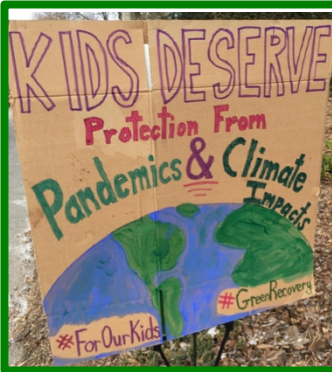


- **Recommendation 1:** That the government dedicate the 2021 budget to a Green and Just Recovery from the COVID-10 pandemic and climate change.
- **Recommendation 2:** Empower municipalities with the financial capacity to build sustainable communities and invest in regional and land-use planning processes.
- **Recommendation 3:** That the government stop subsidizing fossil fuel industries and use that money to invest in clean energy projects and related infrastructure.
- **Recommendation 4:** That the government close loopholes in the tax system that allow for offshore tax havens and those that disproportionately benefit those at the highest income brackets and use the estimated \$20 billion in annual savings to invest in social infrastructure including food security, housing security and a guaranteed basic income.
- **Recommendation 5:** That the government works across all parties and stops using language and tactics that suggest climate change is a “partisan” issue.
- **Recommendation 6:** That the government allocates funding to provide adequate protection and restoration of intact and old growth forests (and their ecosystems), marine ecosystems and the coast.
- **Recommendation 7:** Invest in widespread retrofit programs that are accessible to all Canadians, including those living in social housing and rental buildings and to retrofit all existing buildings and home in Canada for energy efficiency and to transition from fossil fuels to clean energy.
- **Recommendation 8:** That the government fund the full implementation of UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People) and FPIC (free, prior and informed consent) on all laws.



I am writing to you not only as an individual, but as a mother of 2 young children, and the co-founder of the Ottawa-Gatineau Chapter of For Our Kids, a group of more than 300 parents who are concerned about the future our children and grandchildren will inherit. While I do not represent those parents, I do hear their anxieties and concerns, and know they are the same as mine.

Over the past 8 months, my children have participated in 3 different rallies to bring the urgency of climate change to the forefront of peoples' minds. While my heart swells hearing my daughter chant "Hey Hey, Ho Ho, Climate Change is not Make Believe" and that we should "give the Earth ice cubes" because it is warming. It also, simultaneously causes my heart to break. Our children's childhood and future should not be spent protesting and coming up with creative solutions to the problems that we, their parents, created and are continuing to make worse. We need to stop listening to industries and corporations who are worried about their short-term profits. All our lives are threatened if we do not take action now.

More than 200 organizations in Canada have requested the government take bold and immediate action to build back better, and the 2021 budget will be instrumental in allowing us to do that. I am asking you to design a budget that will allow us to meet the climate commitment of net zero by 2050, will begin the building of a modern, diversified and sustainable economy that does not prioritize the wealthy, and one that focused on the health and well-being of ALL Canadians.

## Social Infrastructure

The COVID crisis and the Climate Change crisis affect poorer Canadians disproportionately. By using money from tax loopholes to invest in strategies that will provide a stronger, gap-less social safety net, resources can be more fairly distributed. The advantage of this is that when people are not focused on the daily struggle to find food and shelter, they will be more capable and receptive of lifestyle changes that will be required to allow us successfully combat climate change.

### Tax loopholes: <sup>1</sup>

CCPA's David Macdonald conducted a study that showed over 90% of the federal government's personal income tax expenditures provide greater benefits to higher incomes than lower incomes. This collectively costs the government more than \$100 billion a year in lower revenues. The following tax loopholes should be more closely investigated and modified.

- 1. The stock option loophole.** Over 90% of the value of this \$740-million tax loophole goes to the top 1% of people making over \$250,000 a year. Roger Martin, former dean of U of T's management school and director of the Martin Prosperity Institute, wrote an entire book calling for it to be eliminated, titled *Fixing the Game*
- 2. The business meals and entertainment expense deduction** is estimated to cost \$500 million in lost revenues annually. Removing even the entertainment expense portion from this deduction would help to reduce inappropriate lobbying habits and help keep the costs of entertainment down so that individuals (not corporations) can afford them.
- 3. The capital gains loophole:** this costs the federal government an estimated \$15 billion plus in foregone revenues. Over 90% of the value of this tax break goes to the top 10% and an estimated over 85% goes to the top 1%.
- 5. Tax havens:** Canadian governments lose an estimated \$8 billion in annual revenues from corporations and wealthy individuals shifting their wealth and profits through tax havens through illegal and legal means.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://www.taxfairness.ca/en/news/they're-expensive-unfair-and-unsavoury-five-tax-loopholes-must-go>

Not a single Canadian has been charged yet for international tax evasion. Canada also must take steps to close the loopholes that allow large corporations and wealthy individuals to pay very little tax through what is now perfectly legal international tax avoidance.