

Mr. Scott Moe
Premier of Saskatchewan
Chair of the Council of the Federation
Council of the Federation Secretariat
Suite 630, 360 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 7X7



30 September, 2019

Dear Mr. Moe,

Thank you for writing. I appreciate the opportunity to share the Green Party's principles and policies. I hope that the responses, below, can provide a basis for a productive working relationship.

Question 1: Economic competitiveness

Trade is undoubtedly a core part of our economic strength. The Green Party will ensure responsible and sustainable trade as we work towards lowering our emissions. Greens will continue to fight for responsible trade agreements and to curb the expansion of foreign corporate power. We welcome the cooperation and wisdom of the provinces in trade negotiations, and we can leverage our collective knowledge and strength to work towards trade agreements that keep our economy strong. Indigenous nations are equally important to our economic competitiveness, which is why they too will have a seat at the table. Greens will establish a Council of Canadian Governments, providing a high-level forum for governments of all orders, and an opportunity for regular discussions of trade issues.

Infrastructure and the environment are critical to our economic plans. Facing the climate emergency is an excellent opportunity for us to rethink our priorities when it comes to infrastructure, and focus on climate-proofing critical infrastructure, building up sustainable transportation, and developing renewable energy systems in the form of an east-west electricity grid. Greens don't see environmental protection as a hindrance to investor certainty, but rather as a motivator to work with industry to pursue projects that help move us forward.

Our commitment to strengthening Canada's trade while meeting our climate goals will also include advocacy for a renewed World Trade and Climate Organization that addresses both issues. Furthermore, we will ban importation of foreign oil.



Question 2: Jobs and skills training

Given that the Green plan will involve major transitions in the economy, we are committed to a “just transition” of workers into new sectors. This process will include measures such as income protection, job guarantees, pension bridging, retraining, and resettlement, developed in partnership with workers and their unions.

We will fund income support measures, education, skills building and re-employment measures for workers affected by the shift to a Green economy. We will specifically invest in comprehensive retraining and apprenticeship programs for industrial trades workers, in particular to support their shift to jobs in renewable energy and green infrastructure. We will dedicate \$300 million dollars to a just transition to the Green economy.

Our overall strategy to support workers will also include critical investments in trades, apprenticeships and education for all, as well as community benefit strategies to leverage public procurement opportunities for social benefit, in particular for Indigenous communities and youth.

We are deeply committed to equality and justice for all workers and will ensure this through strengthening labour rights and pay equity and implementing a Guaranteed Liveable Income.

Question 3: Immigration

Canada needs more immigration. We will need to accept a larger number of refugees, as populations are displaced by the climate emergency. We will also need more workers than we have to fill the jobs created by the transition to a sustainable economy through our climate change plan.

Not only will a Green government expand immigration, we will make sure it is fair. Immigrant workers make only 63 cents on the dollar compared to Canadian-workers. Many families are stuck in limbo as they wait through unnecessarily long sponsorship procedures to bring loved ones to Canada. Others struggle to transfer their hard-earned skills to a Canadian context, where their credentials are not always recognized. We can do better.

Our plan to end the Temporary Foreign Workers Program is not intended to create barriers for businesses dependent on workers from other countries. Greens believe that if you are good enough to work in Canada, you are good enough to live here, with your family. The access to workers, especially for hard to fill employment in agriculture will be addressed through expedited residency for the workers who, quite often, return to Canada every year.

The Green Party will reform the processes that lead to these barriers for immigrants, and fund programs that will support newcomers’ transition to their new home, based on the diverse needs of particular provinces and territories.



Question 4: Healthcare sustainability and innovation

The federal government plays a crucial role in shaping healthcare policy. Clearly, our current healthcare policies aren't meeting Canadians' needs. Greens will restore the federal/provincial Health Accord, basing health transfers on demographics and real health care needs in each province, replacing the current formula based on GDP growth introduced by the Harper government and retained by the Liberals. We are committed to a full funding partnership in a renegotiated Health Accord, including the annual escalator of 5.2%.

In renewing the federal/provincial healthcare accord, the GPC will prioritize expansion of mental health and rehabilitation services, reduction in wait times, access to safe abortion services, and access to gender-affirming health services.

The Green Party supports universal pharmacare in the form of a publicly funded, single-payer model. We believe that a universal pharmacare program is urgently necessary and should be implemented as soon as possible. The GPC will further complement universal pharmacare by creating a bulk drug purchasing agency and shortening drug patent protection times. We will also maintain oral health by providing dental care to those who can't afford it.

Our healthcare plans will address the needs of Indigenous peoples, both through specific health initiatives and broader solutions to systemic problems affecting health. We will upgrade infrastructure to ensure safe drinking water for all, prioritize high-quality safe and affordable housing, and improve food security in remote and northern communities. In collaboration with First Ministers and Indigenous leaders, Greens will establish a long-term Indigenous health plan and consult on ways to incorporate traditional practices into health delivery.

Question 5: Climate change

Climate change is at the centre of our entire mission. The Green Party is committed to setting stringent new targets for emissions reductions to ensure we meet the Paris Agreement target of no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius of global average temperature increase. Our climate plan places Canada on something equivalent to a war footing to ensure the security of our economy, our children and their children. We have no other option. Their future is at stake.

A Green government will:

- Set stringent new targets on GHG reductions: 60 per cent GHG reductions against 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050;
- Establish an inner cabinet of all parties, the Climate Emergency Cabinet, to have parties work together to ensure that climate is no longer treated like a political football;
- Maintain revenue-neutral fee and dividend carbon pricing;
- Ban fracking;
- Green and modernize the grid by phasing out all fossil fuel power generation and building a national east-west electricity grid that will improve our capacity to transmit renewable energy from one province to another.



In the meantime, because the climate emergency is already upon us, we must take action to deal with the existing effects. Greens will invest in climate-proofing critical infrastructure, restoring carbon sinks and increasing preparedness and support for natural disaster relief at home and abroad.

We recognize provinces and territories and Indigenous peoples as critical partners in the fight against climate change. We cannot address the climate emergency without working together. Greens will work towards this goal with respect for the needs of people in different provinces.

Question 6: Strengthening Canada's position in the Arctic

The Canadian Arctic is a precious and important part of Canada, in particular to the Inuit and northern First Nations who have called it home since time immemorial. However, the region is experiencing profound change. The Green Party is committed to working with Northerners as the North realizes its true potential as a healthy and prosperous region within a strong and sovereign Canada. Greens recognize that our Arctic sovereignty is already established through the presence of Canadians in the North, including the continuous use and occupation of Arctic lands and waters by Indigenous peoples.

Decision making and action must build on the northern tradition of respect for the land and on the principles of responsible and sustainable development. We must also respect Land Claims Agreements. A Green government will work in close partnership with northern peoples, Indigenous nations, and territorial governments to establish a vision for how the Arctic will develop and how it will be protected. Through the Council of Canadian Governments (described below), these orders of government will all have a seat at the table on Arctic issues.

The Arctic will be a priority for a Green government due to the rapidly worsening effects of climate change on the North. Green Arctic policies will address issues of food security, local energy resources, housing, waste management and environmental protection, as guided by the needs of Northern people.

Question 7: Advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples

Canada has a profound legal obligation to reconcile and provide restitution for the colonial relations – marked by violent expropriation, displacement and forced assimilation – that have undermined the cultural, political and economic foundations of the Indigenous Peoples of this land. A Green government will support all Indigenous Peoples' efforts to emerge from the positions of disadvantage in which Canada has placed them, including support for cultural revitalization and healing. We believe that Canada cannot reach its full potential as a nation until the socio-economic gap between Indigenous Peoples and the rest of Canada is closed.

A Green government will respect Indigenous sovereignty over self-defined and self-governed lands and respect all rights that their title to land entails, including the right to stewardship. We support the full implementation of treaties and other self-government agreements between Canada and Indigenous governments. A Green government will uphold and fulfill Canada's responsibilities in all agreements with Indigenous Peoples.

Green Members of Parliament will re-introduce legislation to enshrine UNDRIP in Canadian law and implement the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

A Green government will welcome a genuine nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples in Canada that is truly grounded in the UNDRIP doctrine of free, prior and informed consent. We look forward to the continued opportunity to work with Indigenous nations across Turtle Island to develop policies that will meet the diverse needs of Indigenous populations across the country.

Question 8: Canadian Federalism

Canada's constitutional division of powers between federal and provincial levels of government, together with the constitutional protection of Indigenous treaty rights and our adoption of the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, both enable and constrain the federal government in setting national priorities. We need a mechanism that convenes all governments to discuss and decide upon issues of national importance.

A Green government will support the model of collaborative federalism, working with and ensuring fair treatment for provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous Peoples by establishing a Council of Canadian Governments to set higher order policy priorities, with the goal of policy coherence to optimize public spending. It would include the federal government, provincial/territorial governments, representatives of the local order of government with large city mayors and smaller and rural municipalities, and Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) governments.

This kind of collaborative forum will give the opportunity for frequent discussions on issues that matter to all orders of government, including a respect for division of powers, public accountability, and diversity.

I look forward to working with you in the coming years to move Canada forward together toward a prosperous and sustainable future for all.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth May, O.C.
Member of Parliament
Saanich—Gulf Islands
Leader of the Green Party of Canada

