

Response to GVAT Climate Justice Survey from **Nikki Macdonald, Liberal, Victoria.**

### **Climate**

As someone who has worked in the area of ocean and climate research for the past decade I am proud of the Liberal Party of Canada's climate action plan. Andrew Weaver, Nobel Prize winner, climate scientist and former BC Green Party Leader has endorsed the plan noting it is "the only credible, science-aligned plan put forward by any party." Marc Jaccard, expert climate modeller and SFU professor gave the Liberal plan 8/10, the highest marks of all. The support for the Liberal Plan arises out of two key factors that distinguish it from the other parties' plans. One - it provides clear detail on how it will be implemented and the cost of implementation, and two - it recognizes the critical link between the environment and the economy.

Recent analysis reported by CBC (Raycraft, Sept 8, 2021) noted that the NDP claim that emissions have only risen since 2015 fail to capture critical nuance including that the carbon pricing introduced in 2019 by the Liberal Government is having an effect. However, as the Co-Director of the Climate Econometrics Research Project noted - the reduction in emissions will take time to see a change. As the price on carbon goes up, as proposed in the Liberal plan, the reduction on GHG emissions will be even more dramatic. The analysts reflect real doubt that an NDP plan could deliver immediate reductions in GHG emissions.

The Liberal plan on the environment combines bold action on climate change with job growth so that we continue to transition towards a green and clean economy. It is critical that as we go through this transition, no-one is left behind which is why the Liberal Platform also includes establishing a federal minimum wage of \$15 that will rise with inflation. There will be a permanent extension of EI sickness benefits from 15 to 26 weeks. Recognizing that the nature of work is evolving, a re-elected Liberal Government will also introduce a new EI benefit for self-employed Canadians and an EI Career Transition Benefit that will help people to make the transition from one career path to another.

### **Transportation**

The Liberal Government has invested in the development of green infrastructure such as funding new electric buses for the Greater Victoria area and active infrastructure such as bike lanes and improved access at the UVic transit exchange.

A re-elected Liberal Government will continue this pathway of investment including through the NetZero Accelerator that will attract investment into Canada to manufacture zero emissions vehicles in Canada, support the creation of more green jobs and assist with the introduction of new clean technologies.

The Liberal Government announced the creation of a BC specific regional economic development agency called PacifiCan. This agency will be a critical portal through which federal resources can be leveraged to support the growth of the BC economy as well as invest in the research that is critical to transition to a green economy.

### **Reconciliation**

True reconciliation cannot proceed without acknowledging the sad history of residential schools and the intergenerational impact as families were torn apart. A Liberal government will continue to work with Indigenous partners to build a national monument to honour survivors and their families, to advance justice, and to provide resources for mental health and wellness strategies with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation. In addition, a Liberal government will continue to tackle the inherent colonialism in our institutions drawing on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Finally, a Liberal government will continue to invest in the well-being of Indigenous children through early learning and childcare as well as child and family services that honour and support the communities jurisdiction.

Thank you, Nikki Macdonald, Federal Liberal Candidate for Victoria