



GVAT Climate Justice Survey – Liberal Party Responses

Sherri Moore-Arbour, Liberal Candidate for 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?

Liberal Party response:

Page 42 of the Liberal Platform includes a report card on key actions to fight climate change we have implemented since 2015.

In December 2020, Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson announced our [Liberal government’s new Strengthened Climate Plan for a Healthy Environment and Healthy Economy](#), including 64 new measures and supported by an initial \$15 billion in investments to help build a better future.

Climate change remains one of the greatest challenges of our times – and just like with COVID-19, ignoring the risks of climate change isn’t an option.

With a national price on carbon (rising to \$170 per tonne by 2030) and other measures, we will cut Canada's greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 45 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. This is an increase from our previous pledge to cut emissions by 30 per cent by 2030.

The Liberal government passed the *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* (Bill C-12), to set legally binding emissions targets to reach net-zero emissions in 2050. Bill C-12 improves transparency and consistency on climate action and will enable Canadians to hold the federal government to account for meeting emissions reduction targets.

We will ensure the oil and gas sector cuts emissions at the pace required to hit net-zero in 2050, with five-year targets.

Jonathan Wilkinson:

In 2020, I was pleased to announce our [Strengthened Climate Plan for a Healthy Economy and a Healthy Environment](#).

This plan was the first ever announced by a Canadian government that would see us not only reach but exceed our climate targets. Earlier this year, we enhanced our targets by almost 50%, raising the bar to 40-45% reductions in emissions from 2005 levels by 2030. This is real progress.

Unfortunately, Erin O'Toole's Conservatives have been unable to bring themselves to even admit that climate change is real, much less present a credible plan to meet our climate targets. Under



their plan, Canada would have to walk away from the Paris Climate Agreement. This is unacceptable.

Here's what others are saying about the Liberal climate platform and action we've taken so far:

Last week, Andrew Weaver endorsed the Liberal Party's climate plan:

***"As a climate scientist and as someone with a background in climate policy, I have been impressed by Jonathan's leadership on the environment. The climate plan he recently developed and introduced is bold and thoughtful. It is the only credible plan put forward by any party at the federal level. We are at a critical time. We cannot afford to move backwards on climate action. I hope the voters of North Vancouver will send Jonathan back to Ottawa to continue this critical work."* - Andrew Weaver**



Bill C-12 passes and becomes law, June 29, 2021

"Bill C-12 is not perfect. But it does bring Canada closer to taking the action needed to stave off a climate catastrophe. Crucially, we finally have a legislative framework that will require the federal government to have a plan to meet pollution targets (and take more action if they are off track). Over time, this law can be improved if experience shows it isn't up to the task."

Liberal climate plan likely least costly, most effective, says economist assessing main parties' proposals, Peter Zimonjic · CBC News · Posted: Sep 03, 2021

"According to analysis by Simon Fraser University's Mark Jaccard, the Liberals have the most effective and affordable plan, followed by the Conservatives, the Greens and, in a distant fourth, the NDP.

Jaccard, a professor at the B.C. university's school of resource and environmental management, looked at three criteria in conducting his analysis: the economic cost of implementing the plan; how effective that plan would be in reducing emissions; and he then gave them a rating out of 10 for how sincere he thought each plan was.

Based on those three criteria, Jaccard said the Liberal plan was "effective" and "affordable." He called the Conservative plan "possibly effective" and "affordable," the Green Party plan "somewhat effective" but "very costly" and the NDP's plan "largely ineffective" and "unnecessarily costly."

"While I haven't had time to precisely model these latest policies, my triangulation between our many simulations suggests they'll likely achieve the 40 [per cent] target, albeit with a larger GDP impact of about 2.5 per cent," Jaccard wrote in Policy Options. "

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?

Liberal Party response:

To protect Canadians from wildfires, a re-elected Liberal government will dedicate \$500 million to:

- Train 1,000 new community-based firefighters to ensure we are ready for future fire seasons.
- Work with provinces and territories to provide firefighters with the equipment they need to fight fires and stay safe, like Canadian-made planes to increase provincial aerial firefighting capacity.
- Support and expand Indigenous-led fire crews and build capacity to better incorporate Indigenous traditional knowledge strategies in fire management.

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?

Permanently protecting more old growth forests in British Columbia will help fight climate change and ensure that these iconic and globally significant ecosystems can thrive for generations.

Liberal Party response:

A re-elected Liberal government will help support British Columbia protect these iconic and ecologically important old growth forests by:

- Reaching a nature agreement with the province of British Columbia to protect more of the province's old growth forests and expand protected areas.
- Establishing a \$50 million B.C. Old Growth Nature Fund and working with partners to attract additional funding to further support the protection of important old growth forests.
- Ensuring First Nations, local communities, and workers are partners in shaping the path forward on nature protection.

To continue protecting more nature and fighting climate change, a re-elected Liberal government will:

- Continue planting 2 billion trees across the country, creating roughly 4,300 jobs.
- Restore and enhance more wetlands, grasslands, and peatlands, to capture and store carbon.
- Increase support to farmers to develop and adopt agricultural management practices to reduce emissions, store carbon in healthy soil, and enhance resiliency. Cover cropping, rotational grazing and nitrogen management are all part of a green farming plan for Canada.



This plan will not only protect nature and help fight climate change, but also create jobs, help farmers, and help preserve biodiversity across the country.

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?

Since being elected in 2015, the Liberal government has helped people get where they need to go in cheaper, cleaner, and faster ways by making historic investments of over \$25 billion in public transit.

Liberal Party response:

Better, Cleaner Transportation

People are looking for faster, cheaper, cleaner ways of getting around. Better transit makes life better for everyone.

Our investments in public transit up until this year were ten times those of Stephen Harper's. We were just getting started. Earlier this year we invested an additional \$14.9 billion, including establishing Canada's first permanent public transit fund.

A re-elected Liberal government will continue to transform public transit in Canada by:

- Accelerating major public transit projects.
- Supporting the switch to zero emission buses.
- Developing rural transit solutions.
- Advancing a National Active Transportation Strategy to build bike lanes, wider sidewalks, pathways, and multi-use trails.
- Committing to make High Frequency Rail a reality. We will move forward with the project in the Toronto to Quebec City corridor, with stops in Trois- Rivières and Peterborough, among others, using electrified technology. We will launch a procurement process by the end of 2021 and also explore other opportunities to extend the rail toward London and Windsor.

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



A re-elected Liberal government will:

Invest \$4 billion in a new Housing Accelerator Fund which will grow the annual housing supply in the country's largest cities every year, creating a target of 100,000 new middle class homes by 2024-25. This application-based fund will offer support to municipalities that: grow housing supply faster than their historical average; increase densification; speed-up approval times; tackle NIMBYism and establish inclusionary zoning bylaws; and encourage public transit-oriented development. This fund will support a wide range of eligible municipal investments, including red tape reduction efforts, and reward cities and communities that build more homes, faster.

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?

The Liberal Government is slated to spend an additional \$14.9 billion over the next eight years on public transportation projects across the country.

The funding includes \$5.9 billion in short-term funding that will be disbursed on a project-by-project basis, starting this year.

The rest is to go toward the creation of a permanent transit fund of \$3 billion per year starting in 2026. Money from that fund will be earmarked following consultations with provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous communities.

The permanent transit fund is meant to provide stable funding so municipalities can build and expand their public transit systems.

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?

Liberal Party response:

To continue protecting more nature and fighting climate change, a re-elected Liberal government will:

- Continue planting 2 billion trees across the country, creating roughly 4,300 jobs.



- Restore and enhance more wetlands, grasslands, and peatlands, to capture and store carbon.
- Increase support to farmers to develop and adopt agricultural management practices to reduce emissions, store carbon in healthy soil, and enhance resiliency. Cover cropping, rotational grazing and nitrogen management are all part of a green farming plan for Canada.

This plan will not only protect nature and help fight climate change, but also create jobs, help farmers, and help preserve biodiversity across the country.

We will work with provinces, territories, and farmers— including Indigenous and young farmers—to update business risk management agriculture programs to fully integrate climate risk management, environmental practices, and climate readiness.

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?

Liberal Party response:

Ensuring Workers and Communities Prosper as We Move to Net Zero

Our goal is a future in which the energy workers and communities that built this country have even greater opportunities than they do today.

As we move towards a net-zero future, it is estimated that the growth in clean energy jobs will more than offset the declines in fossil fuel sectors. There will be opportunities for workers to drill for geothermal energy, install solar panels, and build carbon capture and storage projects. And a diverse and growing economy will create opportunities outside the energy sector, too.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Establish a \$2 billion Futures Fund for Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador that will be designed in collaboration with local workers, unions, educational institutions, environmental groups, investors, and Indigenous peoples who know their communities best. We will support local and regional economic diversification and specific place- based strategies.
- Move forward with **Just Transition Legislation**, guided by the feedback we receive from workers, unions, Indigenous peoples, communities, and provinces and territories.
- Create more opportunities for women, LGBTQ2 and other underrepresented people in the energy sector. Because when we include everyone, we get the best.
- Launch a Clean Jobs Training Centre to help industrial, skill and trade workers across sectors to upgrade or gain new skills to be on the leading edge of zero carbon industry.



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?

Liberal Party response:

To-date, the Liberal government funded Indigenous leadership in nature conservation, including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas and establishing the Indigenous Guardians programs which supports Indigenous peoples' connections with their traditional lands, waters, and ice.

Indigenous peoples have stewarded these lands and waters since time immemorial. That's why we launched the Indigenous Guardians pilot in 2017 and helped establish Canada's first-ever Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area.

We also introduced Bill C-15 to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which received Royal Assent on June 21, 2021, National Indigenous Peoples Day.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners to support new Indigenous Guardians programs and establish new Indigenous Guardians Networks.
- Support Indigenous communities to build capacity to establish more IPCAs.

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?

Liberal Party response:

We have invested over \$100 billion to fight climate change and build a clean economy for all Canadians, including \$53.6 billion for a green recovery. But for these investments to deliver, Canadians need a government with a real plan to meet our climate goals.

Chapter 5 of our platform, A Cleaner, Greener Future, contains a summary of key actions taken to combat climate change and what a re-elected Liberal government will do.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Deliver on all policy and fiscal measures outlined in our Strengthened Climate Plan from December 2020, implement the recently passed *Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act*, and advance new measures to achieve an ambitious 40-45% reduction in emissions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.
- Work with all Canadians and the Net-Zero Advisory Body to identify ways to further accelerate climate action that will put us on trajectory to achieve net-zero emissions as soon as possible and no later than 2050.
- Continue to put a rising price on pollution, while putting more money back into the pockets of Canadians.
- Keep protecting Canadian jobs and competitiveness through smart carbon pricing design.
- Move forward, in collaboration with key trading partners, like the United States and European Union, on applying Border Carbon Adjustments to imports from countries that aren't doing their part to reduce carbon pollution and fight climate change. This includes considering applying Border Carbon Adjustments on imports of steel, cement, aluminum, and other emissions-intensive industries, similar to the European Union's approach.
- Make sure the oil and gas sector reduces emissions at a pace and scale needed to achieve net-zero by 2050, with 5-year targets to stay on track to achieving this shared goal. And driving down pollution starts with ensuring that pollution from the oil and gas sector doesn't go up from current levels.
- Set 2025 and 2030 milestones based on the advice of the Net-Zero Advisory Body to ensure reduction levels are ambitious and achievable and that the oil and gas sector makes a meaningful contribution to meeting the nation's 2030 climate goals.
- Require oil and gas companies to reduce methane emissions by at least 75% below 2012 levels by 2030 and work to reduce methane emissions across the broader economy.
- Seek similar commitments from other major economies at the upcoming G20 and COP26.
- Make the **National Research Council a global centre for excellence on methane detection and elimination**, to address the global issues of under-reporting of methane emissions.
- Ban thermal coal exports from and through Canada no later than 2030.
- Accelerate our G20 commitment to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies from 2025 to 2023.
- Develop a plan to phase-out public financing of the fossil fuel sector, including from Crown corporations, consistent with our commitment to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Introduce a Clean Electricity Standard that will set Canada on a path to cut more emissions by 2030 and to achieve a 100% net-zero emitting electricity system by 2035.
- Develop additional investment tax credits for a range of renewable energy and battery storage solutions, to accelerate the deployment of clean energy.
- Create a **Pan-Canadian Grid Council** to promote infrastructure investments, smart grids, grid integration, and electricity sector innovation with the goal of making Canada the most reliable, cost-effective, and carbon-free electricity producer in the world.
- Advance green industrial strategies and continue investing funds from the Net Zero Accelerator in strategic opportunities and make sure that Canada claims more than our fair share of growing clean growth opportunities.



- Continue to help Canadians improve the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce their energy bills, providing grants of up to \$5,000 for home retrofits and interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 for deep retrofits.
- Launch a National Net-zero Emissions Building Strategy, which will chart a path to net-zero emissions from buildings by 2050 with ambitious milestones along the way.
- Accelerate the development of the national net-zero emissions model building code for 2025 adoption. Accelerate the transition from fossil fuel-based heating systems to electrification through incentives and standards, including investing \$250 million to help low-income Canadians get off home-heating oil.
- Require EnerGuide labeling of homes at the time of sale.
- Create a Low-Carbon Building Materials Innovation Hub to work directly with entrepreneurs, municipalities, provinces and territories, and Indigenous governments to ensure Canadian innovations are best positioned to succeed.
- Enhance investments in the Forest Industry Transformation program, working with partners to create jobs in the forest-based economy and bring forward new innovations in sustainable, low-carbon building materials.
- Launch a community-led net-zero homes initiative that supports projects that pursue multiple concurrent retrofits in a community or neighbourhood, to reduce overall costs. This initiative will be modeled on the Dutch “*Energiesprong*” program.
- Invest an additional \$1.5 billion in the iZev rebate program and broaden eligibility to a wider range of vehicle types, including used vehicles, to help over 500,000 Canadians get into a zero emissions vehicle.
- Invest an additional \$700 million to add 50,000 new electric vehicle chargers and hydrogen stations to Canada’s network.
- Work with industry, labour, and other stakeholders to develop a regulated sales requirement that at least 50% of all new light duty vehicle sales be zero emissions vehicles in 2030.
- Provide \$100 million to make sure existing buildings can install charging stations, removing a barrier to adopting a clean car.
- Double down to attract investments and jobs in manufacturing zero emissions vehicles in Canada through the \$8 billion Net Zero Accelerator
- Accelerate our Greening Government commitments to electrify the entire federal fleet of light duty vehicles by 2030, up from our existing target of 80% by 2030.
- Require 100% of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles sales to be zero emission by 2040, where feasible.
- Invest \$200 million to retrofit large trucks currently on the road to cut pollution now.
- Deliver on the commitment that we made with G7 Finance Ministers earlier this year to move toward mandatory climate-related financial disclosures that provide consistent and decision-useful information for market participants and that are based on the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) framework, in cooperation with provinces and territories.
- Require climate-related financial disclosures and the development of net-zero plans for federally regulated institutions, which includes financial institutions, pension funds, and government agencies.
- Issue green bonds, annually, worth a minimum of \$5 billion.



September 5, 2021

- Develop a climate data strategy to ensure that the private sector and communities have access to decision-useful climate information and to inform infrastructure investments.
- Work with financial experts through the Sustainable Finance Action Council to develop a net-zero capital allocation strategy to move capital into the types of investments needed to accelerate Canada's transition to a prosperous net-zero future.