning and opportunities in cities have drawn young people away from rural communities. Once young people have left for urban centres, they often do not return: the population of youth aged 15 to 19 in rural Canada declined by 10 per cent between 2011 and 2016.
- Economic challenges – As a result of all the above factors, rural incomes tend to lag behind those of urban communities, and unemployment levels tend to be higher.

A large country like Canada cannot afford to abandon its countryside. Strong rural communities are essential for economic, social, and cultural resilience, as engines for diversification, innovation, and progress toward a more just and equitable society.

In the aftermath of COVID-19, rural and remote communities will be some of the hardest-hit regional economies in the country. It is our goal to ensure that rural and remote communities get their fair share of resources to help kick start their revitalization.

A Green government will:

- Address disparities in delivery, access, and funding for rural services
- Establish a parliamentary committee to collect information on place-based needs in rural and remote communities, including the state of funding for rural services in the context of the economic/social realities faced by those communities, and develop recommendations on how these gaps can be closed in ways that work at the local level.
- Make investments to expand transit services and infrastructure. This will create jobs, provide cleaner and safer alternatives to driving, lower rural Canada's carbon footprint, and improve access to services for rural Canadians.
- Reevaluate the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) so that rural communities are being covered with an equitable amount of funding to meet the needs of the community.
- Support the provinces in implementing innovative delivery models such as Telemedicine to improve health access in rural Canada.

Green Innovation: Reimagining Canada Post

Reimagining Canada Post could provide rural communities with high-quality public services that have been overlooked by successive governments. A Green government would expand the mandate of Canada Post to include banking, high-speed internet hubs, and EV charging stations. It would also increase the salaries of Canada Post employees operating in rural communities (who are predominantly women) and ensure pay gaps between urban and rural services are closed.

Improving rural connectivity

A Green government will:

- Build up broadband infrastructure in rural areas to help revitalize rural economies and give communities greater access to the services they need.
- Continue to support the Universal Broadband Fund, and retain that funding with an additional \$150 M annually over 4 years to reach communities at the lowest end of the eligibility spectrum
- Break up telecom monopolies through changes to CRTC regulation to allow for more equitable treatment of rural consumers

Green Innovation: Infrastructure Funding

To ensure long-term predictability for rural and northern communities, Greens support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities request for at least \$250 million annually in dedicated infrastructure funding starting in 2028-29.

Making the industries upon which rural communities rely more sustainable

A Green government will:

- Support localized investments in renewable energy and green manufacturing which will allow for job transition in communities dependent on the oil and gas sectors
- Assist farmers with transitioning away from the industrial model controlled by large agri-business and toward locally and regionally based food systems
- The Green Party of Canada supports the goal of replacing one-third of Canada's food imports with domestic production. This would bring \$15 billion

food dollars back into our economy to foster economic diversification and rural revitalization.

- Promote the creation of land trusts to set-aside arable land across Canada to help control the price of land and protect it from being permanently removed as viable farmland.
- Fund new and innovative value-added forestry-based manufacturing facilities in rural Canada to create jobs and keep profits from our resources in Canada. Work with provinces, territories, and municipalities to make sure that timber, pulp, and paper manufacturing is environmentally and economically sustainable in rural Canada.
- Maintain and improve policies that support owner-operation of inshore fisheries and conservation of fish stocks.
- Support aquaculture development in closed containment facilities to protect wild species and limit pollution and provide support to fish pen workers in the transition.
- Protect the traditional fishing rights of Indigenous Peoples living in Canada including the right to engage in fishing in pursuit of a moderate livelihood.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

The municipal level of government is the one that many people most often turn to in their hour of need. In Canada, cities have taken leadership roles on critical issues such as climate change, the pandemic, and social programs. However, Canadian municipalities are limited in their ability to provide services 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.

The Green Party of Canada supports the charter city movement. If cities are to have the tools needed to develop long-range plans for improved public transit and affordable housing, their decisions must be respected by provincial governments. They also require more than 10% of all the taxes that are collected within their boundaries. With stable sources of additional funds, municipalities large and small will no longer have to

go cap-in-hand to provincial and federal governments for short-term funding, and will be better able to serve the people in their communities.

The Role of Municipalities

Municipalities across Canada receive only 10.8% of all taxes collected within their boundaries and any decisions they make can be overturned by provincial or territorial governments. The Green Party of Canada supports a greater share of tax revenues for municipalities and greater decision-making powers, including city charters for any Canadian cities that want them.

A Green government will:

- Support the use of city charters to give greater autonomy to cities.
- Make 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, and retaining the same eligibility as the Gas Tax funds.
- Ensure a permanent 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 2026-2027, once the existing transit program expires.
- Commit to a multi-year solution to transit operating shortfalls in order to protect and secure shared investments in building out Canada's transit networks for the decades to come.

Green Innovation: Supporting the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund

Climate change is here, and municipalities need to adapt to limit its impacts on their communities. Greens support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities request for rapidly scaled up funding through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) to support climate resilience projects critically needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change including: wildfire mitigation activities, rehabilitation of storm water systems,

and restoration of wetlands, shorelines, and other natural infrastructure.

TRANSPORT

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 and within 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.

Intercity bus service is in crisis and passenger rail is non-existent for most communities in Canada. We must establish a bus-rail grid that provides hourly bus transit between towns, and where bus companies are mandated to deliver passengers to local rail stations. With buses delivering rural residents to rail stations, Via Rail can run more and faster trains. This is a cost-effective way to improve public transportation, and set the stage for the building of high-speed rail systems between larger cities.

Green Innovation: Joint Review Panels for Greater Cooperation

Canada should adopt the practice of having joint review panels, in which federal and provincial transportation officials meet regularly to discuss how best to combine their resources to improve public transportation. These panels are needed to ensure coordination between provincial and federal transport expenditures. Establishing review panels in Canada would ensure that Via Rail works with regional bus companies. Commuter rail networks around our biggest cities would also coordinate their services with Via Rail and with local bus services.

Finally, rail safety must remain a top priority. Whether dealing with commuters or freight,

we must ensure that the hub of our national transportation strategy includes all the necessary checks that not only addresses the baseline changes implemented following the Lac Megantic derailment, but aim for top of class standards to build this system in and near our communities with confidence.

A Green government will:

Ensure Less Emissions for the Environment

- 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.
- Complete the conversion of 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.
- 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.

Create Better Connections for Canadians

- Enact a Via Rail Canada Act to implement a passenger rail transportation policy and protect services from future cuts.
- Invest \$500 million in 2022-23, rising to \$720 million by 2024 to develop regional rail networks and strengthen rail connections between regions. This will include building several sections of additional track along existing routes to avoid bottlenecks where heavy freight pushes passenger rail to the siding
- Build electrified, 200 km/h or faster, high-speed rail in the Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal-Quebec City triangle and the Calgary-Edmonton corridor.
- Exempt rural and intercity public transport from sales taxes, just like urban transit.

II. LIFE WITH DIGNITY

Completing the Social Safety Net

[A]ny recovery package, including climate-friendly recovery, is unlikely to be implemented unless it also addresses existing societal and political concerns – such as poverty alleviation, inequality, and social inclusion.

— Nobel prize winner Joseph Stiglitz and former Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Nicholas Stern

What is a life worth?

In many ways, **the COVID-19 pandemic has led us to reconsider the true meaning of a high quality of life.** We can see clearly now that the factors that are often used to measure quality of life – economic and political stability, a good job market – do not tell the whole story. We understand more fully the importance of mental health, of spending time with our loved ones, of connecting with the natural world, and of being responsible international citizens.

These past months, we have been reminded that **governments still play an important role in preserving and maintaining a high quality of life for people.** Without immediate and profound government intervention, the quality of life for many Canadians would have been severely threatened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also learned that **quality of life is something communities help to create for themselves.** Overnight, community projects spontaneously sprung up to provide essential services to the people in their communities.

Canada has the chance of a lifetime to reassess what it means to live with dignity. Now is the time to imagine what the best possible society looks like for Canadians, and to act on that vision to make it a reality. Decisive leadership to complete our social safety net now will set the stage for a future we can be proud of.

ADDRESSING THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS CRISES

Adequate housing is a fundamental human right. Canada has recognized this in the *National Housing Strategy Act*, yet more and more Canadians are struggling to afford housing.

There is an affordable housing and homelessness crisis in Canada.

Even before the pandemic, 1.6 million Canadians lived in unsuitable, inadequate, or unaffordable housing and an estimated 2.4 million households experienced core housing need in 2020. On any given night, over 35,000 Canadians may be experiencing homelessness.

Women, low-income workers, Black and Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities and people of colour have been among hardest hit by income and job loss during the pandemic and continue to fall further and further behind.

While short-term pandemic benefits offered adequate income replacement for some low-income tenants, others have had their income dramatically reduced, are unable to pay their full rent, are falling into arrears and facing the threat of eviction.

The Green Party of Canada is committed to making the right to adequate housing a reality.

A Green government will:

- Declare housing affordability and homelessness a national emergency
- Redefine affordable housing using a better, updated formula, that accounts for regional variations across the country
- Immediately appoint the Federal Housing Advocate, as established in the *National Housing Strategy Act*.

Support for renters

- Establish a national moratorium on evictions
 - Maintain a moratorium on evictions until the pandemic is over and for a reasonable time thereafter, in cooperation with provincial governments.

- Create national standards to establish rent and vacancy controls

Green Innovation: Implementing a retroactive Residential Tenant Support Benefit

A Green government will provide a retroactive residential arrears assistance program to protect Canadians at risk of eviction or of being driven into homelessness due to accumulated rent arrears, as recommended by the National Right to Housing Network (NRHN) and the Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA).

- Strengthen regulation to limit foreign investment and end predatory practices in residential real estate
 - Raise the “empty home” tax for foreign and corporate residential property owners who leave buildings and units vacant.
 - Assess the role of real estate investment trusts (REITs) in Canada’s housing market.
 - Close tax haven loopholes that allow foreign investors to hide the names of beneficial owners of properties in Canada.
 - Crack down on money laundering in Canadian real estate.

Investment in housing

- Reinvest in affordable, non-profit, co-operative and supportive housing
 - Protect the existing stock of affordable housing by funding the purchase of buildings by non-profit and cooperative affordable housing organizations.
 - Expand the Rapid Housing Initiative to bring new affordable and supportive housing onstream without delay. With this expansion, more quality projects with funding and agreements already in place can quickly become affordable or supportive housing.
 - Invest in construction and operation of 50,000 supportive housing units over 10 years.
 - Build and acquire a minimum of 300,000 units of deeply affordable non-market, co-op and non-profit housing over a decade.

- Create a Canada Co-op Housing Strategy and update the mechanisms for financing co-op housing, in partnership with CMHC, co-op societies, credit unions and other lenders.
- Require covenants to ensure that subsidized construction remains affordable over the long term
- Restore quality, energy efficient housing for seniors, people with special needs and low-income families, by providing financing to non-profit housing organizations, cooperatives, and social housing to build and restore quality and affordable housing.
- Implement integrated housing, so that everyone can afford to live in the communities in which they work and under quality conditions. 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 Corporation (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.
- Appoint a Minister of Housing to meet the needs of affordable housing that are unique to each province, oversee its implementation in collaboration with provincial ministers, and build on other aspects of the housing and homelessness crisis in Canada to tackle these issues.
- Increase access to housing for people with disabilities.
 - Require that housing developments that receive federal funding must ensure that 30% of all units in each development must be deeply affordable and/or available to people with disabilities and special needs.
- Develop a strategy to face housing challenges in rural areas

Ensure access to housing for Indigenous Peoples

1. Guided by First Nations, Inuit and Metis Nation, develop inclusive and culturally appropriate Urban Indigenous Housing Strategies - for Indigenous Peoples and

by Indigenous Peoples - as proposed by the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association's Indigenous Caucus.

2. Reinvest in housing for Indigenous communities

- Change the legislation that prevents Indigenous organizations from accessing financing through CMHC to invest in self-determined housing needs.
- Allocate funding towards urban Indigenous housing providers.
- Develop and implement an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.
- Ensure that all housing in Indigenous communities is built following principles laid out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Leverage federal lands and real property for transfer to off-reserve Indigenous organizations to create housing and economic development opportunities.
- Assist urban and rural Indigenous people in identifying emergency accommodations and affordable housing options for youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQIA+, and vulnerable populations.
- Establish a "For Indigenous, By Indigenous" housing support program for all off-reserve and urban Indigenous communities, and include off-reserve Status and non-Status Indigenous Peoples.

Confronting Youth Homelessness and Unaffordable Housing

Greens know that youth homelessness is a real problem that requires sustainable and compassionate solutions. Children and youth require stability and safety, yet in any given year, there are between 35,000 - 40,000 youth experiencing homelessness in Canada.¹¹ Across the country, 20% of the homeless population are young people. When paired with other Green policies targeting young people, youth homelessness will receive the necessary attention and support it deserves.

A Green government will:

- Support existing youth shelters and other infrastructure through federal grants.
- Invest in the creation of new youth shelters in urban and small urban centers across the country which would work on a needs-driven and community-centric approach.
- Remove shelter maximum stays for youth.

¹¹ <https://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/WithoutAHome-final.pdf>

- Provide on-site and remote access guidance counselling and therapy for youth suffering from homelessness.
- Provide optional relocation services for rural youth suffering from homelessness to ensure that they have access to youth shelters and other infrastructure.
- Support and invest in the co-operative model for youth housing.

Provide services and supports to the homeless community

1. Provide expanded mental health services for the homeless community.
 - Increased access to high-quality mental health services would recognize the intersections between those experiencing homelessness and those experiencing mental health issues.
2. Implement programs that direct funds to municipalities providing support for people in the homeless community who use drugs.
 - Support Housing First initiatives and other successful models of improving health outcomes.

GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed how **many Canadians still lack a basic safety net** to protect them in times of financial difficulty.

In Canada, one of the richest countries, 10% of people live in poverty and do not have access to “a standard of living adequate for health and wellbeing,” a right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Poverty is expensive -- the Canadian government spends over \$20 billion in employment insurance and transfers to low-income families per year. Poverty is also the largest social determinant of health, impacting educational outcomes, crime and treatment within the criminal justice system.

In response to the pandemic the Government of Canada introduced the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (**CERB**), a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month to eligible workers who lost their income due to COVID-19. It is not an overstatement to say that the CERB saved lives. However, even with these emergency benefits, too many people are being left without support in this pandemic. There were points in the CERB rollout

when about one-third of Canadians were ineligible for either Employment Insurance (EI) or CERB, and the government was left scrambling to plug holes, with a hodgepodge of fixes being announced almost daily.

Canada has never succeeded in designing a benefits system that covers everyone, in all circumstances of need. Given the virtually limitless number of different employment, unemployment and underemployment circumstances in which Canadians find themselves, it is unlikely that any piecemeal approach will ever succeed in providing comprehensive coverage to all.

The fact is that, even before the pandemic, Canada was in the midst of major changes in the world of work, due to automation and artificial intelligence - a transition that has only sped up during the pandemic. Now is the time to discuss how we will confront this change and the inequalities the changes have created

As emergency benefits begin to wind down, the question is, what will replace them when they are gone?

Instead of plugging holes one-by-one, **the solution is to create a comprehensive benefit: Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI).**

GLI would provide every Canadian with a basic revenue source, ensuring that people can cover basic expenses such as food and accommodation. It would be available with few or no restrictions and be enough to protect Canadians from financial catastrophes. Given that GLI would be comprehensive, it will also be simpler and therefore less expensive to administrate (usually one of the greatest costs of social programs).

While it would guarantee income security to all, **Guaranteed Livable Income would offer the greatest security to the most vulnerable Canadians:** precarious workers, people with disabilities, seniors, the underemployed and the homeless. It would also help workers in the fossil fuel sector, a sector that is particularly vulnerable to market shocks.

Canada has the resources to make sure that no one lives in poverty or without their basic needs met. During the COVID-19 crisis, the concept of GLI has gained traction in other countries. Recently, Spain became the first European country to announce a plan to introduce a Universal Basic Income (UBI) to help families during the pandemic, with the intention that UBI become a permanent instrument. Italy, the Netherlands, Finland and Kenya have all trialled the GLI model. Various American cities such as Stockton, California have initiated similar programmes.

In Canada, the Green Party of Canada has a plan to ensure that every person living in Canada has the financial means to live with dignity, security, and a high quality of life.

GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME



Leaves no one behind



Stimulates the economy



Is one of the MMIWG inquiry's calls to justice



Gives people choice, dignity, and opportunity



Establish a Guaranteed Livable Income program

1. Create a comprehensive and equitable Guaranteed Livable Income for every person in Canada.
 - Building on the Market Basket Measure, payment would be set at a “livable” level for different regions of the country. The federal government would provide an initial base level subsidy across the country, and an intergovernmental body would determine and administer the necessary supplemental amounts.
 - Allowing the provinces to reduce their expenditures on provincial welfare, a national Guaranteed Livable Income would liberate provincial budgets for the health budgets they have asked Ottawa to support.
 - GLI would serve as a supplement for and complement to existing public services, and unlike provincial welfare regulations, would not discourage work.
 - The Guaranteed Livable Income program would cover everyone, with a benefit amount gradually decreasing as other income increases. Seniors’ and children’s benefits would remain in place.

EXPANDING UNIVERSAL PROGRAMS: POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, PHARMACARE, DENTAL CARE, AND CHILD CARE

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing gaps in Canada's **social safety net**, with issues ranging from skyrocketing pharmaceutical costs, to mounting student debt and a drug poisoning epidemic. Even in a country as wealthy as Canada, many people are still getting left behind.

We must make sense of this moment by taking the lessons learned to build a more resilient and just society, and ensure a life of dignity for everyone, from their first day to their last.

The solutions are clear, feasible and interconnected – all that is left is the political will to enact them. Embracing further universal and progressive social policies will support our more vulnerable communities and lead to a higher quality of life for all.

Universal post-secondary education

Before the pandemic hit, the average student graduated with \$28,000 of debt. The pandemic had a severe financial impact on post-secondary students. Education is a fundamental human right, and universal access to quality post-secondary education and skills training is a right, not a privilege.

A Green government will:

1. Abolish post-secondary education tuition
 - Free “Education For All” is estimated to cost approximately \$10.2 billion annually. Universal education is not a far financial reach from the existing student aid and can sustain a system of universally accessible, post-secondary education.
 - Universal post-secondary education would be partially financed by redirecting existing spending on 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.
2. Cancel all federally held student loan debt

- This will help prevent half of students who earn a bachelor's degree in Canada from graduating with more than \$28,000 in debt.
- 3. Reintroduce a retroactive Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB)
 - Ensure all those eligible for the CESB receive \$2,000 per month – the same amount as the Canada Recovery Benefit for the period beginning May 1, and until the pandemic is over.
 - Ensure that international and recently graduated students are eligible to receive this benefit.
- 4. Remove the two per cent cap on increases in education funding for Indigenous students
 - Ensure all Indigenous youth have access to post-secondary education.
- 5. Improve funding in federal-provincial transfers to universities and colleges
 - Provide more funding to universities and colleges with a measurable focus on student-professor contact, mentorship, policies of inclusion and tenure track hires.
 - Reinvest in the system. Greens will allocate \$10 billion to post-secondary and trade school supports.
- 6. Build a more flexible and accessible education
 - Expand opportunities for reskilling and retraining, by increasing the Canada Training Benefit to support continuous learning, and support for post-secondary institutions to provide new, innovative academic offerings.
 - Enhance access to graduate education, by tripling the number of Canada Graduate Scholarships available for master's students and doubling the number available for PhD students.
 - Position Canada as a destination of choice for international talent and support post-secondary institutions to welcome international students safely.

Universal Pharmacare

Canada is the only country to have universal healthcare, without also offering universal pharmacare.

A Green government will:

1. Expand the Canada Health Act by fully funding a universal pharmacare program
 - Ensure quality prescription drug coverage for everyone in Canada, so that no Canadian skips, stretches or simply does not take their medication because they cannot afford it.

2. Create a bulk drug purchasing agency and reduce drug patent protection periods.
 - Ensure that everyone in Canada is able to access affordable medication more quickly and equitably.
3. Establish a clear timeline for the implementation of universal pharmacare
 - Fully establish the Canadian Drug Agency in 2022, which would assess prescription drugs and negotiate prices for a national formulary.
 - Introduce federal legislation on pharmacare in 2022, based on negotiations with the provincial and territorial governments.
 - Launch national pharmacare in 2022 by providing universal coverage for a list of essential medicines.
 - Roll out a comprehensive formulary by January 1, 2025, instead of 2027.

Universal dental care

1. Expand Medicare to include free dental care for low-income Canadians.
 - Work to develop a universal dental care programme in Canada, so that every person has access to high-quality basic dental care, regardless of their insurance status.

Universal child care

1. Dedicate additional resources to making a universal, affordable, early learning and child-care (ELCC) system a reality
 - 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, accessibility, and equity – finally becomes a reality.
 - These principles will ensure a right of access for all children regardless of their parents' work status or income levels, while at the same time allowing for regional and local adaptation.
2. Improve and strengthen parental leave
 - Make parental leave more inclusive so it covers leave to care for elderly family members, leave following miscarriages and more, and more flexible and better paid.
3. Increase federal child care funding
 - Immediately begin to ramp up federal child care funding to achieve the international benchmark of at least one per cent of GDP annually.
 - Long-term, stable, national funding must be made available and be sufficient to meet the standards of the guiding principles. It must also be

secure and predictable enough to permit the long-term planning and sustainability of the programs.

- Ensure the training, recruitment and retention of well-paid and professional staff.
- 4. Eliminate GST on all construction costs related to child care spaces
- 5. Ensure equitable access to high-quality, culturally appropriate ELCC programmes for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children
 - Build on the Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care and the accompanying bilateral agreements that have been negotiated with every province and territory, as well as with the First Nation, Inuit and Métis Peoples to ensure solutions are meeting their needs.

LONG-TERM CARE REFORM

Canada has the worst record for COVID-19 deaths in long-term care homes among rich countries. Over 15,000 LTC residents have died from COVID-19, and many more from a lack of care, during the pandemic.

In Canada, 69% of known COVID-19 deaths happened among long-term care residents.

What has unfolded has been a preventable humanitarian crisis. Thousands have died because of the abject failure to meet the needs of people living in these facilities, including seniors, and people with special needs and disabilities.

Canada's existing patchwork of long-term care (LTC) has fatal structural flaws. Many long-term care residents in Canada still live in inadequate or inhumane conditions.

The Green Party of Canada believes that every person living in a long-term care facility in Canada deserves to be provided with excellent care, regardless of their financial situation, and to have the necessary conditions for a high-quality and dignified life.

A Green government will:

1. Bring Long-Term Care under the Canada Health Act
 - Universal care will ensure that every person in long-term care in Canada has access to quality, affordable care.
2. Improve the quality of care in Long-Term Care facilities
 - Create enforceable National Standards for LTC.

- Provide transformative investment for Seniors' Care including infrastructure and staffing funding.
 - Require Emergency and Pandemic Preparedness for LTC, including providing proper and adequate supplies of personal protective equipment and testing for COVID-19 for staff, family caregivers, and residents.
 - Set a national standard of four hours of regulated care per day for each LTC resident.
 - Enforce National Standards of Care through accountability and penalties, including criminal prosecution.
 - Ensure safe family access to LTC facilities.
 - Provide all needed vaccinations to all residents, staff and caregivers for LTC (not only COVID-19, but also influenza, pneumonia, diphtheria, whooping cough, etc.).
3. Improve the quality of life of workers in LTC
- Increase and stabilise staffing in LTC homes and improve training, fair pay for workers, benefits, and paid sick leave.
 - Invest in training and education to support ongoing professional development and specialization for LTC workers.
 - Prioritize senior care and long-term care skills for immigration status.
4. Invest in home and community care
- Provide a dedicated Seniors' Care Transfer to provinces and territories for specific improvements to home, community and LTC separate from the federal health transfers.
 - Shift LTC policy towards aging in place by having the Seniors' Care Transfer include transformative investment in home and community care (such as naturally occurring retirement communities, co-housing models, and enhanced home support programs).
 - Increase the proportion of LTC investment in community and home-based care from 13% to 35% in order to match the OECD average.
 - End for-profit LTC facilities and reorient LTC towards community-based models.
 - Make the Caregiver Tax Credit a refundable tax credit so that family caregivers have more flexibility (from its current earned tax credit status).
 - Change the Home Renovation Tax Credit from \$10,000 per household to \$10,000 per person for more people to age in place.

DECRIMINALIZATION OF DRUGS & A NATIONAL SAFE SUPPLY PROGRAM

Canada is experiencing a deadly drug overdose epidemic. Between 2016 and 2020, there were close to 20,000 reported drug toxicity deaths. **Canada now averages 17 deaths per day from drug poisoning**, and, in some parts of the country, deaths have more than doubled during the pandemic. The rising rates of drug-related deaths have become a pressing public health issue and safety emergency.

The overdose crisis has been made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in the toxicity of illegally manufactured substances -- in the six months following the COVID-19 restrictions, there was a 74% increase in fatal drug overdoses.

The overdose crisis must be treated as a health-care issue rather than a criminal one. Personal possession and use of illicit drugs must be decriminalized to allow for more accessible medical and social support for those who need it. No one should be in jail for the possession of small amounts of drugs, and this would allow communities who have been heavily impacted by the federal government's previous drug policy to reintegrate into society.

Canadians who need them must have access to a safe supply of government regulated drugs. The toxic supply of illicit drugs must be replaced, greatly reducing the risks of fentanyl poisonings and overdoses.

A Green government will:

1. Declare the drug poisoning crisis a national public health emergency
2. Decriminalize possession of illicit drugs for personal use
 - Remove criminal penalties for the personal possession and use of all drugs under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.
 - Legislate this change rather than relying on informal, incremental, and discretionary measures that fall short of real decriminalization.
3. Create a national safe supply of drugs of choice
 - Create a programme through the federal government so people can access pharmaceutical alternatives of drugs of choice safely.
4. Invest in an integrated system of decriminalization and access to meaningful services for those persons who are seeking treatment
 - Increase funding to community-based organizations to test drugs and support those who use drugs.

- Implement a national education and distribution program for Naloxone, so Naloxone kits are widely available to treat overdoses and every Canadian knows what it is and how to use it.
 - Create a legal and policy environment that funds and advances evidence-based programmes, in order to facilitate the development and scaling up of harm reduction services across all of Canada, including in rural communities and prisons.
 - Expand support for mental health services and addiction services for those who are seeking these services.
5. Amnesty for those convicted of simple possession of cannabis
 - Provide automatic pardons to anyone convicted in the past of simple possession of cannabis and ensure that any records of such offences and circumstances are expunged from police records.
 6. Move to legally regulate currently illegal drugs based on the best available evidence regarding harms and benefits as a step towards treating problematic drug use as a health issue.
 - Drug regulation with a public health focus, as is the case with alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis in Canada currently, could provide safer access while protecting individuals and populations.
 - Depending on the substance and potential harms and benefits, regulation could range from prescriptions to regulated outlets to licensed premises, with the aim of providing safer access for adults, while protecting children and youth.

EXPANDED AND ENHANCED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Every year, 1 in 5 Canadians will experience a mental health issue or illness. Societal stigma, regional disparities, and a lack of affordability present great barriers to accessing mental health services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated mental health problems, with youth, racialized communities and LGBTQ+ individuals reporting highest rates of poor mental health.

Canada's youth suicide rate is the third highest in the industrialized world. Suicide among Indigenous communities is a crisis, with suicide being the leading cause of death

for First Nations under the age of 44, and the suicide rates for Inuit youth being 11 times the national average.

Along with a reduced quality of life, the economic cost of mental health is \$50 billion per year.

Stakeholders report long wait times, lack of affordability for private care, lack of access to ongoing support, lack of access for folks living outside of urban settings, and lack of integration between mental health and substance use supports.

The decriminalization of simple possession of illicit drugs paired with the creation of a national safe government supply of drugs of choice and the creation of more affordable supportive housing will help to address the connection between substance use and mental health. High-quality and accessible services must be provided equitably to everyone in Canada, with an understanding of the impact of mental health on youth, Indigenous Peoples, racialized communities, and the LGBTQ+ community.

The Green Party of Canada believes that we must establish a National Mental Health Strategy. An evidence-based and culturally appropriate suicide prevention strategy must be adopted to address the alarming rates of suicide, particularly in Indigenous communities.

A Green government will:

1. Establish a national mental health strategy and a suicide prevention strategy
 - Negotiate the Canada Health Accord to prioritize expansion of mental health and rehabilitation services, and call for the inclusion of mental health services as medically necessary.
 - Allocate increased direct federal investment in community-based mental health care.
 - Establish robust accountability mechanisms to ensure the delivery of mental health care on par with physical health.
2. Increase investments in Indigenous-led mental health
 - Increased support for Indigenous-led, culturally safe, mental health programs and services, rooted in Indigenous healing practices, land-based healing and the principle of self-determination.
 - Ensure all programming is guided by the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework.
 - Establish permanent program funding for the delivery of land-based, trauma-informed, community addictions care for Indigenous peoples.
 - Increase targeted investment in the mental health workforce serving Indigenous communities.

- Double the current budget of the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative.
 - Take active steps to implement Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, specifically those related to mental health.
3. Support First Nations, Métis and Inuit in (re)building traditional knowledge systems around healing and wellness
 - Incorporate the formal inclusion of traditional healing within mental wellness and home and community care programs.
 - Ensure this process is led by First Nations, Métis Nation and Inuit organizations.
 4. Invest in youth mental health.
 - Provide specific funding for early mental health interventions, including social and emotional learning programs, quality and accessible early childhood education, access to community-based mental health services for parents and caregivers, youth peer support programs, mobile youth mental health clinics, etc.
 - Launch a targeted strategy aimed at ensuring *timely* access to mental health services for young people and children
 - Provide funding for prevention, treatment, and research related to youth mental health, to address the growing crisis of mental health issues among young people.
 - Call for a national study on the impact of phones and social media on mental health in adolescents.
 5. Invest in community supportive housing
 - Creating housing stock alone will not necessarily meet the needs of those with severe and/or chronic mental health issues. Supportive housing combines access to affordable units with intensive coordinated services. It would include rental supplements/allowances, case management, counselling, assistance with medication, and life skills training.

PREPARING FOR FUTURE PANDEMICS

One of the federal government's primary responsibilities is the safety and security of those who live within its borders. **When the pandemic hit, Canada was not prepared.** Our over-reliance on global supply chains and our incapacity to manufacture

pharmaceuticals domestically are but two of the ways in which Canada's national security was compromised by the Liberal government.

The COVID-19 crisis has laid bare important gaps in our social safety system, with all levels of government scrambling to plug the holes in order to avert the most catastrophic outcomes for people in Canada.

The primary focus must be on the public's most immediate needs. However, **this moment is also a critical opportunity to lay the foundations for better future policy and social care.** If we are to be better prepared the next time a crisis strikes, we cannot let this chance slip through our fingers. To ensure that all Canadians can lead lives with dignity, we must continue the work towards a more complete social safety net.

A Green government will:

- Order a public inquiry that evaluates the joint response between all levels of government with the purpose of examining what went well and what could have been done better.
- Create an intergovernmental rapid response task force, which can be activated immediately when facing an emergency.
- Ensure that Canada has a robust capacity for pharmaceutical manufacturing.
- Ensure that Canada has a sufficient PPE stockpile by increasing domestic production.
- Dedicate specific funding to strengthening the integration of public health with community-based primary care as the first access point of the health care system
- Lessen Canada's overall dependence on global supply chains for essential goods and services.
- Strengthen the Global Public Health Intelligence Network (GPHIN) to flag potential public health concerns around the globe.
- Prepare for future pandemics by investing in and restructuring our health care and long-term care systems.
- Provide the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) with long-term funding to protect public health and to be ready with surge capacity in the event of a crisis.
- Invest in research and production of vaccines and therapeutics to improve Canada's ability to domestically source vaccines and medical treatments.
- Commit to being guided by the recommendations of the relevant scientists and experts in formulating emergency response strategies.
- Accelerate Canada's move towards a net-zero emissions green economy in order to help limit further global warming and the intensification of extreme weather and climate events that such warming will provoke.

- Invest in measures to limit the impact of the extreme weather and climate events that are already occurring, and will continue to occur, as a result of irreversible climate change.
- Halt and reverse biodiversity loss and species extinction to help address underlying causes, as pandemics are likely to increase in frequency and severity if we do not address biodiversity decline.

SENIORS

There are serious gaps in the federal government's policies, systems, and services designed to protect seniors. Canada's most vulnerable senior citizens have endured the government's mismanagement of long-term care facilities, they have experienced neglect in our public healthcare system, and they face growing threats to their economic security and well being. The gaps in senior care have cost lives during the COVID-19 pandemic: more than 15,000 have died in long-term care.

The Green Party of Canada knows that seniors deserve better. 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.

With Canada's population of senior citizens expected to increase significantly over the next decade, the federal government must implement policies to ensure that seniors can live their lives to the fullest potential. Green Party pledges such as the Guaranteed

Livable Income, Pharmacare, public transportation, home retrofits, and the construction of affordable housing will contribute to a better quality of life for older adults.

A Green government will:

1. Fully fund the National Dementia Strategy

- In collaboration with health professionals and provincial/territorial governments, develop and fund a national dementia strategy. The strategy would support research, improve quality of life for patients and caregivers, and educate the public to increase awareness and reduce stigma.
- Continue ongoing funding for frailty research to improve care for vulnerable older adults while investing in new R&D in the ageing and age-tech sector.

- Meet the aspirational goals of the National Dementia Strategy by increasing overall Canadian investment from \$50 million to \$150 million over five years in the field of dementia research.

2. Ensure Seniors' Violence and Abuse Prevention

- Establish a Federal Office of the Seniors' Advocate to provide systemic oversight and leadership on issues related to the current needs of Canadian seniors, as well as provide insight, analysis, and direction to the government on the future needs of our ageing population.
- Develop a National Elder Abuse and Neglect Strategy to raise awareness and provide funding for instances of elder abuse and neglect across the Country.

3. Protect Pensions

- Amend pension benefit legislation for federally-regulated pensions to:
 - Maintain the solvency target at 100%.
 - Require annual Actuarial Valuations
 - Require the sponsor, in the event that the Actuarial Valuation solvency ratio falls below a prescribed threshold to:
 - Obtain a letter of credit to return to 100% solvency, or
 - Abide by restrictions on corporate cash management similar to Ontario's recent 520/20, until the solvency of the plan is restored, or
 - Obtain informed consent of a significant portion of plan members (perhaps >75%) to implement a different solution, other than a. or b.
- As a short-term measure, a Green government would introduce a refundable tax credit equal to the amount of pension loss an individual incurs when a pension fails.
- To better protect the pensions of all Canadians whose companies file for bankruptcy, under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA), a Green government would amend insolvency legislation to extend super-priority to the unfunded pension liability.
- Amend insolvency legislation to enable the creation of a Distressed Pension Facility in the event of a corporate insolvency.
- Ensure the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) remains robust and adaptive to changing needs and circumstances by increasing over time the target income replacement rate for income received during working years, as needed.
- 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.

- Protect private pensions by amending the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act to establish the super-priority of pensioners and the pension plan in the creditor hierarchy during company insolvency proceedings.

HEALTH

While provinces have jurisdiction over health care delivery, the Canada Health Act sets the terms under 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 with provinces and territories 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, 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.

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.**” 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.”

We must recognize the interconnectedness between the natural world and ourselves, and thus the increasing impact of climate change on our health. The federal government's failure to adequately address it or to introduce mitigation strategies means that climate change represents a growing burden on our health care system.

In addition to climate change, **Canada continues to suffer from the effects of an opioid crisis that has caused thousands of overdoses and deaths in recent years.** The opioid crisis is a health care issue, not a criminal issue, and by addressing it as such we can begin to address the underlying causes and stop this national tragedy from getting even worse. This is why we have called for the decriminalization of small amounts of illicit drugs and the creation of a national safe supply program.

A Green government will take charge of these interconnected health crises with the goal of ensuring a life of health, safety, and dignity for all Canadians.

A Green government will:

1. Expand the Canada Health Act.

- Expand the single-payer Medicare model to include Pharmacare for everyone.
- Create a bulk drug purchasing agency and reduce drug patent protection periods.
- Expand the single-payer Medicare model to include long-term care and enhanced mental health services.
- Expand the single-payer Medicare model to include free basic dental care for all Canadians.

2. Restore the Canada Health Accord.

- Increase health transfers by basing them 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.
- Negotiate the Canada Health Accord to prioritize mental health and rehabilitation services, access to safe abortion services and access to gender-affirming health services such as hormones, blockers, and surgery.
- Reduce wait times, which are a foundational issue of accessibility in the health care system, particularly in the case of primary care. Support family doctors and interprofessional teams to reduce wait times and enhance the accessibility of the care they provide to communities across Canada.

3. Address the Impact of Climate Change on Health and Wellbeing.

- Reorient Health Canada's mandate towards mental health and addictions, health promotion and disease prevention, and the risks of climate change.

- Encourage medical associations to train health-care professionals to understand and engage with climate change related health threats.
4. Reduce 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.¹²

- Legislate the right of Canadians 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.
- 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.

¹² 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>.

- In collaboration with provinces, territories, municipal/local governments and Indigenous Peoples, develop a national water strategy to ensure safe drinking water for all Canadians.
5. Focus on Indigenous Health.
- Uphold Jordan's Principle in full, ensuring Indigenous Peoples 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.
 - 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 Nation and Inuit organizations.
6. Address the Drug Poisoning Crisis.

The overdose crisis must be treated as a health-care issue rather than a criminal one.

- Approach the drug poisoning crisis as a healthcare issue, not a criminal issue
 - Declare drug poisonings a national health emergency.
 - Recognize that fentanyl contamination is why deaths are more accurately described as poisonings than overdoses.
 - Decriminalize the possession of drugs for personal use.
 - Ensure there is access to a safe screened and public supply of drugs of choice.
 - Ensure there is access to the medical support drug users need.
 - Increase funding to community-based organizations to test street drugs.
 - Make Naloxone kits widely available to treat overdoses.
7. Expand Telemedicine

Many adaptations to medical practices initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic are certain to remain in place. Such innovations will be an important part of the response to future crisis and to ensuring better, permanent health care access by various vulnerable groups. These innovations should help enhance access, but they should not detract from continuity of care. Patients need to have access to follow-up appointments if needed, and feel confident that the quality of care they are receiving is not compromised in virtual care settings.

Telemedicine, or virtual care, holds great promise for service delivery in rural areas where access to care is a significant challenge. When rural residents cannot access services in a timely manner, they experience poorer health outcomes. Virtual care services help meet the needs of rural residents through remote consultations, in-home monitoring, outsourced diagnostic analysis, remote specialist consultations, and virtual consultations for urgent care needs.

Telemedicine benefits several specific rural populations, including rural residents with disabilities, substance use disorders and/or mental health conditions, and those with limited English proficiency. It also helps seniors and Indigenous communities. It would also be a critical part of the service delivery for people living in areas affected by climate disasters who require urgent care.

- Set and maintain national standards on safety and quality for virtual care.
- Provide dedicated investment for publicly funded virtual care.
- Ensure data interoperability and accessibility to patients.
- Support equitable access through infrastructure investments.
- Support policies that lead to continuity in virtual care.

Green Innovation: Taxing Sugary Drinks

For the first time in our history, children will likely be less healthy than their parents. On the recommendation of Diabetes Canada, the Canadian Medical Association, Dietitians of Canada, and the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Green Party of Canada will begin addressing this systemic issue by adding a special tax of 10 per cent on sugary drinks, one of the leading causes of obesity and certain types of diabetes, and ban the advertising of sugary drinks to minors.

III. A JUST SOCIETY

Canada can lead the way.

In the past, Canada was considered a place of diversity and inclusivity. **It is up to us whether Canada will in fact live up to the promise of a just society in the years to come.**

Over the past few years, we have seen the lived impacts of colonialism and polarization. While the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to answer the question of “what a life is worth,” other questions have been raised as well. Hate crimes are on the rise: what will be done to end them? Thousands of Indigenous children have been discovered in unmarked graves across the country: how will we atone for this tragedy? Tens of thousands of people poured into the streets demanding a dismantling of systemic racism: when and how will we do this?

The Green Party of Canada believes that we can do better to build a truly just society. We no longer have time for empty words. Now is the time for bold action.

The Time Is Now

For many, recent events have opened their eyes to issues of injustice and social inequality. However, systemic discrimination long predates the many marches and protests we have seen over the last few years. If we approach systemic discrimination as a novel idea, we have failed to understand its history and its intrinsic nature.

The Green Party of Canada understands that systemic discrimination comes in many forms, and seeks to combat it in every public arena, through fostering Indigenous self-determination, providing a fair deal for youth, tackling identity-based hate and ensuring that the creation of a Just Society is at the centre of all decision making.

RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Canada has a profound legal and moral 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 intergenerational 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.

The Green Party of Canada reaffirms its support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Greens are committed to implementing UNDRIP for those First Nations who support it. The Green Party believes that every nation has a right to decide who will speak on its behalf, and the government of Canada must be led by Indigenous Peoples with respect to designing any UNDRIP legislation. We heard from several First Nations who told us that they had not been consulted on Bill C-15.

A Green government will ensure that all First Nations are thoroughly involved in the development and design of UNDRIP implementation legislation. Greens would also ensure that any Nations who do not support UNDRIP would not have it imposed upon them.

The Green Party of Canada is committed to Reconciliation, Nation-to-Nation engagement and self-determination for Indigenous Peoples, and believes that any meaningful path towards reconciliation in Canada must ensure that First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation leaders are leading the decisions about the future of their people, their lands and their territories.

A Green government will:

- Provide sustainable funding for new and existing Indigenous Healing Centres to address the harms caused by residential schools;
- Increase funding to Friendship Centres across Canada providing critical social services off-reserve;

- Honour the original request from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for funding for work on the Missing Children and Unmarked Burials Project;
- Call on the Pope to apologise on behalf of the Catholic Church for its involvement in residential schools;
- Recognize that Indigenous children in residential schools have been replaced by Indigenous children in foster care; Indigenous children account for 7.7 per cent of children in Canada, but 52.2 percent of children in care;
- Stop fighting the Canada's Human Rights Tribunal orders requiring the government to compensate the child and family victims of Canada's discrimination; and ensure non-status First Nations' children living off reserve have access to Jordan's Principle.

A Green government will respect Indigenous sovereignty over self-defined and self-governed lands – whether First Nations, Métis Nation 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 welcome a genuine nation-to-nation engagement with Indigenous Peoples in Canada that is truly grounded in the UNDRIP doctrine of free, prior and informed consent.

Treaties and Land Claims

1. Uphold fiduciary responsibilities, honour treaties, and respect all rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - Uphold Canada's fiduciary responsibility, fulfill Canada's responsibilities in agreements, honour treaties, and respect all rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their inherent rights of self-government.
2. Work towards the creation of an Indigenous Lands and Treaties Tribunal Act.
 - 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.
3. Immediately implement the land 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.

Respecting Indigenous Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and Nation-to-Nation relationships

1. Formally repudiate the doctrine of *terra nullius*, the doctrine of discovery, and other doctrines of superiority.
2. Guided by Indigenous leadership, establish a process to transition out from under the *Indian Act*.
 - 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.
3. Implement the recommendations of the 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.
4. Affirm the inherent right of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation to determine child and family services.
 - Support kinship ties and ensure sufficient funding and resources so that families are kept together.
5. Work with First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit and their governing institutions on a nation-to-nation basis.
 - Advance and implement agreements, and work in collaboration with nations to co-develop and co-design policy and programs that will benefit First Nations, Métis Nation, and Inuit.
6. Recognize the rights of non-status and Métis as “Indigenous.”
 - Accept CAP-Daniels recognition of non-Status and Métis as “Indigenous”
 - Accept UNDRIP recognition of the rights that Indigenous people possess, applying equally to all Indigenous people regardless of distinction, residence or status.
 - Work towards the settlement of community land and resource rights for Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) communities
 - Respect and act on 2018 CAP-Canada Political Accord
 - Include off-reserve Status, non-Status, Métis and Southern Inuit in the implementation of calls to action in Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & 2SLGBTQIA+.

Cultural Revitalization and Healing

1. Implement all 94 of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
2. Implement all of the Calls for Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
3. Build community capacity to support exercising self-determination.
 - Support self-determination with effective, fully-funded organizations to represent and provide services to communities by expanding Basic Organizational Capacity (BOC) funding for Indigenous representative organizations.
 - Representation of youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQQIA+, and distinct identities among off-reserve Indigenous people must be adequately funded to ensure those perspectives are included.
 - Support research and identification of off-reserve Indigenous communities across Canada, with registration and membership systems.
 - Support the application of trusted research and data on urban Indigenous populations to acknowledge under-counting.
4. Ensure access to quality education for every First Nations, Métis Nation, and Inuit child.
 - 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.
5. Honour the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling to compensate every child and family who was taken from their home on reserve.
6. Adopt recommendations on funding for First Nations Child and Family Services from the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracy's 2020 report.
 - Adopt a results framework for the well-being of children, families, and communities, such as the Measuring to Thrive framework proposed in the report.

- Budget for results with a block funding approach¹³ that addresses gaps and is linked to the results framework.
 - Undertake a full assessment of current capital stock.
- Establish a non-political First Nations policy and practice secretariat to support First Nations and First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) agencies to transition to First Nations governance.
- Establish a group of FNCFS agencies and First Nations willing to be early adopters of the new performance and funding approach to model implementation.

Health and Wellness

1. End all drinking water and boil water advisories.
 - Invest in and upgrade critical infrastructure to ensure safe water access and to be able to lift boil water advisories in every community.
 - Support Indigenous-led processes to implement safe drinking water and wastewater management systems
2. Ensure access to high-quality safe and affordable housing.
 - See “Life with Dignity - Ensure access to housing for Indigenous Peoples”
3. Improve food security in northern communities.
 - 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.
4. Increase access to high-quality health care services.
 - Support healthcare services that incorporate traditional practices and recognize the role of extended families and elders.
 - Devote sufficient resources for maternal and infant care, and culturally appropriate reproductive health services that uphold reproductive autonomy.
 - Increase investments in Indigenous-led mental health (See “Life with Dignity - Expanded and enhanced mental health support”)
 - Sustain the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative to continue capacity building in the healthcare profession for Indigenous communities.
 - Expand access to non-insured health benefits (NIHB) to all Indigenous people, regardless of Status, residency, membership or any other factors.
 - Ensure that compensation funds are made available to the spouses and families of all Aboriginal veterans.

¹³ Funding First Nations child and family services (FNCFS): A performance budget approach to well-being (July 2020) -

https://www.ifsd.ca/web/default/files/Blog/Reports/2020-09-09_Final%20report_Funding%20First%20Nations%20child%20and%20family%20services.pdf

- Allocate dedicated funding to support communities providing culturally appropriate home and community care for seniors, ensuring that Elders remain connected to their communities and culture.

DISMANTLING SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

There is no singular catch-all solution to ending the systematic oppression that Black people, Indigenous Peoples, people of colour, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and members of other equity-seeking groups face. There are, however, steps that the federal government can and must take to address these long-standing injustices.

The Green Party of Canada is deeply committed to immediate as well as long-term actions that will truly address systemic racism in our public institutions, and will continue to propose bold, just, and necessary solutions.

A Green government will:

Take action on recommendations, calls to action, and calls for justice.

1. Implement recommendations to begin dismantling systemic racism in Canadian institutions.
 - Implement all of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
 - Implement all of the Calls for Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
 - Implement the recommendations of the Report of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its Mission to Canada

Dismantle systemic discrimination in the federal civil service

Data from a 2019 Public Service Employee Survey indicates that more than 15% of Black public service employees experienced racial discrimination in the workplace. Since the 1984 Royal Commission report on equality in employment, successive governments have known about these kinds of systemic barriers. Labour organizations have also been calling for a review of the *Employment Act* for nearly twenty years.

It wasn't until 2021, just before calling the election, that the Liberal government chose to launch a major review of the *Employment Equity Act*, and it has only given the task force conducting this review until early 2022 to complete its work. Given that the EEA impacts nearly 1.5 million workers in the federal public service, Crown corporations, the Canadian Forces, and numerous federally regulated industries, this timeline will not give the task force sufficient time for meaningful consultations with all stakeholders, especially with ongoing pandemic restrictions.

The Green Party welcomes this review, but calls for:

- More inputs from workers with lived experiences facing systemic racism and discrimination
- An extended timeline and resources for the task force to complete comprehensive consultation with marginalized communities
- A broadening of the application of EEA provisions to non-federally regulated private firms (such as temp agencies) doing outsourced work for the federal government

Dismantle systemic racism and discrimination in policing

A Green government will:

1. Reduce - Limit the RCMP, and its funding, to its core role

Conduct an immediate and comprehensive review of the RCMP role in policing municipalities and reserves and the RCMP's other duties and identify areas for detasking police and reducing police spending

- Work with provinces and municipalities to reduce police spending in those jurisdictions. Urge divestment from services for which the police are not suited, and alternative models and agencies are better able to support

individuals and communities. In the majority of cases, this means removing officers from services such as first responders to mental health calls, school resource officers, by-law enforcement, construction traffic policing, and the policing and criminalization of poverty.

- Advocate for an end to police street checks, carding, and arbitrary stops and detentions. These practices have been shown to disproportionately target [Black](#) and [Indigenous Peoples](#) in Canada.

2. Reallocate - Invest in community and social services

- Invest funds that are divested from police services in social and community services, which are more effective in preventing and reducing crime, strengthening individuals and communities, and creating a more just society. These will include alternative responses to mental health calls, investment in afterschool programs for young persons, mental health support for youth and adults, and increased employment opportunities.

3. Review - Design and implement a more effective, transparent, accountable, and independent police oversight system

- Review the operations and decision-making process of the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission and make changes to ensure that the CRCC is more accountable, effective, responsive, and transparent in its review of RCMP conduct. End the practice of allowing the RCMP to review and handle complaints made against it.
- Create a national standard for independent and accountable oversight of policing, in cooperation with the provinces. Urge provincial and municipal bodies to implement those standards to ensure fairness and accountability in policing across the country.
- Develop a national standard for police use-of-force, and work with other jurisdictions to ban certain kinds of force, such as chokeholds and neck restraints.

4. Record - National database to record police use-of-force and other incidents

- Create a mandatory national database on the collection of police use of force data, disaggregated by race, ethnic background, national origin, age, and other identities to track victims of incidents of use-of-force by police and better understand the extent of systemic racism in Canadian policing.

Addressing systemic racism and discrimination in Immigration and Refugee services

A Green government will:

1. Update the citizenship guidebook
 - Update the citizenship guidebook to include a more accurate history of Canada and Turtle Island that includes the harms of residential schools and the Indian Act.
2. Address all forms of hate and xenophobia in all aspects of settlement in Canada
 - Address xenophobia in all aspects of settlement, including temporary visa liberalization, issuing of temporary permits (study, work, visit, etc.) and family reunification (including increasing capacity for family sponsorship and revision of adoption processes)
3. Terminate the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States
 - The Canadian Federal Court recently ruled that the Safe Third Country Agreement, Canada's asylum agreement with the U.S., violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantee of "the right to life, liberty and security of the person." The agreement allows Canada to send refugee-claimants at the Canada–U.S. border back to the United States, despite the risk they will be detained and eventually returned to their countries of origin without their refugee claims being assessed. This agreement must be terminated.
4. Revise Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) practices
 - Revise all Canada Border Services Agency practices, including operation of immigration detention centres, family separation, and developing an oversight mechanism, including a Civilian Complaint and Review Commission

TACKLING IDENTITY-BASED HATE

Hate has been on the rise in Canada. Islamophobia, anti-Asian hate, antisemitism, anti-Black hate, and LGBTQ2S+ discrimination based upon identity has increased in recent years. Doctrines of racial and religious supremacy are an ongoing threat, and it is the duty of our governments to identify, expose and root out supremacist movements

and to ensure that those who promote and disseminate such ideologies know that there will be no safe place or dark corner where their beliefs will be allowed to flourish.

Silence emboldens hate; hate dehumanises; and dehumanization facilitates atrocities. It is the responsibility of political leadership to build cohesion within our society through seeking common ground, celebrating diverse identities, and discouraging polarisation.

A Green government will:

1. Reject and condemn extremist ideologies that promote violence
 - Avoid the dangerous creation and exploitation of division, which undermines the long-term foundations of our democracy.
 - Undertake all efforts through a lens of seeking to build cohesion within our society through seeking common ground, celebrating diverse identities, and discouraging polarization.
 - Develop better guidelines to address the weaponization of free expression to promote hate speech and propaganda.
2. Provide funding for data collection on the spread of online hate and real-world violence.
 - Support research and advocacy groups seeking to address online hate and offline incidents.

Protect democracy in the digital age

1. Enshrine citizens' digital rights, including 'the right to not be profiled online.'
 - Canada can follow the lead of the European Union, and listen to the recommendations of our national Privacy Commissioner. Regulations must distinguish between *demographic* profiling, and more manipulative *psychometric* profiling techniques.
2. Reduce spread of Misinformation.
 - Support research & development to improve artificial intelligence (AI) solutions for detecting misinformation, hate, and violence online, so that this content can be de-emphasized and corrected.
 - Position Canada as a global leader in requiring companies who run large-scale online platforms to detect and prevent proliferation of misinformation. Hold publishers of malicious disinformation to account.
3. Support ease of access to accurate information
 - Invest in initiatives and partnerships that increase citizens' opportunities and abilities to differentiate between misinformation, and higher-quality, verifiable, evidence-based content. This includes enhancing education in media and digital literacy for all age groups.

4. Protect civil liberties and freedom of expression.

- Limit government to a regulatory rather than hands-on role in monitoring and moderating online content, and build protections that prevent suppression of lawful and accurate content, no matter how critical of government policy it may be.

Advance LGBTQI2+ Rights

It has never been more important to ensure adequate support for the LGBTQI2+ communities, especially in the area of mental health supports. Over the past year, two national research reports^{14, 15} demonstrated that LGBTQI2+ people have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially Black and racialized LGBTQI2+ persons.

An important component of support is to take decisive action against harmful practices that have severe health effects, such as conversion therapy. The Green Party is dismayed by political delays in ensuring the successful ratification of conversion therapy legislation (Bill C-6) before calling this election.

A Green government will:

- Support the 23 recommendations outlined in the LGBT Purge Fund's report entitled Emerging from the Purge which highlights the reality that LGBTQI2+ people continue to experience significant discrimination in federal workplaces.
- Listen to feedback about the appropriate nature of new 2021 federal census questions attempting to capture data on trans and non-binary Canadians.
- 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, unscientific and homophobic blood ban.

¹⁴

<https://egale.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Impact-of-COVID-19-Canada%E2%80%99s-LGBTQI2S-Community-in-Focus-2020-04-06.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://egale.ca/egale-in-action/covid19-impact2/#FullReport>

- 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.
- Ensure that the national census is designed to reflect the diversity of sex and gender identity 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.
- Ensure Canada advocates internationally for an end to state-sanctioned discrimination and violence against LGBTQI2+people.
- Support all recommendations in the Emerging from the Purge Report, calling on improved workplace inclusion policies and practices.

Protecting Sex Workers

Sex workers still live and work under a criminal regime. In March 2021, The Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform, which represents 25 groups that work with members of the sex trade, launched a constitutional challenge in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. They argue the laws violate provisions of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and have launched a constitutional challenge to most of the sex-work provisions that were implemented in 2014 under the Protection for Communities and Exploited Persons Act. Despite voting against Stephen Harper's Bill C-36, and after two terms, the Liberals have yet to take action regarding Bill C-36 or the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act.

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. Legalising the industry 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 Gender Equality

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, the majority of people who have been infected with, and have died from COVID-19 have been women. There is also a high proportion of women who work on the front lines of health services, caregiving, cleaning, and other essential roles. These are roles in which workers are both at high risk of contracting the virus, and at high risk for burnout and long-term effects from the pandemic.

Women and girls who face intersecting barriers and discrimination have experienced additional challenges related to the pandemic, including a widening employment gap between racialized and non-racialized groups that disproportionately affects women.

Isolation measures imposed to prevent the spread of the virus, resulted in four key gendered impacts¹⁶:

- Increased rates of **gender-based violence**
- More **economic stress**
- Increased burden of **caregiving and housework**
- Reduced access to **support services**

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.
- Oppose any possible government move to diminish access to safe, legal abortion.

¹⁶ Canadian Women's Foundation:
<https://canadianwomen.org/the-facts/women-and-pandemics/>

- Expand programs in reproductive health, rights, and in sexual and reproductive health education.
- Expand supports for low-income mothers.
- Pass pay equity legislation, as recommended by the Pay Equity Task Force; immediately implement full pay equity for women employed in the federal sector and develop tax incentives for companies to meet the highest standards of gender and pay equity.
- Establish specific job re-entry programs for women with children who want to restart their working lives either part-time or full-time.
- Ensure that the criteria for new appointments to public boards and agencies include equal opportunity for women.
- Support greater engagement of women in the political life of Canada by advocating that all political parties nominate, train, and support more women and gender-diverse candidates.

People with Disabilities

It is time for every person in Canada with disabilities to be able to live with dignity. Canadians with disabilities and their families have suffered disproportionately during the pandemic.¹⁷ There has been an erosion of mental health and confidence in public institutions for people with disabilities, leading to vaccine hesitancy.

Even prior to the pandemic, people with disabilities lived with disproportionate levels of poverty and exclusion. As we continue to observe during the pandemic, the introduction of basic income support has significantly improved peoples' ability to sustain themselves.¹⁸

A Guaranteed Livable Income would best provide the support that Canadians with disabilities desperately need. This program is a floor for the access to resources for people with disabilities; it is not a ceiling. With additional programs to break down barriers, people with disabilities will have every right to be full, equal partners in Canadian society.

¹⁷ https://abilitiescentre.org/Abilities/media/Documents/Covid-survey-report-Dec-18_1.pdf

¹⁸ The Caledon Institute - https://www.crwdp.ca/sites/default/files/documentuploader/ont_cluster_report_accessible.pdf

A Green government will:

- Work to create a Canada Disabilities Act (CDA) to express Canadians' vision of a more equitable society rather than the current confusion resulting from the multiplicity of acts, standards, policies, and programs that prevail.
- Support a national equipment fund to provide equipment such as wheelchairs and accessibility tools to assist persons with disabilities with the tools needed to fully participate in work and community life (This can be a joint program with provinces – the concern is equal access and common standards).
- Invest in social housing adapted as necessary to meet particular needs, with both rental and purchase options.
- Provide federal health transfer payments to provinces and territories directed to rehabilitation for those who have become disabled, e.g. loss of limbs etc.
- Enforce the Employment Equity Act to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal opportunity to long-term employment and advancement. People with disabilities are generally the last to find employment and the first to be laid off.
- Institute a Guaranteed Liveable Income for people living with disabilities so that none live in poverty.
- Convert the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) to a refundable credit.
- Redesign the Canada Pension Plan/Disability Benefit (CPP/D) test to incorporate the DTC definition of disability and permit employment.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

The criminal justice system is in dire need of transformative change. For the most part, crimes are a result of gaps and failures in our socio-economic structures. Systemic racism, the criminalization of poverty and serious mental health issues are endemic in our system. We have a harmful over-reliance on the outdated and inhumane prison system.

Prisons are not the solution. Prisons have proven themselves to be an ineffective and harmful response to the societal problem of criminal conduct. In most cases, there are alternative responses that better serve victims, society, and offenders.

There are many systemic problems inherent in the prison system. Systemic racism, as well as the over-incarceration of Indigenous and Black peoples, are pervasive problems in the prison system, and prisons are often used to warehouse people with serious mental health issues -- mental health disorders are estimated to be 2-3 times more

prevalent in the prison population, compared to the general population.¹⁹ Prisons have also been shown to result in increased recidivism, render rehabilitation and reintegration more difficult, and they are extremely expensive, with often inhumane conditions.²⁰ In addition, solitary confinement continues to be overused and inappropriately used in Canadian institutions, with little transparency.²¹ Furthermore, the number of legally innocent persons held in pre-trial detention has increased, in some cases outnumbering the number of people actually convicted and serving a sentence.

It is clear that Canada must drastically decrease its reliance on prisons. Investment in prevention, rehabilitation, and alternative models of dealing with crime are far more effective, humane, and responsive to those impacted by crime and the conditions that lead to it.

Not only are prisons not an effective deterrence to crime,²² but studies show that both women and men are **more likely to reoffend** if they are sent to prison than if they are given a different penalty.²³

While the national incarceration rate has been decreasing over the past few years,²⁴ this decrease is not consistent across the provinces and territories. **The incarceration rate of Indigenous Peoples continues to increase at an unconscionable rate.** Further, the incarceration rates of Indigenous persons and Black persons are disproportionately high compared to their population.

¹⁹ See this mega-study: Kouyoumdjian, F; Shuler, A Matheson, F; and Hwang S. *Health Status of Prisoners in Canada Canadian Family Physician* (2016 Mar) 62(3): 215–222.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4984599/>

²⁰ In 2018, the average annual cost per federal inmate was over \$125,000. See <https://www.statista.com/statistics/563028/average-annual-inmate-federal-correctional-services-canada/>

²¹ See, for example: *Solitary By Another Name*. (Nov. 2020) Prisoners' Legal Services, West Coast Prison Justice Society. <https://prisonjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Solitary-by-another-name-report.pdf>; and Ling, Justin. *Ending Solitary Confinement in Canada's Prisons, Take 2*. (July 23, 2021) Maclean's

²² See, for example, : <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/five-things-about-deterrence>

²³ There are several studies on this question. See *Criminological Highlights*, (Centre for Criminology and Sociological Studies, University of Toronto) Volume 12 No.2 for an overview

²⁴ The last available statistics are from 2018: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00016-eng.htm>

Indigenous Peoples, in particular, are over-represented in Canadian prisons.²⁵ This is so despite Supreme Court of Canada decisions in *R. v. Gladue*²⁶ and *R. v. Ipeelee* that direct judges to impose other sanctions on Indigenous offenders.

The over-representation of Indigenous Peoples in correctional institutions also means that Indigenous inmates are not only more disproportionately the subject of victimization in prisons, but they also face **greater health risks** as a result of their incarceration. Indigenous inmates were particularly vulnerable to Covid-19 -- just over 57% of inmates infected in the pandemic's second wave were Indigenous.²⁷

In addition, Black persons are more likely to be arrested and taken to police stations for processing after arrest, more likely to be held overnight, even once age and criminal history are taken into account, and are more likely to have more conditions imposed upon release. They are also over-represented in federal prisons.²⁸

Prisons, while they provide some sense of “justice” to victims, often do not help in bringing healing to victims of most crimes. Studies show that **restorative justice** is an alternative model that can improve healing for PTSD victims, increase accountability for offenders, and reduce recidivism.²⁹

Too often, prisons have become the “answer” to our failure to provide appropriate and early mental health support. Most people in custody have experienced serious adverse events in childhood and have a mental disorder as defined by the

²⁵ In 2018/2019, Indigenous adults accounted for 31% of admissions to provincial and territorial custody, and 29% of admissions to federal custody, while representing 4.5% of the adult Canadian population. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Indigenous adults represent 75% of the admission, but 16% and 14% of the general adult population, respectively. The figures are even more disheartening when we look at the incarceration of Indigenous women, who accounted for 42% of the female custody admission. Indigenous youth are also overrepresented in the correctional system, at a shocking 43% of admissions, while they comprise 8.8% of the general youth population in Canada. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00016-eng.htm>

²⁶ *R. v. Gladue* [1999] 1 SCR 688 <https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/1695/index.do> and *R. v. Ipeelee* [2012] 1 SCR 433 <https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/8000/index.do>

²⁷ *Third Covid-19 Status Update*. Office of the Correctional Investigator (Feb 23, 2021) <https://www.oci.bec.gc.ca/cnt/rpt/pdf/oth-aut/oth-aut20210223-eng.pdf>

²⁸ *Race, Crime and Justice in Canada* (October 19, 2017) John Howard Society of Canada <https://jhscan.wpengine.com/blog/race-crime-justice-canada/>

²⁹ While the results vary, restorative justice programs lead to an overall decrease in recidivism: *Restorative Justice and Recidivism*. Research Summary, Volume 8 No 1. Public Safety Canada.

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/jstc-rcdvs/index-en.aspx> See also:

<https://restorativejustice.org.uk/resources/moj-evaluation-restorative-justice>

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. **Mental health** disorders are estimated to be 2-3 times more prevalent in the prison population, compared to the general population.³⁰

The continued use of **solitary confinement** (now called Structured Intervention Units) leads to long-term negative mental health consequences for offenders. These consequences, in turn, make rehabilitation and reintegration extremely difficult, with ensuing economic, psychological, and physical harm caused to individuals, their families, and society at large.

There are about 70% more adults detained in **remand** than those in sentenced custody. This means that the number of people who are waiting in pre-trial detention, and are legally innocent, significantly outnumbers those who are serving a sentence after their trial.³¹

An Approach Centred on People

We need alternatives that better serve victims, reduce recidivism, and help the integration and rehabilitation of individuals. Prisons, while they provide some sense of “justice” to victims, often do not help in bringing long term healing to victims of most crimes. Restorative justice is an alternative model that can foster healing for victims suffering from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), increase accountability for those who cause harm, and reduce recidivism.³²

A Green government will:

- Develop a restorative justice model that will allow for transformative justice, meaningful accountability and rehabilitation of those who cause harm, greater healing for those who are victimized and those who are criminalized and imprisoned, and ultimately decreased involvement in the traditional criminal legal

³⁰ See this mega-study: [Kouyoumdjian, F; Shuler, A Matheson, F; and Hwang S. *Health Status of Prisoners in Canada Canadian Family Physician* \(2016 Mar\) 62\(3\): 215–222.](#)

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4984599/>

³¹ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00016-eng.htm>

³² While the results vary, restorative justice programs lead to an overall decrease in recidivism: *Restorative Justice and Recidivism*. Research Summary, Volume 8 No 1. Public Safety Canada.

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/jstc-rcdvs/index-en.aspx> See also:

<https://restorativejustice.org.uk/resources/moj-evaluation-restorative-justice>

system.³³

- Design a comprehensive evaluation of restorative justice programs across the country.

A focus on rehabilitation and mental health

Design and implement a human rights based model focused on meeting peoples' needs in the community, rehabilitation, and addressing the issues that contributed to their criminalization.

A Green government will:

- Revitalize and resource social, economic, physical and mental health supports, particularly in light of the mass incarceration of Indigenous, Black and other racialized people.
- Ensure that prison is a last resort, where public safety necessitates imprisonment.
- Implement laws that reduce the incarceration of those with mental health issues through preventative measures.

Decolonizing, decriminalizing, and decarcerating

Bolstering laws and policies aimed at decolonizing, decriminalizing and decarcerating will help address the mass incarceration of Black and Indigenous Peoples, as well as other racialized peoples.

A Green government will:

- Expand on, and codify the requirement for sentencing judges to take into account systemic and historical racism when dealing with Indigenous persons,

³³ From the Department of Justice: "A meta-analysis by Strang et al. (2013, 12) showed that victims and survivors who go through a RJ process are more satisfied about the handling of their case than those who do not go through an RJ process. The study also found that victims and survivors who go through a RJ process are more likely to receive an apology from the offender and to feel safer (Ibid.). Many victims and survivors have reported that the opportunity to participate in RJ and express themselves reduces their desire for revenge, and they would recommend the process to others (Umbreit et al. 2002; Wemmers and Canuto 2002; Ministry of Justice 2011; 2016). Victims and survivors have also reported that after participating in RJ processes, they experienced psychological benefits such as decreased fear and anxiety about a new victimization, decreased anger, increased sympathy towards the offender (Strang et al. 2006), and in some cases, even a decrease in post-traumatic stress symptoms (PTSS) (Angel et al. 2014; Angel 2005). Some participants also reported experiencing positive changes in their physical health, in addition to positive psychological changes (Rugge and Scott 2009)." <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/victim/rd11-rr11/p5.html>

and the requirement that they act to reduce the impact of systemic racism.

- Develop clear laws and guidelines aligned with the principles set out by the Supreme Court in *R. v. Ipeelee* and *R. v. Gladue*, and implement additional laws to reduce incarceration of Indigenous Peoples in provincial and federal prisons.
- Implement the calls to action of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* that deal with justice (sections 25-40).
- Develop laws and policies aimed at providing social, housing, health, economic and educational support in order to reduce the over-policing and over-incarceration of Black and Indigenous peoples.

Eliminate mandatory minimum sentences

A Green government will:

- Eliminate mandatory minimum sentences and enable courts to determine appropriate sentences based on the circumstances of each individual case and established sentencing laws and principles.
- Take steps to ensure that, where some form of incarceration is necessary, individuals are, as quickly as possible, held close to their community to allow for more effective reintegration and rehabilitation.

Eliminate solitary confinement

With the passage of Bill C-83, the government committed to end the use of solitary confinement and segregation in Canada. The use of solitary confinement (now called Structured Intervention Units) has been shown to cause irreparable physical, psychological and neurological harm. Consequences, in turn, make rehabilitation and reintegration extremely difficult, with ensuing economic, psychological, and physical harm to individuals, their families, and society at large.

A Green government will:

- Immediately ensure that the Federal Advisory Committee on Prisoner Isolation receives access to all required information to monitor the state of “structured intervention units” (solitary confinement) within Canada’s prisons.
- Ensure that the recommendations of the Office of the Correctional Investigator with respect to SIUs are implemented.
- Implement the Senate amendments to Bill C-83, particularly the increased use of non-carceral and therapeutic options, judicial oversight and remedies for correctional interference and mismanagement of prisoners’ sentences

Dramatically reduce the number of people held in pre-trial detention.

There are about 70% more adults detained in remand than those in sentenced custody. This means that the number of people who are waiting in pre-trial detention, and are legally innocent, significantly outnumbers those who are serving a sentence after their trial.³⁴

A Green government will:

- Revisit and develop clearer laws to reduce the number of people held in pre-trial detention.

Youth in the Criminal Justice System

When young people engage in criminal acts, it is most often a reflection of inadequate social interactions, family life, mental health, and other essential supports and systems. Despite efforts to reduce the number of youth detained in Canadian jails, youth numbers in pre-trial detention are consistently high.

While the proportion of white youth in secure custody decreased overall since the enactment of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, that has not been the case for Black and Indigenous youth,³⁵ who remain overrepresented in the criminal justice system.³⁶

Every effort should be made to decrease the involvement of youth in the criminal justice system, and to provide the support needed so that young people can lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

A Green government will:

Invest resources in youth mental health, and in social and educational supports

- Collaborate with provincial partners and communities to invest in youth mental health, education, opportunities, and success, in order to decrease the involvement of youth in the criminal justice system, with a particular focus on communities that have traditionally been either at greater risk or a greater target of law enforcement.

³⁴ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00016-eng.htm>

³⁵ *Unequal Justice*. John Howard Society of Ontario (March 2021) <https://johnhoward.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Unequal-Justice-Report-Final.pdf>

³⁶ <https://johnhoward.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Youth-Bail-Highlights-Final.pdf>

Collect data and assess the use of diversion and alternative measures

- Review the treatment of young persons in the criminal justice system, assess the use of diversion and alternative measures across the country, with a particular focus on when and to whom these alternatives are offered, and the impact of diversionary programs versus full involvement in the criminal justice system.

Child trafficking and online threats to young persons

- Examine and assess the online threat to young and vulnerable persons, and take steps to address this situation through education and updated laws, as needed.

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE ISSUES

Canada prides itself in multiculturalism in our society and in projecting a welcoming image towards immigrants and refugees. As the Green Party of Canada, we believe Canada has **more work to do to achieve an equitable and just multiculturalism.**

Over the past few years, there have been increasing calls to address systemic racism and colonialism within all branches of the government, from healthcare to employment, to housing, to transportation. Immigration and refugee policies and practices should not be left out of this conversation.

Unless you are an Indigenous person or your ancestors were brought to this land by forced slavery, we are all immigrants and settlers on this land. It is our mission as the Canadian Greens to move towards a more just, democratic and equitable approach to immigration, refugee and citizenship in Canada.

The Green Party aims to strengthen our communities and set an international example by bringing more skilled workers, better family reunification strategies and addressing current inequalities within the existing systems in Canada.

Foreign skills recognition:

A Green government will:

- Review and update accreditation policies and licensing programs to better and more accurately reflect the current needs of our Canadian society.
- Collaborate with accreditation institutions in Canada to recognize foreign training and education.
- Allocate greater funding to provide training language skills, employment skills. and accreditation recognition for any newcomer legally eligible to work in Canada.
- Create incentives for employers to hire newcomers and refugee claimants.

Pathways to permanent residency and citizenship:

A Green government will:

- Introduce exceptions for permanent residency and citizenship application costs based on household income (for many refugees, the \$1,000 application fee for citizenship is unaffordable).
- In recognition of the role temporary foreign and frontline workers played in our healthcare and economy during the COVID-19 pandemic, introduce lower barrier, more accessible pathways to permanent residency for these workers.
- Improve conditions for refugees and asylum seekers by addressing the years-long processing time, unaffordable application fees and eliminating status-based service requirements.
- Develop safe strategies for temporary foreign workers and whistle blowers to report abusive employers without losing their status.

Family reunification:

A Green government will:

- Increase support for parent and grandparent sponsorship by IRCC by increasing the number of accepted applications and decreasing processing times.

- Review adoption bans from Muslim majority countries so that adoptive parents can remain together through their immigration process, as well as allowing adoption from these countries by Canadian citizens.
- Lower barriers for convention refugees to reunite with their children and bring them to Canada by making the process more accessible
- Remove visa requirements for most parents visiting their children - including international students, temporary workers, Canadian citizens and convention refugees.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

Canadians want to be proud of our international reputation. We want to be responsible international neighbours who can offer our support and resources to our allies. This requires the government of Canada to live up to its commitments, to be a reliable partner on the international stage, and to demonstrate leadership in areas that matter the most.

Over the past six years, the government has not lived up to its responsibilities as a member of the international community:

Even as the Liberal government announced that the COVID-19 pandemic “cannot be defeated anywhere until it is defeated everywhere”, it was taking vaccines from the international COVAX facility, designed to ensure that low and middle-income countries had access to vaccine supply.

Even as the Liberal government was insisting that it was committed to tackling the climate emergency, it was increasing Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions through its policies, leaving those least responsible for the causes of climate change to bear the burden of its impacts.

Even as the Liberal government promised to protect the Afghans who supported the Canadian mission in Afghanistan, fighting and dying alongside Canadian soldiers, it made the decision to call an election, rather than to focus on how to rescue the thousands of Afghan support staff behind with little hope of safety or rescue.

Countries are constantly evaluating who they will look to for allyship and support in pursuit of their diplomatic, developmental, and economic interests. We need to re-earn the trust of the international community through our actions. This begins with the federal government.

Climate change-induced natural disasters, infectious diseases, forced displacement, and the weaponization of information have become the world's leading international security risks. We can confront these issues through new forms of cooperation and collaboration.

We must engage in more egalitarian forms of collaboration with a more diverse set of international partners. This requires re-tooling and preparing our military to support disaster preparedness and response, while maintaining combat readiness. It requires that Canada reconsider trade and diplomatic alliances that have made us overly dependent upon traditional allies and authoritarian states, while restraining our ability to take principled stands in defence of our values.

The evolving nature of international affairs and defence presents new challenges and opportunities for Canada. In an increasingly multi-polar world, Canada needs a new approach to foreign affairs and defence. We must stand for the promotion of human security and global goods, giving precedence to political support first, and military support as a final resort.

Canada must live up to its commitments, and demonstrate renewed leadership and reliability on issues like the climate, so that we can act and react with credibility in the pursuit of a more just, democratic, peaceful and resilient world.

Respect for International Law

A Green government will:

- Pursue a foreign policy centred on the promotion of human security, and respect for the rule of law in dealing with state and non-state actors.
- Sign and ratify the Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and press urgently for global nuclear disarmament and the conversion of military industries in Canada into peaceful and restorative industries.

- Lead national and international discussions to define ‘environmental refugee’ and its inclusion as a refugee category in Canada, and accept an appropriate share of the world’s environmental refugees into Canada.
- Strongly condemn and raise international awareness of the evidence regarding violations of international law, and lead discussions with international allies to explore all options for bringing perpetrators into compliance.

Pursuit of an International Fair Trade Policy

The Green Party of Canada will pursue an international fair trade policy centred on the promotion of environmental, social and governance principles, a more egalitarian regime for the exchange of intellectual property and clean technologies, and a narrowing of the equality gap between high- and low-income countries.

A Green government will:

- Shift the direction of international trade away from “free trade” to “fair trade” in order to prioritize the protection of human rights, labour standards, cultural diversity, and ecosystems around the world.
- Support global calls for the reform of the World Trade Organization to ensure more equitable international mechanisms that can effectively tackle the ongoing pandemic and climate crisis.
- Strengthen the mandate and tools available to the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) to independently investigate Canadian companies operating abroad and report publicly on its findings.
- Cease all federal support to Canadian exporters of arms and fossil fuels, with the exception of potential necessary sales of peacekeeping equipment in cooperation with the United Nations.
- Develop and implement carbon border adjustments to ensure Canadian businesses do not face unfair competition from polluting jurisdictions.
- Lead international discussions to reform TRIPS (The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) to ensure that intellectual property rights are not barriers to the achievement and furtherance of international human rights and clean development.
- Remove the current model of Investor State Dispute Settlement mechanisms (ISDS) in all existing trade agreements and prohibit its use in any new agreements.

- Mandate and equip Canadian missions abroad to expand partnerships among civil society organizations centred on the promotion of human rights, resilience, scientific cooperation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Importance of Sustainable Development Goals

The Green Party of Canada will pursue an international development policy centred on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, while emphasizing support for the development of carbon-free economies, and emergency and disaster relief.

A Green government will:

- Articulate a plan to meet Canada's commitment to achieve the target of 0.7% of GDP to ODA by 2030.
- Tackle COVID-19 everywhere by investing in stronger global health systems that will prevent future outbreaks.
- Ensure a COVID-19 recovery plan that addresses the growing gap in the care economy, particularly magnified through the pandemic, and that provides more resources to women and girls around the world so they are able to access education, health care, proper nutrition and maintain autonomy over their sexual and reproductive rights.
- Mobilize Canada's fair share of international climate finance, calculated at approximately \$1.84 billion per year to 2025,³⁷ and lead negotiations towards the achievement of a post-2025 international climate finance target.
- Enhance Canada's development aid efforts and economic investment in the specific key areas that:
 1. Foster alternative fuels and energy sources that dramatically reduce the need to import oil and natural gas and further allow the growth of recipient nation independent and/or majority ownership of these sectors and/or businesses as they develop;
 2. Focus on agriculture sectors that provide for adaptation and food sovereignty through both subsistence farming and domestic commercial

³⁷ <http://aidwatchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Corrected-December-2019-Climate-Report.pdf>

farming methods that are in keeping with green environmentally sound and gender equality principles;

3. Increase bilateral trade, where possible, to facilitate the export of value added products from small island economies;
 4. Support and strengthen cooperation with regional organizations to further the goal of regional independence and sovereignty.
- Mandate and equip Canadian missions abroad to expand partnerships among civil society organizations centred on the promotion of human rights, resilience, scientific cooperation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Fulfill Canada's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity by providing new and substantial funding for nature conservation in developing countries and by implementing policies aimed at protecting biodiversity throughout the world.

Defence Policy

The Green Party of Canada will pursue a defence policy centred on the pursuit of disarmament, support for disaster preparedness and relief, defending Canada's Arctic sovereignty, and adherence to the Geneva Conventions.

A Green government will:

- Urgently implement the recommendations of the 2015 External Review into Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Harassment in the Canadian Armed Forces (the Deschamps report).
- Sign and ratify the Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and press urgently for global nuclear disarmament and the conversion of military industries in Canada and worldwide into peaceful and restorative industries.
- Re-align our defence spending to increase our capacity and speed in delivering disaster assistance (e.g. through the DART – Disaster Assistance Rapid Response Team), responding to domestic crises (e.g. pandemic outbreaks in long-term care homes), our contributions to UN peace forces and missions, and cyber defence initiatives.
- Reinforce Canada's Arctic sovereignty through expanded patrols, and funding for community infrastructure development, regional sustainability projects, northern research, northern culture, and other regional socioeconomic activities.

- Assess Canada's membership in military alliances including NATO and NORAD to ensure they are meeting Canada's priorities of diplomacy, development, and defence, and enhance Canada's contributions to promote the advancement of cyber defence capabilities.

DEMOCRATIC REFORM

The strength of Canada's democracy is consistently rated amongst the highest in the world - but better is always possible.

There are abundant signs that we need democratic revitalisation: many people feel like their votes and their voice don't make a difference, and share a sense that corporations and the wealthiest individuals have more control than the rest of us. Trust in democracy has been declining, both in Canada, and worldwide. Cynicism and political polarization are increasing. Even Canada's strongest allies, longstanding liberal democracies, have faced serious threats to their democratic processes.

In the same way that we renovate our historic buildings, it's time to renovate the 19th-century foundations of our democracy: retaining the strongest parts of our traditions, while bringing our democratic systems up to date, ready to face the many challenges of the modern era.

The newest emerging threat to our democratic practices is the rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation through online echo-chambers. Diversity of values and perspectives leads to productive and democratic dialogue, only in the presence of an agreed set of verifiable, evidence-based facts. Distinguishing facts from misinformation will be one of the key challenges of our digital era.

Canadians want, and deserve, policy that is developed deliberatively, in the light of evidence, and through respectful discussion across party lines. We can develop tools to deal with this growing challenge, to protect our democracy from the polarization and fracturing that we have seen internationally.

With the right policies, Canada can strengthen and modernize our democracy, fit for the 21st century, and inspire increased public participation and trust in our democratic institutions. We can improve on our historic democratic strength, and become a country where truly *all* citizens - no matter how much money you have, what part of the country you live in, or your identity or occupation - feel that their voices are being heard, and

that they have equal opportunity to influence the government policy, and the future of our nation.

Diverse, truly representative democracy

A Green government will:

- Require political parties to publicly report on their plans to recruit candidates from under-represented groups, in every fixed-date election year, and to publicly report on the success of those plans after every federal election.

Better elections

A Green government will:

- Require political parties to tell the truth: Give power to the Commissioner of Canada Elections to oversee political advertising during elections and referenda, to ensure that political advertising is subject to the same type of ‘truth in advertising’ regulation that already applies to businesses.
- Restore the “per-vote subsidy” model for funding political parties, which was scrapped in the Harper years and has not been restored under the Liberal government. The current system of political donations and tax rebates heavily favours the wealthiest citizens. Restoring the subsidy, and reducing personal donation limits, will ensure that every citizen has an equal voice in politics, regardless of their personal wealth.
- Always support modernising our electoral system, to be based on Proportional Representation. The evidence of the benefits for citizens, and for parliamentary outcomes, are overwhelmingly clear.

A Citizens’ Assembly on Democratic Renewal

Greens will push for a Citizens’ Assembly on Democratic Renewal to be convened as early as possible under the new Parliament. Recognizing the conflict of interest in having politicians re-design the system that elected them, the Assembly would be a diverse and randomly selected body of citizens, brought together with a mandate to consider and to provide a set of recommendations to our Parliament on four interrelated issues:

- Modernizing Canada's electoral system
- Lowering the Voting Age to 16
- Online Voting
- Mandatory Voting

The process would be supported by a public service secretariat, and facilitated by an independent and non-partisan organization, who would bring in expert witnesses, as well as individuals and groups directly affected by the issue.

Properly constituted Citizens' Assemblies, such as Ireland's Assembly of 2016-18, are viewed as equitable, free from political interference, and acting in the public interest. Their composition can be more reflective of Canada's diversity than Parliament; their procedures can be more deliberative and consensus-driven; and they can make recommendations on sensitive foundational questions that elected officials avoid. Acting in this way, Citizens' Assemblies can help renew the trust and confidence of Canadians.

Integrity, Ethics & Transparency

A Green government will:

- Strengthen the Conflict of Interest Act to include financial and other penalties for politicians who break Conflict of Interest laws.
- 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.
- Allow an independent oversight committee to review MPs' salaries, expenses and office budgets, replacing the secretive Board of Internal Economy.
- Strengthen the Lobbying Act to require greater transparency and prevent "revolving doors" between political life, the public service and lobbying.
- Strengthen whistle-blower protections for public service employees and reaffirm the independence and integrity of the public service.
- Expand the *Access to Information Act* to include the Prime Minister's Office, minister's offices, and administration of parliament.

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Artists have more influence on public policy than an army of politicians. We need to support them to fully engage with the climate emergency.

It is said that poets are the true legislators of the world. Today it can be said that singers, actors, authors, playwrights, painters, makers of public art, multimedia creators and the producers and publishers who make their works accessible have more influence on people's thoughts and lives than an army of politicians.

The arts are frequently a creative outlet for the soul, and many who feel strongly about climate and social justice use the arts to express important messages in the most impactful way possible. Artists rely on their creations to motivate and invigorate. By aiding artists in achieving their goals, we support creative methods of energizing the world towards climate action and social change.

Federal support for our cultural infrastructure must be increased.

We recognize and support the existing programs of Heritage Canada and its agencies.

The Green Party of Canada seeks to protect and promote creativity on both an individual and global level. While support is provided for the many artists who have been negatively impacted by the COVID pandemic, efforts are also being made to bring the arts to rural and distant communities, and to promote young artists from those same regions.

Our collective future requires us all to fully embrace Indigenous cultural values with regard to nature.

The Canada Council must continue to support Indigenous creation through direct grants to artists and support for agencies and Arts Services Organizations to be full partners in this effort. The full reflection of our diverse society must be built on our relationship with nature. We can all learn from the peoples who have been here before colonization.

Green Innovation: Artistic engagement with the climate crisis to mobilise the public

Our Green innovation is to add direct funding opportunities for creators and producers to engage with the climate crisis in order to increase public support for meaningful government action. The Green Party of Canada believes that federal support for Canada's creative sector must be adjusted to give our artists a clear incentive to address the priority issue facing all of humanity: the climate emergency.

COVID-19 Recovery

A Green government will:

- Increase support for indoor or outdoor arts performances required to adapt to become compliant with COVID regulations.
- Provide \$25 million in additional funding to aid museums and cultural organizations in both post-pandemic reopening and continuing to offer accessible digital offerings.
- Ensure the viability of our cultural infrastructure in consultation with Arts Service Organizations, professional associations, trade associations and unions across the creative sector.

Canadian Cultural Identity

A Green government will:

- Increase funding to \$1 billion over 3 years to all of Canada's arts and culture organizations including the Canada Council for the Arts, Telefilm Canada, orchestras, theatres, galleries and publishers.
- Increase support for community arts programs and facilities across Canada by establishing stable base funding at a set percentage of the federal budget.
- Protect Canada's cultural identity during trade negotiations and ensure arts and cultural representation on international trade missions.

- Enact Copyright reform as envisaged by the current Heritage Committee report.
- Reform the Canada Revenue Act to allow arts and culture workers to benefit from a tax averaging plan that will take into account the fact that lean years often precede and follow a good year when a show is produced, a book is published, or a grant or a prize is won.
- Establish permanent funding for festivals and events that celebrate Canadian Heritage.

Indigenous Cultures and Heritage

A Green government will:

- Provide protection for Indigenous intellectual and artistic property rights.
- Support the creation of historical information that sheds light on our colonial past wherever related statuary or plaques are currently in place.
- Ensure that every First Nations, Métis, and Inuit child has access to quality educational opportunities based on the expressed language, cultural, political, and social priorities of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit governments, following meaningful consultation.
- Provide \$100 million in funding and incentives over three years for the creation and conservation of Indigenous art forms, particularly creative knowledge that is passed through the generations.
- Provide funding and incentives for artists to travel to Indigenous communities to stimulate young artists, as per one of the original aims of the PNIAI.
- Provide funding and incentives for artists to travel to Indigenous communities to stimulate young artists, as per one of the original aims of the PNIAI.
- Support the Canadian Museums Association in ensuring, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples and in accordance with the 94 Calls to Action, continued compliance of museum policies and best practices with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Establish a dedicated national funding program, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples and the Canadian Museums Association, for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation.

Climate and Social Justice

A Green government will:

- Increase funding to all federal agencies including the Canada Council for the Arts, the National Film Board and Telefilm Canada to initiate programs to support creative programming that addresses the climate crisis.

Outreach to New Artists, Youth Artists and Rural Communities

A Green government will:

- Provide funding to promote and encourage artists and art events to tour Canada's rural regions, as well as to provide funding incentives in support of artists from rural communities.
- Provide incentives to all provinces and territories to restore and improve arts and culture components in schools and extracurricular activities, not only in urban but also in rural communities, with particular focus on encouraging new and emerging artists.
- Establish a universal broadband strategy to give Canadians across the country and in remote areas access to reliable internet.

CRTC, Media and CanCon

A Green government will:

- Proceed with regulating the powerful platforms and streaming services through the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) as envisioned in Bill C-10
- Ensure that the CRTC reserves more bandwidth for independent and non-profit stations.
- Ensure that the CRTC maintains and updates their Canadian Content (CanCon) regulations and definitions.
- Provide stable base funding for the CBC so it can continue to provide quality Canadian content television and radio programming in both official languages,

as well as programming both in and to encourage the learning of Indigenous languages.

- Call for an Independent Commission to undertake a comprehensive study of the concentration of media ownership in Canada in comparison to other western countries and recommend how to diversify media ownership and strengthen the depth and breadth of news reporting, especially local news, in Canada.

Protecting Minority Language Rights

The principles laid out in the Official Languages Act 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 government will commit to defending Canada's two official languages and protecting Indigenous languages in our communities and across our country.

A Green government will:

- In the first year of the next parliament, promote and implement a modernized Official Languages Act to protect both national languages, in consultation with minority language communities.
- Guarantee access to federal services in both official languages in every province, thereby supporting immigration of French-speaking communities all across the country.
- Ensure funding for the protection of Indigenous languages at risk of disappearing, across Canada.

Ensure the protection of education in a second official language

- Provide increased funding for French immersion and French second-language programs across the country, to ensure that children are able to pursue education in their official language of choice.
- Ensure permanent, stable funding for post-secondary educational institutions in minority language communities across Canada, to provide urgently needed support to institutions such as Campus Saint-Jean at the University of Alberta, the Université de l'Ontario français and other institutions across the country.

FAIR TAXATION

To achieve our Green Future, everyone needs to contribute their fair share. Even before the pandemic, rising inequality was a problem, and Greens recognize that the burden of taxation is not fairly distributed in Canada.

Corporations:

A Green government will:

- 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, and Google - 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.
- 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.
- 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. Credit unions, caisses populaires and co-ops will be exempt.
- Work with our international partners to implement a global minimum tax so that the biggest companies in the world are not able to escape the taxes they owe here in Canada.
- 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.

Wealthy Individuals

A Green government will:

- Apply a one per cent tax on net (family) wealth above \$20 million.
- Close stock options tax loopholes that benefit the wealthy. Executives with stock options as part of their remuneration package only pay half the rate of income tax on this portion of their income.
- Close capital gains tax loopholes. 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 evasion by taxing funds hidden in offshore havens and requiring companies to prove that their foreign affiliates are actual functioning businesses for tax purposes.
- Focus the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) on identifying people who hide vast wealth, rather than conduct random audits of ordinary Canadians, as recommended by several Auditor Generals.
- Provide adequate funding to the CRA to collect tax revenue hiding in offshore tax havens.
- Apply a tax on luxury goods, such as planes, and luxury cars.

Real Estate

A Green government will:

- Create an “empty home” tax for foreign and corporate residential property owners who leave buildings and units vacant
- Close tax haven loopholes that allow foreign investors to hide the names of beneficial owners of properties in Canada

Tax Reform

A Green government will:

- 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.

- 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.

YOUTH

Young people are the future of Canada. Too often, our youth are overlooked and underrepresented when it comes to politics and policy changes. When youth are empowered, our communities emerge stronger.

From the unaffordable cost of post-secondary education, to the crisis of youth homelessness, the Green Party of Canada will create a political culture that gives young people the tools in which they need to succeed.

A Fair Deal for Youth

The COVID-19 crisis has damaged the Canadian economy. During the pandemic, youth were often overlooked, and left feeling like a disposable member of our society.

Greens believe that our youth are not expendable. A Green government would ensure that affordability and the protection of young people is prioritized.

A Green government will:

- Institute a Guaranteed Liveable Income
- Boost apprentice program opportunities, specifically in sustainable fields
- Establish a federal student minimum wage of \$15 to provide parity with the general minimum wage
- Establish federal youth employment programs that would be active year-round

Rural Youth Retention

Over the last 50 years, our economy has become more dependent on large urban centres. This reality has resulted in a concentration of services and opportunities, having negative impacts on surrounding regions. Young people have been forced to leave their communities in pursuit of higher education and job opportunities. The

COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the risks associated with a concentration of activities and the possibility that we can do things differently.

We need to support regions outside of large urban centres to allow youth to remain in their communities with equal access to opportunities as youth in urban centres and to be able to actively participate in their communities' growth. Greens advocate for youth retention strategies that would touch upon a number of factors.

A Green government will:

- Ensure access to strong internet connection by investing in broadband connectivity
- Invest in inter-municipal and rural public transit infrastructure such as buses and railway systems
- Work with provinces to offer preferential tariffs for youth using public transit systems
- Support the development of educational programs targeting sustainable degrees for rural/small-urban developments
- Open the path for more apprentice programs and local post-secondary branches with online training for the time being and support towards the co-op model
- Develop a new working model that will allow for more young people to work remotely from home if it is their preference
- Help youth looking to move into rural areas have access to land, property for sustainable farming