

Shades of Green

The 2015 Major Party Election Platforms on the Environment, Energy and Climate Change

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Issue	Conservative	Liberal	Green	NDP
Climate Change	<p>GHG emission reduction target: 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030</p> <p>Continue to balance what's best for our climate with the needs of our economy, recognizing the importance of both the environment and our economy to all Canadians.</p> <p>Continue plan for careful, well-designed regulations and support for companies and researchers to develop new, cleaner technologies. Our low-tax, balanced budget plan to strengthen and grow Canada's economy will create the conditions for this type of cutting-edge innovation.</p>	<p>GHG emission reduction target: none stated to date.</p> <p>We will partner with provincial and territorial leaders to develop real climate change solutions, consistent with our international obligations to protect the planet, all while growing our economy.</p> <p>Attend the Paris climate conference, and within 90 days formally meet to establish a pan- Canadian framework for combatting climate change.</p>	<p>GHG emission reduction target: At least 40% below 2005 levels by 2025. Carbon neutrality by 2050, with further cuts to greenhouse gas emissions of at least 80% to 90%, compared to 1990.</p> <p>Eliminate all fossil fuel subsidies.</p> <p>We must work together to put a national price on carbon via a carbon fee and dividend plan.</p>	<p>GHG emission reduction target: 34 per cent below 1990 levels by 2025; 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050.</p> <p>Work with provinces and territories to develop a pan-Canadian cap-and-trade system that sets concrete emissions limits for Canada's major polluters. Recognize efforts already underway in provinces like British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, and will allow jurisdictions to opt out if their own carbon pricing plans meet or exceed federal standards.</p> <p>Federal carbon pricing revenues will be returned to the provinces so that they can be reinvested in greenhouse gas reduction</p>

				<p>efforts.</p> <p>Consult with municipalities, provinces, the insurance industry, federal departments, Indigenous communities and other key stakeholders to develop a regionally targeted blueprint to deal with increasingly severe impacts of climate change (drought, floods, severe weather, health impacts, etc.) on communities and infrastructure.</p>
Water	<p>Support MP Weston's bill, and also set aside funds to cover one third of the cost of removing priority derelict vessels.</p> <p>Increase maritime protection by acquiring greater tugboat capacity on the West Coast.</p>	<p>Review Stephen Harper's changes to the <i>Fisheries Act</i>, and his elimination of the <i>Navigable Waters Protection Act</i>, and restore lost protections, and incorporate more modern safeguards.</p>	<p>"If Beijing complains about a municipal by-law or proposed legislative change, such as reversing the damage to the <i>Fisheries Act</i>, <i>Environmental Assessment</i> or <i>Navigable Waters Protection Act</i>, we will not cave."</p>	<p>Reduce water pollution by investing \$200 million in wastewater infrastructure in small communities.</p> <p>Reverse changes made to the <i>Navigable Waters Protection Act</i> in Budgets 2010 and 2012. Restore habitat protection to the <i>Fisheries Act</i>.</p> <p>Introduce a <i>Safe Drinking Water Act</i> to support provinces and municipalities in their efforts to keep the drinking water of all Canadians safe, particularly those</p>

				<p>living in Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Introduce legislation banning the bulk export of water across international boundaries.</p>
Environmental Assessment	<p>Not interfere in the independent project review process, and making final decisions on individual projects based on the science and recommendations of expert bodies.</p>	<p>Immediately review Canada's environmental assessment processes and introduce new, fair processes that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *restore robust oversight and thorough environmental assessments of areas under federal jurisdiction, while also working with provinces and territories to avoid duplication; *ensure that decisions are based on science, facts, and evidence, and serve the public's interest; *provide ways for Canadians to express their views and opportunities for experts to meaningfully participate; and *require project advocates to choose the best technologies available to reduce environmental impacts. <p>We will modernize the</p>		<p>Affirm government's strong role in environmental protection and assessment.</p> <p>Ensure and support public participation in decision-making.</p> <p>Incorporate consideration of cumulative effects, regional assessments and greenhouse gas impacts for all major projects.</p>

		National Energy Board, ensuring that its composition reflects regional views and has sufficient expertise in fields like environmental science, community development, and Indigenous traditional knowledge.		
Clean Technology	Continue to support Sustainable Development Technology Canada.	<p>Invest \$100 million more each year in clean technology producers, so that they can tackle Canada's most pressing environmental challenges, and create more opportunities for Canadian workers.</p> <p>Deliver more support to emerging clean tech manufacturing companies, making it easier for them to conduct research and bring new products to market.</p> <p>Invest \$200 million more each year to support innovation and the use of clean technologies in our natural resource sectors, including the forestry, fisheries, mining, energy, and agricultural sectors.</p>	<p>Secure Canada's economic leadership over the coming decade by creating a fund to invest in skills-training, education, energy efficiency, renewables, and emerging technologies.</p> <p>Invest in infrastructure that promotes renewable energy, and east-west transmission grid. Reduce waste in energy systems.</p>	Improve energy security, affordability and reducing pollution by investing \$100 million in renewable energy development in northern and remote communities.

		<p>Enhance existing tax measures to generate more clean technology investments</p> <p>Provide more support for our clean technology companies to successfully export their products by training trade officials and leading trade missions focused on clean technology.</p> <p>To foster the creativity that leads to cutting-edge research, establish Canada Research Chairs in sustainable technology.</p> <p>Work closely with the provinces and territories to develop a Canadian Energy Strategy to protect Canada's energy security; encourage energy conservation; and bring cleaner, renewable energy onto the electricity grid.</p>		
Toxic Substances				<p>Adopt the principles from the European Union's REACH regulation to make industry responsible for assessing and managing the risks posed by chemicals produced or imported into Canada,</p>

				instead of imposing the burden on the taxpayer.
Resource Development	<p>Ongoing maintenance and upgrades to Canada's small craft harbours .</p> <p>Enhance compliance with the Preserving the Independence of the Inshore Fleet in Canada's Atlantic Fisheries Policy.</p> <p>Help Canada's forestry industry fight back by establishing a fund to match private-sector contributions to promote Canadian forestry products and our sustainable management practices, and to counter those who are conducting misinformation campaigns.</p> <p>Extend the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit for three years</p>		<p>Green MPs will put our coastal communities first by standing against all new raw bitumen export schemes.</p> <p>We will arrest the growth in oil sands expansion</p> <p>We will curtail the export of thermal coal from Canadian ports.</p>	<p>Make strategic investments to provide infrastructure for mining projects like committing \$1 billion in federal support for the Ring of Fire in Northern Ontario.</p> <p>Extend the Mining Exploration Tax Credit and support forestry, manufacturing, innovation and the promotion of value-added Canadian wood products.</p> <p>Meet Canada's G-20 commitment to cut subsidies to non-renewable energy and end the federal bias towards non-renewable energy production.</p>
Railway Safety			<p>Create a national transportation strategy with strict new rules on rail safety.</p> <p>Fund re-routing of tracks for freight and rail yards</p>	<p>Immediately launch a public inquiry into the Lac-Mégantic tragedy to improve transportation oversight.</p> <p>Significantly improve the</p>

			away from populated areas.	<p>number and quality of rail inspections and audits, while issuing strong penalties for safety violations.</p> <p>Ensure that railways are adequately investing to improve the safety of rail infrastructure, while making key public investments in rail safety upgrades and passenger rail infrastructure across Canada.</p> <p>providing better information to provinces, municipalities and first responders, and taking action where necessary to lower speeds and re-route dangerous goods.</p>
Parks and Protected Areas/Nature	<p>Enact new migratory bird regulations to establish a family hunting permit and remove other unnecessary barriers and irritants to hunters, in time for the 2017 hunting season.</p> <p>Complete protection of certain wilderness areas.</p>	<p>Make it more affordable for more Canadians to visit and appreciate our National Parks.</p> <p>Reverse cuts to National Parks system and make new investments.</p> <p>Do more to protect Canada's endangered species. We will respond more quickly to the advice and requests of scientists,</p>		<p>Complete proposed parks and wildlife areas.</p> <p>Recommit Parks Canada to prioritizing their legal obligation to maintain or restore ecological integrity as the first priority for park management.</p>

		and will complete robust species-at-risk recovery plans.		
Science		Appoint a Chief Science Officer who will ensure that government science is fully available to the public, that scientists are able to speak freely about their work, and that scientific analyses are considered when the government makes decisions.	Enact Public Access to Science legislation to ensure our scientists are unmuzzled and free to discuss their findings with the media and the Canadian public without censorship or political interference. Our open science legislation would also ensure that all government-funded scientific research is publicly accessible by law.	<p>Creating a Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to ensure that our government always has access to the best possible scientific advice.</p> <p>Reverse the Conservatives' policy of muzzling scientists</p>
Trade and the Environment		Carefully consider all trade opportunities currently open to Canada, and explore deeper trade relationships with emerging and established markets, including China and India.	We will vigorously oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA).	<p>Strengthen the <i>Investment Canada Act</i> to protect Canadian jobs and ensure international trade deals provide a net benefit for middle-class Canadian families.</p> <p>Set a new standard for open, transparent trade negotiations, which will ensure that we always get the best trade agreements possible for Canadians. Consult with Canadians and bring greater transparency to trade talks.</p>

<p>Governance</p>	<p>Expand the “red tape baseline,” increasing significantly the scope of the red tape burden subject to the One-for-One rule.</p> <p>Reduce the overall (Red Tape) burden by 20 percent while maintaining the highest standards in all areas, including health and safety.</p>	<p>Repeal the problematic elements of Bill C-51, and introduce new legislation that better balances our collective security with our rights and freedoms.</p> <p>Expand the role of the Information Commissioner, giving them the power to issue binding orders for disclosure.</p> <p>Ensure that Access to Information applies to the Prime Minister’s and Ministers’ Offices, as well as administrative institutions that support Parliament and the courts.</p> <p>Allow charities to do their work on behalf of Canadians free from political harassment, and will modernize the rules governing the charitable and not-for-profit sectors. This will include clarifying the rules governing “political activity,” with an understanding that charities make an important contribution to</p>	<p>Repeal Bill C-51 to defined Canadians’ Charter Rights and Privacy.</p> <p>Replace the First-Past-the-Post system with Proportional Representation.</p> <p>Enshrine in the Constitution the right to a healthy environment.</p> <p>Overhaul Accountability, Conflict of Interest, Privacy and Access to Information legislation.</p>	<p>Repeal Bill C-51 within our first 100 days in office.</p> <p>Apply a green lens to all new federal legislation to ensure it is consistent with the principles of a strengthened federal <i>Sustainable Development Act</i>.</p> <p>Introduce an <i>Environmental Bill of Rights</i> giving all Canadians the right to a clean and healthy environment</p> <p>Modernize the <i>Access to Information Act</i> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Giving the Information Commissioner the power to order the release of information; *Expanding the coverage of the Act *Subjecting the exclusion of cabinet confidences to review by the Information Commissioner. *Obliging public officials to create the records necessary to document their actions and decisions. *Providing a general public interest override for all
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