VISION GREEN

Green Party of Canada / Parti Vert du Canada
PO Box 997, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 5R1

Tel: 1.866.868.3447 (1.866.VOTE.4.GPC)
Fax: 613.482.4632

www.greenparty.ca

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the Green Party of Canada and Vision Green 4
VISION GREEN 5
Avoiding the "Dark Age Ahead" 5
PART 1: THE GREEN ECONOMY 7
A. Principles Guiding the Green Economic Plan 7
1. Maximize efficiency 7
2. Get the prices right 8
B. Applying These Principles to Economic Decision-Making 9
1. Reporting the well-being of the nation more accurately 9
2. Fair taxes – fiscal reform 10
3. Balanced budget – debt reduction 12
4. Removing corporate subsidies: distorting the market 12
5. Income trusts 13
6. Labour 14
7. Open source computer software 16
8. Small business loans and entrepreneurial incentives 16
9. Financial institutions 17
10. Railroads – re-establishing the national dream 17
11. Green urban transportation 18
12. Infrastructure and communities 19
13. Agriculture and food 21
14. Genetically engineered organisms 24
15. Fisheries 25
16. Green forest vision 27
17. Expanding eco-tourism 28
18. Mining 29
19. Energy industry: no to nuclear 30
PART 2: AVERTING CLIMATE CATASTROPHE 32
1. Making actual reductions in CO_2 emissions 34
2. Adapting to climate change 38
3. Leaving no stone unturned 39
a) Government 39
b) Buildings 39
c) Efficiency 40
d) Renewable energy 40
e) Transport 42
f) Vehicles 43
g) Communities 45
h) Industry 45
i) Forestry 46
j) Agriculture 46
k) Fossil fuels 46
l) Nuclear power 47
m) Global 47

PART 3: PRESERVING AND RESTORING THE ENVIRONMENT 48
1. Air quality 48
2. Water protection and conservation 49
3. National parks 52
4. Species at risk 54
5. Toxic chemicals 55
6. Environmental science support: reverse the “brain drain” in federal science capacity 57
7. Zero waste 58
8. Commercial seal hunt 59
9. Animal welfare 59
10. Green Arctic strategy 60
11. Measuring and protecting Canada’s natural accounts 61
PART 4: PEOPLE 63
1. Family-focused programme 63
2. Relief for the middle class 64
3. Child care 65
4. Seniors 66
5. Healthier people – healthier health care 67
7. Ending the war on drugs 75
8. Rights, respect and dignity 75
a) Women's equality 75
b) People with disabilities 76
c) Immigration and new Canadians 78
d) Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gendered rights 79
e) Aboriginal policy 80
9. Protecting access to excellence in post-secondary education 82
10. Striving for justice 83
a) Reforming the Divorce Act 83
b) Criminal justice 84
c) Anti-terrorism and border security 85
d) Cracking down on white collar crime 86
e) Corporate accountability 87
f) Gun control and ownership rights 88
11. Eliminating poverty 89
12. Eliminating child poverty 90
13. Ending homelessness 91
14. Beauty and integrity 92
Economic Rationale 94
PART 5: THE PLANET NEEDS CANADA (AND VICE VERSA) 96
1. Canada’s role as global leader in peacemaking and poverty alleviation 96
2. Making poverty history 98
3. Stabilizing global currencies: Tobin Tax 99
4. Press for the elimination of all nuclear weapons 100
5. Reform the United Nations 101
6. Redesign Canada's role in Afghanistan 103

7. Stopping the genocide in Darfur 105
8. Address the crisis of global population growth 107
9. The Israel – Palestine Conflict 108
10. Rebuild Canada's traditional diplomatic muscle 109
11. Maintaining a healthy relationship with our closest neighbour 110
12. Trade and sovereignty 111
13. Security and Prosperity Partnership for North America 112
PART 6: GOOD GOVERNMENT 114
1. Democratic renewal and proportional representation 114
2. Increasing government accountability and ethical conduct 115
3. Making government a leader in ethical purchasing 116
4. Supporting the free flow of information 117
5. The RCMP 117
6. Rebuilding federal/provincial/territorial relations 118

About the Green Party of Canada and Vision Green

Vision Green presents leading-edge thinking and rational, realistic solutions for all the issues facing Canadians. It was developed by a 31-member Green Shadow Cabinet and was informed by experts, activists and citizens who participated in policy workshops held across Canada. All the proposals are based on policies approved by the membership of the Green Party.

Green Party solutions are rational because the Green Party, unlike other parties, understands the scientifically verified limits to growth set by the carrying capacity of our planet. We must work within these limits. Otherwise, we will exhaust resources, degrade our environment and put our economy, health and children's future at risk.

Our solutions are realistic because they follow "best practices" already in place in parts of Canada or other countries. These practices are cost-effective, deliver results and benefit people, the economy and the environment.

The Green Party's down-to-earth solutions will work in Canada because they have worked around the world. Many have been successfully applied in Europe, where Greens are elected at all political levels, including the European Union and national parliaments. Countries where Greens have served in government are the countries creating new high-paying jobs while simultaneously meeting targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They are the countries where the gap between rich and poor is small and the standard of living is high. These countries don't trade off the environment for the economy. Their economies and environmental laws are both strong.

Many people find it hard to position the Green Party on the old political spectrum. We believe in sound fiscal management and strengthening our economy while ensuring that it is sustainable. Does that mean we are "right wing"? We believe that government must provide needed social services while protecting our environment and the rights of women, minorities and disadvantaged people. Does that make us "left wing"? We don't think so. More and more people are simply thinking of the Green Party as the party of the future.

The Green Party is different from other parties in another important way. We will never place the pursuit of power above principle. We will not allow partisan politics to get in the way of good ideas and needed action. We agree with Canadians who say it's time for parties in parliament to stop bickering and get on with the job of combating climate change and taking better care of our environment, our health and our economy.

The Green Party of Canada, founded in 1983, is now a major force in Canadians politics. Over 660,000 Canadians voted Green in the 2006 federal election. More than one in ten Canadians are now saying they plan to vote Green.

There is only one true Green Party. We are not like the old line parties who talk green when seeking your vote but sideline green action once elected. You can trust us to stay true to our promises and champion the issues you care about. If you share our vision and agree with our solutions, VOTE GREEN.

Change the climate in Parliament.

VISION GREEN

"Without vision, the people perish."

What kind of Canada do we want in 2020? **(and how do we get there from here?)**

The Green Party holds a positive Vision of Canada, now and into the future.

We will strive to support a society where the pressure to *make a living* does not crowd out *having a life;* where *having more* does not supplant *being more*.

In our Green Vision, Canadians enjoy a higher quality of life, experiencing health and wellness, education and meaningful work, prosperity and economic success supported by ecological health.

In our vision of Canada, ability or disability, economic, racial, or cultural backgrounds do not preclude individuals from contributing to and benefiting from a prosperous Canada.

Canadian communities – urban and rural – thrive in our Green Vision, including communities dependent on fisheries, forestry and agriculture.

Canada plays a positive role in the world, working cooperatively with governments, North and South, to ensure equity, global security and peace.

"We are entering an era of consequences." *Sir Winston Churchill*

Avoiding the "Dark Age Ahead"

In her last book, Dark Age Ahead, Canadian urban planner and legendary author Jane Jacobs wrote that five pillars of our civilization and culture are under assault. She wrote that government policies have been contributing to the "ominous signs of decay" eroding family, community and education. She warned that family, community and higher education, as well as the practice of science and proper taxation were "in the process of becoming irrelevant, and so are dangerously close to the brink of lost memory and cultural uselessness."

We feel this in our bones. Yet, what political party is addressing the threat?

Real policies in the real world can lead us to a better future. Poor policies, badly conceived, imperfectly imagined and poorly implemented could leave our children and their children in an unlivable world. The Green Party believes improvement can be made immediately while recognizing that long term planning is essential if generations to come are to benefit.

VISION GREEN

This is the Green Party plan for Canada. These are the steps we will take when we form government. These are the policies we will advance to other parties until that time. We will work collaboratively in the House of Commons to shift priorities, to promote those innovative ideas whose time has come.

> "Nothing else in the world...not all the armies...is so powerful
> as an idea whose time has come."
> *Victor Hugo*

We start with a vision of the society we want.

All of the following policies speak to the fundamental elements of our cohesive, coherent and achievable vision. Each policy has been examined through the following lenses:

- Does it advance the common good?
- Does it advance global security, in environmental and geo-political terms?
- Does it address the needs of children?
- Does it ensure Canada's continued quality of life and economic health?
- Does it make families more secure?
- Does it protect, enhance and restore the life support systems of the planet?
- Does it promote systems -- cultural, institutional, and technological -- that are resilient and capable of adapting to shocks in a more unpredictable world?

The Green Party Government will jettison the baggage of current political stagnant thinking. The Green Party will leave the old-line parties to fight for turf at the cutting edge of the status quo.

We have a vision. With your help, we can make it real.

> "We, the generation that faces the next century, can add the solemn injunction
> 'If we don't do the impossible, we shall be faced with the unthinkable'."
> *Petra Kelly, Founder, Green Party of Germany*

PART 1: THE GREEN ECONOMY

Canadians enjoy one of the highest qualities of life of any people in the world, now or in all of human history. We are blessed with abundant resources, a skilled and educated workforce and a highly innovative corporate culture. However, we are not achieving our full potential. Unemployment is still unacceptably high -- not everywhere, but in significant and worrying regions of real economic stagnation.

Too many small businesses go bankrupt, while major industrial sectors such as automotive and forestry shed jobs as they struggle to stay afloat. Employed Canadians are among the most overworked citizens in the industrialized world. A report from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) states that the richest 10 percent of Canadians are the only ones not working longer hours. The report concludes that, despite being better educated and working harder, Canadian families are now "running faster just to stay put and the bottom half is actually falling behind." This is unacceptable.

Our Vision

The Green Party approach is to think holistically. How can we achieve the best possible economic result? What are the fiscal and regulatory impediments to economic sustainability?

With the U.S. our largest trading partner, how can we maintain a healthy economy without surrendering our sovereignty and becoming subsumed into the U.S. orbit, as contemplated by the so-called Security and Prosperity Partnership?

We strive for stronger local economies with a small business focus, increased national and regional self-sufficiency, economic diversification, more "fair" trade, more value-added manufacturing of resources, more green-certified production and a rapid shift to more renewable energy to create local economic opportunities.

This generation has the potential to capitalize on the single biggest business opportunity in human history – the shift to a low-carbon economy. Whether this is driven by high energy prices, dwindling oil supplies, strategic geo-political threats to foreign oil, the climate crisis, or all of them combined, the country that mobilizes resources to develop and commercialize low carbon technologies (e.g. alternate fuels, renewable energy and energy efficiency) will survive the price shocks of fossil fuel's last gasps and emerge with a thriving economy. Canada should be that country.

A. Principles Guiding the Green Economic Plan

1. Maximize efficiency

The central driving principle of Green Economic Policy is maximizing efficiency. Green Party economic policies aim to improve the efficiency of resource and energy use by a factor of four.

In their seminal book, Factor Four, Ernst von Weizacker, Amory B. Lovins and L. Hunter Lovins concluded: "The amount of wealth extracted from one unit of natural resources can quadruple. Thus we can live twice as well – yet use half as much."

There is abundant evidence to support this contention. Improvements in labour productivity drove economic growth after World War II. We must now repeat the exercise as we improve the productivity of resource and energy use.

2. Get the prices right

To get there from here, market distortions created by a failure to internalize externalities must be removed. In other words, we must get the prices right. The single most significant government policy tool to advance or retard economic sustainability resides in the fiscal framework.

The Green Party commitment to Green tax-shifting will:

- **Reduce income taxes;**
- **Reduce payroll taxes; and,**
- **Introduce a carbon tax, sending a clear economic signal that wasting energy and resources implies real costs.**

According to an editorial in *The Economist*, September 9, 2006:
"Ideally, politicians would choose the more efficient carbon tax, which implies a relatively stable price that producers can build into their investment plans."

The Green Party will also eliminate large corporate subsidies and grants programmes. It makes no sense to subsidize the wealthiest companies on Earth to make the world's most profitable product -- a barrel of oil. These perverse subsidies must be removed. It makes sense to reduce taxes on things we want – income and employment – while increasing taxes on things we do not want, like greenhouse gases and pollution that causes smog.

Canadian businesses want two things from their government: predictability and policy coherence. The Green Party Government will ensure that the rules are clear, the playing field is level and decision-making is transparent.

Our fiscal plan is straightforward: Use the tax system to help meet societal and ecological goals. Get the prices right. Allow business to pursue profit, with clear signals of environmental and societal objectives.
Key societal goals:

- Ensure Canadians have more time for friends, family and community engagement.
- Send the right price signals to the economy. The days of cheap, abundant energy are over. A carbon tax will send that signal and generate the revenue to cut income taxes,

allow "income splitting" and fund the anti-poverty policies outlined later in Vision Green.

- Eliminate perverse corporate subsidies. No more "corporate welfare bums." No more unpaid "loans" to government granting agencies.

B. Applying These Principles to Economic Decision-Making

The bigger the challenge, the greater the opportunity. Canada and the world community face an environmentally linked, energy challenge of historic proportions over the next few decades. The reality of rising fossil fuel prices, increased losses due to extreme weather events caused by the worsening climate crisis, higher global temperatures and worsening pollution levels will make mitigation and adaptation responses absolutely essential. Focusing community economic development and investment towards clean technology and services is both a smart economic development strategy and a superb investment opportunity.

Green technology has been called the greatest business opportunity of this century. All levels of government need to advance this green economic approach through effective tax and policy measures and appropriate skills and trades training at the secondary and post-secondary levels.

As part of the federal government's contribution to advancing this green economic vision, the Green Party of Canada Government will gradually and progressively shift current consumption taxes onto products and services that harm people and the environment while reducing taxes on income, products and economic activities that do no harm. This "green tax shift" will be largely revenue neutral, meaning that as certain taxes increase, other taxes will decrease. In particular, income and payroll taxes will decline. And because the Green Party is committed to eliminating poverty it would ensure that this tax shift would not unfairly burden less fortunate members of our society.

By moving to "true" or "full-cost" accounting, whereby products and services are priced according to the positive or negative impacts they cause throughout their lifecycle, our society can make rational market choices that will guide the economy toward environmental sustainability.

1. Reporting the well-being of the nation more accurately

By some accounts, the Canadian economy is performing quite well. But national prosperity is more than just the exchange of dollars. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – our national bottom-line – is a measure of money changing hands without regard to whether we are reducing social inequalities, advancing sustainability or safeguarding our natural capital of primary resources such as wild fish populations, natural forests and fertile soils. Most economists agree that GDP is a poor measure of economic well-being or quality of life, yet our government continues to use it as the basis for its most important taxation and policy decisions.

Our Vision

The Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) is a new and innovative accounting method that embraces a more systematic and comprehensive definition of well-being. Literacy, health and fitness, housework, family time, public infrastructure, cultural institutions, community volunteerism, water and air quality, forests, farmland, wetlands and employment are all measured by the GPI.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Introduce legislation to establish a Canadian Index of Well-being to provide the government with better information so it can do a better job of taxation and revenue sharing with the other levels of government.
* Modify Canada's existing system of national accounts so that annual changes in the depletion and addition to Canada's principal biological resources are measured as an integral part of Canada's worth.

2. Fair taxes – fiscal reform

Most Canadians do not like paying taxes, especially if they think that the taxes are unfair or do not deliver good value for money. People do not like wasteful spending by an over-bureaucratized government. Fair enough. However, about half of Canadians say that they would not mind paying more taxes for a cleaner environment, better health care and education and to support people in need.

Taxation and spending policies shape society by sending signals about which sectors of society governments think are important. Over the last five years, both the Conservatives and Liberals have used our tax system to benefit large corporations, reducing federal corporate taxes by almost 8 percent as corporate profits hit record highs. Meanwhile, the cost of living has increased. Canadians save less, carry more debt and work more hours for the same money. Most people are having a harder time providing for their families and paying for a decent place to live.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes in reforming our tax system to make it fairer and more in tune with Canadians' desire for a healthy environment, a sustainable economy and a vibrant, caring society.
It makes no sense to subsidize the wealthiest corporations on Earth – the oil companies. We must remove these perverse subsidies immediately, not in the slow, "grandfathered" approach of the Conservatives' 2007 budget.

The Green Party will reduce taxes on things we all want, like income and employment, and we will increase taxes on things we do not want – things that harm people and our environment.

Our "green tax shift" will be progressive, with a schedule that gives industry time to gear up or down. And it will be revenue neutral because a tax shift is not a tax grab. Income and payroll taxes will decline and the changes will help, not hurt, less fortunate members of our society.

To shift taxes effectively, we have to change to a "true" or "full-cost" accounting method that incorporates economic, social and environmental costs and benefits in the national accounts. Using this method, products and services are taxed, and thus priced, according to the positive or negative impacts caused throughout their lifecycle. We have already done this with tobacco products. Such taxes help consumers make more rational choices.

There are other ways to put taxes to work improving our society. Our tax system must be designed to reduce poverty, encourage environmentally beneficial activities and generate more wealth for the 90 percent of Canadian families who are currently working harder without getting further ahead.

The Green Party's fiscal plan is straightforward: gradually reduce our debt, give clear tax signals that enable companies to pursue profits on a level playing field, and shift taxes to ensure that both revenue streams and expenditures meet social, economic and ecological goals.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Institute a full range of "polluter pays" taxes, including a carbon tax designed to reduce the use of fossil fuels by making them more expensive to produce and burn. All these taxes will be largely revenue neutral. The revenues generated will be offset by reduced taxes on personal income, payrolls and on green products and technologies. The new taxes will also be non-regressive (e.g., the carbon tax will include a rebate program for low-income Canadians living in rural areas).
* Eliminate personal taxes on incomes below the low-income cut-off ($20,000 for single person living in a city).
* Modify personal income tax rates so that the wealthy contribute their fair share and the gap between rich and poor stops growing and starts narrowing. Introduce a high tax bracket on incomes over $150,000. (Canada's rate flattens out at 29 percent for incomes above $121,000. The US rate flattens out for incomes above US$336,000 at 35 percent).
* Work with the provinces to increase taxes on tobacco and alcohol.
* Encourage people to use Revenue Canada's online NETFIL tax filing system, which saves Revenue Canada money, by giving users an automatic $10 tax credit.
* Develop a specific tax-shifting schedule to provide tax incentives and direct rebates to businesses and individuals investing in the low carbon economy (e.g. installing solar hot water systems, refitting homes and businesses to conserve energy).
* Provide increased tax breaks for Canadians who donate to charitable societies.

(See **PART 4: PEOPLE** for more on family-friendly taxation, including income splitting.)

3. Balanced budget – debt reduction

Canada's debt currently stands at $481 billion. In the 2005 - 2006 fiscal year, the cost of servicing that debt was $33.8 billion. Our government pays $93 million in interest every day. That debt burden drains support from essential government programs. Imagine what $33.8 billion could do to alleviate poverty and provide affordable housing and affordable post-secondary education in Canada.

Being indebted to external creditors also makes our political decision-makers vulnerable to pressures from outside our country. The 1994 International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Report to Canada recommended that our government reduce the number of hospital beds, convert student bursaries to interest-bearing student loans and cut funding to the National Film Board, the CBC and VIA Rail. The government of the day implemented all of these cuts. Canadians lost 10 percent of our hospital beds the following year and today we have a wait time crisis in our health care system. If we had no debt, we would no longer be beholden to the IMF and global credit rating agencies.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes in living within our limits, ecological and fiscally. We are committed to a balanced budget and to reducing the national debt. It won't be easy. To pay down the debt while supporting programs that meet immediate social, economic and environmental needs we must maintain a healthy and fair level of taxation and we must ensure that Canadians get good value for their tax dollars.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Set a disciplined schedule to gradually pay down the debt while meeting immediate social and environmental needs, increasing debt reduction over time but starting with modest targets to permit investment in critical programs such as the *Green Plan to Avert Climate Catastrophe*.

4. Removing corporate subsidies: distorting the market

> "Governments are not adept at picking winners,
> but losers are adept at picking governments."
> *Mark Milke, A Nation of Serfs.*

The federal government has paid the nuclear industry $17 billion in subsidies over the last four decades. Various regional development programmes (ACOA, Western Economic Diversification, Canadian Economic Development in Quebec) have funneled billions into failed enterprises. Since 1982, Industry Canada has made grants totalling more than $5.8 billion to some of Canada's largest corporations. Technology Partnerships Canada has swallowed up $2 billion and the accelerated capital cost allowance to the tar sands industries totals over $1.3 billion a year.

Perverse subsidies distort the market and send mixed messages: reduce carbon/use more fossil fuels; create jobs/reorganize through lay-offs. Subsidies to Canada's oil and gas industry from 1996 to 2002 totalled $8.3 billion. During the same period the government allocated $3.7 billion to achieve its Kyoto greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Our Vision

The Green Party wants an end to corporate subsidies and a start to the green tax shifting that will make the fiscal system more coherent.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Eliminate most corporate subsidies and institute new taxes on corporate activities that harm the environment.
* Introduce more effective antitrust laws in concentrated industry sectors.
* Require corporations to provide detailed information about their records of compliance with labour, environmental, human rights, consumer, health and safety, criminal, competition and tax laws or policies and protect those who expose non-compliers.
* Support broad-based, democratically structured citizens' watchdog groups to monitor major sectors of the economy.

5. Income trusts

Based on the Conservative Party's 2006 campaign promise to allow income trusts to retain their non-tax status, more than a million Canadians invested in income trusts. The Conservatives broke their election promise and these investors lost over $30 billion. Many older Canadians saw their retirement savings disappear within hours.

The reason given for breaking the promise was that the government was losing revenue because the trusts did not pay tax. Finance Canada proceeded as if there was no tax revenue from income trusts. This was wrong. The trusts made payments to their investors and those payments were taxed.

There are public policy reasons to constrain or even discourage income trusts. If it could be proved that, over time, such arrangements led to a failure to re-invest profits in modernizing and expanding Canadian operations, action would be appropriate. So far this reasoning is intuitive and not empirical. What is clear is that the stated reason for breaking the promise, tax leakage, was not justified.

Our Vision

The Green Party condemns the Harper government for breaking an election promise and leaving citizens and companies in the lurch. The decision to tax income trusts has left Canadian companies more vulnerable to foreign takeover. It will be years before we fully understand the damage caused by this decision.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Review and redress the significant damage to Canadians caused by the broken promise and adjust tax rates in light of that error.
* Instruct Finance Canada to complete a study sampling full-cost accounting of income trusts, including lost corporate revenues and personal income tax revenues from investors to determine a fair taxation rate on income trust incomes and dividends.
* Push government to adopt these fair taxation rates. Ensure foreign holders of trusts are taxed at a higher rate. In the interim, tax trusts at ten percent.
* Inform both companies and investors of the process to determine fair tax rates on income trusts.

6. Labour

Canadians are among the most-overworked people in the industrialized world. The Green Party wants to help restore balance in the lives of Canadian workers by increasing paid vacation entitlement at the federal level, and supporting provincial policies mandating shorter working hours.

The Green Party will raise the minimum paid vacation entitlement to three weeks. Many countries with minimum standards of four weeks and longer also have more productive and internationally competitive economies than Canada's.

Countries such as Denmark, Ireland and Holland have much higher labour standards and far lower rates of unemployment than Canada, resulting in lower social costs to the country as a whole. Scandinavian countries, with the world's highest labour and social standards, rank near the top in international competitiveness.

Recent studies show that a growing number of Canadians are not taking their full vacation or any vacation at all, and are working more unpaid overtime. This high-stress lifestyle is costing Canada's already overburdened health care system more than $5 billion a year, according to the *National Work-Life Conflict Study* produced for Health Canada.

Canada's current payroll tax system discourages employers from hiring more workers, even when the business needs them. It particularly discourages employers from hiring full-time salaried staff who are entitled to benefits other than an hourly wage or monthly salary. It is more cost-effective to hire temporary and short-term workers or get existing workers to work longer hours, including paid overtime, than to hire additional staff. This leads to

greater worker and family stress. Revenue from the carbon tax will allow the Green Party Government to reduce payroll taxes and reduce this perverse incentive.

In a progressive society, labour and business interests work together. How can the Conservative government justify cutting funding to the Canadian Labour and Business Centre, Canada's longest standing business and labour forum? How can they justify funding cuts to the Status of Women and refusing to enact pay equity legislation, despite the recommendation from a two-year federal review of pay equity in Canada?

Our Vision

The Green Party believes in the rights of workers to organize and in the free collective bargaining process. Labour rights are human rights. We believe in pay equity for women, in the equal treatment of organized and non-organized workers and in workers' right to fair wages, healthy and safe working conditions and working hours compatible with a good quality of life.

Our jobs strategy is directly linked to the development of a green economy. There are tens of thousands of "green-collar" jobs, for example, associated with refitting Canadian homes and businesses for energy efficiency.

The Green Party wants Canada to follow the example of countries that treat their workers well and reap the benefits of low unemployment rates, less stress-related illness and economies that rank among the world's best in productivity and international competitiveness.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Re-establish a federal minimum wage of $10 an hour under the Canada Labour Code.
* Advocate for changes in the Canadian Labour Code that establish a minimum of three weeks paid vacation and a managed reduction in the standard work week to 35 hours.
* Support federal "anti-scab" legislation.
* Support changes to the Employment Standards law to provide equal protection to contract and temporary workers.
* Strengthen non-union workers' rights and protections to close the widening gap between union and non-union workplaces.
* Increase federal inspections and establish stronger deterrents to illegal unpaid overtime work to achieve full compliance with Canada Labour Code standards. This will save money by reducing the costs related to stress and social impacts.
* Change federal labour law to include a requirement that a poster outlining workers' rights be placed in all federally regulated workplaces as is the case under all provincial labour laws.
* Offer tax rebates to companies that provide on-the-job-site daycare, healthy food and facilities for exercise and commuting by bicycle.

7. Open source computer software

As computer hardware improves, it is important that software programs are readily modifiable by the people who buy and use them. Developing alongside the proprietary software sector is Free/Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS). This software is generally available at little or no cost, making it very popular in the developing world. It can be used, copied, studied, modified and redistributed with little or no restriction. Businesses can adapt the software to their specific needs.

Under the free software business model, vendors may charge a fee for distribution and offer paid support and customization services. Free software gives users the ability to work together enhancing and refining the programs they use. It is a pure public good rather than a private good.

Our Vision

The Green Party supports the goals and ideals of Free/Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS) and believes that Canada's competitiveness in global information technology (IT) will be greatly enhanced by strongly supporting FLOSS.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Ensure that all new software developed for or by government is based on open standards and encourage and support a nationwide transition to FLOSS in all critical government IT systems. This will make Canada's IT infrastructure more secure and robust, lower administration and licensing costs and develop IT skills.
* Support the transition to FLOSS throughout the educational system.

8. Small business loans and entrepreneurial incentives

Big cities absorb most of the available venture capital. In fact, big city venture capital opportunities and services often lure entrepreneurs and inventors away from smaller communities with the promise of vital capital investment to realize their dreams and grow their businesses. The departure of this economically creative class undermines the present and future employment growth and the viability of small communities.

Our Vision

Research and knowledge is mobile. It can pick up and move – out of town or out of Canada. An easily accessible and integrated system for business development and growth must be made available in smaller cities and towns to create the business climate that will entice home-grown entrepreneurs to stay. This model has been very successfully applied in Sweden in the form of Technology Centres or "Incubators for Mutual Support and Shared Services." Most successful applied research and commercialization is done by small and medium-sized businesses, and these business "clusters" attract new businesses seeking the direct and

indirect benefits of networking and collaboration.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Establish a federally funded Small Cities Green Venture Capital Fund to support viable local green business start-ups.
* Set up a Green Venture Capital Funding Program providing matching federal funds for locally raised venture capital up to a set limit per community.
* Reduce the paperwork burden on small businesses by eliminating duplicative tax filings and red tape. Government agencies will share information from the same database.

9. Financial institutions

Canada's five major banks announce record profits year after year. Many have reduced customer service while charging unreasonably high fees, especially for automated banking. Some banks are agitating to merge saying even larger financial organization is needed to compete in the global marketplace. This would further concentrate the banking industry and reduce competition.

Our Vision

The Green Party wants a vibrant bank and credit union system that charges reasonable rates, makes a reasonable profit and provides excellent service to customers and to the business community. We particularly support the credit union system, in which 4.9 million Canadians and businesses are the grassroots shareholders of cooperative financial services.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Vigorously oppose mergers of the large banks in Canada.

10. Railroads – re-establishing the national dream

Canada's national rail systems are in decline. We are the only country in the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with no national transportation strategy. While Europeans have highly efficient inter-modal connectivity, with high speed rail linking downtown cores to airports, with bicycle lanes allowing people to move around cities safely, efficiently and pollution-free, with streetcars in the downtowns and even rural areas serviced by bus and rail, Canadian communities are increasingly stranded. Nothing links our downtowns to airports other than a stretch of gridlocked traffic. Even along the Windsor-Quebec corridor, passenger rail is increasingly infrequent and outmoded. In much of Canada, rail routes that once moved thousands of people are abandoned. Edmonton to Calgary, Saskatoon to Regina, Halifax to Sydney have all been axed, despite their profitability.

Our Vision

Sir John A. Macdonald understood that to be a nation, to have a sense of shared identity and common purpose, Canada needs effective east-west links in communications, in energy delivery and in transportation.

To renew this "national dream" today requires a complete overhaul of our rail system for both passenger and freight. It will mean shifting cargo containers off highways and onto freight trains, driving the development of freight distribution nodes (off-loading containers onto local trucks) along new "green corridors."

The rail system changes will include a separate line for passenger trains. At the moment, freight owns the tracks and controls the traffic signals. Passengers are at the mercy of freight. New high-speed commuter trains will almost halve the travel time between Toronto and Ottawa and Toronto and Montreal to about two and a half hours. With downtown-to-downtown service, the train will be faster than the plane, especially when security and other airport delays are factored in. Reducing air travel will reduce greenhouse gases and remove the need to expand airports or build new ones, including the Pickering airport near Toronto. Better rail service will take cars off the roads between major cities, reducing air pollution, congestion and loss of life in traffic accidents. An improved rail system will make Canada more economically competitive and provide thousands of new jobs.

Green Solutions

Green Party MP's will re-establish Canada's National Dream and:
* Re-invest in our national rail systems, building more train cars in Canada, and create green transportation and energy infrastructure corridors in key regions.
* Improve rail infrastructure and intermodal connections, increasing joint federal-municipal light rail investments, as well as improving VIA rail service nationwide.
* Work with railway companies to improve rail infrastructure and to restore VIA rail service to all major regional cities.
* Create a national clean freight initiative, using both regulation and financial incentives to improve fleet efficiency and safety.
* Support the trucking industry, reducing pollution through add-on generators to avoid the need to idle to maintain air conditioning and refrigeration, while ensuring the right fit of trucking in a more efficient, rail-based intermodal system.

11. Green urban transportation

Urban sprawl means commuters crawl. More roads don't solve the problem; they make it worse, quickly filling up with more cars. Gridlock means more air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. We have to break this vicious cycle.

Our Vision

We must build our way out of the problem of clogged roads and smog-choked cities, not by building more roads and bridges and more distant suburbs, but with "smart growth" infrastructure. Excellent public transit and efficient housing in high-density nodes along existing transit corridors will make cities livable and people friendly. The federal government must take the lead in funding the "greening" of Canada's cities. (For more details also see the section on government: Federal-Municipal Relations.)

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Increase federal funding for pedestrian, cycle and car-sharing infrastructure in towns and cities.
* Double existing funding to stimulate a massive re-investment in public transportation infrastructure in all Canadian towns and cities to make it convenient, safe, comfortable and affordable.
* Make transit passes tax-deductible to encourage workers and businesses to use public transport and provide financial support to provinces that provide free public transit passes to people living below the poverty line.
* Cancel all funding for specific highways and bridge expansions (like the Gateway Program in Greater Vancouver) that encourage urban sprawl, increase private vehicle use, truck transport of goods and consequently increases greenhouse gas emissions.
* Ensure federal infrastructure funding does not go to expanding highways and roads.

12. Infrastructure and communities

At Confederation, Canada was a predominantly rural country where fewer than one in 10 people lived in cities. Our constitution set up a taxation system that greatly favoured the federal and provincial governments. Today 80 percent of Canadians live in urban areas.

Urban Canadians want their garbage collected, good transit services, safe roads and dependable water supplies. They also want new investment in green urban infrastructure including recycling, mass transit, energy efficiency upgrades to buildings, water conservation and community amenities like parks, sports fields and arts, culture and community centres. Underlying this is an urgent need to replace aging sewer systems, roadways and water pipes.

All of these are municipal responsibilities but Canadian municipalities simply don't have enough money to do it all. According to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 50 percent of Canadian tax revenue is spent on federal programs, 42 percent goes to the provinces and only 8 percent goes to municipal governments. Canada's biggest fiscal imbalance is the imbalance between municipal governments and everyone else.

As Jane Jacobs pointed out in *Dark Age Ahead,* taxes are collected disproportionately at the wrong level. Most Canadians' experience their government at the level where it collects their recycling, runs their buses and provides their water.

The Green Party will redress the real fiscal imbalance facing the level of government least able to tax fully to cover its costs.

Our Vision

To support communities, we need to invest in critical infrastructure of transport and water works to modernize and reduce energy demand. The Green Party Government will continue the gas tax commitment as envisioned by the previous government to allow for stable and predictable funding. As well, the Green Party Government will liberate billions of dollars a year through RRSP deductions for municipal bonds.

Municipalities need stable and predictable funding so that they can invest in critical infrastructure such as mass transit, sewage treatment, energy efficiency improvements, better water systems to reduce waste and cope with erratic precipitation patterns of a changing global climate, as well as community amenities like sports fields, arts and cultural opportunities.

The Green Party will create a new pool of municipal infrastructure funding by changing tax rules to create a Municipal Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) bond that can be held in RRSPs and self-directed RRSPs. In February 2006 alone, Canadians bought $8 billion in mutual funds. Imagine if even half of that was available to our communities.

This would be in addition to allocating an additional portion of the federal gasoline tax directly to the provinces for transfer to municipalities. The Green Party supports the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Large Cities Caucus request for a commitment of one cent from GST as a reasonable approach to stable financing. This is made possible through carbon tax revenue. Municipal governments must enter into agreements to ensure that sprawl is not permitted through extensive infrastructure funding. Densification, speedy, safe and pleasant mass transit, safe cycling paths and other investments to conserve electricity and water will all merit stable GST-sourced financing.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Change tax policy to create a new pool of long term municipal infrastructure funding by allowing municipalities to issue new Municipal Registered Retirement Savings Plans Bonds (MRRSPsBs) which can be held in RRSPs and self-directed RRSPs.
*Allocate one cent from GST on an approximate per capita basis to municipal governments for "Green Cities" initiatives, ensuring (through contractual agreements) that the funding is not used in ways that encourage urban sprawl, but instead to reduce sprawl and greenhouse gas emissions, conserve electricity and water, increase densification, expand convenient, safe, reliable and affordable public transit, and build cycling and walking paths. This funding could be transferred through Municipal Superfunds.
* Create six Municipal Superfunds of $500 million/fund/year (an average of $100 for every citizen per year) to which municipalities can apply for grant funding to replace the less specific Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF). The proposed funds are:

a) *Community Brownfield Remediation (CBR) Fund* to provide assistance in cleaning up toxic and brownfield sites;
b) *Water and Waste Treatment Facilities (WWTF) Fund* to upgrade water treatment, sewage treatment and recycling facilities to make them efficient, safe and sustainable;
c) *Sports, Cultural and Recreational Facilities (SCRF) Fund* to support the development of green recreational and cultural facilities and refurbish existing facilities;
d) *Mass Transit Promotion (MTP) Fund* to improve and expand urban mass transit infrastructure and inter-modal connections, as well as car-sharing initiatives;
e) *Cycling and Pedestrian Promotion (CPP) Fund* to support pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and smart-growth developments that transform urban areas and towns into walkable communities linked by transit to reduce the need for owning and using cars; and,
f) *Community Housing Options Promotion (CHOP) Fund* supporting a national housing program to build energy efficient co-ops and affordable housing units where there is a shortage of such housing options.

* Increase the Gas Tax Transfer to municipalities to 5 cents/litre to be used in funding the above sustainable transportation initiatives such as public transit, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure and rural roads.
* Make transit passes tax-deductible to encourage workers and businesses to use public transport and make employee parking a taxable benefit.

13. Agriculture and food

For centuries, family farms were the foundation of our society and economy. Over the last five decades, federal policies, subsidies and changing technologies have shifted food production from small ecologically sustainable family farms to giant agribusinesses. This shift has given multinational corporations control over our food supply. Meanwhile, farmers increasingly rely on off-farm income to survive.

Our food security and safety is threatened directly by agribusiness, as factory farms crowd chickens, turkeys, cows and pigs into inhumane and unhygienic conditions creating the risk of serious health threats from toxic spinach to mad cow disease and avian flu. Animals are often pumped full of chemicals and hormones while many crops are now genetically modified and treated with pesticides.

Our Vision

The health of Canada's population today and in the future depends on the environmentally sustainable production of wholesome food. We must restructure our agricultural markets to sustain farming and provide farm families with a fair share of the consumer food dollar. We want to expand local small-scale agriculture and support a rapid transition to organic agriculture rather than subsidizing costly agro-chemicals, industrial food production and genetically modified crops.

People need good food. With growing concerns over economic and climatic instability, a reliable domestic food supply is essential. Family owned and operated farms of small to medium size constitute the most reliable, high quality and economical food production system, now and into our uncertain future. The Green Party of Canada supports family farmers as environmental stewards and as efficient producers of nutritious food. The family farm is the primary unit of production. Agricultural policies must be designed to keep family farms economically viable. We support the active participation of Canadian farmers in export markets where this is consistent with achieving their most important role – servicing domestic markets for healthy food and sustaining Canada's agriculture resource base. We support education of Canadian consumers to value and prefer that which is grown locally.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

* Develop and implement a National Agricultural and Food Policy that:
    a) Moves towards regional food self-sufficiency across Canada, as we begin the shift to organic agriculture as the dominant model of production;
    b) Prioritizes fair trade in agricultural exports and imports;
    c) Ensures that supply management systems provide stable domestic markets, viable farm income and permit unregulated production by smaller and family farms that sell to local markets;
    d) Supports the Canadian Wheat Board to ensure the fair trading of high quality Canadian grains;
    e) Supports local food economies by enabling local areas, without industrial scale agriculture, to develop area-specific food safety regulations meeting national standards without placing undue financial burdens on local farmers and food processors;
    f) Shifts government-supported research away from biotechnology and energy-intensive farming and towards organic food production;
    g) Ensures the quality and wholesomeness of food by strengthening the monitoring of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, growth hormones, non-therapeutic antibiotics and insecticides in food production, processing and storage with the goal of an orderly reduction in detectable residues of these substances until they reach undetectable limits;
    h) Incorporates the right of farm workers to earn a living wage and have safe working conditions;
    i) Protects and improves the quality of water in our streams, lakes and aquifers by requiring farm practices that avoid contamination by agricultural run-off;
    j) Encourages and supports the consumption of locally grown food by promoting adequate shelf space in grocery chains for products from local farms and local food processors;
    k) Ensures that farm support payments are farm-based (not production based) to encourage more farms and more farmers;
    l) Includes organic and extensive farming methods in educational information made available to farmers and encourages the increase of extensive farm practices to improve farm profitability and sustainability;

m) Establishes a federally funded community-guided school lunch programs across Canada to ensure that our children have daily access to healthy local food and can learn about sustainable food production and healthy eating;
n) Supports the "200 kilometre diet" (eating locally grown food) through expansion of farmers' markets and local culinary tourism activities;
o) Minimizes the effects of climate change by encouraging farming methods that increase carbon sequestration and decrease water requirements, with financial rewards through domestic carbon trading;
p) Provides transitional assistance for those switching to certified organic farming practices;
q) Improves and strengthens the Canadian Organic Standard;
r) Specifies that research leading to the development of new cultivar varieties and animal breeds remains in the public domain;
s) Increases publicly funded research into seed stock, animal breeds and organic farming techniques and establishes new policies for private research efforts to ensure that they are in the best interests of family farmers and consumers;
t) Promotes heritage seed banks and seed exchange programs; and,
u) Establishes greenhouse gas emission targets for all components of the agri-food system and collaborates with industry in establishing plans for meeting them.

* Protect Canada's agricultural resource base by:
a) Introducing cost-shared programs to help farmers protect wildlife habitat areas and marginal lands, maintain water quality in streams, lakes and aquifers and retain and improve soil quality;
b) Setting up an Environmental Farm Plan Program to provide new funding sources for implementation at the farm level;
c) Strengthening the Plant Protection and Health of Animals Programs with measures to ensure the integrity of farm food products; and,
d) Strengthening the role of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) and extending the scope of its work, such as arresting soil erosion, to all of Canada.

* Assist farmers in adapting to the unavoidable impacts of climate change by:
a) Improving forecasting techniques, developing appropriate technology and anticipating emerging challenges; and,
b) Restructuring Canada's Business Risk Management Programs to help farmers cope with climate risk, especially in the areas of disaster assistance and production insurance.

* Promote roof top gardens, cultivation of green urban space for agriculture, food production in cities and suburbs and community gardens.

* Reform agriculture regulations to challenge corporate concentration, eliminate international dumping and subsidies and continue to allow seed saving by farmers.

* Work with provinces to ensure that all livestock waste is recycled safely and no animal by-products are used in animal feed.

* Legislate to prevent the patenting of life forms and to ensure that developers of genetically engineered crops are liable for any damage those crops cause.

14. Genetically engineered organisms

Genetically engineered (GE) organisms pose a potentially serious threat to human health and the health of natural ecosystems. Many Canadians want to follow the example of the European Union and ban GE crops. At a minimum, GE products must be labeled, giving consumers the right to know, as well as to say no to GE foods.

Although polls show that eight in 10 Canadians want mandatory labeling of GE foods and food ingredients, the federal government has not acted. In 2004, the Standards Council of Canada adopted a Standard for Voluntary Labelling but it has not been widely adopted.

The government is not exercising enough oversight and control. In fact, Agriculture Canada is promoting GE technology, forming partnerships with biotech companies and partnering in the research initiated by the biotech industry. Agriculture has already experienced the harmful impact of GE crops. Herbicide resistant (Round-up ready) Canola has escaped and become a noxious weed.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes that GE organisms and "terminator" technologies come with health and environmental risks. All food products containing GE organism or their products must be labeled. It is up to the companies that produce and promote GE organisms to prove that they are safe. No such organism should be released into the environment until it is proven to pose no unacceptable risks to human or animal health or to the environment.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will work to:
* Ban experimentation with, planting and promotion of new GE crops. This includes a ban on further GE research (except for traditional seed selection and grafting) at Agriculture Canada and a ban on companies such as Monsanto owning patents to GE products developed through joint research with Agriculture Canada.
* Implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, a protocol within the UN Biodiversity Convention, which Canada signed and ratified in 1992 and which came into force in 2003. The Cartagena Protocol requires the adoption of new products to be guided by the precautionary principle, which balances the economic benefits of innovation with public health and ecological integrity.
* Require mandatory labeling of all GE foods and food ingredients.
*Support local, provincial and territorial GE organism free zones where these local jurisdictions declare that genetically modified plants and animals are not part of the agricultural mix.
* Prohibit field testing, commercial use, sale and importation of "terminator" (genetic use restriction) technologies).
* Maintain the ban on GE wheat.
* Place a moratorium on field-testing genetically modified trees while an expert panel of the Royal Society of Canada examines the risks.

15. Fisheries

Canada's most conspicuous environmental and economic tragedy has been the collapse of our wild fisheries. We thought that the sea would give us unlimited fish forever. That erroneous belief led to the 1990s collapse of the Atlantic cod fishery after decades of year-round over-fishing by domestic and foreign fleets of large trawlers. This ecological disaster, the result of federal government mismanagement, resulted in the loss of 30,000 jobs. During the same period (1990 to 2002), British Columbia's salmon catch fell by 66 percent from 96,000 to 33,000 tonnes ($263.4 million to $51.6 million).

Over the last few decades, the fishing industry has installed large, powerful gear on ships equipped with sophisticated navigation and fish-finding technology. This has caused serious depletion of cod, haddock, bluefin tuna and other species, leading to the collapse of local economies and loss of important biodiversity from coast to coast to coast. To save our gravely depleted fish stocks, something must go: either the high-yield fishing technology or the majority of the licenses to fish.

To make a dire situation worse, fisheries face other serious problems besides over-fishing: habitat destruction and a lack of scientific knowledge of the status of marine resources and the role of oceanic food chains. Federal government policies allow the over-fishing of critical food chain species such as Pacific coast herring, ground fish and Atlantic coast capelin. Current laws do not adequately protect marine habitat from a range of destructive forces, including the devastating practice of bottom-trawling, bioaccumulation of toxic chemicals that flow into the sea from various land practices and spillage from oil and gas exploration. The coming years will see new threats to fisheries from ocean changes caused by climate change. We must do the right thing today to protect our fisheries for tomorrow.

Our Vision

The harvesting capacity of our fishing fleets has far outdistanced our fisheries regulations, management skills and the ability of fish populations to recover. But we believe that Canada can restore its wild fish populations and protect Canadian fishermen with strict regulations governing gear types, fishing practices and catch limits.

All evidence points to the need to ban bottom-trawling. Yet the only instance of the current Conservative government differing from that of US President George W. Bush is its refusal to support international efforts to ban bottom-trawling. Because fish cross international boundaries, we must lead efforts for a global ban on harmful open ocean fishing practices as part of a renewed commitment to fisheries management. This requires reforming the federal government's administrative and research priorities.

To protect precious fish habitat, we must also place a permanent legislated moratorium on oil and gas exploration and development in ecologically sensitive areas, particularly the west coast of British Columbia and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Fishermen must be allowed to have a greater role in managing fisheries through co-management provisions yet to be activated through the Oceans Act. We oppose the current approach that favours fish farms and presumes that aquaculture can make up for dwindling wild stocks.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will work to:
* Sign and ratify the global treaty to ban bottom trawling.
* Strengthen the Fisheries Act to:
    a) Require evaluation of threats to fish stocks and include provisions to protect fish stocks and the marine environment;
    b) Make protection of critical stocks and habitat mandatory;
    c) Require that the management and conservation of wild fisheries take precedence over aquaculture, wherever there are conflicts;
    d) Increase penalties for contravening the Act; and,
    e) Improve public participation in decision-making, under the principles of the Oceans Act, in particular engaging coastal communities in local fisheries management.
* Restructure the Fisheries and Oceans Canada and legislate to protect habitats against over-fishing and pollution.
* Give funding priority to small-scale projects to restore and enhance wild fish stocks, especially with aboriginal peoples and traditional fishing communities using traditional technologies.
* Enforce sustainable harvesting technologies such as long lines, cod traps or significantly modified mobile gear and monitor results to ensure the return of healthy stocks and biodiversity.
* Shift from intervention fisheries management practices to terminal fisheries.
* Ban bottom-trawling in domestic waters.
* Appraise and support development of different kinds of fishing gear that makes a profit while minimizing by-catch and habitat impact.
* Support development of more sustainable ways of harvesting marine resources, including value-added processing and developing environmentally friendly biochemical and pharmaceutical products.
* Support research and development of ecotourism as a non-consumptive use of marine biodiversity.
* Provide funding support to ecological research to discover what factors have enabled natural marine ecosystems to work so well in the past with the objective of restoring degraded systems.
* Establish an Independent Review Commission made up of marine biologists, ecologists and resource economists to investigate (with input from fishers, fishing communities and indigenous peoples) the causes of the enormous decline in Canada's fisheries resources and recommend policies and programs to restore offshore and inshore fisheries.
* Repeal the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Act and the Canada Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Act and adjust regional agreements to give fisheries greater protection from petroleum exploration and development.
* Extend permanent bans on oil and gas exploration and development in ecologically sensitive areas, particularly the coast of British Columbia and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
* Encourage a greater role for fishermen and aboriginal peoples in managing fisheries through co-management provisions in the Oceans Act.
* Work with provincial governments to eliminate aquaculture practices that damage the marine environment and human health and seek:

a) A moratorium on new open-ocean net-pen salmon farms and a phase-out of existing farms within 10 years; and,
b) In the meantime, the fallowing of sea pens during wild-hatch salmon runs.

16. Green forest vision

Canada's incredible forest heritage - 300 million hectares or ten percent of all the world's forests - is a source of enormous national pride and economic value. Thirty percent of the world's boreal forests grow in Canada and this great northern forest ecosystem, covering half of our country, acts as a huge carbon reservoir.

The value of these forests is difficult to measure, but can be expressed in several ways: the wood and paper products industries directly employ over 350,000 people and generate over $58 billion in sales annually – more than half our annual trade surplus. Economists estimate the value of Canada's boreal forest at $3.7 trillion but arguably it is priceless.

Our Vision

The Green Party understands that forests are the foundation of complex ecological systems performing important services that purify our air and water, prevent floods and erosion and stabilize our climate. Two-thirds of Canada's plant and animal species live in forests. Large expanses of forest, especially old growth forests, must remain intact to maintain natural habitats and biodiversity. Our forests also sustain subsistence hunters and those who seek recreation and rejuvenation in the wilderness.

Canada cuts about one million hectares of forest a year. We must improve our logging practices and become a world leader in sustainable management of this potentially fully renewable resource. We must extract more economic value from every tree cut and move quickly towards eliminating raw log exports.

We can reap better economic, environmental and social benefits from our forests. A Green Party government, in partnership with the provincial and territorial governments with primary jurisdiction, will require that all of Canada's managed forests be managed sustainably and certified by the Forest Stewardship Council within the ongoing Forest Accord process.

The forest products sector is a little known climate change success story. It has not only achieved its Kyoto greenhouse gas reductions target, it has exceeded that target by a factor of seven. The Green Party Government will support its claim for credit. Meanwhile, all forest companies will pay a carbon tax to reflect the net loss of carbon storage from their lands or they will get a rebate to reflect net gain of carbon sinks, based on an independent audit every five years.

Working within the Canadian Boreal Initiative's corporate, First Nation and conservation framework, we will also ensure that at least half of Canada's boreal forest is protected, while all is maintained in a state of ecological integrity. Its value as a carbon reservoir will far outweigh short-term economic gains.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will work to:
* Renegotiate trade agreements so that Canada has the power to encourage more domestic value-added manufacturing by restricting the export of raw logs with a substantial whole log export tax.
* Within the on-going *Forest Accord* process and in partnership with the provincial and territorial governments who have primary jurisdiction, shift all economic forests to eco-forestry practices, including certification by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).
* With the provinces, First Nations and the logging industry, devise incentives that promote the use of single stem selection logging and longer rotations that conserve natural forest ecosystems.
* Achieve the 2003 Boreal Forest Conservation Framework's goal of protecting at least half of Canada's Boreal Forest in a network of large interconnected protected areas and instituting state-of-the-art ecosystem based management and stewardship on the remaining landscape.
* Provide more federal funding to research the best way to harvest pine beetle wood, while leaving unaffected trees, and to mitigate the economic impact of the pine beetle epidemic.
* Develop a Genuine Forest Health Indicator (GFHI) that assesses the state of the forests every decade and measures changes in all forest values, including those that mitigate climate change directly or indirectly.
* Promote hemp and agricultural cellulose wood waste as sources of paper fibre to reduce the pressure on standing forests.
* Promote the use of wood waste, rather than foods such as corn, to produce bio-fuels.
* Give FSC certified forest companies a full five-year full tax break upon certification.

17. Expanding eco-tourism

The tourism sector in Canada is unique in that it makes a significant contribution to every region's cultural and economic well-being. It goes beyond creating jobs and foreign exchange revenue. It enables Canadians to explore our land and helps knit our country together. With revenues of approximately $61 billion in 2005, tourism constituted over 2 percent of Canada's GDP. This is nearly as much as our forestry and agricultural industries combined. Within the federal government the Ministry of Industry has the lead responsibility for tourism policy. The 2004 *Building a National Tourism Strategy – A Framework for Federal/Provincial/Territorial Collaboration* outlined six key priorities for immediate action and collaboration.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes that we must foster a Green, low-carbon tourism industry and market it responsibly throughout the world. We believe that we must provide exceptional tourist experiences by having the finest National Park system, the best museums and cultural events and the most hospitable service. To do this the Canadian government must play a bigger role in coordinating and guiding efforts across the entire country.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Create a separate federal Department of Tourism to coordinate all aspects of tourism. This ministry will focus on helping the fastest growing sector of global tourism, eco-tourism, become stronger and through special programs encourage aboriginal Canadians to assume a bigger role in it. It will also take a major role in making sure our borders are open and security measures are reasonable and not unwarrantedly excessive.
* Reverse the Conservative government's decision to eliminate the GST rebate for foreign visitors.
* Build a low-carbon tourism sector based on intermodal rail and bicycle touring.

18. Mining

While the control of natural resources is allocated to provincial governments, the consequences of mining often encroach on areas of federal jurisdiction, especially on fisheries. This energy intensive industry also contributes nearly twice as much to Canada's greenhouse gas emissions as do all domestic flights in Canada.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes that triple bottom line analysis, measuring social, environmental and economic costs and benefits, must be conducted before approval is given for a mine. We should not be mining products in Canada, like asbestos and uranium that are highly toxic to our environment and to human health. The Green Party will require mine reclamation plans to include detailed plans to deal with acid mine draining and are in place before active mining begins. The Green Party will also provide tax benefits to reward full recycling of metals, as recycling is a far more cost-effective way to produce metals than to mine virgin materials.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Call for government action to require life-cycle product stewardship of metals to ensure that once mined, they remain in economic service for generations.
* Vigorously oppose the permitting of any new uranium mines and notify current uranium-permit holders of plans to phase out this industry in Canada and any exports.
* Prohibit the export of fissionable nuclear material.
* Develop plans to fast-track the end to asbestos mining in Canada and assist the Quebec government and industry in phasing out the chrysotile mining industry, providing transition support for affected workers, families and communities. (Chrysotile asbestos is a known carcinogen with no known safe threshold to avoid sickness. The European Union has banned importation of this mineral. Currently Canada exports 220,000 tonnes of chrysotile asbestos mostly to developing countries that do not have the resources to handle it safely.)

* Shift Canada's position to support Prior Informed Consent rules under the Rotterdam Convention for asbestos.
* Push for an end to all subsidies to the mining sector to ensure full-cost accounting.
* Work with provinces, territories and industry to ensure that all mining operations are insured for environmental liabilities and have an adequate pre-funded plan for remediation when the mine closes.
* Introduce a Corporate Social Responsibility Act to regulate the mining industry requiring the highest environmental practices and ensure that waters are not contaminated during mining operations and after a mine closes.

19. Energy industry: no to nuclear

Can nuclear power meet our energy needs and be the solution to climate change? Not when one considers the cost, pollution and threat to global security associated with nuclear power.

The Green Party believes that choices should be economically rational. The best energy choices to respond to the climate crisis should be those that deliver the greatest reduction of GHG per dollar invested. By this criterion, nuclear energy is among the very worst options. Reactors cost billions of dollars, take more than a decade to build, operate unreliably after about the first dozen years of operation, and only produce one type of energy: electricity. Even if the industry were "green and clean" as claimed by the pro-nuclear propaganda efforts, it fails on the economics. Nevertheless, it is neither clean nor green.

Each gigawatt of nuclear energy requires 170 tonnes of uranium. When the uranium is processed into fuel, 250,000 tonnes of carbon are emitted for every 1000 megawatts produced. Nuclear energy produces huge amounts of greenhouse gases.

Recent studies also note that once the current high-grade uranium deposits are depleted, carbon emissions will greatly increase as low quality ores have to be refined. In addition, radioactive emissions that routinely leak from current facilities in Ontario have a half-life of over 5000 years. The spent fuel has over 200 cancer causing elements. Plutonium, for example, has a half-life of 24,400 years while other harmful substances persist millions of years in our environment with no known safety treatment.

Nuclear energy is inevitably linked to nuclear weapons proliferation. India made its first bomb from spent fuel from a CANDU reactor. As well, depleted uranium waste is increasingly and routinely used to coat bullets and missiles in "conventional" warfare, leaving a legacy of radioactive contamination as an on-going health and environmental threat to civilians post-conflict.

Our Vision

The least expensive energy alternative for Canada is investment in enhanced energy productivity through energy efficiency and conserving energy. With existing technology, fully implemented, Canada could easily reduce energy demand by 50 percent. The Green Party supports 100 percent clean and green power.

Canada's potential wind and tidal resources are amongst the best in the world. Yet, they have hardly been tapped. The Green Party globally has said "no" to nuclear energy. It is neither safe, nor clean, nor economical. Federal climate change policies should encourage the most efficient, effective and environmentally friendly measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Work with Provinces to phase out existing nuclear power, to stem the buildup of nuclear wastes, and to institute a Canada wide moratorium on uranium mining and refining.
* Call for the federal government to stop subsidizing all phases of the nuclear industry and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) and stop promoting CANDU reactors. Federal insurance will no longer cover the risk of nuclear accidents.
* Demand that the operations of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and AECL are transparent and at arms length from government and require the disclosure of the minutes of all meetings with AECL.
* Seek an amendment to the Nuclear Liability Act, increasing maximum insured liabilities from $75 million to $13 billion (the amount for which US reactors are insured). Federal legislation will no longer limit the liability of the nuclear industry to a minuscule portion of potential costs of a nuclear accident.

PART 2: AVERTING CLIMATE CATASTROPHE

In 1988, Canada was actually in the lead in hosting the first-ever international scientific conference on climate change, "Our Changing Atmosphere: Implications for Global Security." It took place during a Toronto heat wave in the last week of June 1988.

The consensus statement from the assembled scientists was **"Humanity is conducting an unintended, uncontrolled, globally pervasive experiment, whose ultimate consequences are second only to global nuclear war."**

That same year, the United Nations established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (known as the IPCC) -- setting up a process that is essentially the world's largest peer review. Over 2,000 scientists, appointed by their governments, began meeting regularly to provide a consensus view and a special report called "advice to policy makers." By 1990, the countries of the world, through the UN, began negotiating a treaty to deal with the threat.

In 1992, at the largest ever gathering of heads of government, the Rio Earth Summit, the first legally binding climate change treaty was signed. The Framework Convention on Climate Change was agreed upon by the governments of just about every country on Earth.

Meanwhile humanity's emissions of greenhouse gases were going through the roof. In 1996, the global level reached over 6 billion tonnes of carbon from fossil fuel burning. The statistic is not meaningful in itself, but in context it is startling. The 1996 level was four-times that of the late 1950s.

By 1997, the Parties to the Framework Convention met again, this time in Kyoto, Japan, to set out binding targets and timelines for greenhouse gas reduction. Canada committed to reduce its emissions to 6% below 1990 levels between 2008-2012. It was clear that Kyoto targets were only a small first step. Even if fully implemented, including by the United States, the Kyoto reductions would not avoid an atmospheric doubling of carbon concentrations. At best, Kyoto would delay the doubling point by ten years.

We have already, irreversibly, changed the chemistry of our atmosphere. We now have more than 30% more carbon dioxide by concentration in our atmosphere than at any time in the last 650,000 years (by direct measurement of air bubbles in Antarctic ice cores), and more than twenty million years (if we work from proxy measurements.) We are changing huge areas of the planet -- quite fundamentally.

Arctic ice is shrinking. The polar bears are at risk because without ice, they have trouble hunting. But it gets worse…As ice retreats, warming is intensified. The ice bounces back the sun's rays (the *albedo* effect). Dark ocean water soaks up the sun's energy, further warming the ice.

The permafrost from Siberia to the Mackenzie Valley is melting. As it melts, whole villages face the need to relocate, and caribou sink in the mud as they try to migrate.

The glaciers, whether in the Alps, the Rockies, the Yukon, or the Andes, are all in rapid retreat.

The intensity of hurricanes is increasing. While some hurricane specialists are not yet convinced, increasingly research at MIT and Princeton demonstrate that the energy packed in the hurricane's punch has increased by 50-80% from 1950 to 2003. Warmer waters in the ocean lead to more severe hurricanes. In the fall of 2003, Hurricane Juan was the first full force tropical hurricane ever to slam into Nova Scotia. Normally, cooler ocean water to our south would have down-graded Juan to a tropical storm, but it hit Nova Scotia as a full force tropical hurricane.

Scientists are increasingly talking about climate as being less a dial, than a switch. What is described in the literature as "non-linear perturbations" can be translated as "nasty shocks" or sudden and abrupt climate catastrophes.

A number of scientists have determined that the risk of "tipping point events" -- the loss of the Gulf Stream, the collapse of the Western Antarctic Ice Shelf, and the Greenland Ice Sheet -- is increased if global average temperature goes up by 2 degrees C above the pre-Industrial Revolution temperature. This, they estimate, could happen if concentrations of CO_2 in the atmosphere were to increase to somewhere between 400 to 450 ppm. We are 384 ppm now, up from 275 ppm in the 1800s, and now rising at 3 ppm per year.

Our responses to climate change are tepid at best. Even those who champion action are afraid to call for the targets we really need.

Canada's emissions are approaching 800 megatonnes (MT) a year. Our 1990 level was 608 MT. The Kyoto goal of 6% below 1990 is 571 MT. To avoid the "tipping point" described above, we need reductions in greenhouse gas emissions of 30% below 1990 by 2020, of 80% by 2040.

Canada's 2004 CO_2 equivalent emissions (MT)
http://www.ec.gc.ca/pdb/ghg/inventory_report/2004_report/ts_2_e.cfm

1.	Electricity and heat	130
2.	Transport – cars & light trucks	93
3.	Transport – other	89
4.	Fossil fuel industries	79
5.	Fugitive emissions oil & gas	66
6.	Agriculture	57
7.	Manufacturing	51
8.	Residential buildings	43
9.	Commercial and institutional buildings	38
10.	Industrial processes CO_2	39
11.	Industrial processes N2O	4
12.	Industrial processes halocarbons	11
13.	Landfills	29

14.	Mining	15
15.	Domestic aviation	8
16.	Construction	1
	Total	758

(758 MT CO_2 equivalent = 593 MT CO_2 + 110 MT methane + 44 MT N_2O + 11 MT halocarbons)

The tar sands, covered in rows 4 and 5, now produce 28 MT a year. This sets the stage for what is involved if we are to reduce our emissions to 80% below the 1990 level = 121 MT total.

"We are risking the ability of the human race to survive."
Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
http://www.ipcc.ch

1. Making actual reductions in CO_2 emissions

Climate change is the number one issue on Canadians' minds and the biggest crisis facing our planet. It is not just an environmental issue. It is an economic, social and global security issue. According to the World Health Organization, 150,000 people already die every year from climate change related causes. Canadians have felt the impacts in communities from coast to coast to coast: floods and firestorms; droughts and water shortages…hurricanes decimating treasured parks in Nova Scotia and BC; catastrophic wind and ice storms shutting down transport routes and power lines; insect infestations killing millions of hectares of trees.

In his report to the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Nicholas Stern, former senior economist to the World Bank, warned that, left unchecked, climate change could constitute a $7 trillion hit to the world economy, create water shortages for 1 in 6 people planet-wide, cause the extinction of up to 40 percent of species and result in up to 200 million environmental refugees.

Taking action now, says Stern, would cost just 1-3 percent of global gross domestic product annually. In Canada, based on our 2006 GDP of $1.37 trillion, 1 percent means about $13 billion—almost exactly the amount of the budget surplus last year.

Meanwhile, action on climate change can be good for our economy. Countries that improve their energy efficiency and reduce their demand for fossil fuels by utilizing renewable sources of energy will be the least negatively impacted by a future energy crunch. It makes sense for Canada, with our wealth of renewable energy sources, to be in the lead, not a laggard, in a green energy future.

VISION GREEN

Our Vision

The Green Party's priority action to achieve actual reductions in Canada's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) is in green tax shifting. We will reduce income taxes and payroll taxes by shifting to pollution-based taxation. A carbon tax is a critical step to getting the prices right, but a Green government will not rely solely on tax-shifting. We will remove subsidies from the fossil fuel industry, cap extraction levels of coal, oil and gas, and instead offer significant tax incentives and support for energy conservation and renewable energy development. Regulations and consumer-friendly programmes will also be needed to shift Canadian society to a low-carbon future. Large industrial emitters will benefit from a cap and trade programme that puts a price on pollution so that carbon trading can work. We will regulate for improved vehicle fuel economy, improved energy productivity in large appliances, and, in cooperation with provinces, improve energy efficiency of residential and commercial buildings.

Green Solutions

With each passing year of governmental inaction, GHG emissions in Canada *increase*. As they increase, achieving our Kyoto target becomes increasingly difficult. Even with international credits, it may now be impossible. It is clearly impossible at this stage through purely domestic action. Yet, we must start now.

A good faith effort to get as close as possible to our international commitments, and our willingness to continue within a framework of hard caps and penalties for non-compliance, is essential in order to participate meaningfully in the next (post-2012) phase of global action. The commitment of the Green Party to Kyoto targets is not nullified even if full compliance is impossible. It is based on respect for international commitments and to the overwhelming scientific evidence that far deeper cuts will be required soon. We must begin…

Green Party MPs will:
* Reaffirm Canada's commitment to the Kyoto framework and further medium and long term targets:

- 6% below 1990 by 2012 = 570 MT = 29% below today's 800 MT
- 30% below 1990 by 2020 = 425 MT = 47% below today's 800 MT
- 50% below 1990 by 2030 = 304 MT = 62% below today's 800 MT
- 80% below 1990 by 2040 = 121 MT = 85% below today's 800 MT
- 5-yearly interim targets

* Adopt carbon taxes, immediate price of $50/tonne of CO_2, equivalent (CO_{2e}), measure impact and if required to achieve target reductions then increase up to $100/tonne of CO_{2e} (the price the Stern Review put on the cost of climate change) by 2020. 1 litre of gas produces 2.34 kg of CO_2, so $50 per tonne adds 12 cents to the pump price per litre, $100 per tonne adds 24 cents. Carbon tax revenues will be used to reduce other taxes in a way that offsets any negative impact on low and middle income Canadians.
* Adopt carbon cap and trade and a carbon market. Establish a cap and trade CO_{2e} ceiling for Large Final Emitters (large industry), with a market price for carbon as soon as possible. Auction and trading of CO_{2e} allocations will be overseen by non-governmental body. The

Montreal Stock Exchange has publicly indicated an interest in this role. Large Final Emitters produce around 50% of our total emissions. They include companies in mining, manufacturing, oil, gas, and thermal electricity.[1] Their contribution today is around 400 MT. Based on today's emissions, we should propose caps as follows:

2012: 115 MT reduction (29% below today)
2020: 186 MT reduction (47% below today)
2030: 250 MT reduction (62% below today)
2040: 340 MT reduction (85% below today)

* Support global verification and certification standards for carbon credits. Establish a Canadian Carbon Bank, and create a federal framework for local and provincial carbon banks to encourage the purchase of local offsets.
* Negotiate the expansion and greater creativity in Kyoto beyond 2012 to (a) meet these reduction goals, (b) include international aviation and shipping, and (c) include commitments to ramp up solar energy, electric vehicles and other low carbon technologies (see Global, below).
* Implement the following key components:

- Launch a plan for Canada's Green Century, with a commitment to make Canada one of the most energy-efficient, sustainably powered nations in the world. Green tools to achieve this include firm legislative and regulatory measures that include firm time-lines, tax credits, direct grants and rebates and tax penalties and fines for non-compliance.
- Reaffirm Canada's commitment to come as close as possible to Kyoto, and beyond 2012: 30% below 1990 by 2020, 80% by 2050.
- Adopt carbon taxes, carbon markets, and cap and trade.
- Apply "carbon conditionality clauses" to all federal funding to provinces, cities and institutions, requiring evidence of carbon reduction as a condition of payment.
- Require all federal buildings to be retrofit to a high level of efficiency by 2025, using a variety of green tools. Ramp up energy efficiency retrofits for residences and businesses through revolving federal loans. Fund energy retrofits for museums, universities, schools and Hospitals.
- Require all new buildings to be net zero energy (energy self-sufficient) after 2025, using a variety of green tools.
- Establish a nation-wide program to retrofit all low-income rental housing by 2025, as Germany.
- Solar hot water and pre-wiring for solar photo voltaic (PV) to be mandatory in the Building Code; require solar PV installation itself as soon as the price falls to $2 per watt.

[1] "These large producers are also known as "Large Final Emitters" (LFEs) of greenhouse gases. LFE sectors are those sectors with average annual emissions per facility of at least 8 kt of CO_2 equivalent (CO_2e), and average annual emissions per $1 000 of output of at least 20 kg of CO_2e. They are large contributors to our GHG emissions—just under 50 percent of total Canadian GHG emissions. Canada's LFEs include companies in the mining and manufacturing, oil and gas, and thermal electricity sectors." (Environment Canada http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partI/2005/20050903/html/regle4-e.html)

- Require all appliances to meet Energy Star standards by 2015. Inefficient appliances and light bulbs to be phased out, some by 2010.
- Develop renewable energy sources so that by 2040, wind energy production reaches 50 GW, solar PV 25 GW, ocean energy 12 GW, geothermal 25 GW. Various policies, including carbon conditionality clauses requiring provincial adoption of Advanced Renewables Tariffs (a.k.a. Standard Offer Contract, or Feed Laws). All coal, oil, gas and nuclear power to be phased out.
- Provide strong support for walking, cycling, transit, coaches, rail, tele-working and video conferencing.
- Regulate vehicle emissions to fall by 85% by 2040, using a variety of methods.
- Require all landfills to pay a methane tax, based on emissions with regulatory mandatory methane capture after 2015.
- Ensure that federal disaster assistance is subject to carbon conditionality clauses by provinces and cities – similar to an insurance company refusing coverage on a building that does not meet the code requirements for fire safety.
- Adopt Germany's system of mandatory recycling and "design for recycling".
- Phase out Halocarbons (CFCs, HFCs, PFCs, SF6) by 2015. Make funding available to develop alternatives.
- Require all forest companies to pay a carbon tax based on carbon sources. All Forest Stewardship Council (SFC) certified companies to get a 5-year tax break. Plan for transition to 100% FSC certified forestry.
- Pay farmers for carbon sequestration in soils within a domestic carbon market. Plan for transition to 100% organic farming.
- Remove immediately all subsidies to coal, oil, gas and coalbed methane.
- Oil and gas extraction companies to capture and sequestrate an increasing percentage of released CO_2. New coal-fired plants to capture and sequestrate 100% of emissions.
- Withdraw all government funding supports and guarantees for new nuclear plants.

* Support the role of international carbon credits. Any shortfall in meeting our first phase Kyoto target will be made up as much as possible in international credits from Joint Implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). Both of these mechanisms within Kyoto have the advantage of assisting other countries, particularly in the developing world, in re-orienting their economies and energy systems to a low-carbon future. Such credits deliver cost-effective carbon reductions and pave the way for those nations taking on commitments in future Kyoto reductions. CDM credits also have the advantage of including a small surcharge toward an Adaptation Fund for developing countries.

Because the problem is global, reductions in carbon emissions from developing countries are just as valuable in reducing the threat of climate change as those from Canada. The cost per tonne is often lower in developing countries than in advanced industrialized nations. The bottom line is: a tonne of carbon reduced in India or China or Malaysia is just as valuable in protecting Canadians from the dangerous impacts of climate change as a tonne reduced in Canada. The atmosphere doesn't care where the carbon emission reduction takes place; it only matters that it does take place.

2. Adapting to climate change

One of the binding commitments of nations signing on to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was to prepare adaptation strategies to cope with that level of climatic disruption that is no longer avoidable. If anything, this commitment has been ignored by Canada even more than the obligation to reduce emissions. Sectors requiring immediate attention include agriculture, forestry, fishing and tourism. Protecting vulnerable areas and population also need to be addressed. Failure to act to reduce climatic impacts has already cost the Canadian economy billions of dollars.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes that the federal government must show leadership in developing an adaptation strategy in collaboration with the provincial/territorial governments and municipalities that aims to mitigate and reduce the impacts of climate change. Even with significant global GHG reductions to stabilize the climate, it will take decades, perhaps centuries, to arrest climate change.
We must improve municipal infrastructure, especially water treatment facilities, to meet a changing water regime. We are already experiencing increased deluge precipitation patterns in which current systems allow raw sewage to bypass treatment. We must start curtailing developments in areas of high vulnerability (for example floodplains, low-elevation coastal areas, regions of permafrost, and places adjacent to forests at risk of increased fires). We must undertake greater flood control measure like raising dykes in areas made more prone to flooding because of climate change.

The most urgent community crises are in the Canadian Arctic where peoples of the North face losing their hunting culture and relocation of their communities due to the melting of permafrost, and in the interior of British Columbia as economic disaster looms for forest dependent communities due to the climate-caused pine beetle epidemic. Eighty per cent of this vast region's forests are at risk.

We must act to reduce emissions and we must prepare for the "new normal" of a destabilized climate. These are not, as often presented, mutually exclusive goals. We need both and we needed them yesterday.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* **Establish special task forces** involving all stakeholders, all levels of government and scientific experts to prepare over the next two years area-specific climate change adaptive strategies. The first such task forces shall be set up in places particularly vulnerable to climate shift and disruptions, the Canadian Arctic, coastal zones, the Prairies, and the Interior of British Columbia.
* **Set up a Climate Change Adaptation Fund** to assist those areas hard hit by "natural" disasters linked to global warming.
* **Increase financial support to the Developing World** for adaptation strategies.

3. Leaving no stone unturned

In addition to carbon tax shifting, cap and trade and the purchase of international verified carbon credits, a Green government will leave no stone unturned to establish practical and pragmatic programs in all areas of the economy to accelerate our reduction in carbon emissions, including the following:

a) Government

Government operations. The federal government should apply the same GHG reduction goals to all its own operations. All new federally owned buildings must meet LEED Gold, leased buildings LEED Silver.

Carbon conditionality clauses. A Green government will negotiate with the provinces and other players such that every business, NGO, institution, city, province or territory that receives funding of any kind from the federal government will need to establish benchmarks and policies to reduce its emissions in accordance with Canada's goals. After 2010, 25% of all funding will come with carbon reduction strings attached. In 2015, this will rise to 50%; in 2020 to 75%; in 2025 to 100%. These carbon conditionality clauses should be a sub-set of wider sustainability conditionality clauses, reflecting other changes that are needed on the road to full sustainability.

b) Buildings

Buildings account for as much as 33% of Canada's GHG emissions when heat and power are combined. Most of today's housing stock will still be standing by 2040, when we seek an 85% overall reduction in Canada's carbon emissions, so retrofitting Canada's existing stock of buildings is all-important.

A Green government will set a goal to retrofit 100% of Canada's buildings to a high level of energy efficiency by 2025 and require all new homes and buildings to be zero net energy after 2025. Tools and policies to do this include:

- Refundable tax credits for all energy retrofit costs, based on before-and-after Energuide or infrared heat tests for residential, commercial, industrial and institutional buildings;
- Tax-deductible Green Mortgages for home-owner energy retrofit costs;
- A national program to energy retrofits public sector buildings such as universities, schools, museums, and hospitals;
- 100% Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance for all businesses for energy retrofit costs; and
- Revolving federal loans for residential or business energy retrofits.

Working with the provinces, the Green Party Government will ensure a national effort to revise Building Codes to include, amongst other energy conservation and efficiency measures:

- Mandatory installation of solar hot water systems and pre-wiring for solar PV on all new buildings, and whenever a house is sold. Mandatory 2 kW solar PV system on all roofs two years after the price of solar falls to $2 per watt; and
- All buildings to be labeled for energy efficiency before they are sold or leased, by 2010.

Funding for a nation-wide program to energy upgrade all low-income rental housing on a phased, year-by-year basis by 2025, as Germany is doing.

Provide grants for 50% of the cost of solar thermal roofs or walls including solar hot water, as in Sweden; Green Mortgage loans for the remainder of the cost.

Free energy audits for large industrial companies.

Provide refundable tax credits increasing to $50,000 for the purchase of R-2000 and other highly efficient homes, based on Energuide or infrared assessment.

GST credits for all materials used in LEED Gold and Silver buildings.

c) Efficiency

All appliances sold in Canada must meet an Energy Star rating by 2015. Non-rated appliances will be eliminated from the market. Incandescent light bulbs, energy wasting fridges and other very inefficient appliances will be off the market by 2010.

Industrial efficiency for Large Final Emitters (LFEs) (encouraged through cap and trade) will be supported by tax-deductible Green Industrial Mortgages, based on annual energy use per unit of production.

d) Renewable energy

Power generation accounts for 17% of Canada's emissions. In 2000, Canada's generating capacity was 113 GW of power, as follows: Hydro 67 GW; Coal 18 GW; Oil 7.5 GW; Natural Gas 5.5 GW; Nuclear 13 GW; Renewables 1 GW. By 2007, power generation capacity had risen to 118 GW.

If there was major success in the efficiency and building retrofit programs, the required capacity could fall by 25% from 118 to 90 GW by 2040. Allowing for population increase, the required capacity could be 120 GW by 2040.

If we assume the primary use of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs), additional capacity will be needed, which can be met by load shifting and night time power generation.

If we assume continued power production from the large hydro plants (67 MW), we need to replace all of the coal, oil, natural gas and nuclear power generation capacity (120 minus 67 GW = 53 GW or, in round figures 60 GW) with renewables. This becomes the goal for

power generation by renewables by 2040. This can be achieved by wind (25 GW), solar (20 GW), tidal/wave (10 GW) and other renewables (5 GW). Work with the provinces to phase out all power generation from coal, gas and nuclear energy, creating a generating gap of 90 GW firm power equivalent that needs to be filled. Since wind energy generates power 30% of the time, solar 20% of the time, and other renewables 30 – 50% of the time, the planned capacities from renewables need to be larger than capacities from firm power generation.

All carbon-based fuels will be subject to rising carbon taxes. Federal approvals for oil, gas or coal-fired power generation will not be granted, where such approvals are required, unless they are accompanied by 100% safe, secure, long-term underground carbon capture and sequestration (not yet technologically proven).

Work with Canada's wind industry to achieve CANWEA's (Canadian Wind Energy Association) goal of 10 GW of wind by 2015. Add further goals of 20 GW by 2025, 35 GW by 2030, and 50 GW by 2040. This is the equivalent of 17 GW of firm power.

Retain the current 1 cent/kWh support for wind energy. Increase the support to 2 cents/kWh for any province adopting the Advanced Renewables Tariffs (ART) (also known as Feed Laws, Standard Offer Contract) as in Europe with prices that deliver a return on investment sufficient to entice investors), net metering, peak power pricing, and plans for renewable grid extensions. (Call it ART Plus.)

Provide support to help local energy co-ops form in provinces adopting ART+.

Provide substantial R & D funding for ocean energy technologies in provinces adopting ART+.

Provide substantial R & D funding for electricity storage technologies in provinces adopting ART+.

Provide support for power grid extensions to bring wind and ocean power from remote areas (e.g. BC, Prairies, Quebec, Newfoundland, Labrador, Nova Scotia) in provinces adopting ART+.

Work with the solar industry to establish a goal for Canada to install 25 GW of solar PV by 2040. [33 million people = 10 million homes. Each home with a 2 kW system = 20 GW. 50% homes with 2 kW = 10 GW + other buildings 15 GW = 25 GW.] Set interim goals: 1 million solar homes by 2020, 3 million by 2030 and 5 million by 2040. This is equivalent to 5 GW of firm power.

Work with renewable energy industries to produce 12 GW of ocean energy by 2040 (40 GW potential), and to set specific goals for production of biomass, and micro hydro energy.

Work with the geothermal energy industry and the oil industry (for their drilling expertise) in a well-funded R & D program to develop Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS), drilling down to 10 km to extract 25 GW of power by 2040. In January 2007 a major MIT study (*The Future of Geothermal Energy*) reported that the USA's extractable EGS reservoirs contained 2,000 times more primary energy than the USA uses yearly, and that with technology

improvements, this could be expanded 10-fold. The resulting energy would have an energy cost in the 6-9 cents kWh range.

By 2040, if these policies are successful, Canada's power mix would be:

Hydro:		68 GW firm power
Wind:	50 GW (=	17 GW firm power equivalent)
Solar:	25 GW (=	5 GW firm power equivalent)
Ocean:	12 GW (=	4 GW firm power equivalent)
Biomass, biogas and microhydro:	3 GW (=	1 GW firm power equivalent)
Geothermal:		25 GW firm power
Total:		120 GW firm power equivalent

e) Transport

Transport accounts for 25% of Canada's emissions. When it comes to vehicle technologies, hydrogen is not going to deliver in the near term for a host of reasons, and corn or grain based biofuels pose an unacceptable challenge to farming, as well as having dubious net energy gains. Cellulosic ethanol offers real potential in fuel switching in a transition to a technological leap. During the last year, a consensus has emerged that electric vehicles are the way to go, especially Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV), which can be 100% electric for all short distance trips, but still have fuel capacity (from biofuels) for longer distances. They are also remarkably cheaper to run than regular vehicles, averaging $10 a month for a small, lightweight EV doing 15,000 km a year.

Carbon conditionality. A Green government will establish transport-based carbon conditionality clauses affecting all federal funds or loans.

Walking and cycling. All bikes, bicycle gear, bike racks and showers will be tax deductible and GST free. All federal staff will be given a cycling allowance equal to the vehicle allowance.

A Green government will match provincial and municipal investments designed to increase walking and cycling, with a baseline contribution of 25% of the total cost, rising to 50% where provinces pay bicycle allowances to their staff and equip all government buildings with cycling facilities, and where cities do likewise, having demonstrated progress in increasing kilometers of cycling lanes and trails, and established working policies to encourage smart growth and prevent sprawl.

Transit and Light Rail Transit. A Green government will match provincial investments in transit with a baseline contribution of 25% of the total cost, rising to 75% where municipalities have established working policies to encourage smart growth and prevent sprawl and where transit authorities introduce progressive programmes designed to increase ridership such as annual U-passes for colleges, eco-passes for neighbourhoods, commuter-passes for businesses, and requirements that new developments must be served by transit and developers must provide 3 year transit passes for all residents (as Boulder, Colorado has done).

Long Distance Coaches. A Green government will liberalize the licensing for long-distance coach lines to encourage competition and greater ridership, while maintaining rigorous safety standards. It will eliminate the fuel tax (but not the carbon tax) for companies that sign a carbon conditionality agreement to upgrade their fleet to high efficient technologies and train their drivers in efficient driving. It will provide federal funding for upgrades to coach stations to a standard that would be attractive to everyone.

Rail. A Green government will re-invest in our national rail infrastructure and intermodal connections, increase joint federal-municipal light rail investments, as well as improve VIA rail service across Canada. We will restore VIA rail service to all major regional cities and create a national clean rail freight initiative that uses both regulatory means and financial incentives to improve fleet efficiency and safety.

Teleworking. A Green government will pay a no-trip vehicle allowance to all federal staff working from home, give a tax credit for the cost of establishing a home office, and establish a parking cash-out system (cash to employees not using a company parking space) to encourage reduced use of cars and parking.

f) Vehicles

Work with the motor industry, the province and other partners to develop a sustainable vehicles strategy, leading to an 85% reduction in emissions below today's level by 2040.

Adopt California standards requiring a 30% reduction in CO_2 emissions from new vehicles sold in Canada by 2015. It will require a 50% reduction by 2020, 90% by 2025. This will drive the manufacture of zero emission vehicles. It will also create fuel efficiency standards in line with leading US states for the 2011 model year.

Accelerate the market arrival of Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) or electric vehicles by signing the Plug-In Partners advanced purchasing agreement with a commitment to buy large numbers of PHEVs as soon as they are available (creating a federal buying pool). Carbon conditionality clauses will include a requirement for the purchase of PHEVs as soon as they are available.

Work with all governments and businesses in Canada to join a Canadian green car buying pool and to join the Plug-In Partners buying pool.

Offer scale-based rebates of up to $5,000 for the purchase of efficient vehicles, and fees on the purchase of inefficient vehicles.

Even with EVs and PHEVs, we will still require some liquid fuel, though possible as much as 80% less. A Green government will provide continued R&D to develop cellulosic ethanol from farm and forest wastes, rather than ethanol from crops grown directly for this purpose. It will establish a 10% ethanol and 10% biodiesel standard by 2010 (as Liberals), phasing this up to 100% cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel by 2040, thereby eliminate the use of oil.

Require mandatory vehicle fuel efficiency labeling, adopting the European system.

Reduced taxes for more efficient company cars, instead of a blanket benefit.

Require all federal vehicles to become super-energy efficient, moving to EVs or PHEVs.

Provide incentives for Canadian manufacturers of super-efficient vehicles, EVs and PHEVs.

Establish a new authority to establish a just transition fund for the automobile sector, funded by an additional fee on all fuel inefficient car sales in Canada.

Trucks: A Green government will work with the trucking industry and other partners to develop a sustainable trucking strategy, leading to an 85% reduction in overall emissions by 2040.

All trucking companies, taxis and other commercial transport operators will be required to charge a federally set fuel surcharge, updated regularly, that reflects the price of oil (including carbon taxes and other charges). This will eliminate the cut-throat competition among small businesses, which drives some to bankruptcy.

Trucking companies will receive Accelerated Capital Cost Allowances and other incentives for the purchase of hybrid trucks.

All trucks sold in Canada will be subject to scale-based rebates for the purchase of efficient vehicles, and fees for the purchase of inefficient vehicles.

Aviation: A Green government will work with the aviation industry to develop a sustainability strategy, leading to an 85% reduction in overall emissions by 2040.

All aviation fuel will carry both a regular fuel tax and the carbon tax. The carbon tax will be rated for the carbon equivalency of aviation impact. Long-distance flights at high altitude and night flights will pay a carbon tax at up to twice the regular rate to cover the climate impact of nitrous oxide emissions (which convert to tropospheric ozone, a greenhouse gas) and high level cloud cover (which traps heat).

Video-conferencing facilities for meetings and conferences will be free of GST and will qualify for an Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance. The federal government will achieve a 50% reduction in meetings that would otherwise involve flying by 2010, and an 80% reduction by 2015. MPs with rural ridings will be encouraged to meet constituents by video-link.

The government will work with business partners to secure the installation of video-conferencing facilities in every community larger than 1,000 people by 2015.

g) Communities

Landfill gas accounts for 4% of Canada's emissions. All landfills will be charged a methane tax, based on emissions. After 2012, the tax will increase by 50% a year, and after 2015 no landfill will be allowed to operate without methane capture.

All federal support for municipalities will be subject to carbon conditionality clauses. All current federal funding that encourages urban sprawl and greater vehicle use will be eliminated. The existing Green Infrastructure Fund, gas tax, and other funding will continue.

Support will be given to local non-profits and associations to encourage carbon reduction programs. Street, community and business contests will be encouraged.

Federal disaster assistance will be available to help communities cope with climate change impacts (floods, storms, disasters), subject to carbon conditionality clauses. Provinces and communities that do not satisfy the clauses will not be eligible for federal disaster assistance. This is similar to an insurance company refusing fire insurance on a building that does not meet code requirements for fire safety.

h) Industry

Industry (Large Final Emitters) accounts for 50% of Canada's emissions. Large Final Emitters will be subject to the carbon tax and cap and trade policies described above.

All industrial buildings will be eligible for incentives to become more energy efficient, as above.

Use of the greenhouse gas halocarbons CFCs, HFCs, PFCs and SF6 will be phased out by dates between 2012 and 2015. There will be federal support for R&D to develop climate-friendly, non-toxic alternatives.

A Nitrous Oxide Task Force will be established to recommend ways to reduce Canada's N_2O emissions by 85% by 2025.

All federal grants and loans to industry will be subject to carbon conditionality clauses designed to steer all industry and manufacturing to 100% sustainability (the Interface approach).

Megastore retail outlets which depend on customer use of cars will be encouraged to adopt parking charges, combined with transit access and the home delivery of purchases by means of conditionality clauses signed with municipalities seeking federal funds.
Introduce legislation that requires all manufactured goods, including vehicles, to be designed for easy dismantling, re-use and/or recycling, and that they contain 90% recycled materials by 2025 (as in Germany).

Introduce legislation that requires all appliance and equipment retail outlets to receive broken and dead goods they have sold for recycling or repair. Industry will be helped to

establish a national deposit system, recycling systems and third party management to help them fulfill the obligation (like Germany's Recycling Law).

i) Forestry

If Canada's GHGs from forest sources (73 MT) were included in the Inventory total, they would represent 9% of Canada's emissions.

All forest companies will pay a carbon tax to reflect the net loss of carbon storage from their lands, or a carbon rebate to reflect net gain of carbon sinks, based on a 5-yearly independent audit.

All forest companies managing FSC certified lands will be granted a 5-year tax break for those lands upon certification.

j) Agriculture

Agriculture (55 MT) accounts for 7% of Canada's emissions. 43% comes from dairy and beef herds emitting methane; 40% from poor soil fertilization practices releasing N2O; and 15% from poor manure management from penned livestock herds. Because of the multiple benefits of organic farming methods, a Green government will work to assist non-organic farmers who wish to transit to organics to make the switch. Local food production will be encouraged to reduce emissions from transport.

Urban agriculture will be encouraged to provide more local food, as well as more green roofs, reducing air conditioning demand and run-off in deluge rains.

k) Fossil fuels

Fossil fuel industries (146 MT) account for 20% of Canada's emissions. All subsidies and supports to the oil, coal, gas and coalbed methane industries in Canada will be removed.

The appropriate carbon taxes will be applied to all CO_2, methane, N2O, fugitive, and other GHG emissions.

All members of the fossil fuel industry will participate in the LFE cap and trade system, as above.

Oil and gas extraction companies will be obliged to capture and sequestrate an increasing volume of released CO_2 beyond that used for enhanced oil recovery. This will start with 10% in 2012, 25% in 2020, 50% in 2023 and 85% in 2040. Enhanced oil recovery through CO_2 sequestration is not seen as a solution, since the storage of CO_2 for this purpose facilitates greater production of oil and gas.

Where any federal permits are required for new coal plants, the Green Party Government will not approve such permits. Most new electrical transmission facilities will fall outside federal jurisdiction. Where any federal-provincial funding agreements are negotiated, closing

coal plants and committing not to build any new plants will be a condition of funding. Existing coal–fired plants will be required to capture and sequester 25% of their emissions by 2015, 50% by 2025 and 85% by 2040. All coal will be sold with a carbon tax.

Federal funding will be available for clean coal R&D focused on achieving full capture and sequestration of CO_2 emissions, and 99.99% reduction of mercury, particulates, and sulfur dioxide emissions.

A carbon tax will be imposed on all export of all coal, oil and gas from Canada, except to countries that impose their own carbon tax.

l) Nuclear power

All subsidies and supports to the nuclear industry will be withdrawn. Federal insurance will no longer cover the risk of nuclear accidents.

m) Global

Under a Green government, Canada will work with other nations to achieve the development of a new global Kyoto Treaty (Kyoto 2) with the targets outlined above in part 1.

Canada will work with other nations to include a series of Solutions Uptake Clauses in Kyoto 2 designed to accelerate the uptake of carbon-reducing technologies, using annual commitments by member countries to purchase or require the increasing use of solar PV, solar hot water, electric vehicles, PHEVs, carbon capture and sequestration, efficient light bulbs and appliances, and other technologies.

Canada will support the extension of Kyoto to cover international aviation and shipping.

Canada will support the development of Kyoto's clean development mechanisms focused on verifiable greenhouse gas reductions in developing nations.

Canada will work to include China, India, the United States and all other nations in Kyoto 2.

PART 3: PRESERVING AND RESTORING THE ENVIRONMENT

Our natural environment is the source of our wealth and our health. Canada's forests, water, soil and energy resources fuel our economy. However, if we treat our environment like a business in liquidation, those resources and our economy will suffer. The lack of federal regulation, monitoring, and action has made Canada one of the world's biggest and most tragic offenders against the environment. We rank amongst the world's worst for wasteful use of natural resources. Our soil, air and waters are dumping grounds for toxic chemicals. Through inadequate environmental protection we risk leaving our children the deplorable legacy of a debilitated and degraded environment. How can we be so thoughtless?

Our Vision

The Green Party of Canada has set out its plan for a sustainable future grounded in fiscal responsibility, ecological sanity and social justice.

As the only party working within a triple bottom line (economic, ecological and social) approach to every policy, our position on key environmental issues is clear.

It is urgent that the Canadian government actually set real targets, with measurable objectives and put in place the resources to deliver on those goals. Recent history makes it clear that purely voluntary efforts do not work. Recent history also demonstrates that policies must be consistently applied. For example, it is not possible to reduce greenhouse gases while providing massive subsidies to expanding the production to the planet's most carbon-intensive oil – crude from the Athabasca tar sands.

We need to de-couple the perception that economic success is dependent on physical growth and build upon the benefits of a steady-state economy (non boom bust economy). Continued exponential growth is counter to the realities of a finite planet.

1. Air quality

Canada faces an epidemic level of respiratory diseases, exacerbated by poor air quality. On smog alert days our emergency wards are packed. Asthma is the leading cause of absenteeism from school and the third leading cause of work loss. Three million Canadians, about 8.4 % of the country's population, and one in eight children suffer from asthma and the numbers are increasing rapidly.

Yet, Canada's regulation of air quality lags behind that of other nations. Canada allows sulphur dioxide at concentrations of 115 parts per million (ppm) while the European Union, for example, allows 48 and Australia permits 80.

The issue of air quality is intimately connected with climate change. The formula is: pollution + heat = smog. A failure to confront the climate crisis, directly and soon, will result in more extreme heat conditions during the summer months. The more 30+ degrees C days that Canadians experience, the more smog days will occur.

Our Vision

The Green Party knows that regulating to reduce the precursors of smog (particulates, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide) as well as to reduce serious neuro-toxic contamination of air with mercury is necessary and is immediately possible within the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). Regulating to reduce these contaminants must be coupled with reducing the burning of fossil fuels that emits particulates as well as climate-warming greenhouse gases (GHGs). Measures to meet Kyoto targets by reducing reliance on fossil fuels will have important benefits in avoiding ever worsening heat impacts and these contaminants.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Strengthen CEPA with specific and strong regulations to reduce particulates, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, mercury and other airborne contaminants.
* Address smog-causing heat and pollution through solutions outlined in the climate change/Kyoto sections of this document.

2. Water protection and conservation

Freshwater is the lifeblood of Earth. Protecting and conserving freshwater is a major political challenge for the 21st century. Looking down from space one sees that Canada encompasses one of the Earth's most water-abundant regions. On the ground, however, the story is different. Our water use is geographically concentrated. Sixty percent of our water runs north while over 90 percent of our population is concentrated along our southern border. Sadly, Canadians are among the world's most inefficient users of water, wasting more water per capita than any other nation on Earth except for the United States. While Europe has considerably reduced its water consumption, Canadians continue to put a heavy strain on water infrastructures and drain our valuable freshwater reserves.

As stewards of nine percent of the world's renewable water, we are ethically bound to conserving it for this and future generations. While most citizens have access to safe water, Health Canada indicates that as many as 85 First Nations communities (under the sole jurisdiction of the federal government) are under boil-water advisories. As our population, economic activities and communities grow, water problems will become increasingly common. Some, like Walkerton and Kashechewan, are related to water quality; others, like recent droughts in the Prairies and Southern Ontario are water quantity issues; some span provincial borders; others national borders. All speak to a need for renewed attention to water policy by the federal government.

Our Vision

Sustainable communities and sustainable livelihoods need healthy watersheds. The Green Party is committed to responsible water stewardship. That includes restoring and protecting watersheds from industrial activities. We advocate a renewed federal government role in water management, focused on strong regulations and programs created in collaboration

with provincial and municipal governments. When it comes to our vision for Canada's freshwater, the Green Party's message is clear: Keep it. Conserve it. Protect it.

- **Keep it.** Pressure is mounting to export freshwater south of the border, with trade agreements such as North American Trade Agreement (NAFTA) leaving us susceptible to relinquishing control over our water. The Green Party supports current Federal Water Policy that emphatically opposes large-scale exports (bulk exports) of our water.
- **Conserve it.** The federal government must work to ensure sustainable use of our water resources and at the same time maintain and improve access to safe water for all Canadians. This includes water metering and pricing that both reflects a fair value for water and fosters efficient use, and regulations that protect and enhance water quality and ensure that Canada does not become a haven for water-wasting industrial technologies.
- **Protect it.** To protect and restore freshwater ecosystems and their ecological services (e.g. as habitats for fish and freshwater species; as domestic water supplies; for energy-generation and recreation; as sources of water for irrigation and other economic uses) the federal government has to use its powers, including the Fisheries Act, and its role in inter-jurisdictional water sharing. This is especially important when considering the changes in quality and quantity of Canada's freshwater that will occur due to climate change. The Great Lakes' levels will fall, resulting in higher concentrations of toxic chemicals and other pollutants; B.C. rivers will become over-heated preventing salmon spawning, and farmers will face increasing drought. The Athabasca River is already experiencing significant declines in flow due to climatic impacts and tar sand developments.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Protect the fundamental right to water for all Canadians today and in future generations by amending the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to enshrine the right of future Canadians to an ecological heritage that includes breathable air and drinkable water.
* Push government to strategically implement the 1987 Federal Water Policy to meet the requirements of sustainable water management—equity, efficiency and ecological integrity—by:

a) Passing Federal legislation to prohibit bulk water exports;
b) Establishing regulations and product standards to promote water efficient technologies in Canada;
c) Ensuring secure, safe water supplies for all citizens with a focus on First Nations communities through establishing regulations requiring protection of drinking water at its source, public inspection of domestic water supplies and mandatory and regular drinking water testing;
d) Provide funding to municipalities through a new "Water and Waste Treatment Facilities Municipal Superfund" (see section on Federal-Municipal Relations) to enable replacement of chlorination systems with ozonation, ultraviolet sterilization, sand filtration and other safe water purification systems;

e) Conduct an inventory of all polluted groundwater and water bodies and develop and implement strategies for cleaning them up; and,
f) Enhance the capacity of federal departments and agencies to protect and restore the health of aquatic ecosystems

* Ensure that water is managed in a way that helps create healthy, sustainable communities and fosters sustainable livelihoods by demanding that government:

a) Replace federal guidelines for drinking water quality with binding national standards that secure clean drinking water and human health;
b) Make federal funding for urban water infrastructure contingent on water efficiency plans that include measurable and enforceable goals and objectives;
c) Provide adequate funding for local and regional flood protection and drought management planning;
d) Provide strategic climate change program funding for water conservation on the basis that water conservation results in energy savings and reduced greenhouse gas emissions;
e) Revive the InfraGuide program (quietly eliminated by Environment Minister John Baird) that supported graduate internships in leading edge municipal infrastructure projects
f) Shift subsidies and funding away from dams and diversions (including feasibility studies) toward comprehensive "ground to the glass" drinking water protection strategies, especially source water protection, watershed restoration and community-based water conservation and efficiency planning and programs; and,
g) Review federal agricultural subsidies and develop transitional strategies to shift production away from water intensive crops toward local sustainable agriculture.

* Address inter-provincial/territorial and international water-related concerns by demanding that government:

a) Restore ecosystem health to Canada's coastline and inland watersheds by funding improvements to municipal wastewater treatment systems, with particular emphasis on ensuring shoreline communities and industries stop dumping untreated waste into rivers, lakes and oceans; and,
b) Ensure that binding water-sharing agreements among provincial, territorial and federal governments are created within the Mackenzie Basin (within 1 year). The agreements must reflect contemporary scientific knowledge and principles of social equity, efficiency and ecological integrity. Elements to include:
    1) Capping withdrawals from the Athabasca River based on assessment of in stream flow needs;
    2) Ensuring oil sands developers deal responsibly with polluted waters in storage ponds (largest man-made structures on Earth); and,
    3) Placing a moratorium on further oil sands development (i.e. increases in annual production).
c) Review the Prairie Provinces Water Board Master Agreement on Apportionment to ensure it is consistent with contemporary scientific knowledge and principles of social equity, efficiency and ecological integrity;
d) Address invasive species in the Great Lakes by developing stringent, science-based protocols for ballast water flushing prior to entering the St. Lawrence waterway, and funding for monitoring and enforcement of these protocols;
e) Strengthen the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to ensure it deals with emerging issues such as endocrine disrupters and pharmaceuticals;

f) Support international momentum for the human right to water by establishing a national legally binding human right to basic water requirements for all Canadians (both quality and quantity); and,
g) Increase Canadian aid for access to basic water requirements and sanitation consistent with the Millennium Development Goals.

* Fulfill the need to increase science capacity related to water issues by demanding the government:

a) Enhance funding for data collection and integrated information-systems on water use, availability and quality; and,
b) Link research spending in the natural and social sciences to water policy goals to ensure our higher education institutions create the knowledge for 21st century water management (i.e. emerging issues such as endocrine disrupters, pharmaceuticals and toxics, instream flows and sustainable groundwater yield, climate change adaptation).

3. National parks

Every Prime Minister of Canada for the last twenty years has committed to the completion of the national parks system and the creation of Marine Protected Areas sufficient to protect marine ecosystems -- except the current Prime Minister. The 2005 Liberal Budget committed $209 million over five years to capital maintenance and acquisition in existing parks, but did not increase funding to the creation of new parks. Key ecological areas are under assault. Unless government acts soon, areas like the South Okanagan, Canada's only area of true desert, wilderness in Labrador, or the Flathead in British Columbia, will no longer be available for protection. They will be lost due to development pressures.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has warned Canada that we are allowing dangerous erosion of existing parks that are designated as World Heritage Sites, particularly Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho National Parks as well as several provincial reserves. The UNESCO Committee pointed to the risk of "adverse impacts of the operation of the Cheviot mine on the integrity" of parks, particularly Jasper.

UNESCO also warned that Canada was not doing enough to ensure that "various mining, mineral, oil and gas explorations activities" around Nahanni National Park, located in the southwest corner of the Northwest Territories, not be allowed to erode the ecological integrity of the park.

The progress on Marine Protected Areas is even worse. While Canada has protected less than 1% of its marine areas, Australia has protected 7.5%.

Yet, Canadians do care. Polls reveal that 90 percent of Canadians consider time spent in natural areas as children very important; 85 percent participate regularly in nature-related activities; 98 percent view nature as essential to human survival.

VISION GREEN

Our Vision

The Green Party is committed to reversing the disappointing recent trend of the federal government to devalue park protection, with firm and unwavering action to protect existing parks and expand our terrestrial and marine park systems. We must rapidly establish "no-take" marine parks as a last chance to save our vast tracts of critically threatened and over-fished coastlines.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Re-commit to the completion of the National Parks system that consists of a representative network of Canada's terrestrial and marine ecosystems, setting a target date of 2015 with emphasis on:
    a) Fast tracking the establishment of "no-take" marine protected areas. Consultation with fisheries communities and sectors is essential drawing on experience from New Zealand and elsewhere where "no-take" areas actually improved the economically viable fisheries;
    b) Extending, in partnership with provinces, territories, and aboriginal peoples, Canada's network of land, freshwater and marine protected areas and linking them up with provincial and territorial protected areas wherever possible, and establishing compatible-use buffer zones around national parks for the maintenance of natural biological diversity and ecosystem health; and,
    c) Providing Parks Canada with the funding necessary to protect the ecological integrity of Canada's National Parks.

* Establish a National Park Completion Budget of $500 million annually to meet the goal of completing our National Parks and Marine Protected Areas Systems by 2015.
* Implement the recommendations of conservation scientists for effective action to preserve:
    a) Critically threatened habitats;
    b) Keystone species, endangered species, or species of commercial or cultural value, especially those of First Nations value;
    c) Habitats specifically threatened by global-warming; and,
    d) Continuous interconnected tracts of habitat for wide-range migrating species sufficient to maintain viable populations.
* Advocate the purchase of private land, where necessary, to help protect critical habitats especially of endangered species.
* Increase monitoring and protection efforts, including park rangers and guides with interpretation skills to educate Canadians and visitors on the vast beauty and value within our National Parks.

4. Species at risk

Globally our wealth of species is being lost at an astounding rate. Canada's rich heritage of wildlife is disappearing. While Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA), proclaimed in 2003, has some redeeming qualities, overall its flaws make it ineffective in protecting Canada's threatened species. It provides basic protection only for species on federal lands—about 5 percent of the lands in Canada. It lets the federal cabinet rather than COSEWIC (the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) scientists decide on which species are on the "species at risk" list. Habitat protection and recovery plans are voluntary.

The legal listing of species at risk has become more political and less scientific each year. Cultus Lake sockeye salmon were not listed to avoid "significant socio-economic impacts on sockeye fishers and coastal communities." Eight aquatic species recommended by COSEWIC were not listed by federal cabinet in 2006. Fisheries Minister Loyola Hearn said it was "to ensure that we don't negatively affect the fishing industry."

In the last few years, despite rhetoric about "safety nets", the federal government has refused to issue emergency orders to protect critical habitat on non-federal lands. Ottawa has looked the other way as the BC government has permitted logging in Northern spotted owl habitat, condemning the last few pairs to extinction in Canada.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes in the conservation of species diversity as an essential part of a healthy environment. To do this we must strengthen the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and make it an effective tool that actually protects endangered species and their habitats everywhere in Canada including all federal, provincial, territorial, First Nations and private lands. We envision an Act that includes powers to enforce prescribed measures to protect species at risk and stop acts of non-compliance. We believe the COSEWIC scientists should have the final say on the designation of threatened species and not have its recommendations subject to Cabinet approval, a condition that greatly weakens COSEWIC's power and ability to protect species at risk.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

* Amend the Species at Risk Act (SARA) to:
    a) Ensure that listing under the Species at Risk Act is based on scientific, and not political, processes. COSEWIC's determination would be the actual legal listing. Cabinet approval would be removed;
    b) Ensure that recovery-planning efforts identify and then appropriately manage, protect and/or restore the habitat that species need to recover, through consultative, collaborative efforts with stakeholders, land-owners, provinces, municipalities, and First Nations governments; and,
    c) Ensure that it is a criminal offence, made punishable as a *mens rea* offence, to kill a listed species, regardless of whether the offence occurred on federal or provincial land.

5. Toxic chemicals

It is shameful that Canada ranked nearly last amongst Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries in our generation of pollution and nuclear and hazardous wastes. (The 30 OECD member countries represent approximately 60 percent of the world's economy, 70 percent of world trade and 20 percent of the world's population.) Canada also lagged behind in the effectiveness of regulations covering toxic and chemical waste.

The Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) is now in the early stages of its legislated five-year review. Industry groups are lobbying the government to water down the term "toxic" in the Act. They are concerned about the "stigma" associated with the term when it is applied to materials they produce. However, "toxic" accurately describes substances that are potentially harmful to human health and the environment, and weakening the term sends a signal to the public and to government that taking action to protect Canadians' health and the environment is not urgent. It is therefore essential that the legal framework of "toxic" substances not be eroded. The definitions within the act must remain unchanged, although the subject heading could be expanded to "Toxic and other harmful substances."

CEPA should require that the onus be on industry to show that the products they produce are safe, contrary to the current onus on government to demonstrate harm from these products. An industry onus is a key feature of the emerging REACH system for regulating chemicals in the European Union, expected to become law in early 2007. Europe is the largest chemicals market in the world. There is every reason for Canada to follow their lead.

The Green Party of Canada remains concerned that Canada's key legislation to protect human health and the environment from threats posed by human-generated substances does not include pesticides or radio-nuclides. Now is the time to remedy this gap and amend CEPA to cover the non-commercial aspects of pesticides, thus allowing the Pest Control Products Act to continue to regulate the registration and use of pesticidal products, but allowing banning of dangerous substances and handling of disposal and spills to move into CEPA.

The historic tradition of secrecy surrounding the nuclear industry has kept emissions from nuclear power plants off CEPA's list. Levels of tritium in Ontario's water are high enough to be of concern, but they fall into a regulatory lacuna. Similarly, other harmful substances found in consumer products are not regulated by CEPA. While other laws such as the Hazardous Products Act (HPA) and the Food and Drugs Act (FDA) can sometimes be used to regulate such products, these laws are inadequate in addressing the human health and environmental risks. For example, the HPA bans lead in children's jewelry, but allows this proven toxic in a wide range of other products. The HPA and FDA also do not deal with substances that pose a threat to humans via their persistence in our environment, such as perfluorinated compounds and other substances that are persistent and bio-accumulative.

Despite having its objective of maintaining an "ecosystem-based approach," CEPA fails to provide specific protection for Canada's most significant and vulnerable ecosystems, in

particular the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence basin, Georgia and Juan de Fuca Straits and the Arctic. The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence basin is the world's largest freshwater ecosystem. It supports one third of Canada's population and generates one half of our economic activity. Nearly one half of Canada's air pollution is also generated within this region. Juan de Fuca Straight on the west coast is home to endangered populations of killer whales whose bodies are so contaminated from bioaccumulation of toxins that they have to be classified as hazardous waste. Some of the pollutants generated in southern Canada end up in the high Arctic (through airborne contamination - see Air Quality section), causing irreparable harm to wildlife and poisoning the food system that many Inuit rely upon.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes the onus should be on industry to show that the products they produce are safe, contrary to the current onus on government to demonstrate harm from these products. An industry onus is a key feature of the emerging REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals) system for regulating chemicals in the European Union (EU). Europe is the largest chemicals market in the world. We believe that Canada must follow their lead. It is essential that the legal framework of "toxic" substances not be eroded in CEPA, but rather, be expanded. We believe CEPA must be amended to cover the non-commercial aspects of pesticides, thus allowing the Pest Control Products Act to continue to regulate the registration and use of pesticide products, while banning of dangerous pesticide substances and handling of disposal and spills are dealt with by CEPA. We believe CEPA should be extended to control toxic radio-nuclides, pesticides and many other substances shown to be of significant risk to health.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

* Amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) to:
    a) Cover non-commercial handling and disposal of pesticides and radio-nuclides;
    b) Cover regulation of all substances shown to be a significant risk of human health including those causing cancer, immuno-suppression, endocrine disruption, neuro-toxicity and/or mutations;
    c) Register and restrict the use of the toxic chemicals mentioned in (b) above, with the goal of first eliminating the exposure of vulnerable groups within society (pregnant women, the unborn, children, the sick, the poor, the elderly and aboriginals) to them and ultimately eliminating their use altogether;
    d) Require a precautionary principal towards chemical management. Instead of determining the safety or harm of a product after it is already in the marketplace, companies that make a chemical should be responsible for proving the safety of it before it can be used, as is done with pharmaceuticals; and,
    e) Adding pollution prevention to the CEPA mandate.
* Establish a significant Toxic Chemical Tax (CTC) on harmful chemicals to make industry accountable for chemicals it produces and to prod industry to reduce and eliminate the production of toxic substances registered under the CEPA.
* End the production and use of the most dangerous toxic chemicals in Canada by 2012.
* End the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes in Canada by 2010.

* Establish a CEPA taskforce to focus on pollution reduction in the Great Lakes-Saint Laurence Basin and the Juan de Fuca-Georgia Strait region.
* Create a large Clean Canada Fund to clean up toxic sites.
* Ban the importation of toxic waste and their incineration.
* Cleanup of all toxic waste sites by 2030, with a priority placed on those communities most at risk.

6. Environmental science support: reverse the "brain drain" in federal science capacity

In the last two decades much has conspired to erode the scientific capacity of the federal civil service.

The deep cuts in budgets through the "programme review" phase of the former Liberal Government happened to coincide with a widespread (or at least within the OECD) fad for "smaller government" and the injection of a managerial fetish in the civil service. Many experienced scientists took early retirement on very favourable terms. Managers from other departments, without any policy strength or scientific background moved into key positions in departments such as Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans.

Ottawa mandarins such as Gordon Ritchie and Harry Swain have also decried the shift to a managerial culture, in which policy expertise is degraded in preference to some generic management experience. The professional union representing civil servants has also noted that the careerist ambitions of the new civil service culture do not serve the public interest. The previous *esprit de corps* and expertise within scientifically grounded departments better served the public interest.

While the Green Party is not in favour of big government for its own sake, it is penny-wise and pound-foolish to allow government policy to be starved of solid scientific in-house expertise. The Green Party notes another economic reality of operating with a "leaner" civil service. Much ends up being "out-sourced" at a higher cost than if the government had its own scientific strength.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes that the federal government must signal to the civil service that it values and supports environmental scientists. That includes regularly seeking scientific advice regarding all levels of environmentally related decision-making. We decry the shift to a managerial culture, in which policy expertise is degraded in preference to management experience.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Direct the Clerk of the Privy Council to reform the civil service to elevate core competence over a managerial culture.

* Include $15 million annually to the federal budget to add knowledgeable scientific staff to Environment Canada, Health Canada and Fisheries and Oceans ($5 million each) thereby increasing their competency.
* Re-establish the post of Ambassador for the Environment and Sustainable Development.
* Ensure the independence of the Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainable Development, through a stand-alone piece of legislation allowing the Commissioner to report directly to the House of Commons.

7. Zero waste

Earlier generations grew up with the aphorism "waste not, want not." Our generation seems to have embraced "want much, waste much."

Landfills, formerly called garbage dumps, account for more greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than do mining, construction and domestic aviation combined. Most of these GHG emissions are in the form of methane gas which is nearly 30 times more heat absorbing than carbon dioxide. Landfills also leach toxic chemicals into soil and water. There has to be a better way to deal with garbage.

Our Vision

The Green Party has adopted the goal of "zero waste." This means shifting from thinking of waste as a problem to considering waste as a resource. Canada's failure to manage waste properly represents a huge loss of resources and revenue. Reusing and recycling wastes have been shown to generate ten to fifteen times more jobs than incineration or landfilling. We believe that strong incentives must be in place for industry and consumers to reduce waste to zero. Setting a goal of zero waste will provide direction and inspiration.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Work in cooperation with provincial and municipal authorities to find ways to expand the scope of product responsibility programs where manufacturers are responsible for the entire lifespan of their products including recycling it at the end of its usefulness.
* Provide assistance to municipalities (through the Waste and Waste Treatment Facilities Municipalities Superfund – see section on Federal-Provincial Relations) in carrying out major waste reduction activities including recycling and central composting facilities.
* Pass laws, such as those in Germany, requiring manufacturers to accept lifetime stewardship of all products, including packaging. Once goods are returned to the manufacturer, the materials are better designed to be re-usable and recoverable.
* Move to full reclamation of all electronic and hazardous materials by placing a recycling deposit tax to be paid when purchasing goods.

8. Commercial seal hunt

The seal hunt is viewed by many people in Canada, and abroad, as an inhumane activity that is ecologically unsound and unsustainable. This is particularly true now that climate change has increased pup mortality in spring due to a lack of, and thin ice.

The annual seal hunt is the largest killing of marine mammals anywhere on the planet. Its enormity threatens Canada's overseas reputation for little local value.

Our Vision

The Green Party does not support a commercial seal hunt in Canada. We are not opposed to subsistence hunting by aboriginal peoples and local communities. However, we consider seal hunting, like whaling, to be a threat to the marine ecosystem. The loss of ice due to climate change threatens seal populations and exacerbates what many believe is an already unsustainable level of hunting:

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* End federal assistance to the commercial seal hunt and support an end to the seal hunt.
* Work with other levels of government to find sustainable economic alternatives for sealers and their communities and provide full compensation to sealers for lost income.

9. Animal welfare

Everyone is against cruelty to animals, but factory farming has brought a new level of inhumane treatment. Chickens are packed tightly in cages their whole life, cattle crowd in feedlots, and pigs are kept indoors in cages on slatted metal floors all their lives. Most people believe that animals, including domesticated animals, have the right to be treated humanely. The current Federal laws protect animals from cruelty under the Criminal Code, but animals fall into the property section, thus Cruelty to Animal offences are among the very few offences that can only be convicted as summary convictions (minor offences, with limited penalties). As well, the Criminal Code uses the term 'willful intent' making it very hard to prove a person has violated the code.

Our Vision

We believe that animals should be treated humanely and with respect at all times. Farming practices must allow animals to live without undue stress and in conditions where they are able to exercise normal behaviours. Many animals that live in intensive farming systems show signs of stress such as stereotypies (repetitive behaviours with no purpose) and aggression. Some animals are kept in a state of starvation such as chicken breeder broilers and sows (mothers of pigs used for meat) in order to keep them at a healthy weight, despite their bred-in genetic predisposition to gain weight. Mortalities, disease and injuries from long transport are a common occurrence since abattoirs are often long distances from farms.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Adopt animal welfare legislation to prevent inhumane treatment of farm animals including intensive factory farming methods. The act will set minimum standards of treatment and have a timetable for the phase out of intensive factory farming and other inhumane animal husbandry practices. It will set standards for distances live animals can be transported, conditions of animals in slaughterhouses, auctions, entertainment, and it will prohibit trade in exotic animals.

10. Green Arctic strategy

The Canadian Arctic is a stunningly beautiful environment. It has been home for millennia to Inuit and Dene peoples. And it is among the planet's first victims of climate change.

The North is also experiencing unprecedented levels of development pressures. Diamond mines, oil and gas exploration and the potential Mackenzie gas pipeline all threaten to change the way of life for indigenous peoples forever. One can argue whether the changes are for good or for ill, but there is no doubt that many of these impacts will be devastating for the fragile Northern environment.

The United States has been issuing oil and gas leases in disputed areas off shore from the Yukon, and this is only the beginning of disputes in our territory, as several nations claim some of the water between our islands is international water. Our sovereignty is in dispute, in spite of the fact that Inuit have continuously occupied and used the land and ocean there for over 5000 years.

Our Vision

Canada has 202,075 kilometres of coastline and most of it lies in the Arctic. Tourists, miners, business people, and those of all ages will gravitate to the coast. People will require policing, lifesaving rescue, medical help, accommodation, and direction. There are six major east-west routes for shipping through Arctic islands in Canadian territory, and we are the only nation willing to clean up oil spills and govern the territory. It is essential that Canada clarify its rights and obligations with respect to the Arctic region with protection of people, wildlife and the fragile ecology in mind.

There is a clear rationale for a pan-Arctic waste management strategy that includes wastes from all diverse sources as they all share the same Arctic waters, air and land. Most importantly they all directly affect Inuit and the wildlife that sustains them.
It is urgent that Canada clarifies its rights and obligations.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Ask the United Nations to rule on the sovereignty of waters between our islands, and the sovereignty of the land off the Yukon coast, including the validity of oil and gas leases issued by the United States for land near the Yukon.
* Support the United Nations draft declaration on human rights of Indigenous peoples. Support the training and equipping of rangers, Canadian Inuit who live throughout the Arctic and are experienced survival experts on land and sea. They would comprise the backbone of the emergency support groups on thousands of Arctic islands.
* Develop a comprehensive pan-Arctic waste management strategy that addresses issues like dumping of wastes into water and open dump burning on land and that integrates community, mining, fishing, cruise ships, tourism, commercial shipping and military waste management strategies.
* Commission a major class of icebreaker, capable of rescue work with any likely depth of ice.
* Require that any foreign ship passing through the six Northwest Passages, or into any Canadian water within 200 miles off any Arctic island, be registered for using the passage.
* Fund installation of listening devices throughout waters of the Arctic, intercept ships not registered, fine any failing to cooperate, fine any discovered to be polluting the ocean or fishing and hunting without a license, and provide all forms of law and order.
* Establish terrestrial and marine protected areas in an ecologically representative network in the three northern Territories.
* Improve and increase monitoring of indigenous food (e.g. Caribou meat, etc.) to ensure Inuit and Dene people, particularly pregnant women and nursing mothers, are not being over-exposed to persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals that build up through the global food chain and pool at high levels in the Arctic. Work to develop collaborative community based education programmes to promote the use of food with less toxicity.
* Invest in renewable local energy sources (wind and solar to avoid the hugely expensive and polluting dependency on imported diesel.)
* Restore funding to the Northern Climate Exchange (recently cut by the Conservatives) and expand funding for Arctic science, particularly critical in light of the climate change threat in this, International Polar Year.
* Restore the post of Ambassador to the Circumpolar North.

11. Measuring and protecting Canada's natural accounts

The Green Party will support extending Canada's existing system of national accounts to include measures of annual changes in the depletion and addition to Canada's principal biological resources. Wild fish, natural forests and productive agricultural soils represent some of the real wealth of a nation. It is felt that as depletion or addition to fish, trees and soils takes place, these should be reflected in measures of Canada's worth.
A serious analysis should be made of the economic costs/values/benefits of key ecological functions. This would allow better public policies and more comprehensive statements about the true economic value of biodiversity as a whole.

Purely economic measurements – such as GDP – ignore key factors underpinning well-being. The Green Party believes that the application of an evaluation method that seeks to account for key social, environmental and long-term economic features in different parts of the country and local communities could provide new insights and rationales for the conservation of local and regional biodiversity. These tools stand to play a key role making citizens aware of the attributes of strong biodiversity and help achieve the intent of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Our Vision

The Green Party will continue to support 'quality of life' evaluation methods such as the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) as a means to improve quality of life and protect biodiversity. The Green Party will also support research into the economics of protecting biodiversity and the development of fiscal tools to limit the negative impact of human activity on the Ecosphere. Eliminating capital gains on donations of ecologically significant land and more appropriate land-use taxes are key measures to limit demand-side pressures on biodiversity.

PART 4: PEOPLE

Once we envision the society we want, we clearly see its outlines.

Vibrant communities are places where, as Jane Jacobs described, people know their neighbours, streets are safe and friendly, and volunteering for the public good is common, leading to feelings of affiliation, belonging, and empowerment.

Without intending to do so, government policy, by treating such goals as peripheral to economic growth, has allowed feelings of alienation, hostility and selfishness to crowd out shared values of decades ago.

As Martin Luther King Jr. noted, you cannot legislate morality. Nevertheless, when the human scale of government policy is ignored, when the tax system, employment strategies, and labour policies all mitigate towards less leisure and family time, more time in long commutes, and an increasingly "time-stressed" population, as measured by Statistics Canada, government policy should adjust its goals to re-balance and protect these fundamental pillars of our civilization – family and community.

In the last few years, quality of life, as measured in our ability to get ahead and enjoy more leisure time, has declined for 90 percent of Canadians. Homelessness, mental health and drug addiction problems have increased. The cost of post-secondary education and training has sky-rocketed. The gap between rich and poor in Canada has widened. Women, on average, still earn far less than men. The middle class is struggling. Given the wealth and resources of our country, this is tragic.

1. Family-focused programme

Increasingly, national and international studies document significant stress on Canadian children and their parents.[2] While it is true that an unacceptably large number of Canadian families live in poverty, many more are suffering from "time poverty." Statistics Canada tracks time stress of Canadians and reports a steady increase in Canadians who report not having enough time in their lives to accomplish all required tasks. Longer commutes rob Canadians of time at home. Longer working hours rob community members of time for volunteer activities. Poorly planned transit and the lack of convenient workplace child care spaces rob parents of time with their kids.

There is a real cost to society as citizens have less and less time to contribute to community and school activities. Not surprisingly, Statistics Canada also reports a steady decline in volunteer hours donated by Canadians. Lack of time to contribute to community also leads to feelings of loss and alienation. On the other hand, time spent in effort to better our

[2] UNICEF recently ranked Canada 12th out of 24 in its index of child well-being in industrialized countries, noting children in the survey do not have enough time with parents. Vanier Institute of the Family noted a lack of family and community cohesion in their findings of increasingly aggressive and anti-social youth behaviour.

society leads to positive feelings of affiliation (belonging) and of empowerment (knowing one's actions make a difference.)

The Green Party wants to address this multi-layered problem in many parts of our policies: fiscal, labour and social programmes.

The tax policy of the Green Party Government will increase the opportunity for Canadians to spend more time with family. Increasingly, adults are stressed and stretched to care for elderly parents, children, partners or spouses with debilitating illness, and any family members with disabilities. Other families may choose to have one partner work from home, maintaining a family garden, pursuing a career in the arts where steady paid work is hard to secure, or for any number of reasons.

Our Vision

The Green Party of Canada is committed to nurturing families and communities through integrated policies that focus on the welfare of the child, starting with prenatal nutrition all the way to affordable housing and accessible post secondary education. We believe we must stop designing our communities around the car and start designing them around families and children. There are no easy solutions. We have to address the multi-layered problems facing families through new, innovative fiscal, labour and social policies.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Urge reforms to our tax and labour policies in ways that will increase the opportunity for Canadians to spend more time with family.
* Promote an integrated programme of supports, tax cuts, and awareness raising that time spent with children, time spent in community, time spent in interdependent healthy relation as community is essential for the continuation of our society.

2. Relief for the middle class

A healthy democracy requires a large, strong, healthy middle class. The well-being of Canada's middle class is threatened as the gap between the rich and the poor widens and middle class families find it harder to meet all their needs, in terms of both money and time.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes that one way to provide relief for Canada's middle class is through revamping our tax system to enable income splitting within families, and thus a joint calculation of income that will reduce taxes. Approximately 18.7 million Canadians live in families with two or more income earners. Households where one partner is in a higher tax bracket than the other will end up paying less tax when they are allowed to income split on their tax return. So far the government has only allowed the splitting of pension income, not

total income, between senior couples. The public groundswell for allowing income splitting of all incomes by all couples is growing.

The Green Party acknowledges that income splitting does not benefit low-income families or families where income earners earn about the same amount. However, failure to solve all problems through one measure is not a good reason to fail to solve many problems. Those not impacted by the income-splitting move will be helped through targeted programmes to assist low-income families.

A major criticism of this measure will increase pressure on women to stay at home to raise their children. The Green Party believes it will allow one spouse to take a lower paying job in charitable or NGO work. It will allow one spouse to work from home in growing a garden, in developing artistic talents, in writing for perilously low income. The argument that income splitting will be a socially regressive measure is an important consideration and can be met with programmes to ensure women who wish to maintain an unbroken career path after having children, or who wish to return to the workforce after the early years at home, are supported to do so. Because any parent should be able to choose to stay at home with young children, or equally, be supported through high-quality child care if they wish to remain in the workforce, we advocate a range of programmes. There is no cookie-cutter, one size fits all, solution for Canadian families. What matters is that programmes support choice and the well-being of that which is most precious – our children.

Income splitting, with an estimated economic "hit" estimated to be from $3 to 5 billion will be made possible through a carbon tax.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Modify the Income Tax Act to enable income splitting, which offers tax benefits particularly to middle income couples where there is a significant differential in the level of income between partners.
* Reduce income taxes through revenue neutral tax shifting made possible through the carbon tax.

3. Child care

Canadian families need access to affordable, high quality child care as an aspect of early childhood education. There are also clear benefits to maximizing time together for parents with young children. Canadians want a programme with flexibility. A cheque for $100/month does not begin to address these needs.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes we need a high-quality federally-funded universal child care program in Canada. Workplace child care has been shown to improve productivity, decrease employee absenteeism, ensure quality care for children (because parents can "drop in" at any

time to see their young children), and permits longer breast-feeding of infants. Work-place child care spaces create other benefits, recognizing the emerging literature that children benefit enormously from time with their mothers, especially when very young.

The beneficent spiral of providing workplace child care also includes making it easier for many working Canadians to use mass transit. When parents and children are traveling to the same destination, the trip can often be made in less time on public transit, while parents are able to spend more time with children.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Restore and revamp the 2005 agreement reached between the federal government, provinces and territories to achieve a universal child care programme in Canada.
*Specifically ensure that Canada's universal child care programme provides workplace child care spaces wherever possible.
* Tax shift to make advertising directed at children ineligible for corporate tax write-offs.
* Accelerate the creation of workplace child care spaces through a direct tax credit to employers (or groups of employers in small businesses) of $1500 tax credit/child per year.
* Value the decisions of parents who choose to stay home with children.
* Promote and facilitate access to Roots of Empathy Programme to every Canadian child at some point in their elementary school years.

4. Seniors

Aging baby boomers are swelling the ranks of seniors. Canada's senior population is growing in both number and as a proportion of Canada's total population. Many anticipate a crisis for health care and social services.

It is true that seniors use a disproportionate amount of health care dollars. Dementia is a growing concern as the number of Canadians with Alzheimer's Disease (AD) or other dementia, estimated to be 420,600 today, is expected to quadruple by 2047. The Alzheimer Society of Canada estimates the current cost of treating people with dementia at $5.5 billion a year. Some analysts predict that over the next 25 years, AD and other forms of cognitive impairment will have the highest economic, social and health costs of all diseases in Canada.

Our Vision

The Green Party recognizes that seniors have a wealth of experience and have contributed immeasurably to the development of the nation we currently celebrate. They should be involved in creating the solutions to our society's problems and challenges; not considered as one of the "problems."

We believe that all seniors have the right to live their retirement years in dignity and continue to contribute to society to the best of their abilities and desires. Government must provide the supportive services and opportunities to make that possible. We believe that the

government must take the lead in educating the public about end of life issues, including the limits to artificial life support systems, surgical operations and chemical therapies to extend life and postpone the inevitable transition from life.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Review workplace policies to end mandatory retirement and provide for flexible retirement benefits for those seniors who want to continue working.
* Develop, in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, a set of national home care objectives in a National Home Care Policy, that incorporates and improves upon existing policies affecting eldercare, including but not restricted to: ensuring couples needing support and care can continue to live together; economic allowances (such as tax rebates); living choices; transportation and respite care.
* Require that all corporate pension plans be audited to ensure that they are adequately funded and properly managed and set a policy directive to take corrective action when they are not.
* Ensure all seniors who qualify are made aware of available federal income supplements available and instructed on how to apply for them.
* Review in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, the current social and legal policies to ensure that citizens and law enforcement officials recognize elder abuse, prevent it where possible, and proceed with appropriate charges and punishment when elder abuse has occurred.
* Help develop national guidelines for care of the frail elderly who have special needs and require care by geriatric specialists.
* Establish and fund a special program to provide grants to non-profit societies setting up palliative care hospices.
* Guarantee people the right to draw up a "living will" that gives them the power to limit or refuse medical intervention and treatment so the person has the choice to die with dignity.

5. Healthier people – healthier health care

Governments keep telling Canadians how they are going to "fix" the health care system. Yet many problems are actually getting worse including longer wait-lists for diagnosis and surgery, over-crowded emergency rooms and increasing shortages of family doctors. The state of our health is getting worse, too. One in five Canadian children have asthma. Almost half of us face cancer at some time in our lives. There is an epidemic of obesity in adults and children. Close to one million Canadians have been diagnosed with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities. Skyrocketing PharmaCare costs have now eclipsed all other health care expenditures.

Throwing more money to the provinces, as the federal government has been doing in the last two governments, is not achieving concrete results. The 2004 First Ministers Health Accord committed $41 billion to health care system improvements, including $5.5 billion over 10 years to reduce wait times. Benchmarks were established in December 2005 in five key health care areas that have been prone to longer waiting times.

Experts tell us that spending more money does not necessarily produce better results. Economies of scale can be achieved through creating centralized wait lists, moving from a paper system to electronic technology to share information, addressing the staffing shortage and in some cases, the facility and equipment shortages. These steps can help in reducing wait times, but the truth is that Canada does not have enough doctors, nurses, radiologists and other health care providers. Short-sightedly, government cut back on the training of doctors in the 1990s and failed to help fast-track the certification of foreign-trained doctors and nurses. Now Canada ranks among the lowest of 30 OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries in the ratio of doctors and acute care beds per thousand people. In some parts of Canada, 60 % of people have no family doctor. It is a matter of training more doctors and ensuring better allocation of doctors—more family doctors, fewer specialists and channeling more doctors into working in rural areas.

We have also focused on treating acute health problems after they arise, and failed to place sufficient priority on preventing illness in the first place.

Our Vision

The Green Party subscribes to the World Health Organization's definition of health as "a complete state of physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Our present health care system addresses only one dimension – the treatment of disease and/or trauma by qualified professionals in publicly funded medical facilities.

The Green Party believes that we can solve health care problems, including excessive wait times for surgeries, within our public health care system, as they are doing successfully in Alberta (hip and knee replacement program) and many parts of Europe.

The Green Party of Canada fully supports the Canada Health Act (CHA) and all of its principles. We oppose any level of privatized, for-profit health care. The **five criteria** of the CHA guiding the provincial public health insurance plans, which we believe to be non-negotiable, are:

1. **Public Administration**: The public health insurance plan must be managed in a public, not-for-profit fashion.
2. **Comprehensiveness**: All residents must be covered for "medically necessary" health services.
3. **Universality**: All residents must be covered by the public insurance plan on uniform terms and conditions.
4. **Portability**: All residents must be covered by their public plan, wherever they are treated in Canada.
5. **Accessibility**: All residents must have access to insured health care services on uniform terms and conditions without direct or indirect financial charges, or discrimination based on age, health status or financial circumstances.

The threat of a NAFTA challenge from the American for-profit health care industry cannot be over-estimated. Allowing for-profit health care would be the "thin end of the wedge" that jeopardizes our entire health system. Based on the rules for "national treatment," if Canada allows increasing numbers of for-profit facilities, we run the risk of losing our entire universal single payer system in a NAFTA challenge. We cannot take that risk. Fixing our health care system means protecting the core elements of universal single-payer health care.

In order to keep health care spending from continuing to skyrocket we must find a way to control the cost of drugs. The best ways to do this is to set up a Universal PharmaCare program, a bulk drug purchasing agency, and make new drug patent protection times shorter. We used to have a successful generic drug market in Canada, but changes to the patent laws have almost wiped it out. The expiry of patents for a number of commonly prescribed drugs in the near future presents a great opportunity for government to step in and help provide far less expensive generic drugs. The Green Party accepts the principle advocated by the Canadian Diabetes Association that no Canadian should spend more than 3% of their total after tax earnings on necessary prescribed medications and other treatments.

The Green Party of Canada understands that health is about more than "health care." We are in the midst of a cancer epidemic, and no one is willing to speak of it out loud. Hundreds of chemicals used in our everyday life carry risks of increased cancer, infertility, learning disabilities and other intellectual impairment, and damage to the immune system. There are less toxic substitutes for these products, but industry lobbies to maintain their registration and legal use drowns out the voices of concerned health professionals and families concerned about health.

As noted above in the toxics section, the Green Party of Canada will act to remove from use those chemicals known to have a significant risk of human cancer, immuno-suppression, endocrine disruption, neuro-toxicity and/or mutagenicity. The substances will be regulated within CEPA to restrict use and registration with the goal of reducing and/or eliminating exposure to vulnerable groups within society (pregnant women, the unborn, children, the sick, the poor and the elderly). In addition, emissions of these substances will be subject to a Toxic Tax, offset by reductions elsewhere in the tax system.

We will eliminate toxic waste sites over a multi-year plan, with a priority on those communities most at risk. The Green Party of Canada will not rely on "risk management." A Green government will operate to reduce and manage hazard, not delaying action based on discredited modeling designed to protect chemicals, not people.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

1) Improve Our Existing Acute Care System

* Use the full force of the Canada Health Act, federal spending power opposes any steps that open the way to two-tier health care in Canada.

* Address the cost crisis that produces long waitlists by providing more money to hire staff to open currently closed beds, fully utilize existing operating rooms in hospitals and purchase new diagnostic equipment.
* Provide funds immediately to begin training more doctors and nurses.
* Work with the CMA (Canadian Medical Association) to immediately establish qualification standards and on-the-job mentorship programs to fast-track certification of foreign trained health care professionals.
* Provide student loan forgiveness incentives for graduating doctors, nurses, paramedics and other health care professionals who agree to staff rural facilities and family practice clinics where recruitment is currently a problem.
* Provide funds to expand provincial health insurance to cover proven alternative therapies that are less expensive and invasive such as chiropractic, massage, acupuncture.
* Improve access to midwifery services across Canada.

2) Improve Our Chronic Care System

* Enshrine a policy that seniors' care must be provided in the communities where they or their families live.
* Expand home support and home care programs and assisted-living services to support people with chronic care needs, including many seniors who wish to stay in their own homes and communities.
* Transfer funds to provinces to build and open more long-term care beds.
* Educating Canadians about end-of-life issues; increase funding for palliative care hospices in hospitals and our communities; enact "living-will" legislation that guarantees people the right to limit or refuse medical intervention and treatment so people have the choice to die with dignity. (See **Seniors** section above)

3) Reduce the Costs of PharmaCare

* Initiate a public inquiry into the rising costs and over-prescription of drugs.
* Immediately embark on a commission to study and conduct a cost-benefit analysis on the feasibility of establishing, in cooperation with the provinces, a new crown corporation to bulk purchase and dispense generic drugs to pharmacies and the feasibility of establishing a national PharmaCare Program that ensures that effective pharmaceuticals are available to all Canadians who need them.

4) Achieve Better Health through Prevention

* Remove from use those chemicals known to pose a significant risk to human health. (See Environment Section.)
* Increase taxes on products known to be deleterious or potentially deleterious to peoples' health. (See Agricultural Section.)
* Move to extend medically required and preventative dental care to the current list of treatments covered by Medicare. Due to costs of this measure, it is a multi-year goal.
* Provide more information to Canadians about healthy food choices and lifestyles.
* Commission Health Canada to do a nationwide body burden study identifying the presence of carcinogens, neurotoxins, hormone disruptors, and the toxicity levels of Canadians.
* Ensure clean drinking water for all Canadian communities by 2010.

* Prohibit by law human reproductive cloning and require a Health Canada license for any organization or institution that performs genetic manipulation for commercial or scientific purposes.

5) Promote Fitness, Sport and Active Living

* Promote a broad-based national program of active living as a prescription for better health and lower health care costs, to be delivered in partnership with provincial, municipal and non-governmental bodies to achieve the goal agreed to by all ministers responsible for physical activity across Canada of increasing physical activity by 10% over the next five years.
* Introduce a national standard of daily, quality participation in physical activity in schools, colleges and universities to combat the epidemic of youth obesity.
* Make a strategic investment through Health Canada of $500 million over five years to aggressively address inactivity and obesity.
* Re-introduce a national school-based fitness-testing program.
* Promote the "Walking School Bus," as developed by the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, in which adult volunteers supervise neighbourhood children walking to school thereby reducing pollution, improving fitness, and promoting community street safety.
* Endorse and promote the Olympic Movement's *Agenda 21 for Sport*, which advocates sport and recreation management practices that are sustainable and encourages sustainable practices at all sports events and facilities.
* Establish an Olympic Spending Accountability Act, to ensure the effective long-term use of taxpayers dollars provided to the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.
* Support the development of high-performance athletes both by encouraging broad-based participation in sport, and by contributing to the provision of essential facilities, coaching and medical support for high-performance athletes, as outlined in the 2003 Canadian Sport Policy.
* Structure the spending for sports to ensure there is a practical progression of long-term financial support for sport at all levels in the sports continuum.
* Establish a Canadian Sports Spending Accountability Act, to ensure the effective long-term use of taxpayers dollars provided to high performance sports programs.

6) Recognize Environmental Sensitivities as a Health Care Issue

* Implement legislation that will result in increased public health protection, by reducing the quantities and variety of toxic chemicals in products, buildings, landscapes and foods, as Canadians move to using only least-toxic strategies, products and materials.
* Promote the inclusion of environmental sensitivities in the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) that is published by the World Health Organization.
* Earmark funding to provinces to include environmental sensitivities/MCS (multiple chemical sensitivities) in provincial health care billing codes.
* Work with provincial and territorial governments to ensure workplace accommodations, medical accessibility and treatments, access to buildings and other public areas, social support systems and adequate monetary assistance for people with environmental sensitivities.

7) Attain Better Health through Addressing Social and Mental Needs

* Increase transfer funding for non-institutionalized mental health patients including children and youth to provide adequate community-based support and outpatient and inpatient care by mental health practitioners, including in rural Canada where lack of facilities and trained professionals is acute.
* Support a public health initiative to reduce the use of psychoactive drugs through better rehabilitation and prevention programs especially for children.
* Require greater involvement of people dealing with personal mental health problems in research planning, policy development, program evaluation and other decisions that affect their lives and communities.

8) Reduce Drug Addictions

* Address drug addiction as a health problem by legalizing marijuana and focusing efforts on harm reduction, treatment and prevention.
* Provide much greater funding to the provinces earmarked to increase the number of detox facilities and treatment beds for drug and alcohol rehabilitation, establish more safe injection clinics, needle exchange programs, to provide certified addicts with prescriptions procured drugs in small safe doses, and develop educational prevention programs.

9) Prevent the Spread of HIV/AIDS and Better Manage Its Impacts

* Reduce the stigma associated with having HIV. This stigma is the significant barrier to delivery of effective, non-judgmental prevention and treatment programs.
* Put greater resources into the treatment and delivery of antiretroviral therapies to HIV positive drug users, a marginalized group in Canada, which is receiving third-world medical support.
* Put greater resources into harm reduction, prevention and education efforts directed towards high-risk populations.
* Eliminate bureaucratic barriers of misunderstanding and prejudice for HIV positive foreigners to visit Canada.
* Be a world leader in providing low-cost AIDS medicines and medical services for HIV positive people in third-world countries, especially the most impacted countries of Africa.

6. Health Promotion

" It is equally common sense for our health care system to place greater emphasis on preventing disease and promoting healthy lifestyles. This is the best way to sustain our health care system over the longer term. Keeping people well, rather than treating them when they are sick, is common sense"

Roy Romanow, Future of Health Care in Canada, 2002

Health is more than health care. Prevention and Health Promotion save lives and money.

A significant proportion of illnesses and deaths in this country are preventable. Many Canadians do not have the necessary information, the tools, or the encouragement, to lead healthier lives. Much needless suffering, premature loss of life, and considerable healthcare costs can be avoided through improved health research, screening programs, more timely

diagnosis, earlier treatment, improved lifestyles (diet, exercise and smoking cessation), and healthier public policies and environments. For example, at least 50 percent of cancers are preventable.

Yet funding allocated for health promotion has fluctuated in the vicinity of 1 percent of overall health system funding, despite the demonstrated cost effectiveness of many disease prevention and health promotion programs.

Health promotion is about more than health care or health education. It is about recognizing the profound health impacts of determinants of health outside the formal healthcare system and working with many stakeholders (policy-makers, NGOs, health agencies, multiple levels of government, the private sector, and most importantly, affected communities themselves) to reduce, eliminate, or overcome those factors that harm health or act as barriers to health enhancement, and to promote those factors that enhance the health, well-being and quality of life of all Canadians.

The Green Party of Canada recognizes the value of good health as a fundamental human right, but also the key to the most vibrant, inclusive and sustainable Canadian society possible.

Green Vision

To towards Canada being the world's healthiest country by making improved and sustainable health for all a national priority**.**

To make this vision a reality will require a long journey, a comprehensive effort touching many aspects of Canadian society. In the short term we recommend the following actions to begin this journey. These recommendations can have an immediate, positive, and measurable impact on Canadian's health and turn us away from a health system focused on disease treatment to one where disease prevention and good health promotion are the priority.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

Push for renewed Canadian leadership in health promotion both nationally and in on the international stage. We have some of the best minds, training programs, experienced practitioners, and progressive health promotion coalitions in the world. These can be key building blocks in a renewed federal leadership in health promotion.

Specifically, we recommend the following actions to take place immediately:

• Restore funding for the Canadian Health Network, a key national resource for individuals and health professionals across the country

• Create a Federal Healthy Community Initiatives Fund to which community organizations could apply for innovative local projects utilize community development principles and

practices to address both human and ecosystem health at the local level

• Protect children from inappropriate exposure to marketing (especially of junk foods and soft drinks - see development of a National Food Policy below)

• Create the Canadian Healthy Living Guide, similar to the recently revised Canada's Food Guide but more comprehensive in scope.

• Work with provincial stakeholders to better compensate family physicians and other health professionals for health education and health promotion services work with key stakeholders such as the Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada (CDPAC), the Canadian Lung Association, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and others to promote integrated, innovative, evidence-based, inter-sectoral and comprehensive approaches to disease prevention and health promotion.

• Institute a GST Health Benefit Reduction for those products/services deemed to have significant health benefit such as sports equipment, fitness centre fees, and some health promoting health services.

• Institute a Corporate Health Tax Reduction for workplaces that institute a qualified workplace health model or comprehensive healthy workplace settings approach such as that offered by the National Quality Institute

• Work to reduce the use of pesticides, growth hormones, antibiotics and other chemical and pharmaceutical agents in agriculture

• Phase out the use of genetically modified food products and 'terminator' seeds

• Promote environmentally sustainable, organic farming practices that protect the health of the land, farmers, and consumers

• Restore funding for critical food safety testing and new produce approvals processes

- Institute a National Junk Food Tax for non-essential, empty calorie foods and beverages

- Develop a federal Health Impact Assessment Board to incorporate health impact assessment as part of all federal government policy reviews, similar to the current Environmental Assessment Board
- Support the development of initiatives to reduce the use of psychoactive drugs through better rehabilitation and prevention programs, especially for children
- Restructure education of health care professionals to incorporate adequate training in health promotion
- Provide computerized health promotion aides and make them accessible freely to all Canadians
- Expand healthcare coverage to include basic preventive dental care
- Expand healthcare coverage to include qualified complementary/alternative health professionals such as naturopaths, chiropractors, and dietitians

- Establish a minimum budget for health promotion at 1.5% of the total federal healthcare budget

7. Ending the war on drugs

In 2005, according to the Treasury Board, Canada spent $368 million targeting elicit drugs, with 73% of that money going to law enforcement. Most of that was for the "war" against cannabis (marijuana). Marijuana prohibition is also prohibitively costly in other ways including criminalizing youth and fostering organized crime. Prohibition, which has gone on for decades, has utterly failed and has not lead to reduced drug use in Canada.

Our Vision

After analyzing the recommendation of the Canadian Senate's 2002 Special Committee on Drugs and the examples of strategies used by some European countries, the Green Party of Canada has come to the conclusion that it is time to legalize the adult use of marijuana. Furthermore, the Green Party believes that drug addictions should be treated as more a health problem than a criminal offence.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Legalize marijuana by removing marijuana from the drug schedule.
* Create a regulatory framework for the safe production of marijuana by small, independent growers.
* Develop a taxation rate for marijuana similar to that of tobacco.
* Establish the sale of marijuana to adults for medicinal or personal use through licensed distribution outlets.
* Educate the public about the health threats of marijuana and tobacco use.
* Launch a public consultation on the decriminalization of illicit drugs, considering the high costs currently used on the law enforcement effort, as well as for treatment facilities, rehabilitation of addicts, and consider shifting to prevention through educational programmes instead.

8. Rights, respect and dignity

a) Women's equality

Women make up over 50 percent of Canada's population, the majority of seniors, and a disproportionate share of the people living in poverty in Canada. Pay inequity is still the rule. Women make, on average, only 71 cents for every dollar earned by a man. Women within visual minorities earn 64 cents and aboriginal women earn 46 cents. Lack of access to affordable housing, affordable post-secondary education and affordable child care make the lives of women, who head up the majority of single-parent households, much more difficult.

Women under 30 earn less than women in that age group, when adjustments are made for inflation, than they did twenty years ago. Women make up only 21% of the MPs in Canada's parliament.

This past year the Conservative government pushed the clock backwards on women's rights in Canada. They refused to accept the recommendations of the Pay Equity Task Force that calls for proactive pay equity legislation to bring Canada in line with its national and international human rights obligations. They rolled back the commitment to establish a national affordable child care program. They removed the mandate for promoting women's equality, and even stripped the quest for "women's equality" from the mandate of Status of Women Canada (SWC).

Our Vision

The Green Party of Canada will vigorously defend every hard-won victory for women's rights in Canada and to advance forward towards full equality. Women's equality is fundamental to a just society. We feel that one of the best ways to break down barriers and advances opportunities for women is through a poverty-eradication, a national affordable child care program, programs to eliminate the financial barriers to post-secondary education, programs for affordable housing and the adoption of a Genuine Progress Indicator that includes measures of unpaid and voluntary work by women (see other sections in this document).

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Oppose any possible government move to diminish the right of a woman to a safe, legal abortion. We fully support a woman's right to choose. We will also expand programmes in reproductive rights and education to avoid unwanted pregnancies, and 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 programmes for women with children who want to restart their working life either part-time or full-time.
* Reestablish funding for Status of Women Canada and for a Women's Program that funds not-for-profit women's groups that advocate women's rights.
* Ensure that the criteria for a new independent agency appointing members 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 candidates.

b) People with disabilities

Canadians with disabilities and their families live with disproportionate levels of poverty and exclusion. To better understand the underlying factors, the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) and the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL)

commissioned the Caledon Institute of Social Policy to study the situation and propose solutions. It concludes that:

a) Canadians with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty than other Canadians. Poverty is both a result of exclusion and lack of supports, and it contributes to further exclusion and vulnerability in a 'vicious cycle';
b) Children with disabilities are twice as likely as other children to live in households that rely on social assistance as a main source of income;
c) Poverty rates of Canadians with disabilities result in large part from the lack of needed disability supports, which enable access to education, training, employment, and community participation;
d) Canadians with disabilities are too often exiled to inadequate, stigmatizing and ineffective systems of income support that were never designed to address the real income needs of Canadians with disabilities; and,
e) The federal government has a key role to play in addressing the poverty and income security needs of Canadians – they have done this through Employment Insurance, CPP/QPP, Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement, the National Child Benefit, and Child Disability Benefit, and various tax measures.

The Caledon Institute propose that the federal government invest in a new initiative, which they have called the *Basic Income Programme* to best provide the support that Canadians with disabilities desperately need.

Our Vision

The Green Party of Canada believes that it is time to treat Canadians with disabilities with dignity. We endorse the *Basic Income Programme* proposed by the Caledon Institute, which asserts, when all factors are taken into account, will actually save the government money. We urge the adoption of this income security programme for people with disabilities as soon as possible as an interim measure to a full poverty eradication federal-provincial program is established to provide for income security for all Canadians.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
Institute a basic income for people living with disabilities so that none of them live in poverty by:
* The conversion of the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) to a refundable credit as a first step in creating a national Basic Income program for working age adults with disabilities;
* Establish rigorous "needs based" eligibility standards for basic income to permit an affordable benefit system that provides adequate benefit levels; and,
* Use a redesigned Canada Pension Plan/Disability Benefit (CPP/D) test to incorporate the DTC definition of disability and permit employment, rather than the CPP/D definition that requires a 'severe' disability to be life-long and to be the cause of any incapacity to pursue 'any gainful occupation.' The revised definition allows individuals to work while retaining eligibility for basic income.

c) Immigration and new Canadians

Canada is a multicultural society with a strong history of welcoming immigrants and celebrating cultural diversity. Canada currently accepts about 300,000 new immigrants annually. Opportunities for new immigrants, however, vary. Studies show that immigrants from some countries do a lot better than others in securing jobs with decent incomes and opportunities for advancement. Access to immigration itself varies, as well. The criteria for granting landed immigrant status to refugees and other immigrants seem at times arbitrary and the process is frustrating and stressful for many. The backlog of files is too long. Over cautious security officials have in some cases put the civil liberties of new Canadians at risk. Recent reforms to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act have fostered a culture of fear and discrimination. Canadian citizens, like Maher Arar, have experienced their rights as Canadians discarded by allies who are too willing to break international law to fight a "war on terrorism."

Our immigration policies must be revamped to ensure we stay true to our identity as a just, fair and open country, and to be prepared for new challenges that are predicted to arise with increased numbers of environmental refugees seeking a safe new home in an increasingly perilous world.

Our Vision

Canada's multicultural diversity is an essential part of our national identity. New Canadians are a source of incredible skills and potential for our country. Immigrants and refugees come to Canada in search of a safer, more fulfilling life for themselves and their families, and to be full participants in Canadian society. We must make sure they are supported in achieving their hopes and ambitions as new Canadians. Our national tradition of welcoming newcomers and embracing social and ethnic differences gives us a unique opportunity to exert a positive influence on the rest of the world. Canada must embrace the energy and creativity of all our cultural communities and ensure genuine equality of opportunity and equal treatment of all Canadian citizens, regardless of their country of origin.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

* Press professional societies to remove unnecessary barriers recognizing the professional credentials of immigrants.
* Ensure such professionals being considered for immigration will have the licensing requirements for their profession clearly explained before entry. Landed immigrants with professional qualifications will be supported and given the opportunity to obtain Canadian licenses consistent with public safety.
* Allocate much greater funding for training in official languages –ESL and FSL for new immigrants through earmarked transfers to the province for primary, secondary public school and free night school programmes.
* Establish a program to deal with the estimated 200,000 people living in Canada without official status that leads to full landed immigrant status for those who have become contributing members of Canadian society.

* Work with municipalities and provinces to improve the integration of new Canadians into the multicultural fabric of our country.
* Support multicultural communities by assisting cultural organizations to obtain charitable status.
* Seek to have the regulations governing the practices of immigration consultants toughened and enforced and increase penalties in the Criminal Code for those convicted of human smuggling.
* Amend Anti-Terrorism Act and the Public Safety Act to require after a reasonable length of time formal charges are brought against all those detained.
* Open an investigation into allegations by the United Nations Human Rights Committee of Canadian officials cooperating with foreign agencies known to use torture.
* Ensure the "lost Canadians" quietly being denied citizenship through archaic laws are protected and their citizenship restored.

d) Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gendered rights

Canadians believe in freedom from discrimination. This includes people having the right to live their lives without being discriminated against for their race, creed, ethnic background, political beliefs or sexual orientation. A majority of Canadians applaud the fact that Canada was one of the first countries to sanction same sex marriage. Canada's Charter of Rights and laws now do a reasonable job of prohibiting discrimination. However we must be vigilant to ensure these laws are respected in practice and delivery.

Our Vision

In 1996 the Green Party of Canada became the first federal party to officially support the inclusion of same-sex couples in civil marriage, and we are pleased that this issue is now settled. However, much prejudice and discrimination remains, and trans-gendered people are rarely even considered when laws and public policies are created.

Our vision is of a world free from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, a world in which difference is accepted and even celebrated.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to explicitly include gender identity and gender expression as protected grounds of discrimination.
* Amend the Criminal Code to include gender identity and gender expression in the hate sentencing and hate propaganda provisions.
* Repeal s.159 of the Criminal Code.
* Support public education to end prejudice and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
* End the targeting by Canada Customs of LGBT bookstores and other LGBT businesses.
* Ensure Canada advocates internationally for an end to state-sanctioned discrimination and violence against LGBT people.

e) Aboriginal policy

The glaring exception to everything one loves about Canada can be found in the profound inequality of life on First Nations Reserves and life for off-reserve urban aboriginal people across Canada. Water that is too hazardous to drink, serious health problems from diabetes to tuberculosis, addiction and suicide, unacceptably poor housing stock, high unemployment rates -- all make a mockery of our progress elsewhere maintaining our "social safety net." Canadians like to forget that white South Africa based apartheid on the Canadian aboriginal policy. Many non-natives are unaware of the fundamental human rights violations occurring within our midst. Canadian aboriginal peoples, First Nation, Métis and Inuit, know that the fundamental assumption of colonial powers since the first Europeans arrived in what is now Canada has been a policy of assimilation.

Unbeknownst to most non-native Canadians, and even some First Nations, the ultimate disposition of land claims agreement is the extinguishment of aboriginal title. This is an inherent right of indigenous people and its extinguishment violates international human rights law. Various human rights committees within the United Nations system have frequently been critical of Canada's treatment of and laws regarding aboriginal peoples.

Little wonder then, that after years of international negotiations, the current government of Canada opposes the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As government, the Green Party will speedily move to support and implement the UN Declaration. We will also restore the $5.1 billion commitment and the specifics of the Kelowna Accord. One of the central features of the landmark Kelowna accord, reached between federal and provincial, territorial and First Nations governments in Canada, is the creation of "baselines." Baselines are critical to assess the levels of aboriginal health and well-being.

The issues impacting aboriginal people in Canada are complex and cannot be assessed without a full sense of the searing violence of generations of occupation and assault upon traditional culture and values. No Canadian should be satisfied with the failed policies of the Indian Act and the huge bureaucracy of DIAND, the enormous outlays of funding for lawyers and "experts," in the interminable comprehensive claims policy.

Something fundamental needs to shift. That shift must begin with dignity for all aboriginal peoples. Respect. An end to policies of assimilation. Strong support for health and education on reserve and off. Health specialists and behavioural experts need to be trained from within communities to know the proper disciplinary approach for fetal alcohol syndrome children. Work must be intensified to ensure more programmes for mentoring from elders to young people. Employment opportunities in resource-based industries on aboriginal territories will be encouraged. Trap lines will be protected. We will fight to salvage the Inuit hunting culture under rapid assault due to the impacts of the climate crisis. The Green Party of Canada will ensure that governments and corporations alike respect the *Sparrow* decision and the right of aboriginal peoples to be consulted about decisions that impact their resources and their future.

We must work together to ensure no more communities are added to the catechism of shame in Canada: Oka, Ipperwash, Gustafson Lake, Sutikalh, Sun Peaks, Cheam or Caledonia. Never again.

Our Vision

Our shift in attitude will mean true nation-to-nation dialogue and negotiations. It will mean a just accommodation of aboriginal peoples' aspirations and an equitable sharing of Canada's natural resources. It will mean full recognition of the cultural, political and economic contributions of First Nations, the Inuit, Innu and Métis people to Canada and an end to the prejudice.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:
* Honour Canada's fiduciary responsibility and the aboriginal rights, treaty rights and other rights of aboriginal peoples, including their inherent rights of self-government.
* Review the existing federal policy on self-government, in consultation with aboriginal representatives, to ensure that it is achieving the goals of aboriginal peoples.
* Ensure that negotiations of treaties and self-government are not based on the extinguishment of aboriginal title and rights and assimilation, but on reconciliation of rights and title, and that negotiations recognize the diversity of traditional self-governance.
* Fully implement the recommendations of the 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, thereby embarking on true nation-to-nation negotiations on a full range of outstanding legal issues and land claims.
* Ensure that Canada supports and implements the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
* Support the restoration of the $5.1 billion commitment of the landmark Kelowna Accord reached between federal and provincial, territorial and First Nations governments in Canada in 2005, with the proviso that the ensuing programs do not lead to greater infringement on aboriginal and treaty rights.
* Ensure that governments and corporations respect the *Sparrow* decision (recognizing the aboriginal right to fish) and the *Haida* decision (the right of aboriginal peoples to be not just consulted but their concerns accommodated regarding decisions that may impact their resources and their future).
* Negotiate and legislate primary hunting, fishing, trapping and logging rights for aboriginal peoples on traditional lands, especially lands under federal jurisdiction, subject to standards of sustainable harvesting.
* Launch and maintain new processes driven by aboriginal priorities and legal entitlements, to provide for interim measures prior to settlement of treaties and address governance issues, a just and fair share of lands and resources, legislative inconsistencies, policy inequities, reconciliation and, if in accordance with the wishes of First Nations, the phased-out elimination of the Indian Act.
* Promote aboriginal culture, language and history as a fundamental source of Canadian identity.
* Support the development of aboriginal education curricula that is language and culture specific.

* Assist the delivery of health care, education and other services in a way that incorporates traditional practices and recognizes the role of extended families and elders.
* Set up task forces to address the treatment of aboriginals in the Canadian justice system and to investigate and address the disappearance of aboriginal women.

9. Protecting access to excellence in post-secondary education

Jane Jacobs warned in Dark Age Ahead that our process of mass amnesia includes a forgetting of the educational experience as we trade "higher education" for "certification."

Tuition fee increases and increased student debt is pushing post-secondary education out of reach for many Canadians. Meanwhile, universities are squeezed for resources and erode the quality of education through dependency on corporate research and proprietary information. Students move through large classrooms, pay their ticket and wait for their certificate as proof of readiness to enter into the workforce. Increasingly, newly minted PhDs are a cheap labour pool for short-term contracts within universities that have fewer and fewer tenure track positions on offer.

The prime barrier to accessing post-secondary education, both academic and trades training, is the price tag. While education is primarily a provincial matter, the federal government can, through earmarked transfer payments, provide funding to both enable public post-secondary institutions to open more spaces for students and offer needs-based scholarships and bursaries so that anyone who qualifies for entrance can enroll without financial encumbrances preventing them from doing so.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes that universal access for every qualified individual to affordable post-secondary education and training is a basic right and we would make it a priority to eliminate the financial barriers that currently stand in the way of access. Good education benefits not only the student but also their community and the country at large. Education is the key to equity of opportunity, personal growth and enrichment, informed democratic debate and decision making, social mobility and the research and development that is essential to deal with climate change and a multitude of other challenges. It is the key to a good economy and prosperous society.

Post-secondary education should not be a debt sentence. Targeted grants for low-income students could reverse this trend. Students should not be graduating with a debt the size of a mortgage on a home. Accessibility to higher education is one aspect of a serious poverty reduction policy. European nations, such as the Netherlands, Sweden, and Ireland, offer their citizens free post-secondary education or very nominal tuitions because they see it as a social good and an investment in the future.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

Launch a comprehensive "access to education plan" to include, but not be limited to, budgeting of adequate federal transfer payments to post-secondary institutions and direct financial aid for students, as well as working with the provinces to set goals for tuition fee reduction to manageable levels. This plan will include measures to:
* Increase funding for a needs-based Canadian National Student Loan and Bursary Program with low interest rates and reasonable repayment schedules. This loan program will replace the Millennium Scholarship Foundation.
* Forgive 50% of a student's loan when they complete a degree or certificate program
* Increase ear-marked federal transfer payments to provinces for post-secondary education to enable post-secondary institutions, academic and trades, to increase spaces for student enrollment in exchange for tuition fee reductions.
* Support expanding industry-based job training and apprenticeship programs to address massive shortages of trained workers.
* Restore and expand the federal government's student summer job program.
* Fund universities to create more tenure track teaching positions, regardless of perceived commercial value of the area of pedagogy.
* Create a fund for excellence in post secondary teaching in which funding is increased as the student to professor ratio decreases.
* Urge targeted research grants to institutions with a specific focus on applied research including community colleges specifically to support development of new technologies in the fields of renewable energy, smart growth and energy conservation.

10. Striving for justice

a) Reforming the Divorce Act

Many Canadian couples experience a marriage or partnership breakdown. For those who enter the world of court-resolved divorce and child care disputes, years of unhappiness can follow. Increasingly, the non-custodial parent lacks meaningful access to his or her children. Grandparents can also be cut off.

There are no winners in these cases and children are the primary victims.

Our Vision

A society where the suffering of children, grandparents and former spouses does not block the courts and enrich lawyers.

Green Solutions

To avoid children being treated like the spoils of war, the Green Party believes the Divorce Act must be over-hauled. We will launch a consultation with Canadians, with the legal community, family therapists and other experts to seek ways to reduce, and preferably eliminate, the adversarial nature of family law.

b) Criminal justice

It is all about our communities. Safe, strong, and vibrant communities are at the heart of the Green Party's vision for the future of Canada, a Canada where we share responsibilities and respect for each other.

We are dedicated to responsible governance that protects our country and our fellow Canadians. This commitment shapes our approach to tackling crime, delivering justice, reducing re-offending, protecting Canada's borders, and combating terrorism.

The Green Party is also a practical party. In all our policies we seek to avoid over-the-top rhetoric and partisanship and focus upon tackling the important issues. We take this same pragmatic and level-headed approach to the tough issues of criminal justice.

Simply put, there are some problems with our justice system. Many Canadians see a disconnect between the severity of the crime, the length of prison sentences and the availability of parole. Many Canadians support restorative sentencing which promotes a sense of responsibility in the offender and secures amends for the victims of crime. And, many Canadians recognize that offenders are often unaccountable to the community upon their release from prison.

The Green Party will meet these challenges. We will ensure that those who break the law are held responsible and the needs of victims are recognized. We will ensure that offenders who are released into our communities are held accountable.

Our Vision

Our vision is of a legal system that is tough and fair, connects with communities, simple and transparent as well as fast and effective - while maintaining Canadians' traditional commitments to justice and the rule of law.

It is also true that the Green Party does politics a little differently. One of the things this means is that we strive to get at the root of problems in our society and take a more integrated approach to governmental action. For example, it will not be uncommon for Green candidates to begin speaking about health care, affordable housing, and education when asked about problems of crime. We are always seeking to get at the root of a problem.

The Green Party understands that true justice and real security cannot stand alone from our social and cultural context. We are committed to addressing underlying causes of crime such as poverty, racism, and inequality while ensuring offenders are dealt with fairly by means of proportionate sanctions. We believe a responsible government will see the big picture and have well-integrated policies that truly prevent crime and truly protect our communities.

Below you will find practical and integrated measures that will make Canada a safer place for raising your family, being active in your community, and being productive in your workplace.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Increase funding for and promote the use of restorative justice programs for first time non-violent offenders, in which wrongdoers make reparation to victims and their community.
- Oppose any attempts to privatize prisons in Canada.
- Dedicate resources to computer crimes specialists combating the online sexual exploitation of children through child pornography and Internet luring. It is important that the RCMP is provided with the necessary resources and tools to tackle this problem on a national scale.
- Ensure that bail determinations for those accused of violent crime include actual posting of bail. Those who post bail need to be held accountable if the accused does not show up in court.
- Ensure meaningful and appropriate resources are available for communities who wish to use restorative justice and community healing.
- Focus upon education and meaningful work for offenders in order that they might pay at least part of the costs of their crime and housing in jail as well as prepare for reintegration into society upon their release.
- Revise laws to increase penalties for domestic violence and ensure protection for the victims and survivors of domestic violence. Reducing the risk of re-offending must be a priority.
- Provide guidance for judges making bail determinations to avoid release for crimes involving weapons and violence when there is a risk a re-offending.
- Restore merit as the criteria for selection of judges with balanced review panels where no one political or ideological viewpoint is dominant.

c) Anti-terrorism and border security

A fundamental obligation of government is the protection of public safety. The Green Party is wholly committed to ensuring the security of all Canadians and we will remain vigilant in our opposition to those who would threaten the safety of our communities. However, we also believe what Canadians believe—true security within a democratic society will be gained from good governance and fair procedures that are administered according to the rule of law.

The Green Party views terrorism as an especially dangerous criminal offence and an aggressive, illegitimate political act. We believe that a responsible government will work diligently to prevent terrorist acts by also addressing the root causes of the crime. The focus must be on peaceful assistance to local and international organisations working to resolve conflict, to protect local culture and sustainable practices, and to engage in the building of strong democratic institutions.

Our Vision

The safety of Canadians depends upon the effectiveness of our counter-terrorism and security laws. The Green Party is committed to ensuring our intelligence and law-enforcement agencies have adequate resources and the political leadership to deal effectively with these criminals.

The Green Party seeks security procedures that provide rigorous standards of procedural fairness and allow meaningful defences for all detainees. A responsible government cannot sacrifice human rights in the name of security or we will actually be opening the door for greater injustice and insecurity. Canada's security policies must be consistent with the values of the society we seek to protect, or else they will undermine those very values.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Introduce a Comprehensive Security Plan that will provide coordinated direction to the RCMP, CSIS, the Canada Border Services Agency, the Coast Guard, and the department of Foreign Affair and International Trade. Effective security measures must be coordinated between departments and agencies.
- Provide CSIS, RCMP, and the Canada Border Services Agency with sufficient resources to conduct effective operations involving the gathering of intelligence, detention, and prosecution of those who threaten our security.
- Ensure that individuals held under security certificates are given access to legal assistance and the right to trial within a reasonable period of time. In addition, this detention under security certificates must be subject to prompt and fair review by an independent and impartial court.

d) Cracking down on white collar crime

Canada is widely understood to be soft on organized and white collar crime. We have a two-tiered justice system where people with money can work the system for their own advantage. The challenges involved in tackling economic crime are complex and require clear leadership from the federal government and concrete steps that will create tangible results. But, we can make a difference.

Economic crimes are far from victimless. In a real sense, they are a theft of public property and harm all Canadians. Clamping down to protect our investments and businesses will ensure that we secure not only the confidence of investors, but also the revenues needed to support our social programs. Tax evasion and fraud drain significant resources from the public purse and cannot be tolerated by a responsible government.

Our Vision

Economic criminal investigations are often quite complex and require highly specialized legal teams and sophisticated information management. Federal prosecutors must be given

enough resources to build up the necessary legal teams to conduct effective and timely prosecutions of these commercial fraudsters.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

d) Make sure those who commit crimes that cost the public money through police investigation or embezzlement repay the costs of their misbehaviour as much as possible. Although criminal charges for economic crime is important, simply placing people in jail is not the answer.
e) Amend the laws to provide for stiffer sentencing and full restitution in white-collar crimes. It is important that the sentences fit the severity of the crimes.
f) Provide guidance to judges in order to make it clear that economic crimes are to be met with significant consequences. A responsible federal government can make combating economic crime a priority.
g) Allow for greater freedom in the issuing of subpoenas that would require witnesses to give a sworn statement during white collar criminal investigations.

e) Corporate accountability

The growth of multinational enterprises and global supply chains has been accompanied by growing concerns regarding labour standards, environmental protection, and respect for human rights in developing nations. The public is increasingly aware of the social and environmental impacts of business practices and more and more people are beginning to demand that Canadian corporations come to terms with a much broader set of interests and expectations.

Our Vision

The Green Party understands the need for greater corporate accountability and the lack of legal provisions that allow civil actions against the big polluters in Canada. Our businesses need to be both competitive and accountable and our government needs to create a legal environment that will make this happen. We recognize that Canadians want to feel proud of the corporations that represent them abroad and we will take practical and balanced steps to ensure Canadian corporations are leaders around the globe.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Introduce legislation to begin holding Canadian corporations that are working overseas to the same environmental and human rights standards as they are in Canada.
- Prevent legal intimidation of ordinary people by limiting the rights of corporations to sue groups and individuals only for actual loss.

- Develop laws similar to the US's *Alien Tort Claims Act* that will allow those who are not Canadian to sue Canadian corporations for damages that result in their own countries.
- Empower Canadians whose environmental rights have been violated to take corporations and individuals to court for violation of these rights.

f) Gun control and ownership rights

The Green Party believes that a responsible government will balance the need for public safety and the freedom of law-abiding citizens. As a party dedicated to practical solutions and clear results, we recognize the fact that guns are too often a part of violent crimes in our cities as well as the reality that many rural Canadians are responsible hunters and marksmen.

Our Vision

The Green Party understands that it is time to get tough on gun smuggling across the US border. Thousands of handguns are coming across the border and into our urban centres. We need to work with the Mexican government to press for US action against gun smugglers and investment in tougher border measures to halt the movement of unlawful firearms.

The Green Party will scale back the bureaucratic burden of the current gun registry in consultation with hunters, First Nations, gun collectors, and sportsmen. We will develop a registration system that effectively aids our law enforcement officers without criminalizing responsible citizens.

The risks created by having dangerous weapons in our urban centres are significant. We will introduce balanced and fair measures to eventually ban handguns and semi-automatic firearms.

At the same time, the use of guns in our urban centres is typically not the same as the use of guns in our rural communities. We will ensure that law-abiding citizens are free from unreasonable fees and the threat of criminalization.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Provide increased support for Integrated Border Enforcement Teams made up of officers from the RCMP, Canada Border Services, U.S. Customs and the U.S. Coast Guard in their gathering of intelligence and arresting of gun smugglers.
- Put strict measures in place for those who try crossing the Canada/USA border with weapons.
- Work hard to create a registration system that is fair, free, and easy to use. We will eliminate registration fees and decriminalize registration for hunting rifles and ensure law-abiding citizens do not have their firearms confiscated.

- Phase out the personal use of handguns and semi-automatic weapons by means of careful review and consultation, an enhancement of gun registry, and the development of other programs to control gun use and ownership.

11. Eliminating poverty

> "I am now convinced that the simplest approach will prove to be the most effective -- the solution to poverty is to abolish it directly by a now widely discussed measure: the guaranteed income."
> *Martin Luther King Jr., Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?, 1967*

The National Council of Welfare has estimated that over 15% of Canadians are living in poverty -- about 4.9 million people. In a wealthy country such as Canada, this is unacceptable. Eliminating poverty while supporting healthy communities will pay for itself in reduced health care costs as poverty is the single largest determinant of ill health. Eliminating poverty will pay for itself in reduced crime rates. Failure to eliminate poverty will cost our society far more than a civilized programme to make poverty history in Canada.

Our Vision

The Green Party of Canada believes it is time to re-visit a major policy initiative -- the use of a negative income tax, or Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) for all. The use of a GLI could eliminate poverty and allow social services to concentrate on problems of mental health and addiction. The essential plan is to provide a regular annual payment to every Canadian without regard to a needs test. The level of the payment will be regionally set at a level above poverty, but at a bare subsistence level to encourage additional income generation. No surveillance or follow-up is required.

Unlike the current welfare (provincial) and Employment Insurance (EI) schemes (federally), additional income is not "clawed back" until a higher level of income, above subsistence, is achieved. The incentive to illegal, under-the table, economies is vastly reduced, although not entirely eliminated. Additional income is to be declared until the wage-earner becomes a taxpayer. For higher income Canadians, the amount of the GLI is merely taxed back in whole.

Through policy coherence, municipally, provincially and federally, savings in servicing the poor, with the additional negatives of a shame-based system that perpetuates poverty, can be reduced. To be cost-effective, however, government will require time to negotiate a coherent programme with the provinces/territories and other levels of government. Various "poverty-industry" programmes of welfare, disability pensions, seniors benefits, unemployment insurance, would all be collapsed within one simple single payment system, administered through taxes.

The Green Party believes it is time to advance bold and controversial ideas, such as this. Nevertheless, it needs time for study, reflection and greater support from all three levels of

government. We are committed to opening dialogue on the idea, while pursuing short-term measures to make progress in the near term.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Remove taxes from lowest categories so that no taxes are paid by those below the poverty line (Canada's Low Income Cut-Off measure).
- Allow income assistance recipients to keep 100% of the wages they earn up to the Low Income Cut-Off level to encourage people to get back into the job market. Offer people the mobility they need to find work, shelter and other necessities through free transit passes for those on income assistance.
- Extend maternity/paternity leave for new parents outside of EI to two years and one additional year for other parents who pay into EI.
- Increase Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors by 25%.
- Top up the income support for single parents on welfare during the time they are attending school or in job training programmes.
- As a first step towards universal GLI, provide additional income support of $5000/year to adults currently receiving provincial welfare cheques. Through negotiations with each province this modest income support payment will *not* be subject to claw back.
- Ensure financial assistance for low-income spouses and relatives who provide end-of-life care at home for patients who would otherwise need to be hospitalized or in institutional long term care.
- Augment the government's measurement of "progress" (our Gross Domestic Product-GDP) with a Genuine Progress Indicator - a Canadian index of well-being (that annually measures how well we are doing on quality of life indicators, including eliminating poverty. (See economy section.)

12. Eliminating child poverty

Of all of Canada's social problems, child poverty is probably the most shameful. In 1989, the old-line political parties voted unanimously to end child poverty in Canada by the year 2000. Since then, at least in part due to the shortsighted cuts to our social programs, the percentage of children living in poverty has remained unchanged at around 15 %, or 1 million children. Child poverty rates are even higher among new Canadians, Aboriginals and single parent households headed by women. Canada now ranks a dismal 26th out of 29 'developed' countries in terms of child poverty rates.

There is no silver bullet to eradicate poverty. Better food banks cannot bridge the growing disparity between wealthy and poor Canadians. Poverty is a systemic problem that arises from low minimum wages, a precarious job market and a shortage of social housing, reductions in EI benefits and cuts in social programs.

Our Vision

We can eliminate child poverty in Canada. The Green Party believes that Canadians are willing to pay to do it. We must start by recommitting to a vision of Canada as a just society built around a progressive, fair and compassionate social safety network. European countries, such as Denmark, Finland and Norway, that have made a similar commitment, have kept child poverty rates below 3.5 %. Unlike the old-line parties, the Green Party believes reducing child poverty is more important than allowing our richest citizens to get richer. The Green Party believes reducing child poverty starts with a stronger commitment to guaranteeing that every family has the ability to provide for their children.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will work to:

- Develop comprehensive plan to improve our social safety network so that it eliminates child poverty, modeling this plan on European countries' programmes that have the best track records in eliminating child poverty.
- Eradicate the most severe poverty of families through measures described in section 11, above.

13. Ending homelessness

We have witnessed the disintegration of our social safety net to the point where many Canadians, through no fault of their own, have been forced into unsafe, unhealthy living conditions. Some are on the streets. Others are barely getting by. Homelessness began to escalate during the 1990s with federal government cuts to social housing programs and cuts in income support programs by both the federal and provincial governments. As housing prices increased, even people working for minimum wage are increasingly unable to afford rental housing.

If the people who need help are not properly cared for, this puts a strain on everyone. Basic needs are not being met for a significant number of Canadians, and the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. The Green Party believes that we have enough resources to care for all residents of Canada.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes it is the right of every Canadian to have affordable, safe and secure housing. It enhances people's health, dignity and life opportunities. It is an essential prerequisite to an equitable society. The Green Party supports the delivery of social housing dollars to provincial, territorial and municipal governments through the traditional vehicle of the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The funding for social housing needs to be dramatically increased. CMHC programs must be directed to the communities most in need and fast-tracked to provide homes for people at risk. The housing provided must be designed with energy conservation in mind

Access to housing should be free from discrimination, including, but not limited to, ethnicity, race, cultural background, language, class, income, age, gender, sexuality, marital status, religion, political or other opinion, ability, health, status or other personal characteristic or circumstance.

Universal housing will alleviate poverty. Universal housing provides a basis for employment, schooling, community services and contacts. The development and delivery of adequate universal housing and emergency accommodation should be a high priority.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Create a National Affordable Housing Program that provides sufficient funds annually through the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to community-based agencies across Canada to:
    a) Build new subsidized affordable homes: 20,000 new and 10,000 rehabilitated affordable units per year for the next ten years using capital grants and changes in tax and mortgage insurance regulations;
    b) Provide rent supplements or shelter assistance for an additional 40,000 low-income households per year, for ten years;
    c) Provide credit and loan guarantees to non-profit housing organizations and cooperatives for the building and restoration of quality, energy-efficient housing for seniors, people with special needs, and low-income families;
    d) Subsidize private developers to include a percentage of affordable housing in their housing projects;
    e) Extend provisions in the Income Tax Act to offer tax incentives to build affordable, healthy, energy-efficient, multi-unit rental housing and to include tax credits for gifts of lands, or of land and buildings, to community land trusts to provide affordable housing; and,
    f) Dedicate funding to the co-operative housing sector to enable more new affordable housing projects to proceed.

14. Beauty and integrity

> *"Arts and cultural activities are at the heart of communities – they make communities more attractive places to live, they help bring a community to life, they define a community's unique characteristics, they attract tourists and they help communities compete economically around the world."*
>
> The Canada Council for the Arts

We couldn't resist. Shouldn't at least one political party speak in praise of beauty? We live in times of increasing utility and growing ugliness. Strip malls, parking lots, urban littered and graffiti-ed streets do not ennoble us as a people.

VISION GREEN

It would be a fairly dubious notion that government anywhere could *create* beauty, but government can create the right conditions to protect and support those who do.

At every level of our society, arts and cultural activities help define our identities and communities. They unlock our individual and collective creativity, and help Canadians share our ideas worldwide. From surreal circus to incisive films, to renowned actors and singers, Canadians are experiencing cultural breakthroughs on the international arts and culture scene. Today, over 600,000 Canadians are employed in the cultural sector.

Our Vision

The Green Party understands that our future, our sense of who we are as a nation, depends on policies that ensure a thriving, diverse and socially responsible cultural community as part of an inclusive Canada. We will continue and increase support for those cultural institutions that are within the Heritage Canada portfolio: Canada Council, the Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC), the National Film Board (NFB), and Telefilm Canada. We will reverse the funding cuts of the Harper government for the exchange of artists and the performance of Canadian arts abroad as they are a vital aspect of effective diplomacy and artistic expression. We plan to establish the equivalent of the Japanese National Treasure programme where outstanding individual artists are supported to perfect their craft.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Increase funding to all of Canada's Arts and Culture organizations including The Canada Council for the Arts, Telefilm Canada, orchestras, theatres and publishers. The goal will be to make increases in this sector commensurate with increases in support over the years for other sectors of the economy such as transport, the auto industry, health care, and the oil and gas industry.
- Provide stable base-funding for the CBC so it can continue to provide quality Canadian content television and radio programming in both official languages to all Canadians.
- Ensure that the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) reserves more bandwidth for independent and non-profit stations.
- Enact legislation that requires cinemas and video chains to have at least 20 % Canadian content.
- Restore and improve arm's length principles in the governance of arts and cultural institutions and agencies under the federal jurisdiction. In keeping with such a position, we believe that the heads of Canada's cultural organizations such as the CRTC, Canada Council, CBC and Telefilm Canada should not be appointed by the political party in power but by an arm's length committee made up of competent people representative of the various diverse stakeholders in Canadian society.
- Eliminate current legislation before the Senate that would give politically-appointed censors the right to deprive films of the right to a tax credit if their content is

deemed "unfit." In such a context films by some of Canada's most internationally celebrated film-makers--including Egoyan, Cronenburg, and Arcand--would likely never have been made.

- Increase support for community arts programs and facilities across Canada by establishing stable base-funding at a set percentage of the federal budget.
- Equalize federal funding for Arts and Culture among provinces, territories and municipalities to make it consistent with the provinces and municipalities that have the highest current standards.
- Provide incentives to all provinces and territories to restore and improve Arts and Culture components to schools and extra-curricular activities not only in urban but also in rural areas.
- Extend income tax relief and incentives to artists (on the very successful models established by Ireland and the city of Berlin). Doing so will:
    - encourage artists to settle in Canada and build businesses here
    - result in other (usually) white collar "clean" industries that follow the arts jobs and dollars
    - help to provide meaningful jobs to university and college graduates
    - enrich schools and their offerings thereby attracting immigrants to settle in rural areas
    - revitalize and discover talent in communities where traditional industries are declining and young people are leaving
- Follow and implement recommendations of Canadian Conference of the Arts in order to enable artists to access various social programs including Employment Insurance, Worker's Compensation and Canada Pension Plan.
- Change 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 the good year when a show is produced, a book is published and a grant or a prize is won.
- Protect Canada's cultural identity during trade negotiations.
- Restore the government provided transport service (eliminated by the Harper government) to allow the transport of exhibitions between museums and galleries;
- Protect the copyright for artists such that they are not surrendered to museums and galleries in the process of permitting exhibits.

Economic Rationale

"People want to live and work in vibrant communities filled with creative people and educational opportunities. An active Arts and Cultural life in a community draws members of the creative class to it. Thus not only for quality of life reasons but also for hard-nosed economic motives it is important to support a vibrant Arts and Cultural life in communities in order to attract talented people and companies to power the economies of those communities."
Richard Florida, The Rise of the Creative Class

VISION GREEN

The Green Party of Canada applies "Full Cost Accounting" to its understanding of economics. We recognize that compared to other sectors where government support is allocated, the arts and culture sector is under-funded.

We will pay for improved support for this sector by using the tax & subsidy systems available to government to encourage "clean" industries and discourage polluting industries as follows:

- Given that Arts and Culture provide great quantifiable benefits to health and education, investments in Arts and Culture across communities and educational establishments may fall, in part, under investments in health and education.
- Taking into consideration Full Cost Accounting, the Green Party of Canada is able to substantiate that investment in the arts rapidly pays for itself many times over.
- Revenue Neutral Tax Shifting taxes what society does not want, such as pollution, and removes taxes from what society does want, such as employment and creativity. The Green Party of Canada will redistribute funds in a revenue neutral manner, allowing the tax system to favour non-polluting, high-employment, highly creative, knowledge-based economic activities without increasing personal income taxes. For example, the Green Party of Canada will remove the GST from Arts and Culture products and services while imposing a carbon tax on burning hydrocarbons and releasing their by-products into the atmosphere.
- The Green Party of Canada will maintain breadth and flexibility in its economic calculations. We are able to think in terms of GDP and quantifiable economics--which can demonstrate that Arts and Culture not only makes an enormous contribution to the economic activity of this country - but also contributes to the Well-being Index, now also used by Statistics Canada.

PART 5: THE PLANET NEEDS CANADA (AND VICE VERSA)

The Green Party is the only true global party, with Greens in 70 countries and elected members of parliament in Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Together we work to press the nuclear super-powers to meet their obligations for disarmament, to reduce and eliminate the nuclear threat. We work to shift military budgets to peace making and peacekeeping. We work to ensure the education, health protection and economic autonomy of women and girls around the world to reverse the dangerous trend of increasing human numbers.

1. Canada's role as global leader in peacemaking and poverty alleviation

> "To meet the challenge of our times, human beings will have to develop a greater sense of universal responsibility. Each of us must learn to work not just for his, or her, own self, family or nation, but for the benefit of all mankind. Universal responsibility is the real key to human survival. It is the best foundation for world peace, the equitable use of natural resources, and through concern for future generations, the proper care of the environment."
> Dalai Lama

The Green Party of Canada believes Canada has, under the Harper government, strayed dangerously far from our roots as a peacemaker. The Nobel Prize awarded to Lester B. Pearson, and in a position of pride in the lobby of the foreign affairs headquarters, was, on February 23, 2007, physically screened off to allow a photo op of former Foreign Minister Peter MacKay, with his US counter part Condeleeza Rica and their Mexican colleague. The three were meeting to pursue the Security and Prosperity Partnership.

That action, of blocking out our proudest history as we face the "brave new world of Fortress America" was more than merely ironic. In many ways, it was a metaphor for the choice Canada must make. The Green Party as government will tear down the photo op wall and restore pride of place to Canada's role as peacemaker.

Canada's foreign policy has been emblazoned with the label of 3-D approaches. The D's are Diplomacy, Development and Defense. They are not pursued in that order. In fact, there is an emerging diplomatic deficit as key core capacity of the Department of Foreign Affairs in its previously excellent role in diplomacy is increasingly eroded. In 2006-07 Canada contributed $6.2 million to UN peacekeeping missions and $1.4 billion to the NATO mission in Afghanistan. In 2006 there were approximately 2,500 members of Canadian Forces in the Kandahar Province of Afghanistan, but just 56 Canadian troops on UN peacekeeping missions worldwide.

Our Vision

The Green Party envisions Canada re-establishing itself as a global leader in peace-making. We were proud of our previous government's decision to say "no" to joining the US invasion of Iraq. We believe our foreign policy objectives must include multilateral

disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and support for United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The Green Party sees international law and its institutions as the roots of international justice and stability. Detainment without access to a fair trial and the use of torture in questioning suspects held in military detention centers contravenes international human rights treaties and institutions. Respect for international law and international conventions are not only the baseline for moral activity but is, in fact, the foundation of a just and sane world.

We would restore Canadian capacity in mediation and diplomacy. We would increase our overseas development assistance and revamp Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to focus more on developing green economies and on poverty alleviation. We would expand our defense role in UN-led peacekeeping missions and in emergency and disaster relief and equip it accordingly.

The Green Party as government will restore the capacity for superb diplomacy, a traditional Canadian strength. The Green Party Government will also restore and improve our development efforts within CIDA. Lastly, the Green Party Government will confirm the core role of our military, clarify its purpose and equip it accordingly.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Re-align our defence spending to increase our capacity to deliver disaster assistance (e.g. through the DART—Disaster Assistance Rapid Response Team) and our contributions to UN peacekeeping forces and missions, and decrease our contributions to NATO war efforts.
- Play a lead role in establishing a standing UN Rapid Response Force with a mandate for peacekeeping and environmental restoration in both international crisis situations and domestic catastrophes like floods, earthquakes, storms and fires.
- Advance the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and ensure its principles are at the core of Canadian foreign policy.
- Shift from a Department of Defence to a Department of Peace.
- Review Canada's membership in military alliances including NATO and NORAD to ensure that they are meeting Canada's priorities of diplomacy and development as well as defense.
- Press urgently for global nuclear disarmament and the conversion of military industries in Canada and worldwide into peaceful and restorative industries.
- Pursue international criminal investigations of existing military detention centers where human rights violations have been reported in Iraq, Cuba, Afghanistan and elsewhere.
- Oppose the use of Canada's public institutions being devoted to the development of military technology.
- Oppose the development or use of space-based weapons on Canadian soil or in Canadian waters.
- Oppose the militarization of space.

- Insist on the adherence to the Geneva Convention by Canada and its allies. We must no longer turn a blind eye to Guantanamo Bay or the fate of detainees in Afghanistan, practices that weaken international law and civil society and therefore represents a serious security threat and advocate for the closure of military detention centers that exist outside of international law.
- Advocate that responses to terrorism must be carried out within a framework consistent with international law. Terrorism must be fought with the traditional tools of criminal investigation and prosecution.
- Promote the Earth Charter and approve it in the Canadian Parliament.

"We must base ourselves in international law.
It is the rock you can stand on when things become confusing."
Paul Heinbecker, Former Ambassador for Canada to the United Nations, February 17, 2007 addressing the Green Party foreign policy forum

2. Making poverty history

The current state of planetary health and equity is not encouraging. Despite years of rhetoric and broken promises, despite real progress in development, the number of people living in absolute poverty, defined as living on less than US$2 a day, is now nearly half of the world's population. Those living on half that now number 1.2 billion people.

Poverty is fatal. 50,000 people die from poverty-related causes every day. The situation for children under five is worse. Every three seconds a child dies from poverty related causes.

Canadians have rallied to the call to Make Poverty History. In 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, Canada re-committed to increasing Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.7% of our gross domestic product (GDP). This commitment represented a target set by Lester B. Pearson when he chaired a World Bank Commission. In 1992, Canadian ODA stood at 0.45% of GDP. In the "programme review," deficit cutting era of the Chrétien Liberals, ODA dropped to 0.25% of GDP in 2000/2001. Subsequently, in 2002, Chrétien set a goal for 8% annual increases in ODA. The 8%/year commitment doubles aid from 2001/02 to 2010/11, with a one-time $320 million increase for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006. This last amount implements the first tranche of the $500 million two-year budget deal between the NDP and Liberals (Bill C-48) in April 2005. When the Harper government came to power, Canada was still below the 1992 levels.

The Harper government has been silent as to Canada's obligations to alleviate poverty around the world and to increase aid to reach the target of 0.7% of GDP. Both Harper budgets did not commit to any new aid resources. Both budgets did, however, continue with the implementation of Liberal aid policies and funding commitments.

For the first time since the late 1990s there are no new aid commitments and not even a mention of international cooperation. Under the Harper government, the development priorities have shifted more than usual, and they were always influenced by non-poverty

concerns, to strategic priorities. The largest recipient of Canadians aid this year was Afghanistan.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes that Canada must meet its commitment to allocate 0.7% of GDP to ODA. This level of funding is essential to meet the most basic of goals: to make poverty history, cure disease, foster democracy, and support ecologically sustainable economies. This will make the world a better and safer place for everyone.

We will ensure our commitments for the provision of HIV/AIDS retroviral drugs for Africa is fulfilled, and that Africa will be a significant focus of our development priorities. This will include support for African plans for adaptation to the increasingly devastating impacts of climate change in Africa.

> "I said earlier this year that we are 'sleepwalking towards disaster.' In truth, it is worse than that -- we are asleep at the controls of a fast-moving aircraft.
> Unless we wake up and take control, the outcome is all too predictable."
> *Kofi Annan, former Secretary General to the United Nations, November 28, 2006*

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Increase ODA by 0.05% of GDP ($650 million in 2007) to reach the target of 0.7% of GDP by 2016.
- Revamp CIDA to focus more on developing community-based green economies, on poverty alleviation and programmes to combat and adapt to climate change, especially strengthening its Partnership Branch for the delivery of ODA.
- Fulfill our commitments for the provision of HIV/AIDS retroviral drugs to Africa.

3. Stabilizing global currencies: Tobin Tax

Originally, the mandate of the International Monetary Fund was to set currency rates. Ever since 1971, currencies have been allowed to "float." The system has been rife for speculation.

Global currency speculation disrupts economies and can destabilize nations, leading to increased suffering for those who can least withstand the shocks. The 1994 peso crisis, the collapse of the so-called Asian Tigers in 1997-98, with currency devaluations of the Thai Bhatt and other currencies throughout Southeast Asia, the Russian currency crisis in 1999, among others, have been linked to the impacts of rampant currency speculation. For those with enough money to gamble, the world currencies represent a giant casino. Betting a few dollars on the difference between the peso in the morning and the yen at night won't get you anywhere. Betting a few billion can make the rich very much richer indeed. In 2004, $1.9 trillion was traded *every day* in global currency markets. Exchange rate speculation accounts

for 80% of this astonishing movement of capital. Only $9 trillion a year is due to currency exchanges necessary for the trade in goods and services. Eighty per cent is non-productive economic activity.

Even major industrialized countries are not immune from the impacts. The speculative activity of one billionaire, George Soros, is blamed with having once devalued the British pound.

In response to the threat posed by rampant currency speculation, Nobel Prize winning U.S. economist James Tobin proposed a very small tax on each transaction, between 0.1% - 0.25%. It was designed to be sufficiently small that it would not deter legitimate currency transaction, but sufficiently large to take the profit margin out of gambling on very small margins. In Tobin's words, it would "cool down the hot money."

The proceeds of such a tax would be approximately $300 billion a year. This amount is more than the entire annual budget of the United Nations. In fact, the UN budget is only $10 billion/year. The Tobin Tax could provide the funds to meet the Millennium Development Goals and have funds left over. Of course, just like the Green Tax Shift, as the tax reduced the unproductive activity it might not remain at such a high level. The primary goal of the Tobin Tax is to make the domestic currency of countries around the world more stable.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes a Tobin Tax would contribute to enhanced global stability while providing much needed funds to end poverty globally. The Canadian Parliament passed a non-binding, all party resolution favouring the Tobin Tax in 1999. It is time to act on this declaration of support.

Green Solutions

The Green Party of Canada would make the Tobin Tax a priority in international relations. We would negotiate to have acceptance of a Tobin Tax brought within the GATT as a prerequisite for admission to the World Trade Organization. It will not be possible to implement the Tobin Tax effectively without every nation participating. The focus on the Tobin Tax in multi-lateral negotiations is long over-due.

4. Press for the elimination of all nuclear weapons

According to the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, and leading Canadian experts like former Ambassador for Disarmament, the Hon. Douglas Roche, the world has quietly entered a second nuclear age. On January 17, 2007, world scientists moved the hands on the "Doomsday Clock" two minutes closer to midnight in light of the dual threats of climate change and the increasing effort to build nuclear weapons, not in Korea or Iran, but by the United States. This year, the Bush Administration dedicated $6 billion to rebuilding its nuclear arsenal. Not since the bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki has the world been closer to the threat of nuclear

war. Canada has simply not been doing its part to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and to protest when allies violate the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Canada continues to press for sales of nuclear technology around the world, without adequate safeguards. Canada has sold reactors to dictatorships, such as Argentina in the junta era. The CANDU reactor waste in India allowed that nation to join the nuclear club. Phasing out nuclear energy as an aspect of nuclear military disarmament is essential.

Our Vision

The Green Party of Canada is aiming towards global disarmament, and towards contributing to the conversion of all military industries in Canada and worldwide into peaceful industries. We, at the Green Party, realize that it is difficult for a single country to disarm unilaterally under the threat of another arming state, and that disarmament can be best achieved multilaterally, in harmony and communion universally, and at a global level, notably through the UN.

The Green Party of Canada is proposing to convert the military-industrial complex and its destructive jobs into occupations that would serve people's well-being, welfare, and happiness, within a system of Peace and a sustainable economy.

Green Vision

Green Party MPs will:

- Declare Canada a nuclear free zone.
- End subsidies to AECL to promote over-seas reactor sales, refuse to finance such "sales" with tax dollars.
- Strengthen the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure nuclear reactor fuels never find their way into nuclear weapons.
- Press NATO allies to get out of the nuclear weapons business.
    - Move rapidly to multi-lateral negotiations to eliminate all nuclear stockpiles and prevent rebuilding of nuclear arsenals using such UN processes as the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CNTBT), a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty, taking US and Russian nuclear weapons off alert status, legally binding guarantees by nuclear weapons states not to attack non-nuclear states and enhanced verification techniques.

"In protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development, the Green Party should also highlight the imperative of the total elimination of nuclear weapons."
The Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C., February 17, 2007 addressing the Green Party foreign policy forum

5. Reform the United Nations

The United Nations (UN) has grown since its foundation by 50 countries in 1945 to 191 members today: the only international organization to which virtually every country belongs. The UN has sent 59 peacekeeping missions into areas of conflict and peacefully resolved 175

international disputes. Unfortunately, the UN suffered a "crisis of credibility" in 2003 when the UN Security Council split over the use of force in Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein. The US led war in Iraq was clearly illegal. At the same time, the UN has proved ineffective in preventing genocide, as in Rwanda. Some countries now doubt the UN's ability to prevent war.

Canada's role in UN peacekeeping efforts has diminished over time. In August of 1991 Canada had 1,149 military personnel on UN peacekeeping missions worldwide. In August of 2006 we had 56. While there are more than 70,000 peacekeeping blue berets deployed worldwide today, Canada's contribution numbers only 327; ranking 32nd amongst the UN's member states.

Our Vision

The Green Party supports the role of the UN in diplomatic intervention and international peacekeeping, including acting with a "responsibility to protect" people in situations where a state is not protecting its own citizens, such as in Darfur. We believe Canada can and must increase its commitment to the UN and that there must be significant UN reform to make the organization more effective, especially within the UN Security Council. The Security Council vetoes must be re-examined in a post-Cold war context. More balance north-south must be achieved within the Security Council.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Increase our commitment of resources, especially funds for peacekeeping and adequate training and provisioning of troops, to the United Nations.
- Promote the democratic reform of the UN Security Council to include more balance in north-south representation, less bias in the treatment of Israel by the General Assembly, and remove the use of vetoes.
- Re-organize other powerful multilateral institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the IMF and the World Bank, placing these institutions under the authority of the UN General Assembly, and shift the direction of international trade away from "free trade" to "fair trade" focusing on the global protection of human rights, labour standards, cultural diversity, and ecosystems.
- Move to make the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) a funded organization of the UN system from its current status where donations from member nations are voluntary. Expand the UNEP mandate to a supervisory one over all multilateral environmental treaties, much as the WTO supervises all trade agreements within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
- Launch a global dialogue on the notion of a bi-cameral UN, with one house being the general Assembly of nation state representatives, and another Peoples' Assembly, as in the European Parliament, with direct election on behalf of the worlds' peoples.

6. Redesign Canada's role in Afghanistan

Canada's 3D (Diplomacy, Defence, Development) mission to Afghanistan needs significant change. Despite some recent adjustments, it still continues to be heavily weighted to combat and combat-training operations in Kandahar Province and seriously under-weighted in appropriate development assistance and creative regional diplomacy. Canada has committed $1 billion in development assistance for the period 2001 to 2011, but this pales in comparison with the projected $6 billion plus military investment over the next four years.

The overall political and security situation in Afghanistan continues to worsen despite increased International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) strength. Notwithstanding statements to the contrary and attempts to "win hearts and minds", the heavy emphasis by the NATO/U.S command to military tactics and operations stimulates rather than dampens the insurgency. In response, greater insurgent recruitment and activity further unbalances the 3D mission. The Taliban benefits from and intends this self-perpetuating cycle of violence because their strategic time frame is much longer and their month-to-month operational costs substantially lower.

Domestically, the Karzai government is increasingly viewed, even by former members of President Karzai's cabinet, as a failed administration. Extensive bureaucratic corruption undermines public confidence and support, and, illegal poppy production expands yearly providing a valuable source of funding for the Taliban and corrupt elements within the government. Most disturbing, there is less and less real difference between the oppression of women and abuse of power by some powerful factions within the Afghan government and the Taliban they replaced.

Despite this disheartening situation, there is also a very high risk that the immediate removal of all foreign troops would lead to the outbreak of a full-scale civil war and a humanitarian catastrophe. Accordingly, the Green Party believes we need to shift as rapidly as possible away from the current US-led NATO command mission, to a more ethnically balanced and regionally represented United Nations command effort and a greater security role for the Afghan National Army. This mission redesign improves the probability that over time the conditions will emerge for a viable political solution to the conflict.

And we need to be much more innovative in embracing essential anti-poverty and employment programs like Poppies For Medicine (P4M) and shrewd in creating the conditions for the development of better governance models.

The flow of insurgents across the border with Pakistan together with the threat of Afghan/NATO/ISAF intrusion into northern Pakistan creates a dangerous risk of a larger regional war. Suspected support by Pakistan military intelligence and other outside players of Taliban and other destabilizing forces casts doubt on the ability to determine 'legitimate targets'. It must be remembered and understood that it was these outside influences that gave rise to the Taliban and their eventual triumph in Afghanistan. We cannot trust that history is not again repeating itself.

There must be a significant re-design of the international mission to Afghanistan before it is too late.

Our Vision

Canada's role in Afghanistan must shift to the provision of significantly more strategic development and creative peace-building diplomacy. The Green Party does not support further Canadian participation in the NATO-led combat mission to Afghanistan beyond February 2009. We do not consider NATO to be the appropriate command structure for security operations against an insurgency. We will support, as part of this withdrawal from the NATO mission, a continued small Canadian military presence in Kabul beyond February 2009 to further the development of the logistics support functions of Afghan National Army in order to accelerate their independent operational capacity.

Crucial to success will be innovative and appropriate development and diplomatic strategies that targets deep structural poverty and gains the goodwill and support of the Afghan people. That is why we fully support the recommendations put forward by the international Senlis Council to create a legal poppy-growing economy in Southern Afghanistan that would supply low-cost narcotic medicines to developing countries as part of a renewed International Aid effort. Together with this support of the Senlis Council recommendations, is also the need for increased support of other traditional agricultural products and harvests.

Although it is a slow and long-term process, diplomatic efforts must be increased to improve domestic governance mechanisms and democratic institutions. The Afghan government also needs to be strengthened institutionally and practically so that it so that it no longer succumbs to the corruption of drug lords.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Begin the process of withdrawing Canadian NATO Forces from Afghanistan as soon as reasonably possible and not later than February 2009.
- Extend a time-limited offer to the Afghan government to provide Canadian military logistics support and legal experts to assist in accelerating the development of the logistics support capacity of the Afghan National Army. This would be outside of NATO command, limited to two years and subject to a bilateral agreement between Canada and Afghanistan. It would be understood that this contingent would also provide training in international human rights law and the Geneva Convention. We will be mandated to document human rights violations with a commitment to bring any breaches or war crimes, including rape, to the appropriate military and/or war crimes tribunal.
- Provide police training through the RCMP for the Afghan police force focusing on human rights, treatment of prisoners adhering to U.N. conventions, civil rights in accordance with Afghan law with the further encouragement to adopt civil rights laws that adhere to U.N. conventions.
- Push for a U.N brokered regional peace conference to help bringing stability to the region through respectful co-existence, non-aggression, and respecting the semi-

autonomous history of the region. Such a larger regional peace conference should include Pakistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, representatives of various tribal leaders in the autonomous regions of northern Pakistan and China with the further participation of Russia and India.

- Advance the Senlis Council recommendations to implement a comprehensive strategy to break the cycle of illicit poppy growing and violence that has kept Afghanistan in turmoil for decades with a licensing and quota system for growing poppies and selling the products to legal drug firms that produce morphine and codeine for legitimate legal painkilling use. This legal opium market would produce essential medicines to help the millions of people in developing countries (including Afghanistan itself) who are unnecessarily dying in pain because they don't have access to these medicines. Green MPs would also urge Canada to purchase such opiate drugs and distribute them as part of our health and poverty related ODA programs.
- Focus and strengthen CIDA efforts on poverty alleviation, reconstruction and development programs to supplement opium cultivation in Afghanistan.
- Significantly expand economic assistance and development for agriculture in the south and east of Afghanistan through access to credit, loans, grants, for the purpose of developing multi-use farms with the further development of water infrastructure for irrigation and potable water supply.
- Invest in more robust diplomatic efforts focusing on improving domestic governance mechanisms and democratic institutions and protecting the slowly emerging democracy and civil society in Afghanistan.
- Protect the right of Afghanis to maintain the control over and the right to ownership of their resources and infrastructure and oppose privatization of natural resources in Afghanistan as part of reconstruction programs.

7. Stopping the genocide in Darfur

The Darfur crisis in western Sudan has claimed more than 200,000 lives since it began in 2003. As many as 2.5 million people have fled the area and are now refugees in nearby countries such as Chad. The ethnic groups that are the subject of targeted joint attacks by the Sudanese government and Janjaweed, a rebel militia force, face genocide.

The United Nations calls the conflict in Darfur, Sudan "the world's worst humanitarian crisis." In August of 2006 the United Nations Security Council approved a 1,300-troop UN peacekeeping force to supplement the 7,000 troop African Union (AU) Stabilization Force. The AU force has been plagued by a serious lack of financial and logistical resources to carry out its mission, including fuel to power its older-model armoured personnel carriers on loan from Canada. Sudan strongly objected to the UN resolution and said it would consider the UN force as 'foreign invaders".

We must avert a catastrophe in Darfur.

Our Vision

The crisis in Darfur is crying out for global intervention and Canadian statesmanship. The Rwandan genocide must not be repeated through a failure of political will and heart. Canada must assume leadership in rapidly organizing an international emergency initiative to deal decisively and effectively with the situation

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

Based on the Green Party's holistic approach to international affairs, using a combination of diplomacy, defense and development, we not only reiterate our consistent pleas for action of past years but now urgently call on the government of Canada to take an immediate 'whole of government' approach to the region and related conflicts in order to force a stop to the fighting and force humanitarian assistance to be provided on an urgent basis. We call on Canada to move boldly on multiple fronts to:

- Provide new, increased financial, political and logistical support to the UN/AU mission in Darfur and encourage it to accelerate its deployment and strengthen its capacity to protect civilians at risk.
- Provide Canadian diplomatic assistance as needed and determined by the African Union to keep all parties negotiating towards a new comprehensive peace agreement that delivers democracy, shared power, shared wealth and stability; and ensure the collective adherence to existing agreements.
- Demand the Sudanese government end its blocking of the deployment and acceptance of the UN force and recognize its authority to intervene when necessary under a legitimate "responsibility-to-protect" UN-sanctioned process and mandate.
- Demand the government of Sudan comply with UN Security Council resolutions and fulfill its legal obligation to arrest and surrender Ahmad Harun to face charges of war crimes and human rights abuses in Darfur. Sudan has the ability to do so and as a member state of the U.N. Sudan cannot ignore the law.
- Insist the UN Security Council apply sanctions against any party that violates negotiated ceasefires or attacks civilians, humanitarian workers or peacekeepers and to interpret and enforce its mandate to the fullest extent possible.
- Mobilize additional emergency humanitarian aid and support aid organizations struggling to deliver essentials to those in desperate need both in Darfur and in nearby regions such as Chad where over 2 million refugees have fled.
- Encourage the UN/AU Mission to coordinate efforts with the French led EU mission in Chad and Central African Republic to provide safe 'corridors' between refugee camps to facilitate increased protection of, and delivery of, international aid and encourage the governments of Chad and the CAR to permit this.
- Increase pressure on the Sudanese government to achieve a ceasefire and no-fly zone over Darfur to stop the bombing and killing and enable safe delivery of aid.
- Pressure China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to use their political influence to further push Sudan into accepting the UN/AU mission and adhere to all negotiated peace agreements to which it is a signatory, both within Sudan and neighbouring countries.

- Recognize the larger regional factors of the conflict, offer diplomatic and development assistance to accelerate further cooperation between Chad, the Central African Republic and the negotiated peace settlements between them and rebel factions within their two countries and increase our role in supporting the Great Lakes Region Security and Development Pact to which the CAR and Sudan are signatories.
- Recognize that climate change and environmental degradation is at the origins of the regional conflict and in light of the recent rejection by the UN to declare access to water a basic human right, the Canadian government should actively engage and encourage the African states comprising the AU and the signatories of the Great Lakes Region Security and Development Pact to declare and enshrine access to water as a basic human right within their respective agreements and constitutions and further act in solidarity by declaring it a basic human right within Canada. Refocus long-term aid on efforts to cope with desertification, drought and climate change.
- Finally recognize the larger collective need for development throughout the region, the futility of and excessive financial burden of military solutions, and immediately move to meet our Millennium Goals obligation of 0.7% of GDP and accelerate poverty alleviation and development of sustainable communities and strong, sovereign governments on the African continent.

8. Address the crisis of global population growth

The world's population has been growing at an exponential rate. Two thousand years ago, when the historical Jesus of Nazereth was born, he was one of 200 million people on the planet. It took 1,500 years for human numbers on the planet to double to 400 million. In the last fifty years alone, human numbers doubled from 3 billion to 6 billion. The United Nations estimates that, thanks in part to reduced fertility levels, the population will not double again, but should stabilize at 9 billion people by 2050.

The Worldwatch Institute warned us in 1999 as we reached the 6 billion mark, that we were outrunning our water supply. Water tables were already falling on every continent, rivers were being drained dry before reaching the sea, and millions of people are lacking enough to satisfy basic needs.

The question of the Earth's carrying capacity is a critical one. How many of us can live on this planet. Are we like the Easter Islanders, about to cut down all our resources? Are there too many of us on this Island?

That is not a simple question. The answer depends largely on whether human beings live at the levels of consumption of the average Canadian or, instead, at the levels of the average person in sub-Saharan Africa. If the former, there are simply not enough resources, at least five more planets with the attributes and resources of Planet Earth would be needed to meet our needs. We only have one Earth.

If we don't voluntarily and rapidly develop a way to reverse the dangerous trend of increasing human numbers, nature will do it for us, but in a way that is very painful and

perhaps too late, at a time when it will no longer be possible for human life to continue on this planet. The problem is compounded by over consumption and a global economy that encourages people to live beyond the means afforded by their natural habitat.

While consumption is a key issue, so is technology. Our ability to split the atom, or exhume the fossil fuels from their burial places to burn them at profligate rates, threatens to tip the planet from its life sustaining cycles into catastrophic die-offs of human and non-human life forms.

Issues of migration, trade, equity, militarism and environmental degradation are all important factors in the question of whether there are too many humans.

Yet, ideas for curbing population growth have, in the past, been ineffective and unacceptable. Some have violated basic human rights. Forced sterilizations of women are but one example of the worst aspects of misguided population policies.

Our Vision

Fortunately, the solution to population growth is within our grasp. It is well established that when poverty is alleviated and particularly when women and girls are educated, access to primary health care, political autonomy and economic power, fertility rates drop. This has been demonstrated time and time again, in nations around the Earth. One particularly instructive example is Saudi Arabia. It is the only nation where literacy and health care and economic well-being have not led to declining fertility. Women there lack economic rights and political autonomy. All elements are essential to respect women's human rights and to reduce the dangerous spiral in population numbers as much as possible.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Ensure that Canadian Overseas development assistance is focused on meeting the needs of women and girls.
- Integrate goals for reduced fertility into the overall efforts to eliminate poverty.

9. The Israel – Palestine Conflict

The conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians is often viewed as intractable and irresolvable. More than three regional wars and two Intifadas have left deep scars on the bodies and in the minds of the people of this troubled region. Strongly held views and historical claims are well entrenched on both sides, making this a complex and crucial conflict to understand. It is an unfortunate and continued source of tension for many in the Middle East and around the world.

It should be clear that continued support and use of military or insurgency strategies will not bring about an end to the conflict. The cycle of violence, loss of life and desecration of human rights must no longer be allowed to continue.

Our Vision

The Green Party of Canada believes that any effort aimed only at one side in this conflict will not end the violent responses that exacerbate human suffering. Canada's role in the Middle East should be to reduce tensions, find working solutions and uphold international humanitarian law, not to take sides in this chronic conflict. We must work towards a mutually acceptable compromise that will achieve a lasting peace between, and among, the Israelis and Palestinians.

The Green Party supports a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict that addresses the security, economic, and religious concerns of the both sides.

Second-track diplomatic efforts to build constructive relationships between the two communities are required. Continued dialogue will build community support for the negotiated peace agreement, and will ease implementation and ensure that it does not break down from pressures within the Palestinian and Israeli communities.

Green Party MPs will:

- Support a two-state solution to the Israel- Palestine conflict that adheres to pre-1967 borders and also seeks to incorporate an international plan for stimulating economic prosperity in both nations.
- Call on both sides to immediately stop the killing of civilians and adhere to international law.
- Encourage the Canadian government to press for a mutually agreed upon honest broker to engage in bi-literal and multi-lateral peace talks involving Palestinians and Israelis.
- Call on Arab countries to use their influence to broker an agreement between Hamas and the Palestinian National Authority to facilitate the promotion of peace amongst the competing Palestinian interests.
- Call for an end to the collective siege of Gaza so that medical and humanitarian aid can be provided.
- Actively support the efforts of civil society groups working for peace, human rights, and justice in the region.

10. Rebuild Canada's traditional diplomatic muscle

Canada has traditionally had a fine foreign service. Its officers represent a standard of excellence envied by the world. Fallen heroes, like Gwynn Berry, who was killed in the line of diplomatic duty in Afghanistan, must not be forgotten.

The Canadian Foreign Service is suffering from the neglect of successive governments. The Harper government, in particular, has under-estimated the importance of a robust diplomatic core with highly trained officers.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Restore adequate financial support to the hiring and training of a continuing foreign service and embassies, consular services and High Commissions around the world.

11. Maintaining a healthy relationship with our closest neighbour

Canada must never ignore the importance of a healthy relationship with the United States**.** No matter who is in the White House and no matter how different our national perspectives may be, a close relationship is dictated through trade and history and geography.

Canada's level of respect and influence in the world is strangely measured both by how well we work with the United States, as well as by, simultaneously, how well we hold our course if different from that of the White House.

That relationship must be built at many levels: federal government to federal government, as well as federal government to civil society, and other levels of government.

Our Vision

Canada and the United States share much. Together we should be capable of developing continental strategies for greater peace and security. We should be able to advance shared democratic ideals.

At the core of our relationship, must be a respectful tone, even when we disagree. Core trading relationships are fundamental to both economies. Nevertheless, protecting those trade relationships depends more on mutual self-interest than on fawning obsequious agreement.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Build and strengthen relations with all levels of US government -- municipal, state and federal -- and with US civil society.
- Expand networking opportunities for corporate Canada with an emphasis on small business to promote Canadian exports.
- Expand partnerships between cultural institutions, scientific research, universities, and municipalities.
- * Expand and promote mutual tourism opportunities, especially for young people, through low-carbon VIA-Amtrak partnerships.
- Promote Canada to US visitors as a "Safe and Friendly Neighbour" to help break down the fear-factor that increasingly isolates our US neighbours from the world.
- Develop shared missions to alleviate global poverty and show leadership on environmental goals.

- Launch an adept rapid-response to US media myths about Canada. Act within minutes to correct false statements about lax Canadian security, urban myths about any link to 9/11 terrorists and Canadian immigration laws. Stay positive, friendly, but firm.
- Expand public awareness in both nations of our extraordinary good fortune and our ability and moral obligation to help less fortunate globally.

12. Trade and sovereignty

Robert Frost wrote that good fences make good neighbours. The Green Party supports fair, global trade. We support trade that puts global equity, Canadian sovereignty, human rights, and the environment first.

Over the last fifteen years, international free trade agreements have become an important part of Canada's economy. Despite acknowledged benefits, there are some clauses and sections in these agreements that are not balanced. They put foreign and corporate business interests first.

Trade isn't just about the export and import of goods and services. Trade agreements also impact on human rights, labour standards, cultural diversity, environmental laws and even constitutional rights. The North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), for example, limits our government's will to enact new environmental legislation, labour standards and human rights laws because they might be challengeable under NAFTA. Many Canadians and public policy think tanks now admit that NAFTA has not lived up to its promises. Some of these failed promises include: promises that the income benefits of NAFTA would be widely shared; promises that NAFTA-led integration would increase productivity; promises that NAFTA would help us escape the resource export trap as hewers of wood and drawers of water among others.

Our Vision

The Green Party supports fair trade that puts sovereignty, human rights, and the environment first and not trade agreements that put the rights of multi-national corporations first.

We recognize that trade is an important component of a sustainable economy but that it cannot hamper or undermine sovereign efforts to protect and enhance local quality of life and build local economies.

The Green Party is about shifting - shifting mind sets, shifting taxes, shifting emphasis in trade from a failed free trade model to a proven fair trade model and it is about shifting emphasis from global to local development because we recognize the limitations of fossil fuel for global trade and transportation and the need for local and community participation to achieve sustainable communities.

Green Solutions

In each of the following areas related to trade agreements, Green Party MPs will:

- **NAFTA:** Immediately provide the required six months' notice of withdrawal from NAFTA. Re-negotiate deals with the US and Mexico whose principles are centred on fair trade and which remove offensive disciplines like national treatment, and undemocratic decision-making tribunals. In particular the GPC would remove Chapter 11, take water out of any new agreement, remove and re-negotiate the energy provision of NAFTA, recognizing Canada's need for an energy reserve, control over exports to be governed by environmental frameworks and an emphasis on inter provincial provision first. Rewrite a fair trade agreement based on principles that protect human rights, workers rights, jobs, and that recognize limits to growth and resources, and ensure that Canada retains its Charter position on limiting property rights.
- **BI-LATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS:** Renegotiate bi-lateral trade agreements to follow the format set for NAFTA as noted above.
- **FTAA:** Whereas the last meeting of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in Miami failed, where as many of the key South American countries have stated they do not want to be part of FTAA and whereas these countries already have emerged a valuable trading block, the Green Party would respect that wish and attempt to negotiate fair trade agreements in the region where appropriate.
- **WTO:** Propose reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, placing these institutions under the authority of the UN General Assembly, and shift the direction of international trade away from "free trade" to "fair trade" focusing on the global protection of human rights, labour standards, cultural diversity, and ecosystems.
- **TILMA:** Urge British Columbia and Alberta to pull out of the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) and devise agreements to ensure the sovereignty of sub-national governments, energy security, food security for all Canadians while ensuring Charter rights and refraining from embed ding the supremacy of property rights into trade agreements.
- Negotiate a new multilateral **Agreement on Corporate Rights and Responsibilities:** The effort to negotiate a Multilateral Agreement on Investment in the OECD was a failure. This was largely because the proposed text created new rights for corporations and new obligations for governments. It was lopsided, failing to create any balanced corporate responsibilities. The Green Party Government will press for new global negotiations to create a level playing field for multinational corporations. The template would be that found in the European Union (EU) in which no country's environmental and labour laws can fall below the very most rigourous of any EU state. By ensuring that all corporations in the world must adhere to minimum standards to protect children, the environment and labour rights, no company could gain competitive advantage by trampling on these fundamental elements of responsible corporate citizenship.

13. Security and Prosperity Partnership for North America

The Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) encapsulates US post - 9-11 concerns about security, addresses US energy needs with Canada portrayed as "domestic supply" for the US energy appetite, and addresses Canadian concerns to ensure that the border remains open to trade in any eventuality. It builds on NAFTA, but is different from NAFTA by moving Canada and the US much closer to a common market and customs union. Some have described it as a North American Union (NAU) similar to the European Union.
The SPP has many profound differences from the EU model. The EU requires that the toughest environmental and labour standards of any one nation be the minimum standards for all. The EU model includes the direct election to a supra-national Parliament. The citizens within the EU move more easily between borders.

The SPP model operates from a hyper-security mentality that involves anti-terrorism legislation, Smart Border Accord, security certificates, harmonizing immigration polices and military integration for homeland security. The work to realize the objectives of this partnership is going on largely without public scrutiny. Nevertheless, it appears to be moving very rapidly towards military, energy, natural resource, security, social and environmental policy integration en route to NAU.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Scrap the Security and Prosperity Partnership.

PART 6: GOOD GOVERNMENT

Canadians have become cynical about politicians and government. The Quebec sponsorship scandal is one of many scandals and broken promises causing Canadians to lose trust. People are also disillusioned with MPs' allegiance to parties instead of constituents, government inefficiency and wasteful spending, and the failure of government to address critical issues like the climate crisis. On top of this, we have an outdated voting system where the popular vote is not translated into seats, leaving many voters unrepresented. Many citizens, especially youth, are frustrated that their vote "doesn't count" and so don't even bother to vote.

Our Vision

When our government is at its best, it represents all of us and brings us together to accomplish things we cannot accomplish alone. Our parliament should be a model of statesmanship and cooperation, working for the good of all Canadians. It should deal creatively and constructively with issues and spend taxpayers' money prudently. MPs should be elected through a fair voting system that ensures parties get a share of seats in Parliament that is equal to their share of popular vote. Canadians should be proud of their government and trust that it is acting in their best interests.

1. Democratic renewal and proportional representation

Over 660,000 Canadians voted for the Green Party in the last federal election without electing a single Green MP. Yet it took an average of 37,000 voters to elect one Liberal MP, and only 31,000 votes to elect one Bloc MP. Our electoral system unfairly punishes Conservative voters in cities, Liberal and NDP voters in the west, and Green voters throughout Canada. Our electoral system also elects far more men then women and gives some provinces an unfair share of power, based on their population, than others. Ultimately, it does not produce governments that reflect the diversity of people in Canada, nor do a good job of accurately reflecting voters' wishes. Canada is one of the last few parliamentary democracies in the world to still use the antiquated first-past-the-post voting system, and Canadians are ready for positive change.

Our Vision

The Green Party of Canada believes that Canadian democracy would benefit by reducing the financial barriers to running for political office, lowering the voter age to encourage more youth participation, and changing to a voting system that more fairly translates peoples' votes into representation in parliament. We also believe that democracy, by definition, must be decided by citizens, not politicians. We have ideas to improve the system, but we'd rather hear yours.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Create a Citizens' Assembly, like the one struck provincially in Ontario, to study electoral systems used around the world, with a view to designing several models that are proportional and fairer than our current system. The recommendations of the Citizens Assembly will be presented as options to Canadian voters.
- Present a ballot question to voters at the next federal election on whether they want to change our voting system and which one of the options prepared by the Citizens' Assembly they prefer. The threshold for the ballot question to change our voting system should be fifty percent plus one.
- Introduce fixed election dates permitting political stability and fair elections.
- Reduce the mandatory $1,000 candidate deposit to encourage more Canadians to participate in the democratic system.

2. Increasing government accountability and ethical conduct

The Conservative government has been the most centralized and secretive government in recent history. It brought in legislation to ostensibly clean up "Liberal corruption." Remarkably, it has actually made things worse, as it abandoned numerous promises it made while in opposition regarding transparency and accountability. Its ironically named Accountability Act has twelve new blanket exemptions and exclusions preventing certain kinds of government documents from being released, and provides for the possibility that wrongdoing exposed by whistle-blowers could be sealed for up to fifteen years. The Conservative government "reform" has removed the "duty to act honestly" from the code of ethics governing the Cabinet and senior civil service.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes in the de-centralization of decision-making powers and in open, honest government.

Green Solutions

Green MPs will work to:

- Amend the Accountability Act to ensure that all those who monitor government are selected at arms length from those they monitor, to eliminate the blanket exemptions on public release of government documents and to guarantee transparency and openness for all government activities.
- Restore Parliamentary Committees as a vehicle for non-partisan, constructive improvement of legislation and require that the improved version of such legislation be the version put to Parliament for vote.
- Enact effective whistle-blower protection for public and private sector employees.
- Institute a code of conduct and an independent complaints process to ensure that tax dollars are not used for pre-election partisan purposes.
- Institute mandatory training in ethics for MPs and their staffs, requiring all MPs and staff to take in-house training on the basics of good management and ethics in Parliament.

- Reform the appointments system to discourage patronage by establishing an independent agency for ensuring that appointments to government tribunals, boards and senior positions are done through a qualification-based process and are not politically motivated patronage appointments
- Strengthen the mandates of Independent Officers of Parliament, including the Auditor General and the Information Commissioner.
- Implement stand-alone legislation to create an independent Commissioner on the Environment and Sustainable Development, removing the office from that of subservience to the Auditor General.
- * Replace the current Ethics Commissioner, who reports privately to the Prime Minister, with an independent Ethics Commission reporting to Parliament and appointed through a merit-based process with strong powers to investigate government officials and lobbyists.
- Provide parliamentarians with independent regulatory audits through the Auditor General's office on the effectiveness of government regulations in meeting their stated public purposes.
- Make service improvements a higher priority for all agencies and departments, with systematic citizen feedback and a schedule for periodic program review.
- Require the independence of public sector employees who oversee industry, such as those responsible for such areas as fisheries, science and drug licensing, from those industries.
- Require long-term public departmental service plans to report on government program purposes, costs, reforms and performance.
- Strengthen the rules of conduct for lobbying. All lobbyists' contacts with politicians and government bureaucrats both formal and informal must be reported and made public.

3. Making government a leader in ethical purchasing

The federal government buys goods and services based primarily on the lowest price or bid. It does not consider other criteria that are essential to developing a just and sustainable society.

Our Vision

The Green Party believes that the federal government should set an example in its purchasing policies, ensuring that its expenditures support a strong Canadian economy, good labour practices and environmental protection.

Green Solution

Green MPs will work to:

- Require that government purchase Canadian-made products and services wherever possible and, if imports are necessary, procure certified fair-trade goods (produced with good labour and environmental practices) wherever possible.

- Require that all government departments and agencies incorporate a "triple bottom line" (social, economic and environmental cost/benefit) analysis in purchasing goods and services and assessing their operations and programs.
- * Require that all government departments and agencies meet the highest environmental standards including full recycling, purchase and use of small energy efficient vehicles, energy efficient and toxic-free buildings with toxic free ground maintenance.

4. Supporting the free flow of information

The Internet has become an essential tool in knowledge storage and the free flow of information between citizens. It is playing a critical role in democratizing communications and society as a whole. There are corporations that want to control the content of information on the internet and alter the free flow of information by giving preferential treatment to those who pay extra for faster service.

Our Vision

The Green Party of Canada is committed to the original design principle of the internet - network neutrality: the idea that a maximally useful public information network treats all content, sites, and platforms equally, thus allowing the network to carry every form of information and support every kind of application.

Green Solution

Green Party MPs will:

- Pass legislation granting the Internet in Canada the status of Common Carrier – prohibiting Internet Service Providers from discriminating due to content while freeing them from liability for content transmitted through their systems.

5. The RCMP

The RCMP truly is a national symbol. It has long been one of the most respected police forces in the world. It has a proud tradition of even-handed law enforcement, but it appears at every level that something is wrong within the RCMP's governance and over-sight.

It is a fundamental principle of a free and democratic state that its police must be exemplary and above reproach. They must be independent of the political powers and entirely committed to enforcing the law in an impartial and professional manner. The Green Party supports a professional RCMP force that has the highest conduct standards and commands the respect of all Canadians.

We believe that responsible leadership from the federal government will ensure that the RCMP is not run like a business, but as a national institution in service of the public good. If our families, communities, and businesses are to be safe and secure, those who commit crimes must be brought to justice.

Our Vision

In the past twenty years the RCMP has become too politicized. The police need to be independent from the government and free to investigate corruption wherever it may be found. The government should have a very limited role in criminal investigations.

At the same time, the federal government needs to be accountable to Parliament and the Canadian public for the actions of the RCMP. A commitment to accountability and transparency is essential in building greater trust in the RCMP among its members and the public.

Over the years, the RCMP has been taking on too many roles—from enforcing federal laws, to policing in our cities under contract, to serving as security officers—and lacks clear direction. The Green Party will work in cooperation with the provinces and territories to establish the RCMP as a truly national police force dedicated to the enforcement of federal laws.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Provide guidance to the RCMP in cultivating a promotion system that is based upon performance, skill, and ability. The morale and discipline of the force depends upon clear and transparent guidelines for the personal advancement of officers.
- Direct the RCMP to develop areas of specialist expertise that will allow for a more professional and effective enforcement of the law.
- Refocus the RCMP upon the enforcement of federal laws as a truly national body.
- Ensure the RCMP has the freedom and independence to conduct investigations into government officials, bureaucrats, and corporate executives without interference from politicians.
- Pass legislation that establishes an independent body to investigate complaints regarding the conduct of RCMP officers with full judicial inquiry powers and the requirement that it make public reports. An independent complaints and oversight commission would serve as the central body receiving all complaints against the RCMP, regardless of the source.
- Provide more funding for the RCMP, specifically to give greater training to new recruits and specialists.

6. Rebuilding federal/provincial/territorial relations

After the 1982 repatriation of the Constitution and the refusal of Québec to sign the Constitution, after two failed federal accords, two referendums, asymmetrical federalism, a sponsorship scandal, and "nation within a nation" legislation, many Quebecers and Canadians ask the obvious question: "Where do we go from here?"

VISION GREEN

Our Vision

The Green Party proposes to make Canada a true functioning Confederation in which the provinces and territories are more empowered and financed to meet the needs of their communities. Québec and the rest of Canada must work together as partners, in the true spirit of confederation, and work to solve their fiscal and cultural imbalances. Federal powers to regulate the highest standards of environment, health and labour standards must be strengthened as funding and implementation moves to more local implementation.

Green Solutions

Green Party MPs will:

- Rebalance the funding formula to ensure fairness across regions and provinces.
- Remove the false choice for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador to allow access to funds for health, education and other services provided through equalization, and remove any requirement to abandon rights under the Atlantic Accord.
- Recognize a clear result to a clear question in the event of a future referendum in Québec regarding Québec separating from Canada and forming an independent country. The Green Party is committed to a strong and united Canada, respecting each region for its unique contribution to the beauty and strength of the whole. Quebec is too important to all of Canada to surrender.

Vision Green was originally released on October 15, 2007 and revised on August 11, 2008.