

2011 GREEN PLATFORM

smart economy.

strong communities.

true democracy.



www.greenparty.ca



It's time. Vote Green.

In 2008, nearly one million Canadians voted Green. Nearly one million Canadians voted for a better future, for a positive vision of Canada.

We are not a one-issue party.
We are more than you think.

The Green party is the only party in Canada with a full and comprehensive vision for our future

available every day. We do not wait until elections to unveil what we believe in. Vision Green is on our website, available 365 days a year, every year. Former Assistant Deputy Minister to Finance Canada, Don Drummond, reviewed the full programme and gave the Greens a B+, noting other parties get an F, because they either have no vision or have not shared it.

The Green Party is the only opposition party to have tabled our deficit cutting plan with the Parliamentary Budget Office, to ensure we did our homework and our numbers will hold.

You are in for a nice surprise. Read our platform and find that voice for sensible, smart politics that you have been longing to hear.

If you are tired of simply voting against things, if you want something you can vote for, read this platform.

If you are looking for a serious, realistic and sensible option to the old line parties and old school politics, read this platform.

If you are looking for an economic, social and environmental vision for Canada that isn't just focused on winning the next election, read this platform.

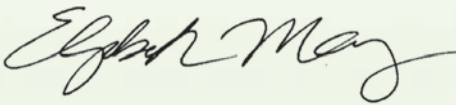


Canadians have disengaged from their own democracy because election after election we have been offered negative politicking in place of a real vision for our country. There is an alternative.

In this platform you will find a vision for a modern, smart economy that reduces the deficit, creates new jobs that won't be gone tomorrow, and doesn't rely on generating pollution to generate energy. We see a future Canada with vibrant, well-educated and motivated citizens, living in healthy communities, eating safe and healthy food, and enjoying a life-giving, healthy natural world.

In this platform you will find a renewal of Canadian democracy. You will find a return to dignity and respect in politics. You will find reforms to put power back where it belongs – in your hands.

If you think it's time to turn over a new leaf in Canada, turn the page and get inspired.



Elizabeth May, O.C.
Leader, Green Party of Canada



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smart economy.

A smart economy is a green economy. A smart economy skates to where the puck is going. It turns old-industry blue-collar jobs into new-industry green-collar jobs. It focuses on value-added production and generates green products that will be in demand in tomorrow's markets.


A smart economy is efficient. It relies on non-polluting systems and energy sources. It ends waste. It reuses and recycles. Through closed-loop systems it is massively more efficient. That efficiency will bring greater competitiveness and prosperity to the entire Canadian economy.


A smart economy is not based on hype. It is real people building real things.


A smart economy lives within its means. The first step is to get out of this recession without a crippling debt and deficit. The Green Party has a plan to get Canada out of deficit.

smart economies


START WITH


 **GREEN JOBS.** Create thousands of jobs through investment in renewable energy, expanding passenger rail and modernizing freight, retrofitting thousands of buildings to high standards for energy efficiency.

 **SMART ECONOMIC STIMULUS.** Expand access to employment insurance for those who paid into it, while protecting the pensions of retired Canadians. Reduce EI and CPP contributions for businesses.

 **FAIR GLOBAL TRADE.** Reform, revise and rethink our trade agreements. Trade is a part of a sustainable future only when it is fair for all.



 **HEALTHY INDUSTRY.** A healthy agriculture sector, with support for those who wish to transition to organic farming. A healthy fishery, with an end to devastating draggers. A sustainable forest industry with more emphasis on value added, and less raw log or unprocessed pulp export. More jobs for more people making real things.

 **CUT WASTEFUL SUBSIDIES.** End the failed strategy of throwing good money after bad in corporate bail-outs for big business, and subsidies to nuclear and fossil fuels.

 **GET THE PRICES RIGHT.** Get the prices right for long-term sustainability. Avoid structural deficits. Implement a revenue-neutral carbon pricing architecture to modernize our economy. Build a “Made in Canada” Green economy.

“...efficiency
will bring greater
competitiveness
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economy.”



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strong communities.

A community is defined by more than geography. A community is people living together, taking care of each other, having time for each other.

Communities that work take work. Transportation systems that get you from here to there, quickly, efficiently, and safely. Water works that ensure clean and healthy water. All the things that make us love where we live. Things we have and hold in common: playing grounds, bike paths, green spaces, community gardens, decent housing, strong schools, and a public health care system that addresses all aspects of our well-being.

Improve the quality of life by addressing the work-home balance. A more humane life with time for what really matters. Making a living should never impede having a life.



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“Young people build community, both where they live and where they connect through the internet in virtual communities.”

Strong communities means creating opportunities for young Canadians. Young people build community, both where they live and where they connect through the internet in virtual communities. Energized youth are part of a real green future.

The growing number of older Canadians are active and engaged. They have made a major contribution to this country, and they want to keep contributing. They should be able to continue to have the lifestyle they want, living with dignity and independence.

strong communities

START WITH



HELP FOR MARRIED COUPLES AND FAMILIES.

- Fix the tax system. Lower income taxes and introduce full income splitting to reduce the tax burden on married couples and families.
- Share the load. More people working fewer hours. For those who want to, make it easier to telecommute or work from home. Share jobs. Flex hours. Flexible child care with access for all. Early childhood education. More workplace child care spaces. Support for those who stay home to raise their children and support for those who need to get back to work while their kids are still young.



HELP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. Sustainable long-term funding support for municipalities to repair decades-old crumbling infrastructure. Build for the future. Create more of the common amenities all communities need for recreation, transportation, water works and arts and culture.



RESPECT AND SUPPORT OUR ELDERS. Ensure secure pensions and provide programmes that address health – both physical and mental – and ensure dignity by stopping elder abuse and respecting living wills.



Real citizen power in a **true** democracy

Canadian democracy is in trouble. Power is increasingly centralized. Individual MPs – your voices in Parliament – are becoming more and more irrelevant. Question Period is a daily showcase for behaviour we would not tolerate from our children. It's time to restore true democracy and put the power where it belongs – in the hands of Canadians.

True democracy means making every vote count. More than votes, it means engaging and debating respectfully. It means working together to find a cooperative and positive way forward. As Canadians, we take pride in a global reputation for civility and cooperation. Our instincts run to generosity and compassion. Let's embrace that.

While Canada reduces waste in its economy and industry, it should also stop wasting votes. Move to a fairer electoral system that reflects the true will of voters.

True democracy also means true global leadership. In the past, other nations in our global village looked to Canada for leadership – in peace keeping and peace making, in disarmament, and in environmental sustainability. It's time for Canada to step up and once again play the leadership role it has forsaken in recent years.

true democracy

STARTS WITH

-  **REFORM OUR VOTING SYSTEM.** Hold a national discussion on the health of our democracy, address the growing and undemocratic power of the Prime Minister's Office and explore the options for a more meaningful electoral system. Consider the risks of "first past the post" and vote on whether it should be replaced. Consider proportional representation.
-  **ACCESS TO INFORMATION.** Seek true solutions to the increasing corporate control in Canadian journalism. Whatever is "dumbed down" must be "smartened up."
-  **ENSURE THAT CITIZENSHIP IS EQUAL.** Social justice and equity are cornerstones of democracy. Canadian democracy is more secure when human rights are respected – starting with the First Nations and indigenous peoples of this continent, Turtle Island. Canada must move forward in implementing the spirit of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
-  **GLOBAL ACTION ON GLOBAL PROBLEMS.** Strengthen and enforce decisions made in the 2010 climate negotiations (COP16) to bring in the urgent and aggressive measures required globally to avoid catastrophic climate impacts and adjust and adapt to impacts we can no longer avoid.
-  **CONTRIBUTE TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN AFGHANISTAN.** Refocus the Canadian mission in Afghanistan to poverty alleviation and development, strengthening governance and civil society institutions, and supporting the training and development of the Afghan military and police force, particularly in the area of upholding and protecting human rights.
-  **MAKE POVERTY HISTORY.** Meet Canada's commitments and push other nations to meet theirs in order to achieve the Millennium Development goals.

To check out our plans in detail, visit Vision Green on our website. Our first year in government has a fully-costed programme. With tax shifting and priorities that work for your real life, we can deliver on this platform.



Budget Overview

All totals in \$Millions	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Status Quo				
Budgetary Revenues	235,600	247,633	262,667	278,900
Program Expenditures	245,200	242,133	245,367	251,100
Public Debt Charges	29,400	33,300	36,300	37,500
Budgetary Balance (Deficit)	(39,000)	(27,800)	(19,000)	(9,700)
Green Party Initiatives				
Personal & Corporate Tax Cuts Funded by Pollution Charges	-	0	0	0
Revenue Increases	-	6,519	9,319	10,686
Program Expenditure Increases	-	3,869	5,276	6,517
Green Party lowers deficit by	-	2,649	4,043	4,168
Budgetary Balance (including Green measures)	(39,000)	(25,151)	(14,957)	(5,532)
Federal Debt (including Green Measures)	564,500	589,651	604,608	610,139
Percent of GDP (including green measures)				
Budgetary Revenues	15.4%	14.9%	14.8%	14.9%
Program Expenditures	16.1%	14.5%	13.8%	13.3%
Public Debt Charges	1.9%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%
Budgetary Balance	-2.6%	-1.6%	-0.9%	-0.3%
Federal Debt (Debt to GDP Ratio)	37.0%	36.4%	35.2%	33.9%

Budget Detail

GP Budget Detail (All Totals in \$Millions)	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Personal and Corporate Tax Cuts Funded by Pollution Charges			
Adopt Carbon Pricing	33,832	34,446	34,557
Reduce EI and CPP contributions - carbon tax holiday	(23,135)	(23,359)	(23,156)
Implement income splitting for all adults	(5,000)	(5,310)	(5,618)
Carbon pricing rebate	(5,075)	(5,167)	(5,184)
Eliminate personal income tax below the low income cut-off of 20,000	(623)	(611)	(599)
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue Increases			
Toxic tax	193	164	131
Cancel logging tax credit	5	5	5
Cancel Corporate mineral exploration tax credit	24	24	25
Close tax haven loopholes	1,216	1,216	1,216
Cancel scheduled corporate tax rate reductions	4,582	6,910	7,809
Legalize and tax marijuana	0	1,000	1,500
Total	\$6,519	\$9,319	\$10,686

Spending Increases / Decreases

Eliminate subsidies on fossil fuels	-1,462	-1,491	-1,521
Cancel federal support for AECL research	-155	-155	-155
Reduce military spending to 2005 spending ratio and reorient to peacekeeping	-3,275	-3,083	-2,615
Stop federally funded GMO research	-101	-101	-101
Establish a national affordable housing program*	400	834	1,267
Reinvest in national rail systems	600	700	720
Invest in resources to prosecute white collar crime	180	180	180
Invest in national pharmacare	300	300	300
Municipal youth employment program	1,000	1,000	1,000
Municipal youth employment program tuition credit		160	160
Increase post secondary education bursaries	400	400	400
First Nations education, safe drinking water and improved housing*	800	800	800
Increase EcoEnergy home energy retrofit grants by 50%	400	600	600
Energy retrofit for low income housing*	150	150	150
Energy retrofit for municipal, university, schools and hospitals	200	200	200
National solar roof program	180	180	180
Create six municipal superfunds:			
- Community brownfield remediation	300	300	300
- Water and waste treatment facilities	600	600	600
- Sports, cultural and recreational facilities	300	300	300
- Mass transit promotion	700	700	700
- Cycling and pedestrian promotion	200	200	200
- Community housing*	300	300	300
Invest in early childhood education	500	700	1,000
Electrical grid upgrades	1,000	1,000	1,000
Provide stable base-funding for the CBC	100	150	200
Restore scientific capacity to the federal government	15	15	15
Transition to organic farming	75	175	175
Retraining of forestry workers and reforestation	95	95	95
Invest in wild fisheries and rivers	24	24	24
National campaign to discourage marijuana use (similar to anti-tobacco)	43	43	43
Total	\$3,869	\$5,276	\$6,517
Green Party lowers deficit by	\$2,649	\$4,043	\$4,168

* Note: these four items are part of the Green Party national affordable housing strategy

For detailed notes on the Green Party
budget plan visit www.greenparty.ca

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using environmentally responsible practices.