

## ISSUE

Access to clean air, clean water, a stable climate, healthy food supplies, and clean energy are fundamental to our current and future well-being and prosperity. At the same time, the Canadian government isn't doing enough to protect our environment and reverse the dangerous rise in global temperature.

## CONTEXT

Carbon in the atmosphere now exceeds 400 parts per million—creating the conditions for catastrophic climate change. Canada is now one of the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases (14.7 metric tons per person, per year). Since 1990, energy consumption has grown about 22% and carbon emissions by 19%.

The warning signs are clearly evident. In 2013 alone, Canada saw record-breaking floods in Calgary and Toronto and winter storms that strained community infrastructure across the country. It is estimated that current inaction on climate change on the part of all large emitters is resulting in the death of five million people annually, the result of malnutrition, disease, and pollution, as well as huge property losses, now in excess of \$1 trillion.

Canada needs a credible Climate Change Action Plan that curbs carbon consumption significantly. Current efforts are having little to no effect in meeting the modest target set at the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Change Conference of reducing our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 17% below 2005 levels by 2020.

### Canada needs a Plan that:

- Puts a strong and predictable price on carbon pollution, one that reflects true costs, drives innovation, and ensures that both industry and consumers make more efficient use of our resources.
- Creates strict GHG emissions standards applicable across the entire oil and gas sector, and eliminates inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and special tax breaks (totaling more than \$1.4 billion annually).

- Provides for investment in cleaner, low-impact energy alternatives like wind, solar, geothermal, and tidal power as well as spending to preserve Canada's natural areas and resources, including wildlife habitat.
- Seeks a binding international climate change agreement that commits nations to reduce carbon emissions and sets fair and clear targets to ensure that global average temperatures stay (at least) below a 2° Celsius increase from pre-industrial levels.
- Supports the adaptation efforts of the most vulnerable, particularly those in the far North and the Global South who are facing the most significant impacts of climate change. Canada has provided no funding for these efforts since 2012.

## QUESTIONS

- Would you work to end subsidies to coal, oil and gas, and strengthen environmental laws and regulations?
- Do you support putting a price on carbon emissions sufficient to keep the rise in global temperatures below 2° Celsius?
- What would you / your party do to ensure that Canada plays a constructive role at the international climate change negotiations (COP21) in Paris in December 2015?
- Will your party introduce a Climate Change Action Plan with meaningful targets for emission reductions?

## RESOURCES

For more information and additional fact sheets in this series:  
<http://spno.ca/canada-votes-2015>