



Sustainable Economy – Because Tomorrow is Serious Business

Canada is teetering on a recession for the second time since Stephen Harper became prime minister. We need to immediately build those sectors that benefit from the lower Canadian dollar – manufacturing, tourism, value-added forest products and cultural industries. We need to resurrect federal engagement in tourism promotion and support. We need to embrace the 21st century economic revolution of clean technology.

These steps will assist in confronting the biggest threat to our economic future – the decline in the Harper years of Canadian productivity. For the first time since records have been kept, Canada is falling behind the U.S. in productivity. We are a nation of innovators but more R & D into clean technology is required.

National Sustainable Jobs Plan

\$350 Billion: *Canada's estimated infrastructure deficit*

The gap between the infrastructure funding our cities and towns need, and the funding they receive, is reaching crisis levels – Canada's infrastructure deficit is estimated to be upwards of \$350-billion. **We will work to close this gap by committing \$6.4 billion per year, one point of the GST, to municipal infrastructure** – providing stable, long-term funding to Canadian municipalities, creating good local jobs, and building vibrant, safe, and livable Canadian towns and cities.

We will create a Canadian Infrastructure Bank to provide more robust and innovative financing and investment partnerships, in order to build safer bridges, better roads, world-class water treatment facilities, affordable housing, efficient public transportation, and expanded broadband access – putting thousands of Canadians to work in the process.

We will create additional sustainable jobs by re-introducing and expanding the home renovation tax credit, to create incentives for individuals and companies to make their homes and businesses more efficient and accessible by installing high-efficiency insulation, solar heating and electricity, energy-efficient appliances, and accessibility upgrades. **And we will unleash an army of carpenters, electricians and contractors to take outdated and leaky public buildings – schools, universities and hospitals – and plug the leaks that increase greenhouse gases and costs.** These changes alone will reduce carbon emissions by 30 percent nationwide.

Canadian Small Businesses

70%: *The percentage of the private sector workforce that are small business employees or entrepreneurs*

Small businesses and the Canadians who own them are the central driver of our economy. They create more jobs than any other part of our economy. And those incomes and profits remain in the community, providing stable employment. As an added bonus, their flexible nature allows them to respond to environmental and market demands well before large corporations take action.

Putting Canadian small businesses first means reducing red tape for small business owners and enacting “Think Small First” legislation to ensure that new federal laws and regulations enhance, rather than hinder, an economic environment where local businesses and entrepreneurs can thrive.

We will create federally-funded \$1 billion per year Green Technology Commercialization Grants to accelerate emerging technologies and give Canadian entrepreneurs a head start. By facilitating increased access to early-stage financing, the Green Technology Commercialization Grant will help our entrepreneurs compete internationally. It will help good ideas and emerging technology get to market, growing our sustainable economy and creating good local jobs and opportunities in our communities.

Investments in Renewables and Clean Tech

1 400 000: *The number of jobs in the German clean tech sector, which generates over 11% of Germany’s GDP.*

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 still waste more than half the energy we use. It’s time to save money and reduce pollution by going after waste.

Bold Ideas to Move Away from the Status Quo

Abolish tuition, implement a National Housing Strategy, a National Transportation Strategy, and a National Seniors Strategy – Greens have bold ideas that will lead Canada to success in the 21st century and kick start our economy as we move into a post-carbon future.