

Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the Upcoming Federal Budget

By: Emily Gray, CPA CA

List of Recommendations (REQUIRED)

- Invest in a massive retrofit program to make Canada's buildings more efficient
- Expand public transit to ease congestion and reduce transportation emissions
- Support made-in Canada electric buses (city/school/etc), vans, buses and cars
- Use policy/laws/credits to encourage renewable energy investments (and invest in it as a government), including solar panels on millions of roofs
- Expand local farms for food security
- Create/expand a conservation corps to plant billions of trees and conduct natural restoration,
- Support transition programs, and train workers to move from our status quo to this greener economy

To the Standing Committee on Finance,

Various individuals and organizations have been asking for a “just and green recovery”. To be clear – this is something I support wholeheartedly and am asking for in this letter, but I’m sure this phrase means slightly different things to different people so would like to take the time to elaborate on what this means to me.

When COVID19 hit, we were already dealing with another emergency: the climate emergency. The pandemic showcased in some ways, that we are capable of making a huge difference in improving the state of the planet if we want to, and are capable of changing our ways of life to better the planet if we choose. It also, unfortunately, showcased areas of weakness in our societies and re-emphasized the use of single-use plastics.

As we aim to help the economy recover from the pandemic, I think we should be using methods that also help our previous (and ongoing) climate emergency. It doesn’t make sense to me to damage the planet in an effort to help the economy, only to have to undo that damage later (if even possible). Sounds like it will cost more in the long run if we do that, and possibly costing lives as well as money.

Governments are notorious for prioritizing the short-term at the expense of the long-term, given the short period in office that is granted them. I understand that it can be favourable, politically speaking, to do so. I’m asking this government to be better, to do better, to think about the long-term health and wellbeing of the people of this country and its land/air/water/etc., to show great leadership, to be innovative and HEAL BOTH issues at the same time.

Suggestions coming from a parents-based environment group I’m a part of are as follows:

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Here is some background on a green and just recovery:

[Green stimulus offers Canada a way forward for escaping the next recession](#), by Sustainable Prosperity

[Green Stimulus: Principles and recommendations for a 2020 economic stimulus package](#), by Pembina Institute

[We're going to need a Marshall Plan to rebuild after Covid-19](#), by Jim Stanford in Policy Options magazine

[On the path to recovery: how to "lock in" climate solutions](#), by Brian Purcell, Toronto Atmospheric Fund

[How EV production can help refuel Canada's post-pandemic economy](#), by Carolyn Kim and Ben Sharpe in Corporate Knights magazine

When deciding on the best way forward, please prioritize actions that stimulate the economic recovery while at the same time improving the state of our planet.

Thank you,

Emily Gray, CPA CA