Real CHANGE

A NEW PLAN FOR CANADA’S ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY
I have always been drawn to Canada’s rugged, natural beauty. I was barely walking before my father put a paddle in my hands, and started teaching my brothers and me how to read a river. Throughout my life, I have the pleasure and privilege of paddling some of our country’s great rivers – from the Ottawa River and the Picanoc to the Nahanni and the Kootenay. These experiences, which I shared with my father as a child, and which I now share with my own children, have instilled in me a deep love of the outdoors and a sense of responsibility to protect our environment for future generations.

Sadly, during the Harper decade, Canada’s environment has suffered. The Conservatives have openly questioned and refused to take meaningful action on climate change, slashed environmental protections, cut funding for science, and allowed other countries to take the lead in the race to create new, high-tech, clean jobs.

This government has failed to deliver a sensible, credible approach to the environment and the economy. The simple fact is that in 2015, pretending that we have to choose between the two is as harmful as it is wrong.

Harper is wrong on the environment, and that means he’s wrong on the economy too. Canadians cannot afford to let this inaction continue. The cost is too high.

The Liberal plan will ensure that Canada can tap into the economic opportunities of our environment and create the clean jobs of tomorrow. It will undo the damage done by Harper and give to our children and grandchildren a country even more beautiful, sustainable, and prosperous than the one we have now.

Liberals will create clean jobs, grow our economy, and protect our environment. That is real change.

Justin Trudeau
CREATING CLEAN JOBS
TO GROW OUR ECONOMY

- TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
- INVESTING IN CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES
- CREATING CLEAN JOBS AND INVESTMENT

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT
WHILE GROWING OUR ECONOMY

- RESTORING CREDIBILITY TO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS
- PRESERVING AND PROMOTING OUR NATIONAL PARKS
- PROTECTING OUR FRESHWATER AND OCEANS
There is an enormous opportunity for countries that invest in new, clean technologies. Companies around the world, with the support of governments, are finding solutions to the world’s environmental problems by integrating economic development and job creation with environmental performance.

Yet as the global market for clean technology grows, Canada’s share of clean tech jobs has dropped. Stephen Harper has ignored and even denied that this global transition is already underway. Mr. Harper does not understand that the production, use, and export of these technologies can create good middle class Canadian jobs, build wealth, and reduce pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions.

Canada has many leading firms developing advanced technologies to overcome complex environmental challenges. These Canadian firms are leaders in innovation and productivity.

We are well positioned to become a significant player in these increasingly important and rapidly growing sectors: clean energy, energy efficiency, and clean water. Canada’s private sector is ready to compete. The provinces are moving forward with a national energy strategy. Canada should offer real environmental and economic leadership, but it will take a government and Prime Minister that make this a priority.

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.

1. TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE:

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 recognize 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.

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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 re-directed to investments in new and clean technologies.

We will 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.

There is significant work required in the years ahead on climate change adaptation, so we will incorporate climate resilience as a key pillar in federal infrastructure programs, and climate impact analysis into federal government contracting. As a first step, we will work with provinces, territories, Aboriginal governments, and municipalities to develop a comprehensive action plan that allows Canada to better predict, prepare for, and respond to weather related emergencies. The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), which supported Western Canada as it grappled with previous challenges to precious soil and water resources, is a model of what can work. We will also provide training and the necessary resources to establish the Canadian Armed Forces as world-class leaders in responding to weather related emergencies.

2. INVESTING IN CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES:

We will 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,
We will work with the provinces to set stronger air quality standards, creating incentives for investments that lead to cleaner air, healthier communities, and better quality of life for all Canadians. This will include new Ambient Air Quality Standards to reduce the pollutants that cause smog, haze, and acid rain and working with the United States to strengthen the Air Quality Agreement. We will also improve monitoring and reporting of air pollutants emissions.

We will work with provinces, territories, universities, and colleges to put in place a full range of support for emerging clean tech companies. This includes research, commercialization of new products, and training to ensure Canadians are properly skilled for the industries of the future, with the goal of accelerating Canadian innovation and entrepreneurship. We will also create Canada Research Chairs in sustainable technology.

We will invest in clean technology producers so that they can tackle Canada’s most pressing environmental challenges whether in our air, in our water, or on our land. This means we will invest $100 million more per year in organizations that have been successful at supporting the emergence of clean technology firms in Canada, including Sustainable Development Technology Canada. We will also work in partnership with the private sector to enhance the availability of venture capital for new, clean technology.

We will invest $200 million more annually to create sector-specific strategies that support innovation and clean technologies in the forestry, fisheries, mining, energy, and agricultural sectors. These strategies will be developed in collaboration with the private sector, government, and research institutions, with the objective of producing real innovations that can be deployed in our natural resources sectors, commercialized, brought to scale, and exported.

Canada’s natural resource sectors can be world leaders in innovation and sustainability – and the federal government can help. We will invest $200 million more annually to create sector-specific strategies that support innovation and clean technologies in the forestry, fisheries, mining, energy, and agricultural sectors. These strategies will be developed in collaboration with the private sector, government, and research institutions, with the objective of producing real innovations that can be deployed in our natural resources sectors, commercialized, brought to scale, and exported.

energy conservation, and bringing more clean, renewable energy onto the electricity grid, including through direct federal infrastructure investments.
3. Creating clean jobs and investment:

Canada can be the world’s most competitive tax jurisdiction for investments in the research, development, and manufacturing of clean technology. We will consult on ways to enhance the scientific research and experimental development tax credit – in conjunction with other tax measures – to generate more clean technology investment. We will start by adding electricity storage technologies and electrical car charging stations to the list of investments that are eligible for accelerated capital cost allowance. We will proactively work with provinces and firms to fight for every dollar of global investment, and will bring more clean technology companies and investment to Canada.

We will establish the Canada Green Investment Bond to support both large- and community-scale renewable energy projects. The bond will leverage the federal government’s ability to provide more affordable loan guarantees for clean energy projects, and provide Canadians with the opportunity to invest in clean technologies. The focus of investment will be reducing the costs for commercially viable projects and helping to level the playing field with fossil fuel energy sources.

The Government of Canada is the country’s largest employer, procurer of goods and services, and landlord. By ensuring that the federal government dramatically increases its use of clean technologies in energy, buildings, and procurement, we will help create domestic demand for clean technology firms, support Canadian entrepreneurs, and lead by example. A Liberal government will be a ‘test-bed’ for emerging technologies, will add electric vehicle charging facilities at federal parking lots, and will rapidly add electric vehicles to the federal fleet.

We will improve energy efficiency standards for consumer and commercial products to ensure they reflect the most up-to-date technology. By doing so, we will also create competition amongst manufacturers to develop the most energy-efficient technologies. We will use new financing instruments to stimulate retrofits and distributed energy systems, and make significant improvements to the energy efficiency of Canada’s industrial, commercial, and residential buildings.

Finally, we will 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. These companies will also be provided with useful training, data, and technical assistance on export opportunities in a more coordinated way.
PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT WHILE GROWING OUR ECONOMY

We are blessed to live in a country as beautiful and with as much natural capital as Canada. From our freshwater to our oceans, from our mountains to our Prairies – our economy benefits from our abundant resources, but also from our ecosystems that filter our air or absorb flood waters. If this beauty and long-term economic benefits are to last, we must be vigilant in protecting what we have today. It is each generation’s responsibility to leave a cleaner, healthier environment to subsequent generations. Stephen Harper is failing in that obligation.

Better safeguards and stewardship make our ecosystems richer and more productive. They also create jobs as ecological know-how becomes more and more valued around the world. Canada’s parks alone already generate nearly $5 billion per year in economic activity and help employ 65,000 people. Our ocean-based industries generate nearly $40 billion per year for the Canadian economy.

Unfortunately, the Harper decade has taken us backwards, placing our environment at greater risk and squandering economic opportunities. For example, in 2011 Mr. Harper committed to protecting 10 percent of Canada’s marine and coastal areas. While the United States and the United Kingdom have already reached their targets, Canada has only protected 1.3 percent of its marine and coastal areas. Shockingly, the Conservatives have also cut funding for the protection and monitoring of our invaluable freshwater resources. Canada is uniquely blessed with our abundance of freshwater, whether the watersheds of the Rocky Mountains, Lake Winnipeg, or the St. John River. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are the world’s largest and most important repository of freshwater and one of the world’s most diverse ecosystems.

Our National Parks are also under threat. The Conservatives have slashed their science budgets and muzzled scientists who monitor and protect our National Parks. Instead of focusing on the ecological integrity of our National Parks, they have intensified development. We must protect their ecological integrity. If we are to ensure that our children and grandchildren are able to experience National Parks, we need to make a renewed commitment to them. This includes making them more affordable, providing better and more appropriate visitor services, and doing more to ensure that the 80 percent of Canadians who live in cities, particularly low- and middle-income Canadians, have more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

We also know that after the Harper decade, Canadians no longer feel that they can trust their federal government to protect their best interests when it comes to the environment. Mr. Harper treats the duty to consult with Indigenous Peoples as an afterthought, and he has weakened our environmental protections and approvals processes. Without public trust, it is hard to get anything accomplished. In short, a lack of environmental stewardship is paralyzing major resource projects. If we want to get our resources moving, and benefit in a sustainable way from the jobs and growth our resources sector generates, then the federal government must act to regain public trust.

![Protected Ocean Estate by Country](chart)

**PROTECTED OCEAN ESTATE BY COUNTRY:**

- Canada: 36.7%
- Australia: 33.2%
- United States: 30.4%
- New Zealand: 16.6%
- Russia: 11.6%
- Indonesia: 5.8%
- Japan: 5.6%
- Norway: 2.8%
- Philippines: 25%
- Greenland: 1.3%

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society
PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT WHILE GROWING OUR ECONOMY

4. RESTORING CREDIBILITY TO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS:

Without public trust, Canada’s environmental assessment processes are increasingly paralyzed. That means not only are we not doing a good enough job at protecting our environment, but we are not getting our resources to market. We need clear and efficient processes that have reasonable, even-handed rules, clear beginning and ending points, and decisions that can be relied on. We will launch an immediate, public review of Canada’s environmental assessment processes. Based on this review, a Liberal government will replace Mr. Harper’s changes to the environmental assessment process – with a new, comprehensive, timely, and fair process that:

- Restores robust oversight and thorough environmental assessments – which have been gutted by this Conservative government – of areas under federal jurisdiction, while also working with provincial and territorial governments to ensure that processes are not duplicated;
- Ensures decisions are based on science, facts, and evidence, and serve the public’s interest;
- Provides ways for interested Canadians to express their views and for experts to meaningfully participate in assessment processes; and
- Requires project proponents to choose the best technologies available to reduce environmental impacts.

As part of this review, we will modernize and rebuild trust in the National Energy Board. We will ensure it has broad regional representation and sufficient expertise in fields such as environmental science, community development, and Indigenous traditional knowledge.

We will stop the practice of having federal Ministers interfere in projects while they are being assessed.

We will explore, consult, and work collaboratively to move towards a system where federal environmental assessments of projects include an analysis of upstream impacts and the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the projects being assessed.

We will, in full partnership and consultation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples, undertake a full review of regulatory law, policies, and operational practices. This will ensure that the Crown is fully executing its consultation, accommodation, and consent obligations on project reviews and assessments, in accordance with its constitutional and international human rights obligations. These include Aboriginal and Treaty rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We recognize the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the land, and will respect legal traditions and
perspectives on environmental stewardship.

Mr. Harper’s amendments to the Fisheries Act and elimination of the Navigable Waters Protection Act have weakened other important environmental protections. We will conduct a wholesale review of these changes and restore lost protections, and incorporate more modern safeguards. The protection of our freshwater resources will be an imperative. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples will be included in the reshaping of federal environmental laws and policies to ensure respect of rights and to reflect Indigenous values in federal legislation and regulations.

We will also work to better protect Canada’s endangered species. This means responding faster to scientific advice on listing species, meeting mandatory timelines for responding to Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) recommendations, and completing robust species at risk recovery plans.

5. PRESERVING AND PROMOTING OUR NATIONAL PARKS:

We will suspend admission fees to our National Parks in 2017, the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation. Furthermore, beginning in 2018, admission to our National Parks will be free for all children and for any adult who has become a new Canadian citizen within the previous 12 months. We will also expand all Learn to Camp programs, with a particular focus on initiatives that offer opportunities for low- and middle-income families to experience Canada’s outdoors.

We will rapidly develop a road map to meet Canada’s international commitment to protect 17 percent of our land and inland waters by 2020. As a first step towards this goal, we will invest $50 million per year to advance the development of Canada’s parks system, as well as manage and expand National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries. We will increase science spending in our National Parks by $25 million per year to allow for early identification of ecological stresses and avoid permanent degradation. Our open science commitment also ensures that the federal government’s environmental research is freely available to the public.

We will protect our National Parks by restricting development inside the parks, and where possible, we will work with gateway communities outside the parks to grow their eco-tourism industries and create jobs. We will make the sustainable economic development of gateway communities a stronger part of the Parks Canada’s mandate. We will also reverse Mr. Harper’s cuts to Parks Canada from Budget 2012, which slashed over $25 million from programs and services, and undermined the ability of Canadians to fully experience our National Parks and learn more about our environment. We will also complete the necessary agreement with the Ontario government to finalize the creation of the country’s first urban National Park – Rouge National Park.
6. PROTECTING OUR FRESHWATER AND OCEANS:

Protected marine areas are critical to protecting Canadian ecosystems, and also our economic well-being. These areas help fish stocks recover, support eco-tourism, protect coastlines from erosion, and protect species at risk. We will increase the amount of Canada's marine and coastal areas that are protected from 1.3 percent to 5 percent by 2017, and 10 percent by 2020. We will also reverse the $40 million that Mr. Harper cut from the federal government’s ocean science and monitoring programs.

We commit to smarter co-management of our oceans, by working with the provinces, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders. We will develop plans that not only make best use of our marine resources, but give coastal communities more say in managing the resources around them. An important first step will be the formalization of the moratorium on crude oil tanker traffic on British Columbia’s North Coast, including the Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait, and Queen Charlotte Sound, to ensure that ecologically sensitive areas and local economies are protected from the potentially devastating impacts of a spill.

We will deepen our commitment to work with other governments to protect Canada’s freshwater through education, geo-mapping, watershed protection, and infrastructure investments in the best waste water treatment technologies. This will include acting on the recommendations of the Cohen Commission on restoring sockeye salmon stocks in the Fraser River.

We will renew our commitment to the protection of the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River Basin, and the Lake Winnipeg Basin. We will work with the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba – as well as our American partners – to prevent the spread of invasive species, undertake science-based initiatives to better understand and manage water levels, and clean-up of coastal contamination.

We will restore $1.5 million in federal funding for freshwater research, which was cut by the Conservatives, and make new investments in Canada’s world-leading IISD Experimental Lakes Area.
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