

The 2015 Federal Election – One Year Later. The Liberal Platforms vs. Progress to Date

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Issue	What Needs to be done	Liberal Platform Commitment	Performance to date
Climate Change	<p>Establish a national climate change strategy, capable of achieving 20% reduction in GHG emissions by 2020 relative to 1990.</p> <p>Develop national climate change adaptation strategy</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>Paris Agreement INDC is 30% reduction relative to 2006 by 2030. Same as Conservative position.</p> <p>National carbon pricing regime, starting at \$10/tonne in 2018 for provinces without carbon pricing regime announced, October 2016.</p> <p>Additional measures not announced to date.</p> <p>BC Northwest LNG project approved October 2016.</p> <p>Approval of Kinder-Morgan/Transmountain Pipeline widely expected December 2016</p>
Water	<p>Reverse changes made to the <i>Navigable Waters Protection Act</i> in Budgets 2010 and 2012.</p>	<p>Review Stephen Harper's changes to the <i>Fisheries Act</i>, and his elimination of the <i>Navigable Waters Protection</i></p>	<p>Environmental and regulatory process review announced June 2016. No legislative changes to date.</p>

	Restore habitat protection to the <i>Fisheries Act</i> .	<i>Act</i> , and restore lost protections, and incorporate more modern safeguards.	
Environmental Assessment	<p>Reverse Bill C-38 revisions to CEEA.</p> <p>Establish a sustainability assessment process for energy and other significant projects that provides for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *comprehensive and effective consideration of evidence, including local and traditional knowledge, including cumulative effects; *consideration of the rationale for projects and alternatives to them *better integration of environmental, economic and social considerations in the interests of advancing sustainability; *meaningful opportunities public involvement; *freedom from bias independent decision-making; * the possibility of a “no” or significant modifications to projects as outcomes where warranted by the evidence and public input. 	<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 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.</p>	<p>Interim review process announced January 2016, adding assessment of upstream climate change impacts and additional requirements for consultations with aboriginal people. No changes to Bill C-38 legislative framework.</p> <p>Environmental and regulatory process review, regarding CEEA, National Energy Board and <i>Fisheries and Navigation Protection Act</i> announced June 2016. No legislative changes to date.</p> <p>BC Northwest LNG project approved October 2016 under ‘interim’ process.</p>

<p>Clean Technology</p>	<p>Invest in low-carbon transition technologies and services.</p>	<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>Enhance existing tax measures to generate more clean technology investments 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>2016 Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Carbon Economy Fund - \$2 billion/2 years • Investing in Clean Tech - \$1 billion/4 years • \$128 million/5 years RE/EE • \$129.5 million/5 years for Climate Change Adaptation • \$14 million CEAA • \$16 million for 'interim' EA approach
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Toxic Substances	Adopt the principles from the European Union's REACH regulation		No action to date
Resource Development	Eliminate subsidies for non-renewable resource development.		Minister of Finance Mandate letter directs minister to: "Work with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to fulfill our G20 commitment and phase out subsidies for the fossil fuel industry over the medium-term."
Railway Safety	<p>Public inquiry into the Lac-Mégantic tragedy.</p> <p>Strengthen rail safety regulatory regime, including strengthened officers' and directors' liability.</p>		<p>Announcements mostly focused on level crossing safety.</p> <p>No substantial action on regulatory framework.</p>

<p>Parks and Protected Areas/Nature</p>	<p>Complete national parks system.</p> <p>Prioritizing the maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity as the first priority for park management.</p> <p>Strengthen implementation of Species at Risk Act.</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, and will complete robust species-at-risk recovery plans.</p>	<p>Reversal of some controversial development projects (e.g. Mother Canada Statue in Cape Breton Highlands National Park) in National Parks.</p> <p>2016 Budget provides free admission to national parks. Modest funding for parks expansion</p> <p>No major action on species at risk to date.</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>Reverse policy of muzzling scientists</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Substantial funding for Ocean and Freshwater Science in Budget 2016, including support for Experimental Lakes Area.</p> <p>No action on Chief Science Officer.</p> <p>Some progress on access to science analyses.</p> <p>Conservative communications policies remain in place.</p> <p>See commentary from Evidence for Democracy</p>

Trade and the Environment	Decline inclusion of investor-state dispute provisions in future treaties.	Carefully consider all trade opportunities currently open to Canada, and explore deeper trade relationships with emerging and established markets, including China and India.	Continued aggressive pursuit of CETA, further trade agreement with China
Governance	<p>Repeal Bill C-51</p> <p>Halt CRA audits of 'political' activity and review rules regarding policy advocacy by charitable organizations.</p> <p>Revise ATI legislation to provide commissioner with power to order the release of records and expand scope of coverage of the act.</p> <p>Strengthen the federal <i>Sustainable Development Act</i>.</p> <p>Adopt a federal <i>Environmental Bill of Rights</i>.</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</p>	<p>No changes to Bill C-51 to date.</p> <p>ATI fees eliminated.</p> <p>Widely reported government wishes to retain veto over release of records. No changes to <i>Access to Information Act</i> to date. See Toronto Star reports.</p> <p>No changes to rules for political activity by charitable organizations to date.</p>

		<p>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 public debate and public policy. A new legislative framework to strengthen the sector will emerge from this process.</p>	<p>CRA Audits of charities for political activities have continued. See CBC reports.</p>
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