



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

PLATFORM SUMMARY

2015



CANADIANS WORKING TOGETHER CAN SOLVE ANY PROBLEM; OVERCOME ANY HURDLE.

That is what makes us Canadian: a profound faith that together, through hard work, compassion, and cooperation, we can build a better future.

Have a look at what we propose. This platform is about our democracy, our economy, our communities – our future. It's about each and every one of us, the role we play in our country, and the essential services we all need to live safe, happy, fulfilled, and enriched lives. In it, you will find optimism, confidence, and sensible Canadian-made plans for a better future.

I hope it inspires you to join us; and to vote Green on October 19.

Elizabeth May, Leader,
Green Party of Canada

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

BECAUSE TOMORROW IS SERIOUS BUSINESS.

DESPITE CONSERVATIVE MISMANAGEMENT, OUR ECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS REMAIN SOUND.

Nevertheless, Canadians are feeling more squeezed economically than ever before.

We must take decisive action to build a sustainable economy that benefits all Canadians over the long-term.

- Build sectors that benefit from the lower Canadian dollar: — manufacturing, tourism, value-added forest products, cultural industries, and clean technology.
- Establish a Canadian Sustainable Generations Fund to invest in skills training, education, energy efficiency, renewables, and emerging technologies. Return tax rates on large corporations to 2009 levels (19%), eliminate tax havens, tax pollution, and work with provinces and territories to increase resource extraction royalties – all of which will fund the program.
- Set strict rules on industrial development to eliminate waste; work to undo lop-sided investor treaties that erode Canadian sovereignty; and end high-risk plans for new raw bitumen export pipelines and tankers.
- Make entry to college and university tuition-free by 2020 for students and their families and forgive existing and future student debt.
- Establish a National Sustainable Jobs Plan to invest in well-paying, local, and sustainable jobs.
- Create a Community and Environment Service Corps, with \$1 billion per year for municipalities to hire young people.
- Work with First Nations, Metis and Inuit, the provinces, and territories to ensure responsible development of Canada's natural resources.
- Commit \$6.4 billion per year (one point of the GST) to municipal infrastructure, on top of existing spending from the gas tax.

- Cut red tape for small business.
- Invest \$1 billion per year for Green Technology Commercialization to accelerate emerging technologies and help entrepreneurs compete internationally.
- Fund community-supported agriculture, farmers' markets, small-scale farms, wineries, and microbreweries to help Canadians enter agriculture.
- Shift government-supported agriculture research to organic and sustainable food production.



STRONG COMMUNITIES

BECAUSE CANADA DEPENDS ON IT.

THE PROSPECT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS SLIPPING AWAY FOR MANY CANADIANS.

Medicare is being undermined and child care is increasingly unaffordable. After decades of gradual improvement, the poverty rate for seniors has begun to climb. Canada needs a government that invests in the fundamental building blocks on which our communities depend – from healthcare to transit, childcare to public parks and bridges. Seniors are an important segment of the Canadian population and have not been given the respect they deserve. We are aware of the needs of our aging Canadians and seniors' well-being is one of our top priorities.

- Renew the Health Accord, emphasize preventive care, bring in Pharmacare to reduce the cost of prescription medication, and provide dental services for low-income youth to strengthen universal healthcare.
- Ensure that National Conference on Lyme Disease, legally required in the Green Party's first bill and scheduled for November, develops a strategy to confront this growing threat.
- Implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, recognize Indigenous rights and title, negotiate in good faith to settle land claims, establish treaties and self-government arrangements, and move to repeal the Indian Act should that be the consensus of First Nations. Ensure access to quality public services for all First Nations, Metis, and Inuit.
- Develop a National Seniors Strategy that includes a housing plan with affordable, predictable home care support and pension protection along with expanding the Canada Pension Plan/Quebec Pension Plan.
- Implement a National Housing Strategy that quickly moves people experiencing homelessness into independent, permanent housing, and provides support services as needed.
- Implement a \$15-an-hour federal minimum wage and a Guaranteed Livable Income, ensure equal pay for equal work and high quality child care for every Canadian family that wants it, and provide a school nutrition program.
- Reverse CBC-Radio Canada cuts and increase funding to arts and culture organizations.

- Re-open Veterans Affairs offices across Canada and reverse the \$200 million cut to Veterans Affairs Canada.
- Restore home mail delivery service. Ensure profitability of Canada Post through diversification of services.
- Build Canada's disaster preparedness capacity, re-open shuttered Coast Guard stations, and focus national defense on peacekeeping; protection missions with our allies; border, northern, and coast guard patrols; and search and rescue missions.
- Launch a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and address structural violence against Indigenous communities.



GOOD GOVERNMENT

BECAUSE IT'S TIME TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY.

FROM AN UNFAIR ELECTORAL SYSTEM TO THE EROSION OF EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY-MAKING AND SECRETIVE, CENTRALIZED CONTROL, CANADA'S DEMOCRACY IS UNDER THREAT.

A Green government will be transparent and accountable. It will provide long-term stability, security from threats domestic and abroad, and work towards a vision that stretches well beyond four-year election cycles.

- End first-past-the-post voting and create a system that ensures all Canadians have a voice in government.
- Restore Canadian public science and the role of evidence in our decision-making, restore the long-form census, and un-muzzle government scientists.
- Overhaul our immigration and refugee protection system to ensure Canada is a compassionate nation that welcomes people fleeing violence and persecution, and reverse legislation creating two-tiers of Canadian citizenship.
- Repeal Bill C-51, Stephen Harper's Secret Police Bill.
- Slash the federal advertising budget and require all contracts be publicly tendered with decisions removed from political operatives.
- Cut the Prime Minister's Office budget and pass laws to control use of omnibus bills and prorogation.
- Enshrine the right to a healthy environment in the Constitution.



BOLD ACTION ON CLIMATE

BECAUSE WE LIVE HERE.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS BOTH THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE AND THE BIGGEST OPPORTUNITY THAT CANADA HAS FACED.

Under Stephen Harper, this country has played a shameful and destructive role at climate negotiations. It is time to restore our role as a leader and transition to a green, sustainable economy, creating good local jobs, shorter commutes, more livable cities, and cleaner air and water.

- Move to the elimination of fossil fuel use in Canada by mid-century.
- Defend our coastal waters from risky pipelines and tankers carrying unprocessed bitumen, and stand against all new raw bitumen export schemes.
- Stop the growth in oil sands expansion.
- Partner with the provinces and territories to eliminate fossil-fuel subsidies, phase out coal-fired electricity, and transition to a decarbonized economy. Implement a Fee and Dividend Plan that places a fee on carbon and pays the funds it generates directly to every Canadian over age 18 as an annual carbon dividend.
- Invest in infrastructure that promotes renewable energy, and reduce the enormous waste in our energy systems.
- End exports of thermal coal.
- Impose strict rail-safety laws and invest in Canada's rail system.
- Begin work the day after the election to develop with a more ambitious Canadian climate position with other levels of government that demonstrates leadership at the United Nations Climate Summit in Paris. Only the Green Party of Canada has been fully engaged in the process over the last four years.





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