

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

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My recommendations :

- 1. eliminate all subsidies to fossil fuel corporations,**
- 2. expand programs to fund conservation and energy efficiency in all sectors of public and private buildings,**
- 3. institute more programs to provide carbon-free heating for Canadians with low incomes,**
- 4. set a plan with timelines and targets for extensive energy efficiency renovations for all government buildings that need it,**
- 5. fulfill and increase targets for protected land (to > 25%) by dedicating resources to protect more natural areas,**
- 6. mandate vehicle manufacturers and sellers to achieve a set % of total sales as zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs), on sales of all classes of vehicles,**
- 7. eliminate federal subsidies for diesel transit buses and school buses, in order to help persuade provinces and municipalities to convert all fleets to ZEVs.**
- 8. Follow the guidance of the [Task Force for a Resilient Recovery preliminary report](#) and the [Alternative Federal Budget \(AFB\) Recovery Plan](#) to ensure a Just Recovery.**

Below are details of some of the measures I want our federal government to take to restart the Canadian economy, as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a long-time active participant in social policy discussions, I am appreciative of this opportunity to submit a brief to your Committee.

I do my best to keep up with energy policy and climate action discussions, and I put a lot of effort into getting others involved, especially young people. As a volunteer I have limited time and resources to fully evaluate policy choices, or provide detailed recommendations.

So I am encouraged to see many Canadian organizations and individuals working to advance policy that prioritizes people over corporations, creates meaningful employment, and builds an economy based on clean, renewable energy.

As so many groups are saying, we need a Just Recovery from COVID-19 that:

- > Puts our health first, with no exceptions,
- > Strengthens the social security net and ensure relief flows directly to people,
- > Prioritizes workers and communities,
- > Tackles the climate crisis and build resilience against future crises,
- > Builds equity across communities, generations and borders, and
- > Upholds Indigenous rights and works in partnership with Indigenous peoples.

Any stimulus provided by our government must be directed to fairness for all, and must especially help people who are presently marginalized.

Canadians need our political leaders to put aside partisan politics and work together to ensure a Just Recovery.

An excellent guide for ensuring a Just Recovery is the [Alternative Federal Budget \(AFB\) Recovery Plan](#), which was written by “. . .organizations and researchers from a variety of sectors, populations, and areas of expertise including human rights, labour, environmental protection, anti-poverty, arts and culture, social development, child development, international development, women, Indigenous peoples, the faith-based community, students, teachers, education, and health care workers

“Among the key issues in the AFB Recovery Plan requiring immediate action: implement universal public child care so people can get back to work, reform employment insurance, strengthen safeguards for public health, decarbonize the economy, and tackle the gender, racial, and income inequality that COVID-19 has further exposed. . .”

The AFB Recovery Plan states “. . . that the federal government’s role as backstop during the COVID-19 pandemic doesn’t end with the first wave of reopening—Canada needs to step up with more investments to ensure a just, equitable and sustainable recovery.”

My own specific recommendations at this time (in addition to those in the Just Recovery and Alternative Budget Plans) for our federal government to take as the Canadian economy recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, are listed here.

1. Eliminate all subsidies to fossil fuel corporations.

Given the urgency that we stop using fossil fuels as soon as possible, there should be no assistance given to fossil fuel corporations.

2. Expand programs to fund conservation and energy efficiency in all sectors of public and private buildings.

In return, provincial and municipal governments must take Climate Action into account in capital spending for all of their public construction and renovation projects.

Installation of oil heating systems in any new construction should be prohibited as soon as possible.

3. Institute more programs to provide carbon-free heating for Canadians with low incomes.

Rental units are especially in need of improved energy efficiency.

4. Set a plan with timelines and targets for extensive energy efficiency renovations for all government buildings that need it.

In addition to improving buildings owned by our federal government, there must be increased funding for provincial and municipal government building energy efficiency upgrades.

5. Fulfill and increase targets for protected land (to > 25%), by dedicating resources to protect more natural areas.

Preservation of wetlands, coastal marshes and riparian forests in particular can increase the climate resilience of nearby communities and also provide important carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation.

6. Mandate vehicle manufacturers and dealers to achieve a set % of total sales as zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) on sales of all classes of vehicles.

Canadians in all provinces must have access to ZEVs across all vehicle classes.

Vehicle manufacturers must phase in a growing share of zero-emission vehicles on sales of both light-duty vehicles (as presently mandated in Quebec, BC and 12 U.S. states) and medium- and heavy-duty vehicles (as in California).

7. Eliminate federal subsidies for diesel transit buses and school buses, in order to help persuade provinces and municipalities to convert all fleets to ZEVs.

Provinces and municipalities must be given federal financing to assist with converting all school bus and public transit fleets to electric school buses and electric transit buses.

I also wish to commend the work of the Task Force for a Resilient Recovery, which represents a wide cross-section of Canada's private sector. I support the 22 recommendations in [their preliminary report](#) under their headings:

- > Invest in climate resilient and energy efficient building
- > Jumpstart Canada's production and adoption of zero-emission vehicles
- > Go big on growing Canada's clean energy sectors
- > Invest in the nature that protects and sustains us
- > Grow clean competitiveness and jobs across the Canadian economy

They also recommend (and I concur on this) that our governments "...Build on existing efforts. Canada must continue to advance climate and environmental policies that are stringent and predictable, yet streamlined and flexible, to drive innovation and investment, spur clean competitiveness and support inclusive growth. This requires moving ahead with federal and provincial commitments and strengthening those efforts where needed:

- Federal and provincial carbon pricing systems
- Clean fuel, efficiency and resilience standards
- Pollution regulations
- Investments in disaster mitigation
- Building code improvements
- Nature conservation commitments
- Support for equitable transitions

Canada should also support resilient recovery efforts abroad. As a major fossil fuels producer and environmental innovator - and a country warming at twice the international average - we have an important role to play in shaping the trade and investment driving a low-carbon future and minimizing the destabilizing impacts of a warming world. . ."

The 2021 Budget must apply ambitious climate action conditions to stimulus and funding programs, to ensure that all measures move us toward the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, and at the same time the 2021 Budget must produce a Just Recovery.