

## 2017 Budget Submission

### Summary

From my perspective, the budget should reflect measures to work toward alleviating the two most important challenges facing Canada (and all the countries of the world) today, which are inequality and climate change. I will address each of those with a small addendum for items that don't entirely fit into those 2 categories.

### Inequality

1. Tax and Banking – tax revisions should be faithful to the Canadian governments primary goal to create a fairer society by redistributing wealth to assist the middle and lower classes. Wealthy corporations and persons should pay their fair share. Small business and entrepreneurs should be supported. The banking system should be regulated in insure integrity and transparency.
2. Underprivileged groups – the following groups should be supported in ways that will assist them to become productive members of Canadian society:
  - a. People with disabilities including mental health
  - b. Indigenous persons and communities – including access to clean water, appropriate housing, and quality, appropriate, and innovative education
  - c. Immigrants – including access to legal aid, and job training
  - d. Homeless – including housing and treatment for mental health
  - e. Inmates – including treatment for addiction and mental health
  - f. Veterans – including access to education and job training
  - g. Unemployed – including access to retraining and financial support (EI)
  - h. Women – including wage inequality, gender based violence, affordable (preferably free) childcare, and strengthening family justice
3. Education – I support Canada moving toward free post-secondary education, strong skills upgrading programs with universal access, and opportunities for lifelong learning.
4. Healthcare – Canada needs to continue to support universal access, single payer healthcare nationwide, and work toward creating efficiencies in the system that will reduce wait times and keep up with technological innovations. Canada needs to consider the aging population and increase access to nursing home care and other healthcare requirements of the aging population. The educational system needs to ensure training of adequate personnel, and Canada needs to work toward inclusion of pharmaceuticals, dental care, 'alternative therapies' (physio, massage, etc.), nursing home, home care and caregiver support in healthcare coverage.
5. Communities – the budget should include support to build strong communities and neighborhoods, smart cities with innovative and accessible public transportation systems and green buildings.
6. Culture – the Canadian government should continue strong support for cultural programs in music, art, literature, theater, dance, film, and other genres.

## Climate Change

The Canadian government needs to maintain its place in the world as a climate change leader. The Canadian government should encourage, promote, and support investment and innovation in clean energy. There should be an effective and increasing carbon tax. There should be expanding tax support for clean energy with a goal of replacing coal as soon as possible. The Canadian government should support basic research into clean/green technology, and basic and ongoing research into ecology to measure effects of climate change and mitigation efforts to ensure we are doing the best that we can. There should be strong support for marine and freshwater ecosystems, maintaining and increasing wildlife habitat and preserving national parks and wilderness areas, including wildlife corridors for large animals and predators, air quality, and greener buildings. Canada needs to encourage and capitalize on clean energy technology both domestic and international and foster business development in this sector.

## Other Areas

In these other areas the budget must always be mindful to work towards societal equality and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions both domestically and internationally.

1. Trade – Canada should continue to expand equitable trade opportunities worldwide to reduce dependence on trade with the United States. Trade should enhance opportunities for clean technology exchange and worldwide reduction of greenhouse gas production.
2. Agriculture – Canada should continue to support farmers and a healthy agricultural system with emphasis on reduction of usage of harmful chemical, genetically modified organisms, and factory farms. Canada should work toward more clean and efficient agricultural transportation.
3. Military and Security – Canada should continue to maintain safety for its population both within its borders and worldwide. The Canadian military should maintain its peacekeeping focus and avoid participation in aggressive conflicts around the world. Canada should maintain its military and military equipment commensurate with safety and its peacekeeping mission.

Respectfully Submitted,

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