

## TEN ISSUES FOR GREENS IN THE 2021 ELECTION

The Green Party's proposals will enable a flourishing economy and address environmental and social justice issues, creating a healthy, more sustainable future for Canadians.

Green candidates and their supporters can use these 10 issues to focus their campaign. There's no need to address all Green policies (as in Platform 2019). You don't even need all 10 of these issues. You just need **a few issues that differentiate Greens from other parties** (and expose Liberal deceptions). Pick and work with the ones that speak to you – the ones you know and care about!

**Greens should be effective critics and agents of change.** There's no need to pretend that we'll be part of a governing coalition, or the governing party, that needs to manage the gamut of government responsibilities.

Greens should engage emotions. **Voters must want to vote Green.** There are many opportunities for this: Liberal lies -- we should expose them and elicit emotional reactions of shock and revulsion.

Greens need to present pragmatic, defensible solutions. Evidence is our friend. Feasibility is a necessity. Proof is desirable. There may be a complicated backstory, but **our story needs to be simple and clear.**

Three groupings of issues help to sort out priorities:

1. **Climate change** is the most important topic.<sup>1</sup> Widespread flooding and wildfires are starting to dominate the news; and most voters "get it", as shown by polls. The LPC, CPC and NDP are not taking it seriously. **Only Greens are serious about climate change.** We need to hit hard on this.
2. **Traditional campaigns** focus on one or more of four topics: the Economy, the Environment, Health, and Education. They can't be left out.
3. **Social justice and participatory democracy** are highlighted by the six Green principles and are too important to omit.

Each issue selected should expose a well-known Liberal deception (lie). Voters should know and resent this lie.<sup>2</sup>

Green solutions need to be credible and clear: Not wishy-washy. Not pipedreams. Backed by evidence that they work. Socially and fiscally realistic. Ideally, already proven successful somewhere in the world or at some time in the past.

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<sup>1</sup> It's a national security threat, a health threat, an economic threat, and an existential threat. It's non-partisan, of global scope, and a threat multiplier that worsens all other threats to humanity.

<sup>2</sup> To be considered for this list of issues, you need to be able to point to failures of the Liberals (and Conservatives and NDP), not just failures of society in general.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE** ([Green Climate Crisis Backgrounder](#) provides details on issues 1-4)

### 1. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction by 2030

**Liberals:** 40-45% (too little, too late; no clear plan)

**Greens:** >60% (the science shows we need this; [see Update to Mission Possible](#))

### 2. Climate Accountability

**Liberals:** Bill C-12 (delay, deflect, dodge experts, no accountability)

**Greens:** real accountability (set near-term targets, engage climate experts; [see UK act](#))

### 3. Fossil fuels

**Liberals:** support and subsidize (TMX, CCS, blue hydrogen, abandoned wells)

**Greens:** stop and redirect (stop TMX, rapidly reduce extraction, transition workers, shift to renewable energy; [see Update to Mission Possible](#))

### 4. Nuclear power

**Liberals:** promote new nuclear as a climate solution and subsidize it (NRCan website, Moltex)

**Greens:** stop and redirect (It's not clean, not green, not economic, not safe, and takes too long. Shift to cheaper, safer and currently available renewable energy technologies.)

## **TRADITIONAL CAMPAIGNS**

### 5. Economy

**Liberals:** end CERB etc. as soon as possible

**Greens:** Guaranteed Livable Income, affordable housing, end child poverty

### 6. Environment

**Liberals:** prioritize the economy, e.g., increase risks to Species at Risk such as orcas

**Greens:** prioritize the environment, since the economy and society depend on it being healthy

### 7. Health

**Liberals:** allow erosion of universal healthcare, offload costs to provinces, neglect the vulnerable

**Greens:** national Pharmacare, national Dentalcare for children, national seniors strategy

### 8. Education

**Liberals:** leave it to the provinces

**Greens:** reduce student debt burdens, reduce cost of higher education

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE and PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY**

### 9. Reconciliation with First Nations

**Liberals:** delayed action on residential schools, drinking water, healthcare, MMIWG; used the RCMP to suppress peaceful protests against resource exploitation

**Greens:** abolish the Indian Act, implement UNDRIP, acknowledge genocide and ongoing trauma

### 10. Proportional Representation

**Liberals:** lied about getting rid of First-Past-The-Post elections. (This was the fourth time!)

**Greens:** support & implement Proportional Representation, because every vote should count