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# A GREENER CANADA

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**B**y mobilizing the economy to reduce pollution and find new, cleaner ways of doing business, the Liberal green shift plan will help Canada move towards a greener future. But we need to do more to fight climate change and clean up our air and water, and protect our wildlife and wilderness.

We need our economy to be more competitive and to create more jobs. But we also need it to be sustainable, so that we are able to preserve the magnificent natural heritage with which Canada has been blessed. We need an economy that will be strong today, and for future generations. We need a country able to enhance its quality of life today, and for the decades to come. We need to reconcile our way of life with our environment, our health, and our moral obligation to leave our children clean air, clean water and a healthy planet.

The world today faces an unprecedented global crisis: climate change. The world's leading scientists are telling us that an increase in the Earth's temperature of just 2 to 4 degrees Celsius will lead to a catastrophic disruption of life as we know it, and we must act urgently to stop it.

Humans caused global warming and humans can fix it – we have the know-how and we have the technology, but we need the leadership to mobilize our entire society towards this great task.

The last time Canada faced a challenge of this proportion was at the outbreak of the Second World War: At that time, all elements of society – government, industry, labour and ordinary citizens – responded to the challenge of a country-wide mobilization against a global threat. We can do this again. And just as Canada transformed itself into a major industrial power in the 20th century, Canada today has another opportunity to revolutionize its economy – the chance to design a low-energy, low greenhouse gas emission economy and society suitable for the 21st century. Mobilizing the economy for the fight against the climate change crisis will allow Canada to embrace the world's next industrial revolution.

A Liberal government will make Canada a leader in this green revolution.

Our green shift plan will put a price on pollution and will encourage the innovation and efficiency that will improve both our environment and economy.

Our Advanced Manufacturing Prosperity Fund will help attract investment in manufacturing the greener, more efficient products that will dominate the markets of tomorrow.

Our R&D investments will ensure that research and science continue to inform policy decisions and that we understand the impacts of the climate change crisis on our communities and our economy so we know how best to adapt to what is inevitable and avoid what is not.

And our infrastructure investments will give our cities and communities the help they need to reduce their pollution and build the resiliency to respond to the future impacts of climate change.

The world economy is becoming increasingly energy constrained and competitive. Countries that adopt decisive, sustainable strategies will lead the way. Canada must be one of these countries and the Liberal plan will ensure that it is.

## 1. A Plan to Fight the Climate Change Crisis

Climate change may well be the most pressing challenge of our time. But it also presents a rare opportunity. By encouraging energy-efficient and clean technologies and practices today, Canada can be a leader in the economy of tomorrow. The Liberal green shift is the foundation of a national climate change plan, one that puts a price on carbon and addresses the carbon pollution that is produced by all sectors of our economy and is stored in our natural spaces.

To set a clear path for ourselves, and be taken seriously internationally, we need to establish firm targets to cut emissions in the short, medium and long term. A Liberal government will:

- respect our commitments and international obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to at least 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2020, and increasing this goal to at least 25 percent if other countries make comparable efforts;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 emission levels by 2035
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 60 to 80 percent below 1990 emission levels by 2050.

*A Liberal government will reduce GHG emissions to at least 20 percent under 1990 levels by 2020.*

These targets are tough but achievable. They are also consistent with those of other leading jurisdictions. Most important, they are what scientific experts tell us is required to avert the dangers of climate change and protect human health. Inspired by that goal, a Liberal government will enact a plan to ensure that Canada reaches these targets, making Canada a world leader in global environmental citizenship.

### Cutting Industrial Emissions of Greenhouse Gases

Over half of Canada's total GHG emissions come from large industrial emitters. The Conservative government's approach is so weak and so full of loopholes that it will have very little effect, according to the experts who have studied it.

A Liberal government will act immediately to put a price on carbon that rises to \$40 per tonne of carbon emission within four years. That price will start low enough not to cause economic hardship, but will progressively increase over

time, to send industry the clear message that the old ways of polluting production no longer make sense. The price will begin with our very first budget, allowing Canadian companies to start right away on the path to increasing energy efficiency and lowering emissions.

While the economy begins to adjust to a low carbon future, a Liberal government will take the time to properly design mandatory, absolute emissions caps for the largest polluting sectors--oil and gas production, utilities, and energy-intensive industries -- to ensure these companies reduce the emissions that harm our health and environment.

We will create a real carbon trading system to reward companies that reduce emissions more quickly to sell their emission credits to those who will take a little longer to reduce. This “cap-and-trade” system will harness the power of the market to fight climate change, setting an absolute limit on industrial emissions and auctioning emission permits, while letting the market decide how best to make the reductions in a cost-effective way.

We will ensure this cap-and-trade system will be able to interact with international trading systems, and will be integrated with our other measures so that companies who are covered by the cap-and-trade system are not “double taxed” or treated unfairly.

This plan will offer business the predictability and clarity they need to make sound investment decisions and plan for the future, and will offer the environmental certainty that emissions are reduced.

### **The Emissions Reduction Credit**

*We will set aside \$400 million over four years to provide refundable tax credits for industries such as farming and forestry that are achieving real, verified reductions in their emissions.*

One of the advantages of a cap-and-trade system is the financial incentives offered to sectors of the economy that are not energy related, such as farming and forestry. But a cap-and-trade system cannot be implemented overnight. In the interim, before a cap-and-trade system is in place, we will set aside \$400 million over four years to provide refundable tax credits for industries such as farming and forestry that are achieving real, verified reductions in their emissions. A Liberal government will make it pay to adopt practices such as low-till or no-till farming, or greener forestry management.

### **A Strategy for Clean Energy**

Today, less than five percent of Canada’s power today comes from renewable energy. We need to do dramatically better. A Liberal government will ensure that Canada embraces green energy solutions, helping us make the shift from polluting energy to cleaner sources, in order to remain competitive in the carbon-constrained global economy of the future.

A Liberal government will ensure that Canada has access to the technologies it needs to become a clean energy superpower. We will provide a Renewable Power Production Incentive that will more than double the non-emitting energy sources

available to Canadians with a goal of having 12,000 Megawatts – that’s 10 percent of Canada’s total electricity output – come from low-impact renewable sources by 2015 and 15 percent by 2020. These incentives will generate more than \$25 billion in clean energy investment and tens of thousands of new, well-paid jobs for Canadians.

A portion of this incentive will be directed to support renewable energy in Northern and remote communities, which currently rely on diesel generators. With projects that could meet about 10 percent of all electricity demand in remote communities, we will eliminate the need for hundreds of millions of litres of imported diesel fuel.

We will also use the purchasing power of federal operations to help accelerate the market by establishing minimum targets across the federal government for the purchase of energy from green sources.

In recent years, companies exploring in the oil sands have been receiving a special tax break on their investments, which was designed to take into account the risks linked to a new and untested technology to develop the oil sands. This can no longer be justified in an era where the technology is well-established, with oil worth over \$100 a barrel and billions in oil profits. A Liberal government will immediately end the special tax treatment for oil sands development. However, oil companies that invest in technologies that reduce their greenhouse gas emissions will benefit from our new accelerated capital cost allowance that rewards such green investments.

### **Helping Canadians Go Green**

We Liberals know that Canadians want to help fight the climate change crisis and reduce their energy bills. They need their governments to encourage action, not discourage it. Canadians can help reduce emissions, while saving money, by making our homes, buildings and vehicles more energy efficient.

### **Greener Homes and Buildings**

Home heating and cooling costs a lot of money and takes a lot of energy. Canada was a leader in energy-efficient housing, but this leadership has waned. We are being surpassed by our global competitors who are actively looking ahead to the emerging market for zero-energy housing – housing built to conserve energy and use renewable energy sources so that the home consumes no electricity from the power grid on an annual net basis.

A Liberal government will provide powerful incentives for green home renovations that will trigger a boom in home improvement to capture the 20 to 40 percent energy savings that are easily available for most homes. Our objective is to retrofit 50 percent of all Canada’s homes and buildings by 2020, and 100 percent by 2030. To help Canadians shield their families from higher energy prices, we will:

- double the federal financial incentives to help Canadians make energy saving home retrofits, providing up to \$10,000 in direct financial support

*A Liberal government will provide the Renewable Power Production Incentive that will result in 10 percent of Canada’s total electricity output coming from low-impact renewable sources by 2015.*

*The objective of a Liberal government will be to retrofit 50 percent of all Canada’s homes by 2020, and 100 percent by 2030.*

for any household that invests in energy-saving measures like insulation, weather proofing and efficient heating systems; and

*A Liberal government will provide up to \$10,000 for any household that invests in such measures as insulation and efficient heating systems.*

- introduce interest-free Green Mortgage loans of up to \$10,000 per household to help Canadians pay for the up-front costs of major energy-saving home retrofits such as geothermal or solar heating that can provide even deeper energy savings.

Low-income households spend a comparatively large portion of their income on energy bills. The Conservatives cut programs for low-income Canadians, leaving them to face rising energy costs without the help they need to cut those costs permanently.

A Liberal government will introduce a \$140-million Low-income Homes Retrofit Partnership Fund to help upgrade low-income housing across Canada, including federally administered co-operative housing, and reduce energy costs for those least able to pay.

*We will introduce a \$140 million Low-income Homes Retrofit Partnership Fund to help upgrade low-income housing.*

A Liberal government will also ensure Canadians have the most energy-efficient products to choose from by increasing the energy-efficiency standards for appliances, such as furnaces, air conditioners, washers and dryers. We will strengthen the Energy Efficiency Act and change the way it is applied, so that Canada's energy-efficiency standards meet or exceed the toughest levels in North America and Europe.

Instead of the minor housekeeping measures that the Conservatives have proposed, we will set tough energy performance requirements for all energy-using equipment, based on the highest level of efficiency that is supported by broadly available technology. These would be updated every 3 years to drive continual improvement and would eliminate from new sales those inefficient products which waste energy and contribute to climate changing pollution. This will allow Canadians to benefit from the very quick payback that increased energy efficiency can bring – reducing energy costs for everyone from homeowners, to commercial and institutional landlords and tenants, to industries.

At the same time, we will upgrade the energy-efficiency guidelines in the National Model Codes for Houses and Buildings. We will work with provinces to ensure the new guidelines are adopted across the country and phase in energy labelling for buildings, so all new builds are green builds.

A Liberal government will provide incentives for green thermal solutions (innovative heating and cooling technology in commercial and residential buildings) by providing Accelerated Capital Cost Allowances so building owners can write off the costs of the needed equipment more quickly.

### **Greener Transportation**

Almost a quarter of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. A Liberal government will take aggressive measures to reduce these emis-

sions and keep good jobs in Canada by ensuring Canadians are making the green cars of the future.

To help industries to reduce their emission, we will establish the Green Fisheries and Transport Fund, which will assist public transit authorities become more energy efficient and provide over \$250 million in rebates and incentives for investments in technologies that reduce fuel consumption like anti-idling power devices for the trucking industry and on-shore power facilities for the fisheries industry.

As consumers begin to demand more fuel-efficient vehicles in the face of rising fuel costs, it will be important for Canadian companies to be at the forefront of their production. To encourage this transition, a new Liberal government will enforce a new post-2010 fuel-efficiency standard and work with U.S. leaders to create a strong North American standard for our integrated automotive industries. We will also use the AMP Fund to make sure manufacturers choose Canada for green automobile production.

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To assist average Canadians to lower the emissions created by driving, we will introduce a national low-carbon fuel standard that will, by 2020, reduce the carbon intensity of all vehicle fuels by at least 10 percent by requiring next generation bio fuels and other low-carbon fuel additives. We will also dramatically improve car scrappage programs, working in conjunction with provinces, so older cars that pollute more come off the road sooner.

Finally, we will ensure the government fleet of thousands of vehicles is made up of green, fuel-efficient models.

### **Information for Action**

GHG emissions per person in Canada are among the highest in the world – even higher than in the United States. Canadians know that we need to change this and want to do their part. A Liberal government will help Canadians seize the personal and economic opportunity to contribute to a better world as individuals. The first step is to understand our individual impact on the environment—our “ecological footprint.”

We will create a Canada-specific comprehensive footprint calculator so Canadians can identify which activities are most contributing to environmental damage, and will provide useful information so individuals can make environmentally sound choices in their lives.

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Many Canadians are buying Carbon Offsets – credits from projects that reduce GHG emissions elsewhere – but want to be sure that these offsets represent real reductions. A Liberal government will develop a Canadian Gold Standard for carbon offsets, so that Canadians can have confidence in the credits they buy to become carbon neutral, while they gradually change their lifestyles to lower their emissions.

### **Adaptation**

A Liberal government will coordinate a National Adaptation Strategy so that all orders of government can better understand and prepare for the effects of

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climate change that are already inevitable. Our new Interdisciplinary Sustainability Fund will provide funding for research into these effects and our substantial infrastructure spending will, of course, consider adaptation needs.

## **2. Clean Air**

The Liberal climate change plan will not only help address climate change, it will also help clean the air we breathe because being more energy efficient and using more renewable energy sources mean we will spew less smog and pollution into our air.

Millions of Canadians live in areas where smog, haze and acid rain pose serious health concerns. The link between air pollution and respiratory diseases is well known. We are seeing alarming increases in childhood asthma, and recent research even shows a link between polluted air and cardiovascular disease. Every year, thousands of Canadians die, and tens of thousands of Canadians end up in hospital and miss work and school due to air pollution.

Clean air has long been a priority for the Liberal Party. But more needs to be done and we intend to do it, together with provinces and local communities.



**“Canada and the world today face an unprecedented global crisis: climate change.”**

In addition to our green shift initiatives, a Liberal government will pass tough National Ambient Air Quality Standards to reduce the pollutants that cause smog, haze, acid rain and other problems. These new standards will help to protect Canadians from the sources of air pollution in their regions, using health-based levels of safety for the air they breathe.

*A Liberal government will pass tough National Air Quality Standards to reduce pollutants.*

We will also help industry to upgrade their technology by making air pollution control equipment eligible for rapid tax write-offs, and implement a comprehensive Mercury Reduction Strategy, which will help to reduce the presence of this potent neurotoxin in our environment.

### 3. Safeguarding our Water

Canadians expect that when we turn on the tap, the water that comes out will be clean and safe to drink.

We want to be able to play on our beaches and swim in our lakes, without fear of exposure to toxic substances or raw sewage.

We want to maintain our rich agricultural and industrial productivity – which rely heavily on water – and, of course, we want to ensure the aquatic animal and plant life in our ecosystems remains healthy and plentiful.

Despite some important improvements over the past decade, many of our waterways are still degraded because of contaminants and inadequate treatment of sewage. New threats are emerging as toxic substances in products or pharmaceuticals accumulate in our water systems, and as climate change lowers water levels and puts ecosystems under threat. And the water needs of rapidly increasing energy production – particularly in the oil sands -- are huge.

That's why we need bold action to protect our water, and that's what a Liberal government will provide. We will implement a National Water Strategy using regulations, monitoring, enforcement and new investment, to clean up our waterways – and keep them clean.

*We will implement a National Water Strategy to clean up our waterways and keep them clean.*

Our substantial infrastructure commitments will help our cities and communities to invest in much needed water-treatment infrastructure to manage water demand and preserve a clean water supply.

In addition, a Liberal government will invest \$400 million in a Canada Water Fund. This new initiative will:

- increase monitoring and reporting of the quantity and quality of Canadian water;
- clean up our waterways, including “hot spots” in the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence and Lake Winnipeg;
- research the impact of emerging pollutants in water on human and aquatic ecosystem health;

*A Liberal government will invest \$400 million in a Canada Water Fund designed to protect and enhance the quality of our water.*

- fight invasive species, such as the sea lamprey or zebra mussel;
- map Canada’s underground aquifers that supply our drinking water, so we know where our groundwater comes from and how it is affected by human activities; and
- support the on-farm and community-based fresh water development programs of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration.

Priorities will be informed and coordinated by a National Water Council, with membership from all orders of government, First Nations, industry, research institutes and community stakeholders.

*We will stand up for Canadian control over our waters and bring in legislation to ban the bulk export of water.*

A Liberal government will also protect Canada’s water supply by standing up for Canadian control over our waters and bringing in backstop legislation to ban the bulk export of water, and taking a strong stand against risky U.S. diversions of water systems that affect Canada. We will ban the dumping of raw sewage into our waterways and fully exercise federal regulatory authority to stop over-contamination of waterways, especially in areas of serious stress like the Athabaska River.

Finally, a new Liberal government will introduce a Water Efficiency Act which, for the first time ever, will set standards for products used in Canada and will create consumer labelling standard for water-efficient products.

#### **4. Protecting our Health from Toxic Substances**

Hazardous substances are commonly used as chemical additives in consumer products we use every day. Canadians are exposed to a mixture of chemicals that can cause a wide range of health effects, and yet we still don’t know enough about these effects. But we do know that a parent putting a baby down on its crib shouldn’t have to be afraid that something in the mattress will harm their child’s health.

*A Liberal government will introduce a Toxic Substances Reduction Strategy to ensure that only safe food and products are sold in Canada.*

A Liberal government will introduce a Toxic Substances Reduction Strategy to ensure that only safe food and products are sold in Canada.

As part of this Strategy, we will encourage producers to stop using harmful substance and look for healthier alternatives. To begin, we will impose a general safety requirement on any consumer product put on the market to ensure that consumer products pose no danger to human health or safety, either through direct exposure or exposure via the environment.

We will also establish a “Hot List” of carcinogenic substances and developmental toxins that should be prohibited in consumer products and establish strict timelines for phasing them out of products. We will ensure, through legislation, that safer substitutes must replace toxic substances in products as alternatives become available.

Companies will be required to share all their research studies on the effects of their products – and not just the positive ones. And, we will increase the enforcement

capacity of Health Canada and ensure products are subjected to a serious testing program that also randomly checks the actual products on the store shelves.

Furthermore, a new Liberal government will ensure that government officials have a duty to act when the government is made aware of a risk from a consumer product. The current approach proposed by the Conservative government doesn't require government to do anything if a risk is identified. This is a signal to industry that Canada is a potential dumping ground for problematic products.

A Liberal government will ensure the Consumer's Right to Know: companies will have to clearly label the harmful substances in their products. And we will expand the Government of Canada's Ecologo certification labelling program to help consumers identify products and services that are less harmful to the environment and human health.

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Finally, a Liberal government will play a more active role to protect Canadians and to help expand our knowledge of the effects of toxic chemicals on human health, particularly the most vulnerable. We will expand the Canadian Health Measures Survey, created by the former Liberal government, which measures human levels of environmental chemicals, and we will establish a Network for Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research – so critical gaps in our knowledge about the impact of chemicals on our bodies, and especially on our most vulnerable population, our kids, are filled as quickly as possible to help us better regulate substances of concern.

### **Food Safety**

Canadians have been alarmed by the recent tragic events caused by unsafe food making it to our store shelves. The flurry of recalls followed a government decision to have food inspectors spend less time on the plant floor. Furthermore, the Conservatives developed plans to further reduce the role of inspectors. The Liberal Party believes that it is important to learn the lessons of the Walkerton tragedy and put a real focus on ensuring that the food that we all eat is as safe as it can be.

*A Liberal government will invest an additional \$50 million to build a more robust food safety-net.*

To ensure that lunch meats and other foods are safe for all of us, a Liberal government will invest an additional \$50 million to build a more robust food safety-net. We want to get inspectors back on floors of the plant, focusing on keeping the food we eat safe rather than paperwork. Through the recruitment of more inspectors, ensuring inspectors have access to the best technology and expanding inspection efforts of both home grown and imported foods, Canadians will be able to have greater faith in the food we all eat. More inspection means more safety for all Canadians.

## **5. Protecting Our Natural Heritage**

Canada is one of the last countries on Earth that still has vast wilderness areas. It is also one of the largest maritime nations in the world. We are stewards of the world's longest coastline, as well as unique ecosystems like the northern tundra

and the Boreal forest – one of the last great intact forests on earth. Canada is home to iconic species like whales, polar bears, grizzly bears and caribou. Our wild forests and peat lands are also globally significant reservoirs of carbon, important to secure in the global fight against climate change.

Liberals are committed to safeguarding this tremendous natural heritage, which contributes to Canadians' quality of life, our collective pride, our national identity and our economic prosperity.

But the great ecosystems that Canadians cherish and that support our economy and our rural communities are becoming more vulnerable than ever before.

### **Preserving Canada's Wilderness and Biodiversity**

*We will develop a National Ecosystem Stewardship Strategy to protect a minimum of 50 percent of Canada's intact wild areas.*

To protect Canada's ecosystems in the face of climate change, pollution and over-use, a Liberal government will develop a National Ecosystem Stewardship Strategy for Canada, which will be science-based, and will respond to the increasing pressures on our natural surroundings. Our goal will be to protect a minimum of 50 percent of Canada's intact wilderness areas by creating interconnected networks of protected areas, and ensuring that resource development on other parts of the landscape is carried out in accordance with the highest environmental standards.

A Liberal government will make Canada an international role model for ecological conservation by establishing a network of National Parks and protected areas. This network will include new national parks to protect a representative sample of each of Canada's 39 distinct natural landscapes, beginning in the North. We will also establish much-needed national wildlife areas, migratory bird sanctuaries, and marine conservation areas.

As we implement this strategy, we will affirm ecological integrity as an essential priority in their management, working in partnership with provincial and territorial governments in a partnership. We will ensure that these networks of protected areas are planned within larger landscapes, with the involvement of interested communities, to take into account their ecological, social and economic value.

To safeguard the Canadian Boreal Forest as one of the largest intact forest and wetland ecosystems remaining on earth, we will work with the provinces and territories to implement a conservation framework that preserves at least half of the Boreal in protected areas, and allows only carefully managed development on the rest.

### **Ensuring the Health of our Oceans**

A Liberal government will also take bold steps to restore the health of our oceans and support our marine ecosystems and coastal communities. A Liberal government introduced the Oceans Act in 1997 to improve oceans management and the Oceans Action Plan in 2005 to accelerate oceans protection. We created the first marine protected areas in the country. We now need to see this through, by ensuring Canadian seascapes are zoned and managed in an integrated way with the same rigour as Canadian landscapes.



“We need to do more to fight climate change and clean up our air and water, and protect our wildlife and wilderness.”

A Liberal government will create a network of at least 30 marine protected areas nationwide by 2012. We will ensure that this network is accompanied by a new, zoning approach to ocean management that engages interested people and communities in decisions about how to reduce risks to ocean health.

*We will pursue cod stock and salmon stock recovery initiatives to improve the abundance and diversity of our fish, working in partnership with communities, industry, and provincial and territorial governments.*

We will work to improve the health of critical fish stock health, by pursuing cod stock and salmon stock recovery initiatives to improve the abundance and diversity of our fish, working in partnership with communities, industry, and provincial and territorial governments. We will apply a number of tools, such as reinvesting in habitat conservation and creating new protected areas including the world's first international protected area to protect the vital cod nursery from foreign over-fishing on the Tail of the Grand Banks. We will invest in research and controls to ensure Canadian fisheries are managed in a sustainable manner, to protect ocean health, fishing communities, and capitalize on world export markets for sustainable fisheries products.

Finally, a new Liberal government will clean up and prevent oceans pollution by increasing maritime enforcement capacity so that existing industrial pollutants and dumping regulations are respected and penalties applied, and creating a world-leading oil spill response capacity, particularly in Arctic waters where melting sea ice will open northern waters to increasing impacts.

### **Preserving Canada's Species**

*We will create a special "fast track" for protecting endangered or threatened species that rely on seasonal ice.*

The government is failing to properly protect species at risk of extinction. Habitat protection is instrumental to species survival, yet the Conservative government has refused to even identify endangered species' habitat, despite a clear requirement in the Species at Risk Act to do so, forcing community groups to take them to court to enforce federal law.

A new Liberal government will ensure the timely mapping and protection of habitat for species listed under the Species at Risk Act, and will create a special "fast track" for protecting endangered or threatened species that rely on seasonal ice.

## **6. Empowering Canadians**

A Liberal government will enthusiastically implement the new Federal Sustainable Development Act, a Liberal private member's bill that requires the federal government to set clear environmental goals and measurable targets and to report annually to Canadians on the state of our environment.

We will elevate the role of Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development – Parliament's watch dog - to monitor progress and report directly to Parliament and Canadians.

And we will introduce a Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights to ensure transparency, accountability, and public participation in environmental decision-making. By empowering citizens with better information and tools to hold governments to account, we will better ensure that Canadians' right to a clean environment is respected.