



GVAT Climate Justice Survey

Responses from David Hilderman, People's Party, Saanich-Gulf Islands

1) The UN, in February, 2021 declared a “code red alert” for the planet, warning that the current plans to cut emissions are not enough to curb a global rise in temperatures.

What immediate changes to federal policy would you endorse to address this emergency?

Stop all subsidies to renewable energy and devote some of these resources to protecting against extreme weather.

2) Wildfires are increasing in intensity, frequency and size, threatening forests, homes and businesses, including in this region.

What do you see as the causes and solutions? What will your party do about it?

Causes:

Warming climate, inadequate forestry management.

Our Party's response:

Canada cannot change the climate or make any impact on CO2 emissions. Every year India and China are increasing CO2 emissions equal to all of Canada's. It is estimated that China will double their energy use per capital and India will quadruple their energy per capita before their CO2 emissions plateau. Africa has even further to go than India. The increasing atmospheric CO2 levels are drastically increasing Forest growth in BC. According to a 2016 study by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions. “However, the effects of global warming — rising temperatures, higher rainfall, and an atmosphere richer in carbon dioxide — have created a “fertilization effect” which has accelerated the growth of trees, especially in the high-latitude forests that cover much of Canada, Russia and Europe.”

Faster growing forests and warmer temperatures are making our forests more fire prone. We need to more aggressively manage our forests and put more resources into wildfire prevention.

3) Canada's forests have become net emitters of GHGs.

Will your party count GHG emissions from forests in its overall climate accounting formula? How will your party reduce emissions from forests?

Our party opposes the GHG emissions accounting. We would remove Canada from the system. The international carbon target system from the Paris agreement does the following harm to our earth and people:

1. To keep under carbon limits governments mandate biofuels. 70% of palm oil crops are used for biodiesel. This is responsible for much rainforest deforestation
2. Forests of trees that have no market value as timber are being cut down all over the world as feed to coal power plants to meet carbon targets. Without the Paris agreement these forests would be left alone.
3. Poor nations should be helped in getting reliable energy to get their people out of poverty. Coal power plants are not being supported by western nations due to the CO2 emissions of coal plants, as a result many are turning to China for support.
4. The misguided drive to wind and solar power as a result of this GHG accounting is killing birds and disrupting ecosystems all while using 400 times the amount of land of a natural gas power plant. The wind and solar power sources can only be added to an energy grid since the reliable source still has to be there for when there is no sun shining or wind blowing. This is adding more junk to our earth, more resource extraction to make it and harming our planet much more than if we went for the most practical, cost effective energy source available.

4) In the pandemic and during WWII, Canadian governments shut down things that interfered with achieving essential goals. In July, the Capital Regional District (CRD) board unanimously approved a ground breaking new policy on transportation prioritization in the region, which calls for shifting federal and provincial funding from highway expansion to public transit, walking, cycling and rolling.¹ The 2016 Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate change similarly calls for shifting funds from urban highway expansion to public transit and active transportation.

Will your party stop funding urban highway expansion and instead fund public transit, walking, cycling and rolling infrastructure? Will you personally speak out in support of the CRD's position against highway expansion?

I will favor anything that makes sense for transportation. Downtown Victoria often has grid-lock of cars while not a single bicycle is seen for many minutes. The cyclists love this but is not practical. Were those millions of dollars spent wisely? Projects should be funded where needed not based on ideology.

¹ www.capitaldaily.ca/news/opinion-crd-must-push-province-to-fund-rapid-bus-instead-of-expanding-highways

5) During the pandemic, the federal government has provided temporary operating funding for public transit. In Canada, federal transit funding has been almost exclusively restricted to capital expenses in the past. Federal operating funding would allow transit agencies to reduce fares and increase bus service, improve HandyDART paratransit service, and provide affordable public highway bus service between communities (such as between Victoria and Port Hardy as well as to smaller communities such as Port Renfrew / Pacheedaht).

Does your party support generous permanent ongoing funding for public transit operations?

I would need to research this more. Sorry I can not answer at this time.

6) The pandemic exposed Canada's vulnerability in the global food system. We rely heavily on global supply chains run by transnational mega corporations. Consumer demand for local food production is growing. Strengthening local, diverse agri-food systems will be key to increasing food security and our resilience and could reduce GHG pollution.

How should the federal government support local and diversified farming in Canada and lower GHG emissions from food and agriculture?

There should be no emphasis on reducing GHGs in our farming in Canada. CO2 is as essential to life on earth as H2O. Historically, free markets have done a much better job of ensuring food security than any government-controlled system. The federal government should not increase their involvement in this.

7) Emergency mobilizations require social cohesion, but inequality undermines such collaboration. The COVID-19 pandemic has further lifted the veil on the inequities in our society.

How do you propose to tackle the climate crisis and these inequities at the same time? One required element of doing so is referred to as Just Transition – what is the role of the federal government in ensuring no one is left behind in the grand decarbonization transition before us?

There is no grand decarbonization transition. CO2 emissions will continue to increase for many decades. Weather related deaths are nearly 20 times less than 100 years ago yet the population is 3 times higher. Models predict that we may have a climate crisis in the future, but they also predicted that the Maldives were to be under water by now from sea level rise. The best way to combat inequalities in our society is to make sure energy is as low a cost as possible since it is the cost of energy that drives the cost of everything. Everyone, poor and wealthy, need to eat, heat their homes and get around through transportation. Higher energy costs impact the poor the most.

8) The path forward has to be one of true cooperation and partnership, and one that honours and respects Indigenous title and rights. We need a path forward that seeks to make right the injustices of the past and fundamentally breaks with the colonial practices that have marked so much of our politics and economic development for centuries.

What are you hearing from Indigenous communities about the climate crisis? How can you and the federal government walk a path forward on climate that respects and honours Indigenous title and rights?

We all need to deal with what the weather is. We should do what we can to ensure that first nations have reliable low-cost energy. We will work to help first nations be able to take ownership of services within their communities.

9) During World War Two, in order to meet the military production and social needs of its population, Canada created 28 new crown corporations. Within two years, Canada increased manufacturing of aircraft 25 fold. Before the war, shipbuilders numbered only 2000, at the end of the war, there were 30,000 shipbuilders.

We are not in a war or a crisis. All the suggested actions in this question will damage Canada's economy while CO2 emissions and levels on earth increase as if Canada never existed. We cannot save the world by destroying ourselves.