



WE CAN DO BETTER

REPORT ON SURVEY SENT TO PARTIES



HOW WILL CANADA'S NEXT GOVERNMENT SITUATE CANADA IN THE WORLD? THE RESULTS FROM AN ALL PARTY SURVEY

The Canadian international development community, as well as thousands of engaged citizens, have come together under the “We Can Do Better 2015” campaign.

The campaign was launched on Parliament Hill on February 5, to:

- Call for political leadership on inequality, climate change, and women’s rights;
- Promote the interconnectedness of global & national issues; and,
- Raise awareness about the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

As the overwhelming response by Canadians to the Syrian refugee crisis has shown, Canada can and must provide strong leadership toward a more sustainable and peaceful world.

With the upcoming federal election, we wanted to hear from our leaders how they plan to tackle poverty and inequality, at home and abroad. We also wanted to know how they will work to implement the new sustainable development goals, or global goals as they are being called, that were adopted at the United Nations on September 25 by 160 governments and heads of state.

This questionnaire was sent to leaders of the five main federal political parties on September 18th. Four parties responded, with the exception of the Conservative Party.

We are launching the results of the survey the day ahead of October 17th, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, so that Canadians can have a better idea of where the different parties stand in terms of fighting poverty and inequality, at home and abroad.

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ADDRESSING INEQUALITY

Rising income inequality poses a substantial threat to progress in Canada and around the world. Tax evasion and avoidance is increasing the gap between haves and have-nots; every year, Africa loses twice as much in illicit financial flows leaving the continent than it receives in aid.

1 DO YOU AND YOUR PARTY SUPPORT INCREASING REVENUE STREAMS BY CLOSING TAX LOOPHOLES? WHAT, SPECIFICALLY, WOULD YOU PROPOSE?



Canada is struggling with the massive use of tax havens and tax avoidance strategies by big business. This is facilitated by numerous tax agreements signed by Canada and other states. Moreover, it seems that efforts by the Canada Revenue Agency to curtail abuses are modest at best and will be even more so following the cuts ordered by the Conservative government. Similarly, large Internet or e-commerce companies are dodging their fair share of taxes by using legal sleight of hand.

The Bloc Québécois is committed to forcing a review of all tax agreements made by Canada with tax havens, of the resources available to the Canada Revenue Agency to investigate this phenomenon and of the legislative means to compel large companies operating in Canada to pay their fair share of taxes.



No Answer



Tax avoidance deprives our economy of much needed resources. In 2014, Canadian Corporations had \$199 billion in tax havens. We need to bring these Canadian tax dollars home so that they can be put to good use funding health and education, protecting the environment and providing social programs. If we did a better job of collecting taxes on money parked in tax havens, we could reduce the deficit and avoid painful cuts to public service jobs and social programs.

We will tax corporations on their worldwide income just like the US, UK and Japan. Currently a subsidiary of a Canadian corporation can operate in the Bahamas for instance and only pay 2.5% corporate income tax with no additional payments due when that money arrives in Canada. By closing these loopholes, all Canadian companies would be treated the same and would have to pay the Canadian rate (with credit paid in other jurisdictions) even if they operate in tax havens. And we need to properly invest in CRA staffing to ensure that they have the tools they need to go after offshore tax sheets. The Green Party will make greater resources available for federal prosecutors and specialized RCMP officers that might form investigatory and legal teams capable of conducting effective and timely prosecutions of white collar criminals.

The Green Party will also seek to end the Orwellian use of the CRA as a political tool to silence charities.



Yes, the Liberal Party of Canada supports increasing revenue streams by closing tax loopholes.

A Liberal government will conduct a full review of all tax expenditures to target tax loopholes, particularly those that benefit Canada's top one percent.

We will also introduce a significant overhaul of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) operating practices to develop a client relationship rather than that of simply a taxpayer. Elements include: proactively contacting Canadians when they are

entitled to, but are not, receiving tax benefits; offering to create returns for clients, particularly lower income Canadians and those on fixed incomes whose situations are unchanged year to year; supporting more Canadians who want to file

taxes with no paper forms; ensuring CRA correspondence is user-friendly; combatting international tax evasion; and ending the CRA political harassment of charities, as well as clarifying rules to affirm the important role that charities can and should play in developing and advocating for public policy in Canada.

The Liberal plan will make the tax system fairer and strengthen the heart of the Canadian economy. A Liberal government will cut tax benefits for those earning more than C\$200,000 a year, cap how much people can claim through stock option deductions and clamp down on tax evasion.



An NDP government will:

- repeal the Conservatives' \$2 billion income splitting proposal;
- roll back the doubling of TFAS allowances;
- close the stock option tax loopholes for wealthy CEO's;
- increase the corporate income tax rate from 15% to 17%;
- end fossil fuel subsidies;
- work to end tax havens and tax avoidance.

2 HOW WOULD YOUR PARTY ADDRESS INEQUALITY IN CANADA? WHAT CONCRETELY WOULD YOU DO TO NARROW THE INCOME GAP AND ENSURE ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES?



The rights and interests of women have been under fire in Ottawa these last few years: questioning the right to abortion, cutting funding for women's groups and making pay equity optional.

In addition to cancelling all these backward steps, the Bloc Québécois will introduce a proactive bill on pay equity in areas under federal jurisdiction.

Give back \$190 million to Quebec taxpayers for child care expenses

By choosing to support families by providing them with quality child care services at low cost, Quebec is being penalized by federal taxation. Ottawa is actually saving hundreds of millions at the expense of Quebec parents. Successive governments at the National Assembly have been asking for a long time that Ottawa compensate Quebec.

On behalf of Quebec taxpayers, the Bloc Québécois will claim financial compensation to the tune of \$190 million.

Lower the price of brand-name drugs

Currently, the price of brand-name drugs is determined using a mechanism that makes comparisons with four countries where drugs are sold at some of the highest prices in the world. By expanding the number of comparison countries to 10, the price of brand-name drugs will decrease by almost 15%, which will save Quebecers and the Quebec government hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

The Bloc Québécois will ensure that the method used for setting the price of brand-name drugs is analyzed and modified to make these drugs less expensive.

Revive the fight against fiscal imbalance, starting with restoring health transfers

This year marks the scheduled withdrawal of the federal government from health funding. Here's what the Parliamentary Budget Officer has to say about this:

By indexing federal funding for health care at the rate of growth of GDP, the federal government has mostly insulated itself from the fiscal impact of an ageing population. But provincial governments, with direct constitutional responsibility for the delivery of health care, are unable to do so.

This federal withdrawal from health funding will cause considerable financial harm to Quebec and is creating pressure to yield more ground to the private sector in health care.

The Bloc Québécois will resume the fight against fiscal imbalance, starting with requiring a 6% increase in health transfers per year so that they reach a level equivalent to at least 25% of Quebec's spending in that area. We will demand that the aging population be taken into account in the calculation of health transfers.



No Answer



Despite the growing number of two-income households, Canadian families are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet. Green Party programs and policies will reduce income inequality, and ensure all Canadians have the opportunity to prosper.

We will phase-in a national Guaranteed Livable Income, to ensure that no person's income falls below what is necessary for health, life and dignity. Through the Council of Canadian Governments we will work with the other levels of government whose inadequate poverty band-aid solutions (such as welfare, disability programs) can be rolled up in order to fund Guaranteed Livable Income. Providing our most at-risk citizens with the resources they need to make ends meet greatly reduces the burden on our emergency and social services, our health care and criminal justice systems – saving Canadian society money and empowering all citizens to overcome periods of hardship. As an immediate first step, the Green Party would implement a federal minimum wage of \$15 an hour. By providing a cheque to every Canadian over 18, the carbon fee and dividend system will also assist in providing help to those who need it most.

We will implement a National Housing Strategy based on Housing First principles. Housing First is a proven, recovery-oriented approach that centres on quickly moving people experiencing homelessness into independent, permanent housing, and then providing additional supports and services as needed. This strategy will guarantee dignity and support for Canadians at the margins of our society, and will help address homelessness while at the same time reducing the burden on our emergency and health services.

Our Housing Strategy will address the continuum of needs – from social housing for those in poverty or dealing with mental health and addiction problems, to First Nations, Metis, and Inuit housing crises, to the market failures depriving those with even a decent income of access to the affordable housing they need. We can ensure that all housing needs are met – whether seniors, youth, or the stressed middle class.



The Liberal Party of Canada will fight income inequality because it has harmful effects on society as a whole. It is a source of social tension and it is stopping millions of Canadians from achieving their ambitions.

Canadians are working harder and longer, but this economy is not working for them and incomes are not keeping up with the cost of living. After a decade of Stephen Harper, people not only want a different government, but they want – and deserve – a better government.

The Liberal three-point plan will address income equality and:

- Create jobs with the most significant infrastructure investment in Canadian history: nearly \$60 billion in new funding over the next ten years. Our jobs plan is about doing for our kids and grandkids exactly what our parents and grandparents did for us: build a better country for hard-working Canadians.
- Grow the middle class by putting more money in peoples' pockets. We will do this by raising taxes on the wealthiest one percent, and cutting taxes for middle class Canadians.
- Help those working hard to join the middle class, by investing in essential social infrastructure – including affordable housing and child care – as well as giving families more money to help with the high costs of raising their kids. Nine out of ten families will get more from our Canada Child Benefit, and it will lift 315,000 children out of poverty.



The NDP believes that every Canadian should have the right to live in dignity and participate fully in society. That is why we will tackle income insecurity, both through direct and indirect supports. This includes boosting the level of the Working Income Tax Benefit, the National Child Benefit Supplement, and the Guaranteed Income Supplement—lifting thousands of families and seniors out of poverty. We will also restore the federal minimum wage and progressively raise it to \$15 an hour, to ensure that work pays a living wage for more Canadians. We will create a new, universal threshold of 360 hours for Employment Insurance, to ensure that more Canadians are able to access unemployment benefits and special benefits in times of need.

We will also take the pressure off household budgets by investing in affordability for Canadian families. This includes our commitment to affordable childcare, with parents paying no more than \$15 a day, to accessible public transit, and to expanding affordable housing.

3 IF ELECTED, WOULD YOUR PARTY INCREASE SPENDING ON FOREIGN AID, AND IN PARTICULAR SPENDING ON UNIVERSAL ESSENTIAL SERVICES LIKE HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION AND SANITATION AND RUNNING WATER?



The Bloc demands that Ottawa seriously restore funding for international aid so that the target of 0.7% of GDP may finally be reached.



No Answer



Canada must lead the movement to end global poverty. Nearly half the world's population lives in abject poverty, and tens of thousands die every day as a result.

Canada has made laudable foreign aid commitments, but has consistently fallen short of meeting them. In 1992, Canada re-committed to its pledge to contribute 0.7 percent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to Official Development Assistance. However, we have not come close to that mark. Stephen Harper slashed our ODA budget, while collapsing CIDA into Foreign Affairs. At the same time, our aid priorities have increasingly been driven by economic and political motives, rather than real need or effectiveness.

The Green Party will commit to ending poverty globally by increasing our contribution to global efforts by allocating 0.7 percent of GDP to official development assistance. We will reach this goal within 10 years. By offering less than one one-hundredth of our GDP, we can help our world meet the most basic of goals: to make poverty history.



The Harper government has shifted its aid priorities to reflect political and commercial interests to the detriment of the needs of the poorest and most fragile countries. Liberals are committed to international development assistance and global stewardship—an obligation incumbent on a nation with our capacity to effect change. We will partner with

Canadian and in-country civil society to achieve Canada's long-term development goals so that Canada can once again assume its role as a constructive and engaged player on the world stage.



An NDP government will:

- Reverse the cuts to Canada's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and set a timetable to meet an aid target of 0.7 per cent of GNI with an increase of \$500 million over the first mandate of an NDP government;
- increase funding for the promotion of women's rights and health - including access to safe abortion;
- enable Canadian pharmaceutical companies to export generic versions of life-saving medicine for people suffering from HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and other diseases in the developing world.

PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

Women's rights are not universal until they are protected and accessible by every woman and girl on the planet. Globally, women still represent 70% of the world's poor. Whereas Canada was once a global leader on women's rights and gender equality, its commitment has waned.

1 WOULD YOUR PARTY INCREASE FUNDING FOR WOMEN'S GROUPS AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE FRONTLINES SERVICES TO WOMEN, AT HOME AND ABROAD?



The rights and interests of women have been under fire in Ottawa these last few years: questioning the right to abortion, cutting funding for women's groups and making pay equity optional. In addition to cancelling all these backward steps, the Bloc Québécois will introduce a proactive bill on pay equity in areas under federal jurisdiction.

Furthermore, the federal government's decision to make the long-form census optional will have a detrimental effect on studies on gender equity as well as on all data for analyzing women's socio-economic conditions.



No Answer



Yes. Women make up over 50% of Canada's population, the majority of seniors, and a disproportionate share of the people living in poverty in Canada. Violence against women is the world's leading human-rights violation and, sadly, Canada isn't immune to this tragedy. The Green Party is committed to ending violence against women.

Through our Council of Canadian Governments we will establish a National Action Plan on Violence Against Women that coordinates all orders of Canadian government in the pursuit of improving the lives of all women facing violence.

Ensuring adequate funding for women's shelters would form the core of any National Action Plan. All women should have a safe place to go when facing violence. Women's shelters provide vital services to at-risk women and families. The federal government must step up and provide adequate funds for women's shelter across Canada.

Greens would also reestablish funding for Status of Women Canada and other organizations that fund non-profit women's groups and advocate for women's rights. We would also restore funding to KAIROS, CCIC, MATCH, and Planned Parenthood and other organizations that work tirelessly to provide frontline services for women abroad.



Liberals understand the fundamental role that the not-for-profit sector and charities play in both policy development and program delivery for Canadians, and people in need around the world. The Liberal Party of Canada is committed to renewing the federal government's partnership with civil society. As a first step, we will put an end to the Canadian

Revenue Agency's political harassment of charities and clarify rules to affirm the important role that charities can and should play in developing and advocating for public policy in Canada.

A Liberal government will also work in partnership with non-governmental and charitable organizations, including women's groups, to explore more effective ways to provide funding for the important work they do. Our party understands that we must find more effective funding delivery mechanisms to support the not-for-profit sector to achieve accountability, while at the same time providing adequate, predictable, and stable funding.



We would increase support for women's organizations in developing countries, provide support for UN Women and provide support for programs that aim to tackle violence against women and girls.

Similarly here in Canada, we will fund programs that offer support to women and their children fleeing violence. We will restore the Shelter Enhancement Program with \$40 million in funding over four years. This funding could create or renovate more than 2,100 spaces in first-stage shelters and nearly 350 spaces in transition houses across Canada.

2 WHAT WOULD YOUR PARTY DO, CONCRETELY, TO END WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY HERE IN CANADA AND ABROAD? WHAT STEP WOULD YOU TAKE TO PROMOTE INCOME EQUALITY AND ENABLE WOMEN TO HAVE ACCESS TO SECURE JOBS?



Women have much more difficulty getting access to employment insurance. Our priority after repealing the Conservatives' reform will be to improve women's access to their insurance.

The Bloc also wants to reintroduce the court challenge program that was abolished by the Conservatives several years ago.

We also want to resume funding for organizations working internationally on a non-ideological basis. Currently, organizations helping women around the world to get more rights or have access to abortion are stigmatized by the Conservative government. This needs to change.



No Answer



It is a black mark against Canada that, in 2015, Canadian women earn, on average, \$8,000 less per year than their male counterparts for doing the same jobs. We will fight to end gender-based discrimination in the workplace and in Canadian society at large, and ensure that Canada eliminates the gender wage gap once and for all.

Although we must continue to work to address deeply-rooted gender bias in Canadian society, it will take time. One important step is ensuring high-quality affordable child care. We will work with the provinces, territories and Indigenous communities to establish accessible, convenient, enriched and affordable child care spaces for any Canadian family that seeks it. We will support women to re-enter the workforce whenever they choose after having children. The Green Party believes that workplace childcare has many advantages - enhanced parenting time and access to children through the work day, extension of breast-feeding opportunities, improved employee productivity, and improving the convenience of public transport when parents and kids share their morning destination. Tax breaks to employers for the creation of child care spaces is one tool among many we will use to ensure that families have the spaces they need. We will also ensure that every First Nations, Metis, and Inuit child has access to the quality and culturally appropriate education they deserve, and is required to succeed in today's labour market.



Too many women face unacceptable discrimination in pay equity, barriers to employment, and domestic violence. Liberals will continue to stand for action, and we will always advocate for women's full economic, social, reproductive, and political equality.

To make Canada a more gender-equitable country, we must have more women engaging in public life to address the lack of justice in the institutions that formulate laws and programs affecting women's lives, especially concerning issues such as childcare, family violence, health and environment, and pay equity. A Liberal Cabinet will have an equal number of women and men. We will also adopt a federal government-wide open and merit-based appointments process, which will ensure gender parity and that more Indigenous Peoples and minority groups are reflected in positions of leadership. Liberals also recognize that public policies affect men and women in different ways, and it is important that government understands these impacts when introducing policies. We will ensure meaningful gender-based impact analysis in Cabinet decision making and that federal departments are conducting the gender-based analysis that has been required of them for the past 20 years.

A Liberal government will also create one bigger, fair, tax-free, automatic monthly child benefit to put more money back in the pockets of the Canadian families who need it most. Instead of sending government cheques to millionaires, a Liberal government will use that money to lift 315,000 Canadian children out of poverty. We also know that high-quality, affordable child care options are critical to the economic security of families and, in particular, to the economic security of women. That is why we will work with provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples to create a new National Early Learning and Child Care Framework. This plan will be administered as part of our new social infrastructure investment of nearly \$20 billion over the next ten years, and achieved in collaboration with, and in respect of, provincial jurisdiction.

Moreover, Liberals will create greater flexibility for parents who are providing care for their children. This includes:

- Making Employment Insurance Parental Benefits more flexible for family and work circumstances. This entails providing parents the option of taking their benefits in smaller blocks of time over an 18-month period, or taking a longer leave of up to 18 months, when combined with maternity benefits, at a lower benefit level.
- Amending the Canada Labour Code to give every federally regulated worker the legal right to make a formal request to their employer – without fear of reprisal – for more flexible working conditions, including flexible start and finish times, and the ability to work from home.
- Introducing a more flexible and accessible Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefit so that six months of benefits are available to those who are providing care to a seriously ill family member, including children, and so these benefits can be shared, and taken in blocks over a year-long period.

Internationally, the Harper government's politicization of its signature aid initiative on maternal health flies in the face of evidence and the best interests of women in the developing world. We will also ensure that Canada's valuable aid initiative on maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) is driven by evidence and outcomes, not ideology. Closing existing gaps in reproductive rights and health care can and will save lives. We will cover the full range of reproductive health services as part of MNCH initiatives.



New Democrats recognize that gender inequality is a leading cause of poverty and an NDP government would actively promote women's rights at home and abroad. We would ensure all international cooperation initiatives reflect our international obligations to fulfill women's rights and gender equality.

We will support efforts to improve education in the developing world with an emphasis on providing education and skills training.

In this election Tom Mulcair has committed to deliver a Canada-wide early childhood education and childcare program. We'll create or maintain a million quality childcare spaces in Canada— where parents pay no more than \$15 a day. By helping more women return to the workforce, we are tackling poverty and ensuring economic independence for women. 70,000 more women are working since affordable childcare came to Quebec.

We'll promote women's leadership and lead by example, ensuring half of all government appointments to the boards of crown corporations and government agencies are women.

3 WHAT ACTIONS WOULD YOUR PARTY TAKE TO ENSURE THE SECURITY FOR WOMEN, IN PARTICULAR ABORIGINAL WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CANADA?



First Nations women are three times more at risk of violence than other Canadian women and are overrepresented among the country's missing and murdered people.

In 2014, we learned that their numbers—1,186 over 30 years—exceeded previous estimates, which hovered around 600. Many voices are calling for a national inquiry into what they consider a sociological phenomenon, but the federal government views these cases as crimes that will not be solved by a public inquiry.

The Bloc Québécois is demanding a national inquiry on the issue, just like the Assembly of First Nations, other Aboriginal organizations, provincial and territorial human rights commissions, Human Rights Watch and a United Nations special rapporteur. We want a board of inquiry with a broad and unconstrained mandate, but more importantly, one where the families and communities of victims can testify about the loss of a loved one, the discrimination they say they suffer from at the hands of law enforcement, and the social problems that afflict them.



No Answer



The Green Party unequivocally supports a national inquiry on missing and murdered Indigenous women. The violence faced by Indigenous women and girls in Canada is a national disgrace. That the Harper Conservatives have refused to even open an inquiry compounds our shame. At least 1181

Indigenous women have been murdered or have gone missing in the last 30 years. 225 of these cases remain unsolved. We must confront and undo the legacy of racism and colonialism that underpins these acts of violence. We owe it to the victims and their families to use every tool we have to investigate this serious and systemic problem, and solve it. We cannot leave Indigenous women and girls at risk out of an aversion to “committing sociology,” as the Prime Minister put it. Indigenous communities in Canada have called for this inquiry and it is the duty of the federal government to open it.

It is shameful that Canada has no comprehensive strategy to address violence against women, when the majority of Canadian women and girls are victims of violence at some point in their lives. The Green Party supports a National Action Plan on Violence Against Women, which must:

- Bring together all levels of government and stakeholders to develop a strategy
- Educate the public about violence against women
- Recognize the unique needs and risk factors for Indigenous women
- Provide increased funding for women’s shelters and sexual assault support centres
- Ensure appropriate services for women and children impacted by domestic violence
- Revise laws to increase penalties for domestic violence, and support access to restorative justice processes for Indigenous Peoples
- Establish a GLI, to ensure no woman is without the means to flee domestic violence
- Establish a National Housing Strategy to end homelessness

With a National Action Plan on Violence Against Women, we can ensure victims and survivors are supported as we work to end gender-based violence entirely.



For far too many Canadians – overwhelmingly women – sexual violence, sexual harassment, and intimate partner violence are real, and even daily, threats. Many survivors choose not to report these incidents to police and conviction rates are low. Working together with experts and advocates, we will develop and implement a comprehensive federal gender violence strategy and action plan, aligned with existing provincial strategies.

We will ensure that no one fleeing domestic violence is left without a place to turn. We will increase investments in growing and maintaining Canada’s network of shelters and transition houses, as part of our broader investment in social infrastructure.

We will amend the Criminal Code to reverse onus on bail for those with previous convictions of intimate partner violence.

We will also specify that intimate partner violence be considered an aggravating factor at sentencing, and increase the maximum sentence for repeat offenders. We will also work in partnership with provinces and territories to bolster public awareness campaigns, and will take action to ensure that Parliament and federal institutions – including the public service, the RCMP, and the Canadian Armed Forces – are workplaces free from harassment and sexual violence. We will review current gender- and culturally-sensitive training policies for federal front-line law enforcement officers to ensure that they are strong and effective.

To help those who are new to Canada, we will change the rules so that spouses immigrating to Canada receive immediate permanent residence – no two-year waiting period. This will make it possible for spouses – most often women – to work and achieve financial independence.

A Liberal government will also immediately launch a national public inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada. The public inquiry will be established by a fully inclusive process that will empower and bring justice for the victims, healing to their families, and help deliver a plan of action to put an end to this ongoing national tragedy.

We will then work with victims’ families, Indigenous governments and organizations, as well as provincial, territorial and municipal governments, to implement the recommendations and action plan developed through that inquiry.



An NDP government will

- call an inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women within the first 100 days in office;
- work with women’s groups and Indigenous organizations to establish a comprehensive national action plan to end violence against women and children with dedicated funding and benchmarks;
- restore the Shelter Enhancement Program to expand access to shelter and transition houses in order to support women and their children fleeing violence;
- invest more than \$2.7 billion over 4 years in affordable housing and homelessness programs to create and maintain affordable housing, which helps women and children fleeing violence to find a new place to call home.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable and peaceful communities just aren't possible unless we do better on climate change and the environment. 2015 is a pivotal year to make decisions about the future health of the planet.

1 DO YOU AND YOUR PARTY SUPPORT MOVING TOWARDS A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY? HOW, CONCRETELY, WOULD YOUR PARTY SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFICIENT, SUSTAINABLE, CLEAN-ENERGY ECONOMY FOR CANADA?



The Bloc supports Quebec's plan to gradually transition into a new green economy. Our proposals for achieving this objective include:

- Maintaining and enhancing the rebate program for consumers who choose energy-efficient vehicles
- Implementing mandatory energy efficiency labelling of vehicles and a discount on the purchase of electric cars
- Improving funding for renewable energy development programs
- Supporting the development of plants for manufacturing ethanol from forest, agricultural and domestic residue (cellulosic ethanol)
- Improving funding for energy-efficiency improvement programs for residential, commercial and industrial buildings
- Introducing tax incentives for the installation/conversion of clean heating systems (reducing the importance of oil as an energy source), particularly using geothermal/hydro power
- Abolishing the oil industry's favourable tax treatment
- Providing incentives to maximize the introduction of electric and hybrid vehicles in the fleets of federal bodies
- Making the tax credit on the purchase of public transit passes refundable to encourage even more people to replace their cars with public transport



Conservative

No Answer



Absolutely. We believe the economy of the future is built on clean-tech. We will put a national price on carbon and incentivize the development of green energy infrastructure. We need to invest in an infrastructure that promotes renewable energy, and a more robust east-west electricity grid to promote renewable energy transmission between provinces, while reducing the enormous waste in our energy systems. We will unleash an army of carpenters, electricians and contractors to take outdated and leaky public buildings – schools, universities and hospitals – and plug the leaks that increase greenhouse gases and costs.

We will create thousands of jobs manufacturing, installing, operating, and maintaining wind turbines, solar panels, public transit vehicles and infrastructure, insulation, rail stock, and other elements of a clean and efficient economy.

The Green Party will also actively encourage value-added upgrading and manufacturing, to create more jobs and other local economic benefits. A greener economy is necessary. A greener economy is possible. We can have our jobs and our prosperity without destroying the planet on which we live. Through a carbon fee and dividend, and through incentives for green development, we will create a Canada that works. Together.



In the last decade, as every other country in the world moved forward into clean tech, into building a stronger, more sustainable economy, but the Harper Conservatives took us backwards. By denying climate change, they denied Canadians the opportunity to strengthen our economy, to take advantage of the ingenuity and talent of our people, and to take the lead in

the race to create new, high-tech, clean jobs.

The federal government has many roles to play in reducing greenhouse gas pollution, supporting research and science, creating the right conditions for clean technology to thrive, working with the provinces and territories to set targets, and supporting the initiatives that will get us there.

A Liberal government will:

- Enhance tax measures to generate more clean technology investments, and work with the provinces and territories in order to make Canada the world's most competitive tax jurisdiction for investments in the research, development, and manufacturing of clean technology.
- Establish the Canada Green Investment Bond to support both large- and community- scale renewable energy projects.
- Dramatically increase the federal government's use of clean technologies in energy, buildings, and procurement, in order to help create domestic demand for clean technology firms, and to support Canadian entrepreneurs.
- Improve energy efficiency standards for consumer and commercial products to ensure they reflect the most upto-date technology, creating competition amongst manufacturers to develop the most energy-efficient technologies.
- Provide more support for clean technology companies hoping to export their products, by training trade officials, leading trade missions, and providing data and technical assistance in a more coordinated manner.

We will also be full partners with the provinces and territories already working to develop a Canadian Energy Strategy. Our primary objectives will be ensuring Canada's energy security, energy conservation, and bringing more clean, renewable energy onto the electricity grid, including through direct federal infrastructure investments.



An NDP government will:

- Work with provinces and territories to put a price on carbon and reduce emissions;
 - Prepare a pan-Canadian cap-and-trade system, which will establish hard emissions limits for Canada's biggest polluters to ensure companies pay their environmental bills and to create an incentive for reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
 - Ensure that provincial and territorial governments can opt out of the federal plan if they have carbon pricing plans that meet or exceed federal goals;
 - Help provinces and territories co-ordinate efforts and integrate within a harmonized pan-Canadian system;
 - Advance an integrated continental cap-and-trade system that ensures a level economic playing field for North American businesses
- Show federal leadership to tackle climate change in partnership with provinces, municipalities and Indigenous governments:
 - We will ensure that any carbon pricing revenues are revenue neutral to the federal government and reinvested into provincial and territorial greenhouse gas reduction efforts where the revenue was collected;
 - We will invest an additional \$1.5 billion funding over the first 4 years in energy efficiency, clean energy, climate resilient infrastructure and other sustainable development priorities;
 - We will help Canadians invest \$4.5 billion over 4 years in carbon reduction efforts by issuing low-risk, government-backed Green Bonds to produce clean energy, climate resilient infrastructure, municipal, commercial and industrial energy retrofits;
 - These commitments are in addition to the \$7.2 billion new funding announced over 4 years in public transit and other municipal priorities like community energy systems and disaster mitigation infrastructure that will be essential for our communities to adapt to a low-carbon future.

2 WHAT WOULD YOUR PARTY DO TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS?



See previous answer.



No Answer



Our plan is to move to the virtual elimination of fossil fuel use in Canada by mid-century. Our short-term target is 40 percent below 2005 levels by 2025, while we are calling for 80 percent reductions below 1990 levels by 2050.

These are ambitious targets, yet the scale and urgency of this challenge demands nothing less. As Canadians, we will rise to this challenge and, in doing so, create a strong, stable, and prosperous economy today and for our children and grandchildren tomorrow.

We must work together to put a national price on carbon. In the complete absence of federal leadership, the provinces have taken up the challenge of climate change on their own. Although some progress has been made, notably in British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec, this patchwork of climate strategies is an inefficient way to tackle an issue that faces all Canadians.

The Carbon Fee and Dividend Plan is the smartest, most efficient, and most effective way to shift away from burning fossil fuels. We will place a fee on carbon, and pay the funds it generates directly to every Canadian over age 18 in the form of an annual carbon dividend. This plan will defend our climate, diversify our energy mix, grow our economy, and ensure energy security for Canadians.



As Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau will attend the December 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, and will invite all Premiers to join him. Within 90 days of the conference, a First Ministers meeting will be held to work together on a framework to combat climate change.

Central to this will be the creation of national emissions-reduction targets, informed by the best economic and scientific analysis. These targets must recognise the economic cost and catastrophic impact that a greater-than two-degree increase in average global temperatures would represent, as well as the necessity for Canada to do its part to prevent that from happening. We believe that Harper's targets are inadequate and meaningless without a plan to achieve them.

We will ensure that the provinces and territories have adequate tools to design their own policies to meet these commitments, including their own carbon pricing policies. As part of the comprehensive emissions reduction agreement with provinces and territories, we will provide targeted federal funding to help them achieve these goals.

A portfolio of actions appropriate for the diverse economies of each jurisdiction is the only way to significantly reduce Canada's emissions; there is no one-size-fits-all solution. But the cost of inaction is too high and the federal government has a responsibility to lead, create the conditions and provide the support required for Canada to meet its climate targets.

We will fulfill Canada's G-20 commitment to phase out subsidies for the fossil fuel industry. The next step will be to allow for the use of the Canadian Exploration Expenses tax deduction only in cases of unsuccessful exploration. The savings will be redirected to investments in new and clean technologies. We will also work with the United States and Mexico to develop an ambitious North American clean energy and environment agreement. North America can and should be the world's most efficient and responsible energy producer. Key goals of this agreement should include the continental coordination of climate mitigation and resilience policies, as well as the appropriate alignment of international negotiation positions.



An NDP government will:

- Re-introduce Jack Layton's Climate Change Accountability Act to ensure that Canada meets its long-term target of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to a level 80% below that of 1990 by the year 2050, and 34% below 1990 for the 2025/30 period.
- Invest in targeted sustainable development priorities over the next four years to tackle climate change and adapt our communities in partnership with provinces, municipalities and Indigenous governments. This funding will:
 - Invest in provincial, territorial and municipal home energy programs to retrofit 50,000 homes and 15,000 apartment units to lower energy bills and create thousands of jobs (\$200 million over 4 years);
 - Invest in the Green Municipal Fund through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to support sustainable development pilot projects, including energy efficiency, energy recovery, and transition to cleaner fuel for municipal transit (\$150 million over 4 years);
 - Create targets for the electrification of federal vehicle fleets and strengthen Canada's green procurement policy to reduce long-term fuel and maintenance costs, including the installation of 150 electric car charging stations on federal properties across Canada.
- Update and strengthen environmental assessments by:
 - Affirming Government's strong role in environmental protection and assessment;
 - Ensuring and support public participation in decision making;
 - Incorporating cumulative effects, regional assessments, and greenhouse gas impacts for all major projects;
 - Ensuring that the Crown's duty to consult Indigenous peoples in the environmental assessment process is upheld, and that their meaningful participation is facilitated.

3 HOW WOULD YOU AND YOUR PARTY SHOW LEADERSHIP AT THE PARIS CLIMATE TALKS THIS DECEMBER, TO ENSURE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS RESULT IN AN AMBITIOUS AND LEGALLY BINDING UNIVERSAL CLIMATE AGREEMENT?



The Bloc wants to be a constructive voice on the international stage to align the interests of all countries on the issue of climate change. Our goal is to rally as many nations as possible to a common position with precise reduction targets.



No Answer



The United Nations 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) will take place in Paris – starting a mere forty days after our federal election. COP21 represents the last, best and only chance for humanity to avert an intensified climate crisis and to prevent runaway global warming.

Only by electing Green Members of Parliament can we ensure Canada can lead in these critical negotiations. We are committed to serious action to avert a climate crisis. Our MPs will always work across party lines, because we understand the only way to make progress is through cooperation and mutual respect.

Canada has played a shameful and destructive role at climate negotiations during Stephen Harper's time in power. It is time to restore Canada's role as a leader. With the old parties' support for new pipelines, increased tanker traffic, and expanded oil sands production, only Green MPs will show the way with realistic and pragmatic climate leadership. We do not care who gets the credit for Canada's return to the world as a climate leader. We just need to be elected to make sure it happens.

We will fight to restore Canada's reputation as a nation that makes us proud at a pivotal time in human history.



See previous answer.



An NDP government will work to restore Canada's international environmental credibility. As one of his first duties as Prime Minister, Tom will attend COP21 with specific targets and a plan to meet them. We will include Opposition Critics and Civil Society Groups on the official delegation to COP2.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

This year the international community will adopt the Sustainable Development Goals. These goals are an opportunity to end extreme to end extreme poverty, to protect our planet and to ensure women's rights. These goals will be universal and apply to all countries.

1 DO YOU AGREE THAT CANADA NEEDS ITS OWN PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS? IF SO, WOULD YOUR PARTY DEVELOP AND ACTION PLAN TO CLEARLY ARTICULATE HOW CANADA WOULD IMPLEMENT, BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD, THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?



See first answer to CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



No Answer



We undoubtedly need a National Plan of Action to implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Many of the policies we have advanced this election overlap with SDGs, most notably our bold plan to eliminate poverty and challenge inequality. A Green government will work with our global

partners to establish clear paths to meet our own SDGs and work to help other countries meet their own implementation goals. The Green Party was a vocal advocate for placing the MDGs at the centre of Canadian diplomatic and international efforts and we believe that we must do the same with our new targets.

To facilitate federal leadership to achieve our SDGs, a Council of Canadian Governments – representing the provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous governments – would meet to draft a comprehensive domestic strategy.

In the next Parliament, we will make implementing the SDGs a priority.



A Liberal government will commit to the Sustainable Development Goals and unlike the Harper government, Liberals support the tenet of universality. Moreover, the UN Sustainable Development Goals must be more than aspirational targets. The Liberal Party believes Canada must have a comprehensive plan to make measurable progress toward

achieving these goals both at home and abroad. Our plan will ensure a fairer, more equal Canada, and ensure we reengage with the world in a cooperative and productive way.

We cannot be a world leader in reducing inequality and poverty if we do not address those issues within our own borders. The Liberal Party is presenting a comprehensive plan to reduce poverty and income inequality by investing massively in social infrastructure, lowering taxes for the middle class by raising them on the top 1 per cent, providing more financial support for those most in need and increasing flexibility for modern families. We have a plan to take urgent action on climate change by both playing an active and productive role on the world stage and making the necessary investments and changes here at home to achieve meaningful emissions reductions. We are also proposing concrete action to conserve and protect our fresh water and oceans. We will be full partners with the provinces and territories already working to develop a Canadian Energy Strategy; working to ensure Canada's energy security, energy conservation, and bring more clean, renewable energy onto the electricity grid, including through direct federal infrastructure investments. As noted above, we will implement concrete measures to foster gender equality and greater economic security for women.

Under a Liberal Government will be a world leader at multilateral institutions, working with our allies to promote cooperation, tolerance and respect within those bodies. Canada has expertise to export when it comes to reconstruction of democratic institutions, providing development aid to those most in need, and forging partnerships with civil society to accomplish our shared goals.

In 2001, a Liberal government played a key role in the creation the Global Fund to combat AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and committed \$342 million to that fund in 2004-05, plus an additional \$100 million towards anti-retroviral treatments. Liberals stand in solidarity with those who continue to fight against this deadly pandemic and are committed to achieving a future that is free of HIV and AIDS. We remain committed to the Global Fund and a Liberal government will ensure Canada's active participation in the next round of replenishment.

Moreover, over the past ten years, Stephen Harper has steadily shifted aid away from the world's poorest countries, particularly in Africa. A Liberal government will refocus our development assistance on helping the poorest and most vulnerable. To achieve that, we will consult with Canadian and international aid organizations to create a new policy and funding framework that will guide our aid decisions, empower people, and support growth in the developing world. As part of rebalancing our priorities, we will ensure that every dollar committed to international development actually gets spent.

We will not allow funds to lapse, as Stephen Harper has done. We will also ensure that Canada's valuable aid initiative on maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) is driven by evidence and outcomes, not ideology. Closing existing gaps in reproductive rights and health care can and will save lives. We will cover the full range of reproductive health services as part of MNCH initiatives.



The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a set of goals, targets and indicators that all UN member states should use to set priorities and political policies over the next 15 years. There are 17 goals, each with targets that if reached, will establish a new, fair, and sustainable global society. They include laudable goals, like ending poverty, ensuring universal education, gender equality, food security, water and sanitation, fighting climate change, access to justice, employment, peace, environmental and ocean protection, and more.

These are all issues the NDP has committed to domestically, and we will work hard to ensure that we achieve these same objectives in our development overseas. In fact, we have committed to ensuring that all new legislation adopted under an NDP government will have to pass a green lens to ensure it is consistent with sustainable development. Tom Mulcair did this as Environment Minister in Quebec, and he will do it as Prime Minister of Canada.

We will enshrine access to clean water as a human right and show leadership on global water issues, including the protection of access to safe water for all. We will treat water as a public resource, not a commodity.



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