



GVAT Climate Justice Survey

Responses from Jordan Reichert, Animal Protection Party, Victoria

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?

- The Animal Protection Party of Canada would take urgent action to address the climate crisis. As the only party to give equal consideration to animals, people, and the planet in our platform, we embrace the UN’s call for a One Health approach to save the planet.
- We would end all subsidies to the oil and gas, and animal agriculture sectors. Transitioning them to alternative energy sources and plant-based agriculture.
- Implement aggressive carbon pricing mechanisms to encourage rapid adoption of conservation measures.
- Halt the expansion and construction of new pipelines and industrial animal farms.
- Protect 50% of Canada’s land mass and coastline from development and exploitation.
- Change the economic relationship of our society to the natural world by addressing endless growth economic models and implementing a steady-state economy, while taking steps to decommodify animals and nature.

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?

- Wildfires tend to be caused by two things: lightning and people. Due to extreme weather events, especially heat and dry spells caused by global warming, forests are more prone to risk of igniting from these causes. Hence the actions we take to mitigate the worst effects of the climate crisis will also help mitigate worsening wildfire risks.

Education is always a primary key. We cannot stop nature from causing fires, but every human caused wildfire is preventable.

- The Animal Protection Party of Canada will focus on ensuring best practices in forest management including ending old-growth logging, engaging in controlled burning, ensuring municipalities and provinces have the resources to retro-fit older buildings and communities to be more fire safe, fire education, and prioritizing disaster response planning to ensure the safe evacuation and support for humans and animals escaping wildfires.

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?

The Animal Protection Party of Canada recognizes the sizeable contribution of CO2 emissions from the loss of forests, natural phenomena such as wildfires and pine beetles. These have largely been caused by climate warming related droughts leaving forests vulnerable to fire and infestation.

We support the inclusion of GHG emissions from forests as part of our climate accounting formula where it pertains to human activity and natural processes, but recognize emissions from natural causes is inevitable.

We will reduce emissions from forests by:

- Establish large, contiguous protected areas;
- Protect forests with high conservation values;
- Prohibit deforestation as a forestry practice;
- Establish sustainable forestry practices through forest management plans and ensure rigorous compliance with those plans;
- Recover degraded and deforested areas through tree planting programmes and other mitigation measures;
- Phase out the forestry industry as it becomes practicable.

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.

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

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?

Yes, the Animal Protection Party of Canada fully supports the redirection of funds from highway expansion to public transit and active transportation. I personally have and will continue to speak in favour of such funding directions. Some ways we would further this is:

- The electrification of public transit and making it free.
- Tax credits for first bicycles to encourage ridership and support local businesses.
- Expanding the useability and accessibility of sidewalks across the country.
- Investing in the development and supporting municipalities across the country in transforming roadways into multi-modal community networks of active transportation.

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?

Yes, The Animal Protection Party of Canada sees federal investment in public transit as essential to fully realize the goals of municipalities and provinces in connecting people through accessible, affordable, and sustainable transit.

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?

The Animal Protection Party of Canada recognizes the vulnerability of our food system and the problems with relying on global food chains in the absence of secure and established local production. Some of the most compromised food systems are those of the animal agriculture sector.

As a major source of GHG emissions, deforestation, water use, and biodiversity we are committed to phasing out animal agriculture toward a biocyclic veganic plant-based agricultural system. These local systems are far more resilient than animal-based systems, do not rely on ecologically disruptive animal fertilizers, and protect local ecosystems.

Investing and educating farmers and communities of the benefits of organic, biocyclic, plant-based agriculture would be our priority for the promotion of local food production and consumption in the interests of people, animals, and the planet.

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?

The Animal Protection Party of Canada is committed to a just transition for all people and animals. There is no denying the great inequities that exist in our society today which have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

We must ensure that a diversity of interests are taken into account in realizing our decarbonization goals and that their participation in realizing the vision for that future society is meaningful and represented in unfolding of those plans. Some ways we would achieve this are:

- Ensure multi-modal engagement methods to capture as many voices as possible.
- Empower those with less economic opportunity and standing to directly influence and participate in strategy building.
- Ensure genuine representation for animals and the environment in every phase of envisioning, planning, and implementation of our goals.
- Provide economic security and participation for all through a Guaranteed Thriving Income.
- Cohesively organize at the individual, community, and institutional level with feedback loops which provide equal standing of all participants.
- Ensure that labour in carbon intensive industries is provided with ample and sufficient retraining opportunities for transitioning into post-carbon workplace. Leave no worker behind!

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?

The Animal Protection Party of Canada recognizes the profound place of Indigenous communities in the response to the climate crisis. We believe Indigenous communities are not looking for western solutions from the government, but are looking to the government to honour their commitments, make reparations for the past, and respect Indigenous led initiatives to build their own economic, social, and cultural well-being. We can move forward together by listening, learning, and helping, while not imposing our values and expectations on them. We must remember that the failures of our political system to remedy the rift between our nations is due to a lack of political will, not lack of recommendation and policy. We will be the party with the will and the principle to make good on our promises in a new indigenous partnership for Canada.

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.

Given the scaling up that is necessary to combat the climate crisis, how can the federal government create new institutions to get the job done and/or leverage existing institutions?

It is necessary for the federal government to take profound steps to address the climate crisis, but we resist the war-time concept of scaling-up. Instead, we advocate for a scaling down of production and consumption and the creation of institutions which are dedicated to achieving our specific climate goals in an accountable and transparent way. These bodies should be independent and beyond the scope of the transitory government of the day to ensure we hold the path to climate recover, not use it as a political tool. They would support the implementation and transition of carbon intensive industries to net-zero carbon, fund research and development, and invest in educating the labour force for the decarbonized era.

Our society requires a reimagining of our relationship with the natural world, one that is more attuned to its needs and that of other animals. It is not the lack of institutions or spending that pushed us towards the climate crisis, there is seemingly unlimited spending when there is a pandemic, it is a lack of political will to act on any of the decade old recommendations on any number of issues to address the climate crisis before now. It has been the status-quo politics of the elected parties that brought us here, and that is where re-electing them will lead. Vote for the

Animal Protection Party of Canada for a compassionate revolution in our politics for people, animals, and the planet.