

List of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That the government provide funding in the amount of \$1 billion to create renewable energy projects and update existing infrastructure.

Recommendation 2: That the government divest from fossil fuels and put tighter restrictions on acts such as logging, mining, trophy hunting, large-scale dams and industrial agriculture.

Recommendation 3: That the government provide funding in the amount of \$3.2 billion to end all boil water advisories on First Nations reserves.

Recommendation 4: That the government provide funding in the amount of \$5 billion for ATU Canada.

Recommendation 5: That the government provide funding in the amount of \$5 billion for affordable housing.

Recommendation 6: That the government provide funding in the amount of \$200 million towards mental health centres for areas that are lacking, including support for opioid addiction.

Recommendation 7: That the government provide funding of \$300 million towards programs that address social inequality.

Recommendation 8: That the government implement stricter measures against the use of force by the RCMP, including dismissal.

Body of Submission

Recommendation 1: That the government provide funding in the amount of \$1 billion to create renewable energy projects and update existing infrastructure.

As part of the promises Canada has made to drastically reduce their emissions in the next decade, a large amount of funding should go towards renewable energy sources. They should be either Indigenous-led or in consultation with Indigenous groups, as they are the best stewards of protecting nature. Furthermore, existing infrastructures need to be updated in order to withstand the effects of climate change, such as increased flooding. Average temperatures have increased at 1.7% in Canada within the past approximately 50 years, leading to more storms and thus more damage. Canada has not hit any of the green targets they previously set, and will need to work hard to catch up. There is no greater concern than climate change, and the issue requires swift and bold action.

Recommendation 2: That the government divest from fossil fuels and put tighter restrictions on acts such as logging, mining, trophy hunting, large-scale dams and industrial agriculture.

It is well known that billions of dollars are given to fossil fuel companies, along with large subsidies. As part of the promises made to drastically reduce emissions, we must divest from fossil fuels. The jobs that are associated with this industry, which is a common concern raised when discussing divestment from fossil fuels, can be redirected to jobs within the renewable energy field. Likewise, many of the acts described in my recommendation are vastly harming our wildlife and negatively affecting of our biosphere. Too many changes to our biosphere, including deforestation leading to wildlife extinction, can cause a harmful chain reaction.

Recommendation 3: That the government provide funding in the amount of \$3.2 billion to end all boil water advisories on First Nations reserves.

The Trudeau government promised in 2015 to have clean water on all reserves within 5 years. That time is up. We must ensure every resident of this country, including those on reserves, have access to clean water. Not only is it shameful that we have a subset of residents that have to boil their water for it to be safe, it is also more taxing on our healthcare system as these people are more prone to a slew of health issues due to their water being unsafe.

Recommendation 4: That the government provide funding in the amount of \$5 billion for ATU Canada

ATU Canada has requested emergency funds to address issues within public transit, particularly since ridership has dropped drastically. As part of a just recovery, residents must be able to access reliable public transit in order to get around. This also lends itself to a reduction of emissions as public transit is a greener alternative than travel by car.

Recommendation 5: That the government provide funding in the amount of \$5 billion for affordable housing.

Rental costs have vastly outpaced income increase, leading to Canada having 3 of the world's most expensive cities. Expert advisors say you should only put maximum 30% of your income towards rent, but many renters are needing to put 50% or more, leading to a rise in poverty. The wealth gap is the highest it's ever been and this is in large part because of the lack of affordable housing. Many workers have to work two or more jobs because of the "gig economy", in which employers are only hiring part-time so that they don't have to cover benefits. Renters then have to turn over a large part of their paycheck for residency. There has also been a large rise in the "hidden homeless" which are people that do not have a fixed address- people that are living in their cars, or couch surfing because they cannot afford rent. It is assumed nearly 50,000 people would be considered within the hidden homeless category on any given night. Many renters are living paycheck to paycheck, and a single missed pay could result in homelessness.

Landlords and renters are often treated as similar, but they are not. Landlords are relying on renters to either pay their mortgage, or are profiting off the renters if that mortgage has been paid. Renters cannot afford the equity of a home. They work as employees, and in turn pass the fruits of their labour to their landlords. They do not have any property to sell in the event funds are needed.

Recommendation 6: That the government provide funding in the amount of \$200 million towards mental health centres for areas that are lacking, including support for opioid addiction.

Every person in their life will experience a depressive episode. This is evidenced by the increased need for mental health access during Covid-19. However, beyond this unique and stressful period, there is a subset of the population that suffers from mental health concerns on a daily basis and are being let down. Roughly half of the population requiring mental health services have said their needs were only partially met, or were unmet. Everyday an average of 10 people will die by suicide. Additionally, since 2016 there have been approximately 9,000 deaths associated with opioid use. Better services must be available and reliable for people suffering from mental illness and addiction.

Recommendation 7: That the government provide funding of \$300 million towards programs that address social inequality.

Every issue discussed in this proposal adversely affects people who are Black, Indigenous, disabled, immigrants, in rural areas, queer and/or in poverty. As we have seen with Covid-19, these communities experienced higher rates of infection, and this was due to a lack of support in all the areas above and extends beyond the virus crisis. People in communities that are within these intersections are more likely to have both physical and mental health issues, be food insecure, be less educated, be fiscally insecure and have lack of access to affordable housing. They are disproportionately represented in our criminal systems and are more likely to experience police brutality. They also have higher rates of suicide. Funding is required to create programs that address these inequalities. We need investments in education, access to health services, more training available to low income families as well as more jobs available to low income families, and of course, affordable housing. There need to be more resources to assist. Frankly there needs to be a redistribution of wealth to address the vast

gap between the rich and the poor, such as progressive taxation that favours low income residents.

Recommendation 8: That the government implement stricter measures against the use of force by the RCMP, including dismissal.

Police brutality is a well documented issue, that measures such as body cams do not prevent. We have seen time and time again officers commit bodily harm to residents and have little to no repercussions. We see mental health calls resulting in preventable deaths. There is a lack of trust among people towards the very institutions that are meant to protect them and that lack of trust is based on many negative experiences. The governing body of the RCMP has refused to acknowledge the issue of racism within the force, yet we see Indigenous people being routinely harmed by the RCMP and the Senior Executive Committee is itself made up of only white people. The only way to regain the trust of the public is for there to be actual punitive action against officers that cause harm. Additionally, a reduction of funding towards the RCMP would be able to redistribute those funds to any of the worthy causes mentioned in the rest of this submission.