



The Hon. Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Finance
Deputy Prime Minister
OTTAWA

February 25, 2022

Dear Minister,

We are pleased to send you the pre-budget submission of the Green Party of Canada. The challenges you and your government face in spring 2022 are a world away from spring 2019. The COVID pandemic has changed the face of our nation's finances, our national sense of identity, our priorities. The world is less safe this week than last due to the deeply alarming actions of Vladimir Putin. Russia's aggression in its unprovoked attack on Ukraine is deeply dangerous and alarming.

One thing that has not changed, but has become more urgent, is the need for climate action. The carbon budget is shrinking. In other words, Canada and the world's capacity, in a real physical sense, to contain growing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to what is required to hold to no more than 1.5 degrees C (global average temperature increase above those temperatures before the Industrial Revolution) is disappearing like sand between our fingers.

The chance to avoid shooting well past the Paris Agreement target of 1.5 degrees Celsius, is vanishing. Failure to act more aggressively, in Canada and globally, will seal our fate within the next 24 months. Very soon, if not already, holding to 1.5 degrees will be out of reach. Currently, the commitments from every nation on earth will lead to at least 2.7 degrees C of warming. That failure will condemn humanity, including children alive today, to a spiraling, worsening state of growing chaos.

As nations of the world agreed at COP26 in Glasgow, every fraction of a degree of warming represents a critical increase of threat to the survival of human civilization. As the Rt. Hon. Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, stated clearly, "Two degrees is a death sentence for us." In Budget 2022, climate action must re-emerge as a priority.

We acknowledge the growing concern about inflationary trends. As former Governor of the Bank of Canada, Stephen Poloz, made clear, the greater risk coming out of the pandemic was deflation. Inflation is now a global problem and is uneven. It is too soon to proclaim that we are in an inflationary spiral. Prices for gas, for example, are influenced by multiple factors including the conflict between Russia and the Ukraine. Russia's attack on Ukraine is a serious threat to global

peace and stability but also to our economy. It increases the risk of inflationary trends. We are not unconcerned. Inflation could become a major threat to our recovery, but austerity could plunge an uncertain economic recovery into recession. Your approach so far has been sound.

As Greens, we support your government's determination to continue creating new programs, such as the generational accomplishment in the Early Learning Child Care Plan, now accepted in 12 territorial and provincial agreements. Congratulations.

Please do not stop there. Now is not the time for austerity. At the same time, billions of dollars in announced spending, including on the climate emergency, has been misspent and converted to subsidies for fossil fuels. It is critical that spending not be misallocated. It is indeed long overdue good news that no more public funds will be spent on the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. As we discuss in the submission, the way in which the tolls are structured will continue to expose Canadians to the waste of public funds. The TMX needs to be shuttered, now. We will emphasize the areas where cuts can occur.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amita Kuttner, Interim Leader
Lorraine Rekmans, President
Elizabeth May, MP, Parliamentary leader
Mike Morrice, MP, Kitchener Centre

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INTRODUCTION

We present our primary concerns in the following subject headings:

1. Health and health care
2. People and economic well-being
3. Housing
4. Indigenous rights and reconciliation
5. Supporting and sustaining educated and engaged youth
6. Heritage, culture, charities, language and the arts
7. Anti-racism investments
8. Environmental science initiatives
9. Climate action
10. Nature
11. International development assistance

1. Health and health care

For years, we have urged your government to negotiate a new Health Accord. We repeat that request this year. The cracks in the foundation of our universal, single-payer, health-care system have grown in the last 12 months. The impacts of COVID have allowed some provinces to open the door to more private provision of health services. Some private services have been used by provinces in testing and tracing.

The government must remain firm in ensuring the Canada Health Act is respected and expanded. Indigenous Peoples of Canada must be engaged in the negotiation and implementation of the next federal/provincial /territorial Health Accord. The next Health Accord should establish measurable goals and identify and close gaps in health outcomes for Indigenous people by implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The next federal/provincial Health Accord should be based on the demographics and real health-care needs in each province, rather than the current formula based on GDP growth.

As was set out in the mandate letter to the Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health, your government is committed to public health care and to addressing the huge need for family doctors. Primary health care and doctors committed to longitudinal patient care face enormous economic pressures. These pressures differ depending on the provincial structure for providing health care. Finding a way to provide more equitable opportunities across the country, tying the increased support for health care in transfers to provinces, should be part of a new Health Accord.

Part of the reason for a lack of family doctors is demographics. More practising doctors are approaching retirement. The younger cohort of doctors is inadequate. At the same time, Canadian medical students have been warning for years that there are inadequate opportunities for residencies for recently graduated students. There are too many pinch-points that increase pressure for newly minted Canadian health-care professionals, doctors and nurses to practise in the US or elsewhere. While these pinch points are mainly controlled by the provinces and professional

associations accrediting doctors, specific funding to teaching hospitals tied to expanding intake of young doctors would make a big difference.

New private services, such as those promoted by Telus and Shoppers Drug Mart, must be reviewed and understood as a threat to universal single-payer public health care. Tele-medicine *is* health care and the higher profit margins for Canadian doctors create pressure for more doctors to exit our public health-care system.

As our entire health-care system has faced unprecedented stresses through the pandemic, the nursing profession has borne the brunt of COVID-19. Exhausted nurses are leaving the profession, worsening a pre-pandemic deficit. Canada is estimated to need 60,000 more nurses this year. Experts in the field urge pay increases, but more. Mental health supports, measures to reflect the enormous debt of gratitude Canadians feel for our nurses, retention strategies developed in conjunction with the nurses and provincial governments, with a federal lead are urgently needed. Passage of the legislation to make harassing health-care workers a crime was one such measure to convey support for the profession. But more must be done.

Innovative models to provide a supportive environment for team medicine – doctors and nurse practitioners, with the full team of pharmacists, geriatric specialists, social workers, midwives and maternal care, physiotherapists and so on, in a patient-centered network, need to be shared. One leading example is Shoreline Medical (from Saanich-Gulf Islands), a non-profit, registered charity model within our public health-care system, operating several clinics. The Shoreline Medical model could be successful in empowering communities to fund their own primary care infrastructure. Replicating this model nationally could provide, quite efficiently, access to family doctors for every Canadian. We recommend that a federal-provincial-territorial ministers of health task force on revitalization of family practice and primary care be established. Its mandate could include reviewing the best practices and successful models across Canada and to examine possibilities like a tax credit to encourage young graduating physicians to choose family practice (over being a hospitalist or specialist).

Long-term care

We have learned much in the two years of living through a pandemic. The largest number of deaths took place in long-term care (LTC) homes. Within this sector, the largest number of deaths have been in the LTC homes operated for profit.

While LTC is in provincial jurisdiction, a decision under the Canada Health Act that LTC must be provided on the basis of our universal, single-payer system would save lives in abolishing for-profit care homes. It has failed as a model and must be replaced with national standards of care and the non-profit approach to LTC.

Supply chains – more local PPE, vaccines and vaccine equity

Lessons learned from the pandemic and clearly embraced by your government include more access to local supply of key assets. We need more local production of personal protective equipment (PPE). We need to expand domestic capacity for vaccine production. The reduction of capacity in

Canadian production has been accelerated by trade deals. We need to rethink patent protections and restrictions for generic drugs. It is embarrassing that Canada still has not supported India and South Africa in pressing for a waiver of the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights Agreement within the World Trade Organization. Ensuring vaccine equity is urgent if we are to contain and end the global pandemic.

Dental care

It is time to act to ensure dental care is available to Canadians as part of our health-care system. To act on the most urgent dental health issues, the service must be available to low-income Canadians. Work with the dentistry profession will be needed to extend it beyond those in the low-income category.

Pharmacare

Universal pharmacare is a top priority. The Advisory Council on the Implementation of Pharmacare, chaired by former Ontario health minister Dr. Eric Hoskins, reported in 2019. Initially, the government signalled a willingness to move forward with this essential step in completing the universal public health-care system. As was noted in the 2020 Fall Economic Statement, the government was prepared to start with incremental steps. The 2021 FES did not revisit this commitment. The Hoskins Report recommendations should be implemented now.

Mental health and addictions

As is clear in the Prime Minister's decision to create a new cabinet position solely focused on mental health and addictions, held by the Hon. Carolyn Bennett, your government recognizes this crisis. In tandem with the pandemic, the opioid emergency is also a national health emergency. It is time to decriminalize the drug supply. The opioid crisis is a health issue, not a criminal issue.

Safe supply and decriminalizing unregulated drugs will save lives. The rising death rate is not an overdose crisis as much as it is a poisoning crisis, due to contamination of a wide range of drugs, including non-opioids, with fentanyl. Ensuring that fentanyl is not present requires decriminalizing simple possession, coupled with significant funding for addiction counseling and services for those trying to end their addiction. We know the rate of addictions is hidden and running high in the construction industry. Adolescents, in particular, are in desperate need of services designed for them. Indigenous communities should be identified as the most at risk community with the lowest level of adequate care.

Post-secondary institutions are in dire need of adequate mental health services for the student population. Even before the pandemic, in spring 2016, the National College Health Assessment surveyed 43,000 students and found a significant degree of stress, depression and even suicidal thoughts – an alarming 13 per cent had seriously considered suicide.

Running in the same at-risk groups is a national suicide crisis. The long-overdue commitment to a Suicide Prevention Strategy must be funded in Budget 2022. Years ago the amount requested was pegged at \$50 million. This is clearly inadequate now.

The mental health of Canadians has suffered through the pandemic. It is time to place mental health services within the Canada Health Act. As a first step toward that goal, we urge that Budget 2022 remove any value-added taxes (GST, HST) from counselling services. As a second step, uninsured low- and middle-income Canadians should be provided with free access to counselling services. As well, low- and middle-income Canadians who don't have private health benefits should be provided with free access to counselling services.

We ask the government to provide long-term funding to the Canadian Institutes for Health Research to increase mental health research, proportional to mental health's burden of disease.

We also call on the government to invest in supportive housing for people with mental illnesses and substance use problems to ensure that they have safe places to live as they recover. This includes expanded supportive housing units as well as truly affordable non-market, co-op and non-profit housing.

Healthy children

Our request in last year's submission for adequate Early Learning and Child Care has been met in your actions over the last year. Thank you.

We still have gaps. One is the lack of a predictable, healthy school lunch program for all children. This has been Green Party policy for many years. We support the over 170 groups in the Coalition for Healthy School Food in urging the government to allocate \$2.7 billion in Budget 2022 as the Year 1 investment towards establishing a cost-shared, universal School Food Program for Canada with strong federal standards. For low-income Canadians, healthy and nutritious school lunches will make a huge difference in providing an equal opportunity for learning.

Canadian Environmental Protection Act

We could include this in a number of other headings, but as CEPA is jointly administered by the ministers of health and environment and climate change, and as the threats of water contamination, toxic chemicals and GMOs are also a threat to health, and as at this writing, sitting at its first stages in the Senate is the first overhaul in 22 years to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), we wish to be clear that the Act's implementation will also create regulatory and financial burdens.

A fair estimate of the costs of updating the act is around \$200 million a year. Ultimately, if the Act is amended to actually deliver on its promise of a right to a healthy environment, it will be a very useful protection for human health across Canada.

2. People and economic well-being

Budget 2022 must move toward enhanced fairness in Employment Insurance.

Ever since the Harper Administration changed Unemployment Insurance to Employment Insurance, the system has been increasingly unreliable for the people who need it most. Greens

support the recommendations of Unifor to expand eligibility for EI (including standardizing the entry requirement to 360 hours and base the qualifying hours and duration for existing claims on the most favourable time period), improving EI Benefits, increasing the income replacement rate to 75 per cent of previous earnings from the current 55 per cent and raising the ceiling on insurable earnings; and a long overdue repair to EI Administration, reinstating federal contributions to the program.

As in previous years, we recommend a national minimum wage of \$15 an hour in areas the federal government regulates.

We must do more to respond to the generational shift to the “gig economy”. An entire generation of precarious workers need supports to maintain their independent contractor status while bargaining for minimum standards. Young people in particular can be trapped in low-wage, precarious work. The federal government can confront this, again drawing on advice from Unifor in convening a federal Low-Wage Commission – a multi-stakeholder approach bringing key stakeholders together and exploring the kind of workforce changes that are necessary. We can help learn the lessons on COVID-19 and the disproportionately larger impact on low-waged workers with far fewer opportunities to work from home.

As mentioned in the climate section of our recommendations, a Just Transition Strategy must be enacted soon. We are running out of time.

Guaranteed Livable Income

It is time to expand and strengthen our social safety net to meet the demands of our transformed society. Greens have pressed for Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) for years. Other terms have been used (Universal Basic Income) but the goal is similar. A universal payment set at a level that fits each region’s specific cost of living will eliminate poverty, providing all Canadians with an income that covers basic needs.

As numerous studies have shown, poverty costs. It costs in health care. It costs in correctional services. It costs in a loss of human dignity. We cannot afford poverty. In fact, this was another of the trail-blazing recommendations of the 1970 Royal Commission on the Status of Women:

“We recognize in principle the benefits of a guaranteed annual income for all Canadians. [...] One method of providing a guaranteed annual income is through a negative income tax. Under this scheme, those whose incomes fall short of the statutory minimum are entitled to an allowance, just as those whose incomes exceed a statutory maximum have to pay an income tax. ... The negative income tax principle has already been introduced in the Guaranteed Income Supplement paid to old age pensioners ...”

The negative income tax approach is, as the 1970 Commission noted, just one option. Negotiations between and among all orders of government – federal, provincial, territorial, municipal and Indigenous – will be required to set the relative GLI and identify what is to be eliminated across government to make the system affordable.

Canada has dipped a toe in the water with COVID emergency responses. The nearly universal access to the now suspended Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) demonstrated that it is possible. As the Parliamentary Budget Officer found, applying a full Guarantee Livable Income would be more cost-effective than the CERB.

To begin with a commitment to GLI, we recommend that Budget 2022 commit to share with the government of P.E.I. the costs of eliminating poverty in that province. One legislative committee of has requested federal help to implement the program at an estimated \$270 million/year.

This is a golden opportunity to learn how to implement the program, how to eliminate other poverty band-aid programs and truly assess the benefits of a guaranteed livable income. We also need to build on and institutionalize the greater collaboration across orders of government we experienced in the pandemic. The fast-approaching revolution in artificial intelligence requires our economy to plan ahead.

People with disabilities

We call on the government to move forward with their commitment to support Canadians with disabilities who are living in poverty by including the Canada Disability Benefit in Budget 2022. We ask the government to ensure that people with disabilities are meaningfully involved in the creation and implementation of the benefit. The government must work with provincial and territorial governments to ensure that the benefit and provincial/territorial programs work together to support people with disabilities.

Immigration and refugee resettlement

Canada is a country of immigrants, but the pandemic has further emphasized the need to modernize our immigration system. We were encouraged to see in the Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Minister's mandate letter that reducing the application processing time and addressing delays created by the pandemic will be a priority.

We echo the calls from immigration organizations for the government to update the economic immigration program to ensure that the program is in line with the needs of the labour market and includes jobs that have been essential during the pandemic, in all skills areas and skills levels. We also call on the government to make it easier for people to sponsor family members by relaxing the criteria and increasing the quotas for family class immigration, as well as removing the caps and the minimum income requirements from the parent and grandparent sponsorship program.

Canada must also provide more support for immigrants as they enter the work force. We support OCASI's call for the government to invest \$11 million towards supporting immigrants in the skilled trades and international students through mentoring, workplace supported learning, and partnerships between industry and immigrant employment organizations. As well, invest \$2.5 million towards programs to help small- and medium-sized enterprises create immigrant-inclusive workplaces.

Climate change will continue to damage ecosystems and crops throughout the world, disproportionately impacting the Global South and lower income countries. We expect to see an increase in refugees from areas impacted by climate change, and Canada should be ready to welcome those who need refuge. The Canadian government should recognize climate refugees as a new category of refugee claimant and fund the associated immigration and resettlement services.

We support calls from the UN High Commission on Refugees to create national and global policies for environmental and climate change refugees, and for Canada to increase development funding to countries in the Global South.

Gender-based violence

Throughout the pandemic, Canada has experienced a large increase in domestic violence, in what is being described as the “shadow pandemic”. The government must act to protect the safety and well-being of women and girls.

We call on the government to implement a National Action Plan on Violence against Women and Gender-Based Violence. The government must ensure that the plan focuses on the most vulnerable groups including Indigenous women, racialized women, women with disabilities, youth and LGBT+ individuals. As well, the plan must be in line with the MMIWG report. The funding must be sustainable and must increase beyond the initial investment from Budget 2021.

Respect for our veterans: restoring spousal survival pension benefits to those denied due to archaic “Gold-digger Clause”

The Superannuation Act continues to unfairly discriminate against veterans and others who served Canada if they married over the age of 60. Former finance minister, the Hon. Bill Morneau, pledged in a letter in early 2017 to eliminate this vestige of the Boer War, known as the “gold-digger clause,” which prevents the surviving spouses of veterans, ex-RCMP and others covered under the Superannuation Act from accessing pensions if their marriage occurred after the age of 60. There is no excuse for this discrimination, yet it persists. Please remove it in the 2022 budget.

Post-pandemic tax reform

Pursuing revenues hiding off-shore, closing the stock dividend loophole, eliminating business deductions for meals and entertainment, increasing the marginal tax rate for the wealthiest 1 per cent, and bringing in a wealth tax are all feasible sources of revenue to assist the post-pandemic economic recovery. To ensure fiscal sustainability we need bold transformational tax reform.

We propose that Canada lead a post-pandemic global collaboration, engaging the G20 in innovative shared approaches to restore our economies through a 21st Century equivalent of the Bretton Woods conference.

3. Housing – addressing the growing national crisis

The housing market has become unaffordable for many Canadians. The cost of homes has skyrocketed, while wages have remained relatively flat. The government's response to the housing crisis must treat housing as a human right. Homes should be for people, not commodities for investors. Solving the housing crisis requires a multi-pronged approach with all levels of government working together.

Breaking down the crisis, the challenge is in both market and non-market housing, focusing on the most vulnerable.

We support Habitat for Humanity's call for the government to enhance and refine investments under the National Housing Strategy to focus on non-market affordable housing, including co-op housing. New housing developments should be mixed-income, with dedicated units set aside for low-income households.

We call on the government to provide funding to increase the construction of affordable housing and non-market housing, including substantial investment in co-operative housing. The successful Rapid Housing Initiative should be given permanent funding to support affordable housing projects and to provide the necessary operational funding. The RHI must also be expanded to ensure that more affordable housing providers are able to access the funds.

The government must also ensure that any new programs to increase housing supply do not exclude non-market housing providers. We echo Habitat for Humanity's call to waive GST/HST for all affordable home sales delivered through charities.

The government must provide more funding for organizations that support people who are unhoused. That includes providing operational support funding for services including shelters, healthcare, addiction treatment, mental health, employment support, and other supports that help people secure and maintain housing.

When it comes to market housing, we support Budget 2021's first steps toward financial signals to reduce the attraction of non-Canadians maintaining empty homes as investments. The one percent tax is likely too low, but we hope the impacts will be closely tracked by CMHC with the goal of accumulating data before expanding the vacant, non-resident tax. Regulating Airbnb and similar platforms is another way to crack down on activities that take housing stock off the market for Canadians, while simultaneously undermining the regulated, employment producing sector in hotels, inns and real B&Bs.

Much more needs to be done to address sharp practice in the real estate industry such as "flipping." We need to direct more law enforcement and investigators to money laundering and fraud.

As well as a crisis in affordable home ownership, Canada also has a crisis in available, affordable rental units. According to GenSqueeze: "Canada lost an estimated 322,600 affordable apartments (monthly rents lower than \$750) between 2011 and 2016 due to demolition or rent increases, far outstripping Canada's commitment to build 150,000 new affordable units over 10 years."

Much more needs to be done to shift development from overpriced condos to purpose-built rental housing. Decades ago, the former MURB tax incentives for purpose-built rental housing ensured decent housing stock for renters with benefits for developers. The current programs create only some below market rentals within a building getting federal help to developers. We urge you to bring back incentives for purpose-built rental housing. We also support the calls for assistance to charities in taking up ownership of properties for redevelopment as affordable rentals. We need more rental units and we need effective tenant protection.

4. Indigenous rights and reconciliation

There is a long road ahead to achieve genuine reconciliation between the Indigenous people of this territory, now known as Canada, and the settler Canadians and our governments. The First Nations, Métis and Inuit have been generous and patient. But our failures continue.

Years after the tabling of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, the Calls to Action have not been accomplished. Calls from the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit Peoples (MMIWG) have not been met. These demands are more urgent with every passing day. Indigenous women, girls, boys and men continue to go missing.

As noted previously, we must ensure that health outcomes and health-care services for Indigenous people in Canada meet or exceed the standards set for all Canadians. The engagement of Indigenous Peoples of Canada in the negotiation and implementation of the next federal/provincial /territorial Health Accord is an important step in that direction.

Indigenous victims of sexual assault must be provided the counselling and advocacy demanded in the inquiry. Services and healing must be made available to perpetrators of violence. Law reform examining and repealing/revising our discriminatory network of laws remains to be delivered.

Innovative solutions such as those presented to the Finance Committee by former Kamloops Chief Manny Jules deserve due consideration. The First Nations Tax Commission, of which Chief Jules was a founder, has been pressing for First Nations to be able to tax profitable business on their territory. Indigenous governance structures, pursuant to UNDRIP, should be consulted, but the idea could assist in self-determination and sovereignty.

We note that the MMIWG Inquiry also called for a Guaranteed Livable Income, as we do in this submission. It also called for safe and affordable transportation between communities, particularly in rural and remote areas, as we do in this submission. It calls for an end to remote work camps, “man camps” such as those we have been paying for through public funds in the building of the TMX Pipeline.

We support the steps currently being taken to redress the lack of adequate housing, clean drinking water and equal access to services for Indigenous peoples, noting that these efforts still fall short of what is required. In addition, we support the calls from the Assembly of First Nations for the government to provide funding for the following areas: rights implementation, governance, restorative justice, child and family services, languages and learning, health, income assistance,

housing and homelessness, infrastructure/water, economic development, fisheries, environment, and lands.

We call on the government to continue to provide a multi-year funding commitment of \$25 million over five years to provide sustained financial support for the core operations of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. The government must also provide adequate funding to help Indigenous communities with the search of burial sites at former residential schools and provide support to survivors and their communities.

Among the true champions of reconciliation across Canada are the Friendship Centres assisting the vulnerable population of Indigenous peoples, living off reserve. These small but mighty centres are chronically under-funded. An injection of funds into the Friendship Centres meets a wide range of desperate needs.

Indigenous land stewardship

It is time to ramp up the ways in which conservation and land protection can be integrated with reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Support for the Indigenous Guardians program and the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) in last year's budget was most welcome. The potential of the Indigenous Guardians program is not yet fully realized. The Indigenous Guardians program and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) should both be adequately funded, with measures taken to ensure there is a coordinated process between the two.

Some specific expenditures to obtain lands to meet multiple objectives – conservation, enhancing national parks, co-management with Indigenous peoples – are currently urgent on Vancouver Island.

We raised this specific opportunity in last year's submission. It remains a major conservation and reconciliation opportunity. The E and N Land Grant Area (originally named after the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway) on the south-east coast of Vancouver Island is a prime example of an area in need of an IPCA. The E and N railway was part of the deal for BC to join Confederation in 1871. Coal baron and colonial government cabinet member Robert Dunsmuir was granted 8,000 square km – comprising 20 per cent of Vancouver Island to build the railway. The land grant ignored Indigenous rights and title and violated pre-Confederation treaties. An IPCA in the land grant area would be a significant step in reconciliation with the affected First Nations.

A recent court decision at the B.C. Supreme Court, *Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) First Nation v. the Island Corridor Foundation*, puts the ball squarely in the federal government's court to adequately support the restoration of the E and N railway line. This aspect of the 1871 land grant also requires urgent attention.

5. Supporting and sustaining educated and engaged youth

Action to make post-secondary education affordable and available to every Canadian – young and old – is overdue. Today's youth face an uncertain future as a number of points in this brief have

already noted – the gig economy, precarious employment, out-of-reach housing, and a looming climate emergency that threaten their future.

One pernicious impact on most university graduates is punishing debt loads. Greens have long called for the abolition of tuition and are happy to endorse the recommendations from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) for that measure. The federal-provincial funding formula for post-secondary education needs to be restored to the levels of the early 1990s. Canadians are funding very wasteful programs attempting to recoup student loans with interest payments. The CFS estimates the cost to the federal government at \$2.6 billion/year. The burden on international students also needs to be examined. International students need to have access to health care. Working with the provinces, CFS urges that work be undertaken for an affordability strategy for international students. As a nation, we want to attract bright and committed youth from around the world.

We certainly hope that COVID related supports to students will continue in Budget 2022.

6. Heritage, culture, charities, language and the arts

Charities

Work to respond to the Senate report on the needs of the charitable sector with recommendations to modernize the resourcing of charities was stalled due to the pandemic. At the same time, the charitable sector was subjected to increased workloads and heightened strains.

We also support the goals of the former Senate bill, Bill S222, The Effective and Accountable Charities Act. In summary, it proposes to modernize charities law by replacing the current language with “resource accountability,” making due diligence the key feature, rather than operational control, to pursue charitable purpose.

Charities would then be able to provide funding to non-qualified donees (non-profits that don't have charitable status in Canada and charities in other countries), without onerous operational agreements and without having to have “direct control” over how the money is used. We urge Budget 2022 to make these changes to modernize our charities laws.

In the meantime, we support the calls from the charitable sector for a continuation of emergency, COVID-related supports for the sector including investing an additional \$400 million in the Community Services Recovery Fund.

Although not strictly a budget measure, whenever looking at federal policies toward charities and non-profit organizations, it is clear the sector suffers from not having a voice at the cabinet table. The only minister responsible for the sector is the minister for the Canada Revenue Agency. CRA's role is *policing* the sector; but no one advocates for the sector. We suggest following Imagine Canada's recommendation to create a secretariat within Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada for the work of charities and non-profits to be housed.

The arts, culture and broadcasting

The arts community has been hard hit by the pandemic. We appreciate the supports provided but we await the promised supports to individual artists and the existing supports to a large number of local and national arts and culture organizations.

Greens support the request from the Festivals and Major Events Canada. The support of \$7 million a year for the Canadian Arts Presentation Fund and the Building Communities through Arts and Heritage program in last year's budget was most welcome. We support the request that that funding become permanent. As well, an additional \$15 million to each of these programs in Budget 2022 continuing as stable funding will make a huge difference in stimulating economic recovery and cultural reinvigoration right across Canada in communities big and small.

We strongly support the Canada Performing Arts Work Resilience Fund and look forward to its full implementation later this spring.

We must ensure that the sustainability of the Celebration and Commemoration Program of Canadian Heritage funding program is maintained. This allocation is crucial to celebrating the various identities of Canada.

The perennial issue of funding for our national public broadcaster requires the kind of investment to allow productions from both the creative and journalistic aspects of the CBC and Radio-Canada. Please ensure Budget 2022 enhances funding for public broadcasting.

Protecting minority languages

Greens strongly support the efforts underway to protect and preserve Indigenous languages and to revitalize the Official Languages Act.

French-language school boards in a minority context are struggling to obtain adequate funding to meet the specific needs of French-language communities in a minority context. We propose that the government of Canada increase its investments in the Official Languages in Education Program (OLEP) by injecting an additional \$455 million over four years for French first language education. This would bring funding for FL1 to just over \$1 billion under the OLEP.

This increase would support the development of francophone and Acadian communities by enabling their children to receive an education in French equivalent to that offered to children of the linguistic majority.

In order to truly meet the needs of French-language schools, the protocol must also require full accountability from the Ministries of Education. Without this accountability, it is impossible for Francophone and Acadian minority communities to determine the purposes for which the funds are used.

7. Anti-racism and inclusion investments

Environmental racism

The inclusion of the passage of the Environmental Racism bill in the mandate letter of the Hon. Steven Guilbeault is very encouraging. As it happens, working in partnership with the minister's office, the Green PMB, C-226 will proceed to complete this mandate.

As C-226 makes its way through parliament to create a federal strategy to confront environmental racism, Budget 2022 should set aside funds to advance the agenda of cleaning up toxic sites adjacent to and on the lands of Indigenous peoples and racialized communities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has dedicated funds to confront environmental racism for decades. The funds recently allocated by your government to the crisis in Grassy Narrows due to decades of mercury contamination is one such effort. So too was the 2003 commitment of \$400 million to cleaning up the Sydney Tar Ponds on Cape Breton Island. The toxic contamination there primarily impacted the area's only Black community as well as the displaced Mi'kmaq community of Membertou, moved to accommodate the steel mill in the beginning of the 20th Century.

Looming clean-up bills will fall due soon for the dump site in Kanehsatà:ke. Clean-up costs at the site are estimated at \$50 million, but illegal dumping has continued on residential properties as well. Examining the supports for Indigenous and racialized communities dealing with environmental racism in the US will help inform our approach in Canada. Funding for cleaning up contaminated sites needs replenishing in any event.

Advance equity in society; addressing anti-racism

We call on the government to follow through on its commitment to the UN International Decade for People of African Descent. We support the call by Network for the Advancement of Black Communities and Foundation for Black Communities' for the government to invest \$300 million annually in the Black community sector for recovery and sustainability of Black-led and Black-serving organizations.

The government must increase investments in the business program for Black entrepreneurs and ensure the program is accessible, with a transition from loans to grants considering that many entrepreneurs are not in a position to take on more debt. It is critical that we address the unique needs of Black business owners and entrepreneurs across the country, as a robust collaboration between government, financial institutions, and Black-led business organizations and the businesses themselves.

We call on the government to support community run programs that address anti-Black, anti-Asian and other forms of racism and that support the economic and social well-being of racialized communities. We also support the call from many Black and immigrant focused organizations that the government continue to provide supports for racialized women, immigrant women, and underrepresented groups to enter the workforce through job training, mentorship and better access to resources and capital.

Increase investments in the business program for Black entrepreneurs – transition from loans to grants considering that many entrepreneurs are not in a position to take on more debt. It is critical that we address the unique needs of Black business owners and entrepreneurs across the country, as a robust collaboration between government, financial institutions, and Black-led business organizations and the businesses themselves.

2SLGBTQI

Greens fully support the pre-budget submission from the Enchante Network:

- Continue the Government's Commitment to 2SLGBTQI+ Capacity Building
- Invest in Laying the Groundwork for a National 2SLGBTQI+ Endowment Fund
- Establish Permanent Funding for the LGBTQ2 Secretariat
- Invest in 2SLGBTQI+ Organisations in Order to Combat Gender-Based Violence

8. Environmental science initiatives

Canada Water Agency

Greens fully support the creation of the Canada Water Agency. The Liberal campaign commitment of a \$1 billion investment in the Canada Water Agency is excellent. Many will be bitterly disappointed if this funding is not in Budget 2022.

At the same time, the water and infrastructure problems caused by increased water threats and the climate crisis increase the need for a strong science base dealing with freshwater.

Greens fully support the detailed and thoughtful brief from the Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW). The Canada Water Agency must be independent from the departments of Environment and Climate Change, Agriculture and AgriFood Canada and Natural Resources Canada.

We support the creation of the Office of the Chief Water Security Officer to deal with interjurisdictional disputes. We need to support Indigenous governance of water resources and far more planning and adaptation to the twin of the climate crisis – the water crisis. Climate change brings increasing extreme water events from droughts to floods. This water agenda and funding are a vital part of the promised adaptation strategy.

Restore scientific capacity throughout the government of Canada

Major cuts during the Harper era have not been reversed in a number of departments. While the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has made efforts to restore capacity, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada and climate science are still under-staffed.

Greens propose that the deficiencies in scientific capacity be dealt with across all departments through a focused fund for core science replenishment in key agencies – Environment and Climate Change, PHAC, Health, DFO and potentially others – of \$200 million a year, with a replenished climate science grant-making agency of \$200 million over 10 years.

9. Climate Action

Improved access to funds to respond to climate disasters

The climate disasters of 2021 have made it clear. The climate emergency is a threat to life, property, communities and our economy. We experienced unprecedented levels of prairie drought; floods across the country, but most catastrophically in B.C. as you referenced in the 2021 FES; the heat dome – a killer heat wave stretching across the north-western US and B.C., killing nearly 600 people in four days; and a summer of wildfires across B.C. but also in Alberta and Ontario.

The Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund has proven effective but must be topped up and improved to fully protect Canadians from climate extremes. It requires a dedicated mechanism for municipalities and First Nations to access emergency funds when responding to extreme weather events such as fires and floods and elimination of the \$20 million minimum project eligibility threshold so communities of all sizes can access funding.

The funding models must be revised to face the realities that a small community like Lytton, B.C., which essentially burned to the ground in minutes, has no financial resources to meet typical one third/one third/one third funding formulas. Emergency resources for helping those who are homeless from fires and floods, including Indigenous communities are desperately needed.

Across Canada, we need funding to help home owners and business owners adapt to the impacts of climate change. Adaptation to climate change includes the need for assistance to regions affected by sea level rise and storm surges, from Charlottetown to the lower mainland of B.C.

We can do much more to reduce fire risks. We need funds to buy more water bombers. We need a federal program, grounded in federal responsibilities in the Constitutional powers under Peace, Order and Good Government, to get workers back in the woods to create fire breaks near vulnerable communities. The ambitious plans to plant two billion trees serve multiple ends, including reducing fire risk.

Seizing the opportunity of a low-carbon future

We are presented with the largest opportunity, perhaps ever, to improve Canada's productivity and competitiveness.

Unlike the 2020 Fall Economic Statement, its 2021 successor did not set out a bold vision that encompassed many goals. Understandably, it focused on Canada's next steps in COVID response and economic recovery. References to climate crisis were limited to the immediate reaction to what had just occurred – billions of dollars in damage from the late November flooding and landslides in B.C.

Of all the threats facing your government, and indeed humanity as a whole, the climate crisis is the most urgent and, despite encouraging rhetoric, Canada's actions and promises do not align with IPCC scientific advice. We urge you as Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister to demand a briefing by expert climate scientists. Expert climate scientists will confirm:

The stated objective is the wrong goal

Net-zero by 2050 will not guarantee a livable climate. Net zero by 2050 will not meet our Paris commitment to ensure global average temperature is well below 2 degrees C and preferably not above 1.5 degrees. As a goal, in the absence of an aggressive effort well before 2030, net zero by 2050 is dangerous. Our goal should be absolute zero now and ambition to achieve net negative emissions by 2050.

The hard truth is that net zero by 2050 could be achieved and still fail to ensure that human civilization survives through this century. We could be locked into 3 to 5 degrees global average temperature increase while still reaching net zero by 2050.

The critical finding of the IPCC Special Report on 15 Degrees (October 2018) is this: “In model pathways with no or limited overshoot of 1.5 degrees C, global net anthropogenic CO₂ *emissions decline by about 45 per cent from 2010 levels by 2030... reaching net zero around 2050 ...*” (emphasis added)

Failure to achieve deep cuts well before 2030 will make any 2050 goal irrelevant – too little too late. Too little too late is Canada’s new climate target. On Earth Day 2021, the Prime Minister announced that Canada’s new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) is 40-45 per cent below 2005 GHG emission levels by 2030. This is inconsistent with the IPCC advice. Canada is the only country with an NDC expressed as a range.

As the Glasgow Pact, supported by Canada, confirmed: COP26 “Expresses alarm and utmost concern that human activities have caused around 1.1 degrees C of warming to date, that impacts are already being felt in every region... *Stresses the urgency of enhancing ambition and action in relation to mitigation, adaptation and finance in this critical decade* to address the gaps in the implementation of the goals of the Paris Agreement.” (Emphasis added)

The updated synthesis report from the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), delivered in the last week of COP26, confirmed that new NDC promises, if met, would lead to 13.7 per cent higher global emissions in 2030 than in 2010. Before COP26 opened, the projections showed a 16 per cent increase. The community of nations, collectively, shaved a small amount from the deeply dangerous overshoot.

To meet the urgency of the moment, Canada must update our NDC again this year, preferably in June 2022 on the anniversary of some key milestones – the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations Summit on the Environment (Stockholm 1972) and the 30th anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit at which the UNFCCC was signed (June 1992).

By updating to a 60 per cent cut below 2005 levels by 2030, with a significant commitment to leave fossil fuels in the ground, we have the potential to create momentum globally in advance of COP27 in Egypt.

As we recommended in our 2021 submission, the following steps are essential:

- Just transition for fossil fuel workers
- End subsidies for fossil fuels, immediately.
- Reject any expansion in fossil fuel operations or infrastructure
- Rebuild a network of affordable ground transportation between communities across Canada
- Providing predictable, ongoing funding for a renovation wave of deep retrofits to all buildings in Canada
- Game changing investments to zero carbon aviation
- Supporting solar roofs and other renewables in residences and across institutional buildings
- Encourage renewable energy installation in distributed systems across Canada
- Engage Indigenous communities in renewable energy and pumped storage
- Carbon sequestration through soils and prairie long grass management
- Build a national electricity corridor for 100 per cent renewable power

Just transition legislation and funding

A Just Transition Act was a campaign pledge from the prime minister in the 2019 campaign. While it remains in mandate letters, no progress has been visible. It must adhere to the principles of the Coal Sector Workers Just Transition study commissioned in the previous parliament. Its core principles include: full inclusion of impacted individual workers and communities in decisions about their future; pension bridge funding for workers near retirement; up-skilling for workers who require some additional training to move to clean industries; a jobs bank to ensure all workers have a job at a pay level that allows them to maintain their quality of life through the transition.

Bearing in mind that tens of thousands of workers have been laid off in the interest of automation in the fossil fuel industry with none of these supports, it is no wonder employees in the sector are fearful. Government leadership to protect the interests of the communities and workers dependent on fossil fuels is a key commitment. The accelerated Canadian exit from fossil fuel dependency must have public support from the sectors and regions most impacted.

End fossil fuel subsidies

The German environmental think tank Perspectives Climate Research has issued a detailed analysis of Canada's financial support which found that Export Development Corporation (EDC) has been the primary route for funds to fossil fuels: "Export Development Corporation officially reported share of 'carbon-intensive' activities provide the best available proxy of support for fossil fuel value chains, including upstream oil and gas, but also mid- and downstream phases of the fossil fuel value chain like thermal power generation, metals smelting or airlines. In total, the exposure of EDC's portfolio to carbon-intensive activities stood at 26 per cent – equalling a total exposure of about US\$16 billion by the end of 2020."

In contrast, EDC reports its activities in clean tech at only at about US\$2.33 billion per year (average over the past three years). Those funds likely include investments Greens would not label as "clean tech."

The recent news that after the Trans Mountain (TMX) pipeline costs ballooned from the Kinder Morgan original estimate of \$4.5 billion (2013) to \$6.8 billion (2015); \$7.4 billion (2017); and \$9.3 billion (2018), the new estimate from the Crown Corporation now building the expansion is over \$20.4 billion. We applaud your decision to stop putting any public funds into the pipeline expansion. However, the cynical strategy that has been hinted at for years, of turning the risky, climate-killing pipeline into one owned by an Indigenous organization or business must not be pursued. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) requires informed consent in projects that impact Indigenous peoples or nations. That cannot be claimed with consent from the many First Nations, that in spite of pressure and offered cash for consent, have continued to reject the project.

However, an open exploration of how the assets of the Trans Mountain Corporation as a Crown corporation could be best mobilized in community resilience, empowerment and economic development could be very worthwhile in both reconciliation and climate action.

To be clear, no public funds should be used to increase or sustain production of fossil fuels. Even though the industry is legally responsible for cleaning up abandoned oil wells, we supported the allocation of federal funds to assist workers in the sector through the clean-up of abandoned wells. It could have been viewed as an industry subsidy but it did not increase or sustain fossil fuel production.

The 2022 budget must end fossil fuel subsidies:

- Cancel supports for LNG
- Cancel subsidies for fracking
- End the last ACCA for the oil sands.
- Wind down the TMX project and avoid wasting another \$10 billion or so on building a pipeline to drive up GHG.

We note that hundreds of millions of dollars have been wasted in the methane cutting emission fund, Onshore Emissions Reduction Plan. Natural Resources Canada could not report even one verifiable ton of carbon reduced to the Commissioner for Environment and Sustainable Development, Jerry DeMarco.

It is likely very beneficial to future programs that this one has been exposed. Redesigned fossil fuel subsidies labeled climate action are fraud. The analysts in Finance Canada would benefit from seeking independent assessment from climate policy experts to determine whether climate programs are viable.

In the interest of space and avoiding repetition, we wish to include by reference everything in our January 20, 2022 submission to the Hon. Steven Guilbeault on which your office was copied.

Follow the first rule of holes: stop digging!

Commit that the federal government will not permit or allow a single additional project, whether terrestrial or offshore, to expand fossil fuel production.

Invest in affordable, modern low carbon inter-city ground transportation

As we referenced in last year's submission, from coast to coast to coast, Canadians lack access to adequate public transit outside of metropolitan areas. Canada's system of public transport falls somewhere below most developing countries. Bus service has disappeared from most provinces. The danger to marginalized people of hitchhiking was highlighted in the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as a key recommendation: "The need for more frequent and accessible transportation services to be made available to Indigenous women."

The lack of predictable, low-carbon and convenient transportation between cities is dangerous for the poor, while boosting GHG as people have no choice but to fly or drive.

We support the call from Unifor that Budget 2022 significantly invest in VIA Rail. The Greens' private members bill, C-236, should be converted to government legislation to provide a legislative framework for VIA, just as Amtrak in the US has legislation protecting its mandate. The PMB will require a Royal Proclamation, so it is only feasible as a government bill. It is much needed.

Greens propose a national transportation strategy with a goal of reaching zero-carbon public ground transportation everywhere in Canada by 2040. Rail will be the hub, with spokes of light rail and electric bus connections.

We must find a way to maintain the coach bus sector, such as Wilson's and Maritime's Bus, as well as those in Ontario (Greyhound, Great Canadian Coaches, 417 Bus Lines, McCoy Bus lines), in Alberta (Pacific Western, TRAXX Coach), Manitoba (Beaver Bus and Moose Mountain) and Saskatchewan (Prince Albert Northern).

Funds are urgently needed to keep the coach lines afloat so that they can be part of the larger transportation strategy. They could be part of the climate funding already announced. Some funds should come from the provinces from Safe Restart money. The New Brunswick government has not solved the threat to Maritimes Bus Lines with money allocated from Safe Restart, but have protected some remote routes.

A national strategy must include service to rural and remote communities. Every Canadian must have access to reliable, low carbon transportation options at affordable rates. The newly formed Coast to Coast Bus Coalition is requesting \$8 million a year to keep the sector afloat with a vision to create a complete network for ground transportation linking buses to trains.

VIA Rail needs investment to purchase more efficient engines, build better track (that it can own) in key pinch points where freight delays passenger travel, and offer a better tourism product for Canadian and international visitors. The only recent federal government statements mentioning passenger rail outside the Windsor-Quebec Corridor called for VIA Rail to improve access to national parks.

Greens propose that immediate attention focus on the Vancouver Island route the E and N Railway, improving access to the Pacific Rim National Park (while coincidentally massively improving public transit in the Victoria Capital region) as well as restoring service from Halifax to Sydney,

N.S. to assist visitors reach the Cape Breton Highlands National Park and Fortress Louisbourg. The most historic route in Canada was given to a private operator, Rocky Mountaineer, under the Mulroney government. Ensuring that VIA Rail can share that track at an affordable price would access Banff as well as the historic location of the Last Spike and the circular tunnel at Kicking Horse Pass.

Hydrogen Strategy

Canada needs a hydrogen strategy to ensure hydrogen is available from non-carbon sources. Only green hydrogen should be funded, otherwise we are creating yet another subsidy to fossil fuels. This will take some time to develop from hydro, wind and solar. Failure to plan for the need for green hydrogen could unintentionally lock in fossil fuel emissions in the production of hydrogen fuel.

Game changing investments to zero carbon aviation

While much of the government focus will be on how to assist large airlines and airports coping with the financial hit of the pandemic, we also have an opportunity to tackle one of the world's largest sources of unregulated GHG emissions – air travel.

Vancouver Island's Harbour Air has pioneered the development of a fully electric airplane. While it cannot provide air travel over long distances, it could have a huge impact globally. Short haul flights of 780 km or less make up an astonishing 85 per cent of flights world-wide.

Harbour Air received some support from NRC, but has invested over \$4 million of its own money. In December 2019, Harbour Air demonstrated the first ever commercial, carbon-free flight. The company now needs \$110 million to convert its whole fleet of 40 planes and install electric recharging hubs at all its destinations. Supporting these efforts will bring Canada a commercially viable world-beating export opportunity. This first breakthrough from a relatively small float plane commercial operation holds the key to significant GHG reductions. Canada's government needs to invest and get the first carbon-free airline operational well ahead of schedule.

Expand and strengthen building retrofit programs – Invest \$10-15 billion annually over the next 20 years to retrofit Canada's housing stock by 2040

While we applaud your government's existing residential retrofit programs, far more investment and effort will be required to decarbonize Canada's homes and buildings in order to reach our climate targets. We call on the government to provide predictable funding of at least \$10 billion a year through to 2040 to completely retrofit Canada's homes and buildings. Though this investment is significant, it is unmatched in the economic, social and environmental returns it will yield.

Comprehensive deep retrofit funding, including fuel-switching to clean electricity among other efficiency measures, will provide long-lasting, well-paid jobs and will more than pay for itself in economic development and tax revenue. Above all, this will improve homes and save costs for Canadians, while making unprecedented gains in reducing Canada's emissions while growing our economy. We encourage the government to provide more comprehensive retrofit subsidies for

lower-income households to ensure the benefits of this program are shared across Canadian society. This includes following through on the commitment to create a zero-interest loan program to help all Canadians fund retrofits.

The ability for buildings, whether residential, commercial or institutional, to generate their own electricity – to become carbon zero or even carbon negative – is a major opportunity. The obvious and relatively easy option is to encourage the installation of solar panels on any and all roofs across Canada. Depending on location, some building owners may be able to install wind, geothermal or small-scale hydro. The goal should be to engage as much home-grown, distributed renewable energy as possible, so the program should be flexible enough to encourage a range of renewable energy investments.

Renewable energy investments in Indigenous communities have already been demonstrated to be an excellent fit in economic development and should be encouraged. Indigenous communities on lands that already have empty pits or reservoir capacity should be encouraged to develop battery storage in hydro capacity. Pumped storage in as many locations as possible will convert intermittent renewable energy to baseload.

Build a national electricity corridor for 100 per cent renewable power

The Canadian Infrastructure Bank has been making key investments in needed inter-ties to ensure green, renewable energy can be easily wheeled from one province to another, including to the territories. This major national infrastructure will need significant planning to deliver a fully integrated grid, east-west and north-south by 2030. Consultations with Indigenous peoples are critical. The link between eastern Manitoba and western Ontario, for example, will require advanced review and free, prior and informed consent from a number of First Nations. Siting and approval will be a long and difficult process, but it is necessary to ensure the modern functioning of a grid delivering 100 per cent renewable electricity to an increasingly electrified economy. As the internal combustion engine is replaced with EVs, we must insure our infrastructure is ready.

No to SMRs

The federal investments in small and modular reactors are an unjustified waste of public funds. These reactors do not exist as a commercial reality. The beneficiary of government largesse is a consortium led by SNC-Lavalin. The money spent on these reactors even without producing a kilowatt of power, represent an opportunity cost. Known and available technologies will win on any cost-benefit analysis compared to SMRs.

Please halt the funds to SMRs, and conduct an evidence based review in which public money will only be committed based on set criteria:

- Per dollar invested, how many tonnes of GHG are avoided/reduced?
- Per dollar invested, how many jobs will be created?
- From when the first dollar is invested, when will benefits accrue?

On this basis, it will be quickly apparent that the SMR investment is the worst possible choice. Existing commitments in energy efficiency and renewable energy will be far effective in each category.

Agriculture – Transitioning to sustainable land management and food systems

Despite the government's narrative, investments in policies, programs, R&D, and regulatory modernization to support farming based on ecological principles, localized food systems, small regional value chains, and northern agriculture continue to be a small fraction of the total public investment in this vital sector of the economy.

This has constrained the development of these areas and hinders their competitiveness as the bulk of program dollars continue to subsidize a model based on large acreages of monocultures with low biodiversity and supported by high levels of inputs, under the control of globalized processing, marketing, and distribution. Canada's spending in agro environmental programs lies well below the levels of other OECD countries and we need to catch up.

Assistance to farmers

Along with a broad cross-party alliance of MPs, we support the call for a limited statutory deemed trust to assist farmers producing perishable goods in cases of insolvency. The need for this protection has arisen due to the pandemic, but the logic applies in all times to protect vulnerable farmers.

Consistent with the measures to improve carbon sequestration in soils, we also urge that programs to promote greater food security in Canada be made a priority for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The current model is overly focused on environmentally destructive, industrial production for export, instead of more climate-resilient, diversified production to meet local needs.

Engage with the provinces in supporting carbon capture in the soil

The potential for long grass prairie and agricultural soils to sequester carbon rivals that of forests. Engaging farmers in work to sequester carbon from which they can obtain financial rewards is a win-win-win for the government, for climate and for the farming community.

We welcome the 2021 investment in the Agricultural Climate Solutions Program as a good start. The 2022 budget should build on that investment by allocating an additional \$100 million a year in assisting farmers sequester carbon through policies and programs that support carbon capture and retention in the soil through regenerative practices and grassland management while ensuring that these incentives are equitable, inclusive, recognize good past and present management, and do not disadvantage small farmers.

Although the next agricultural policy framework agreement (2023-2028) is not part of this year's budget, it is important for this year's investments to lay the groundwork for a renewed approach to shift program dollars toward a more resilient, diverse, and environmentally sustainable agricultural land management and food production system in Canada.

10. Nature

As the range of needs for meeting the nature agenda extensive, the Green Party of Canada wishes to simply endorse with enthusiasm the proposals of the Green Budget Coalition to meet biodiversity and conservation imperatives.

Forests and preserving old growth

We need urban tree planting and ecologically appropriate species to enhance carbon sequestration and biodiversity. The federal government, as an aspect of Nature Based Climate Solutions, must engage in efforts to monetize the value of stored carbon in old-growth forests and soils. Those forests are worth more standing. Urgent action is needed to prevent the logging of some of our last old-growth, such as Fairy Creek on Vancouver Island. A knowledgeable estimate of the costs to cancel the existing timber rights held by companies and First Nations to all old-growth logging is \$1.7 billion. Currently in B.C., old-growth trees still represent 50 percent of the coastal timber harvest.

Parks Canada

In addition to failing to restore scientific capacity in Parks Canada, basic infrastructure needs have gone unfunded.

We support the call for more urban parks. In that context, we urge action to protect and preserve Queen Juliana Park and Experimental Farms lands in Ottawa. They are slated for development at this writing.

The Gulf Islands National Park Reserve is the only national park in southern Canada that does not charge any access fee. This is because Parks Canada never built a visitors' centre. There is no publicly accessible tourist focal point for the park. The area has also long been in the process of finalizing plans for a National Marine Conservation Area. The negotiations with multiple First Nations will take another year or so to complete. The need for a visitors' centre will only increase with an NMCA.

Proposed last year and still a viable and available solution for a visitors' centre accessible by road and sea – 1850 Lands End Road. Local municipal government and conservationists have identified this 24.5 acre property with marine access. It is an ideal property to meet the multiple requirements for a visitors' centre for a terrestrial and marine national park. Boaters can dock at the existing wharf, check in and buy their permits. The property also has easy road access, located very close to the airport and ferry terminal. The existing building can be easily re-modeled to accommodate a visitors' centre. The property is listed at \$18 million, but the local officials believe it can be bought for less. We ask for a \$15 million commitment towards the purchase of the property.

11. International Development Assistance

Canada is committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). but within the first 25 days of the pandemic alone, the world's progress over the last 25 years towards development goals

was wiped out. Globally we are seeing more poverty, more gender inequality and gender-based violence and more people at risk of starvation, among many other development and humanitarian setbacks. Canada must support the global effort to invest in global solutions to the challenges.

Canada has fallen behind most of the donor community of industrialized countries. The target to eliminate global poverty was set in 1969 by former Prime Minister Lester B Pearson in his work for the global community. The “Pearson target,” as it is known around the world, was for every wealthy nation to pledge 0.7 per cent of its GNI to Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). The target has been met, and in some cases exceeded by the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, Luxembourg, Denmark and the Netherlands. Thanks to funding in Budget 2021, Canada has improved our level of ODA as a percentage of GNI from 0.28 per cent last year to 0.31 per cent in 2021.

Budget 2022 should embrace what we, as a nation, have already promised and ensure that, at least by 2030, we have met the Pearson target. We echo the call from development agencies for the government to invest an additional \$1.5 billion in ODA in Budget 2022 as a step towards the Pearson target and to ensure that development funding is sustained and predictable.

We support the call from Cooperation Canada for Canada’s ODA to prioritize lower-income countries. We call on the government to follow through on its commitment to localization, by ensuring that at least 25 per cent of humanitarian assistance is allocated through local organizations and that ODA works to strengthen the capacity of national actors and local civil society. A priority must be placed on supporting women-led organizations, with at least 15 per cent of ODA.

Canada is committed to the 17 SDGs. The first is to end poverty. By the way, the SDG goals apply internationally and in Canada. Budget 2022 should embrace what we, as a nation, have already promised through the SDG process and ensure that, at least, by 2030, we have met the Pearson target. Many in the development community are calling for Canada to commit one percent of COVID relief to development assistance. That would be a good start for 2022.

Conclusion

Please consider each of these proposals, ranging from high level and long term to rather short term and granular.