

Foreign Policy Priorities

Canada's approach to foreign affairs is largely based on historic notions and norms of nation-to-nation relations. However, many 'foreign policy' issues now involve powerful non-state actors, including corporations, non-governmental organizations, and nationalist and liberation movements and militias. Globalization now means most nations are no longer (perhaps they never were) masters of their own fates.

As well, traditional allies such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union are no longer as reliable as allies as Canada may have thought they were. The evidence is clear in Canada's current relationship with China where beyond expressing concern, i.e. 'thoughts and prayers,' about China holding Canadians hostage little to nothing has been forthcoming from Canada's putative 'allies' in the way of support or pressure on China.

Canada needs a 21st-century foreign policy that takes into account and fosters mutually beneficial relationships with not only other nations but also non-state actors. To develop a 21st-century foreign policy, APPC (drawing on the example set by the Law Commission of Canada and its excellent report, *Voting Counts: Electoral Reform in Canada*) (10) would establish a national, independent commission.

The commissioners would include eminent persons from the diplomatic community and the non-governmental sector, including environmental and animal protection organizations, trade unions, social justice and human rights organizations, the academic community, and the corporate and financial sectors.

The commission's three-year brief would be to consult widely and make recommendations about how Canada can advance its interests while, at the same, globally 'fostering peace, stability, personal and economic freedom and security, and ecologically responsibility' and make further recommendations about how best to employ the incipient political power of non-state actors to achieve those objectives.

The commission's recommendations—based on evidence, expert advice, and best practices—would inform the APPC's policies.

Investing in Global Solutions

"Unite human, animal and environmental health to prevent the next pandemic" – UN Report

"The science is clear that if we keep exploiting wildlife and destroying our ecosystems, then we can expect to see a steady stream of these diseases jumping from animals to humans in the years ahead," – UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen. July 6th, 2020.

Our global solutions work involves prevention of the next pandemic. The UN and UNEP have identified how we treat animals and the environment is linked to diseases that move from animals to humans.

The UN estimates that approximately seventy-five percent of new diseases in humans come from other animals.[3] A number of zoonotic diseases have arisen in the past forty years including HIV-AIDS, Avian Flu, SARS, H1N1, Ebola among others. Prominent sources of zoonotic diseases are wildlife markets, the trade in exotic species, bush meat, and animal agriculture.

The Animal Protection Party of Canada calls on the federal and provincial governments to take immediate action to reduce the likelihood of future zoonotic epidemics and pandemics, while promoting the general health of humans, animals, and the environment.

APPC calls on municipal governments, agencies such as school boards, the military, prisons, the health care community, and private enterprise and investment to embrace the change and align their policies, regulations and laws to reflect the direction of federal and provincial initiatives.

The following regulatory and policy changes are proposed by the APPC:

- Recognition by Health Canada of animal agriculture and the consumption of meat and dairy as a “health emergency.”
 - o This should include specific public education on the connection between zoonotic diseases and animal agriculture.
 - o An urgent campaign by Health Canada to promote the Canada Food Guide and the health benefits of a plant-based diet.
- An urgent establishment of a “New Food Deal” by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada with animal producers across Canada to transition away from animal agriculture to plant-based agriculture to reduce the risk of the current health and economic crises we face. This policy is in solidarity with the call for a “Food Revolution” by world animal rights political parties.
 - o The “New Food Deal” would be an exchange of subsidies generally given to prop-up the animal-based agriculture sector during the economic downturn to instead be used for transitioning away from animal ag.
 - o Transitioning would include phase-outs, buy-outs and step-down timelines and assistance for farms transitioning from animal focused agriculture to alternative approaches.
 - o Money would be spent on infrastructure transition, education, retraining and research into development of plant-based sectors.
 - o Ensure fair and equitable income supplementation to farmers and farm staff during the transition by developing a roadmap for change.
 - o Establishment of federal subsidy programs that will support local, plant-based, food sovereignty initiatives.
 - o Create a mandate to phase out the animal agriculture sector by 2040, with a middle-term goal of a 70% reduction in animal beings raised and killed, including wildlife, by 2030.

o A commitment by all levels of government to making whole, plant-based foods more affordable and accessible to consumers.

· It must be recognized that the source of the pandemic, and of zoonotic diseases in general, is the systemic consumption, exploitation, and mistreatment of animals and their habitat. Without this recognition, we run the risk of merely taking reactive measures to address the symptoms of the pandemic and not its source. We therefore call on the government of Canada to take immediate action to identify, understand, and address the plight of animals in our country.

o The establishment by the Prime Minister of Canada, of a Minister for the Animals in cabinet to hold an inquiry into the plight of animals in Canada, their treatment in the agriculture sector, and dedicated to improving their status and treatment in Canadian society.

· Phasing out the import/export of exotic and domestic species for profit, research, captivity, or other exploitative purposes.

· A commitment to protecting 50% of Canada's natural spaces, waters, and shoreline from development, human interference, and destruction.

Supporting Civil Society – Electoral Reform:

Civil society is built on sound public policies which enhance both human well-being and that of the animals and plants with whom we share not only our country but also the planet.

Public policies are usually a matter of compromise, as there are always competing interests and values. Sound and fair public policies in democracies require the following:

1. elected officials taking into account the interests of all citizens, not just the politically or electorally influential or significant few,
2. evidence-based policy,
3. policies informed by expert and stakeholder advice and insights,
4. policies that adopt or build on, whenever advisable, 'best practices,' and
5. affording standing similar to that enjoyed by citizens to the environment, i.e. animals and plants.

Usually, in Canada, public policy is driven by short-term political expedience and political party self-interest. "Selling" public policies dependent on such perverse incentives are often based on fear-mongering, divisiveness, defamation, misinformation, and falsehoods. These 'evils' often make for "good" politics and fundraising, but poor public policy. Such governance is demonstrably incapable of addressing the pressing issues confronting us.

THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

APPC proposes that the current electoral system, “First Past the Post” (FpTP), be replaced by one that ensures both effective representation at the electoral district level and proportionality, i.e. representation in the House of Commons that accurately reflects the electoral choices of voters. FpTP fails both these criteria. For Canada, two proportional representation systems satisfy them: Single Transferable Vote (STV) and Mixed Member Proportional (MMP). A century of dozens of independent inquiries into Canada’s electoral system has recommended both systems. APPC prefers STV.

SPECIAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO REPRESENT THE ENVIRONMENT

The APPC would also take measures to ensure that enough seats in the House of Commons—sufficient to qualify for official party status—would be set aside for advocates for the environment. Animals and plants cannot vote but are directly affected by public policy to Canadians’ detriment or benefit and so need standing in the House of Commons and genuine influence over legislative decisions.

THE SENATE OF CANADA

The Senate can serve a useful function if Senators are chosen by an open, transparent, apolitical, wholly democratic process by citizens in each of the provinces. APPC proposes that a province’s Senators be selected by a Citizens Assembly. The assembly itself would be comprised of citizens randomly chosen, i.e. by lot, similar to the way juries are selected. The Citizens Assembly would consider potential Senators nominated by citizens at large or who applied for the position. The Citizens Assembly would recommend several candidates for the Governor General’s consideration upon the advice of the Prime Minister.

Alternatively, the Senate of Canada could be transformed into Citizens Assembly itself, whereby Senators are chosen by lot, as was done to determine the participants of the citizens assemblies that have studied and made recommendations on electoral reform in some provinces.

The APPC would support the abolishment of the Senate to be replaced by an elected Senate if the elections used a ranked ballot system and parties did not participate. Political parties have no place in the Senate of Canada, just as they have no place on the Supreme Court of Canada.

POLITICAL PARTY FINANCING

How political parties and candidates raise funds affects policy. When parties are funded by large donations from individuals, corporations, or organizations these entities can have (and expect to have) undue influence on politicians’ policy choices. Conversely, parties can use policy promises or threats to ‘shake down’ major donors. The recognition of these problems has resulted in many legislatures limiting donations to individuals and limiting the amounts they can contribute. This, however, is not without issues. The most extreme partisans are those who tend to contribute to parties. They create financial incentives for parties to adopt or skew policy to appeal to these extreme partisans, sometimes resulting in extremist and distorted policies that disadvantage or harm others.

The APPC proposes barring political parties from direct fundraising, and that parties be financed by an income tax check off. Ten dollars from everyone’s payable taxes would be allocated to the registered

political parties of their choice. Those with no payable tax would qualify for a ten-dollar credit which they could allocate. If a voter chose not to allocate the ten dollars, it would be shared equally by all registered parties. The current public funding benefits enjoyed by political parties would be eliminated: the tax credit for donations and the partial reimbursement of campaign expenses. Independent candidates would raise money as usual with appropriate limits.

This approach to political financing would:

- eliminate most of the incentives in the current fundraising regime that invite distorting public policy to improve fundraising,
- provide more net funds to political parties, and
- cost taxpayers less money than the current system.

Human Rights, Trade and Business – A Different Approach to the Economy

AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

In its January 2017 global risk report, the World Economic Forum identified economic inequality and societal polarization as two of the three most important dangers facing the globe. The world's top business executives and government leaders joined a growing chorus of international development officials, economists, and policy advocates calling for countries to pursue more inclusive economic development strategies.

Creating More Inclusive Economies: Conceptual, Measurement, and Process Dimension (1)
Chris Benner, et al, March 2018

Canadian governments are currently applying economic policies that are grounded in environmentally destructive, faith-based economic principles about free markets, global trade, low taxes, minimum wages, the middle class, equal opportunity, and the myth of never-ending growth. This dogmatic list of platitudes and generalities is long, short on meaning, and not as beneficial to people as their governments would like them to believe. The notable exceptions are the most economically advantaged and the political actors who use these articles of faith to their electoral benefit and to avoid necessary political and structural reforms that would benefit everyone.

Developing an economic policy that benefits most Canadians and does not, to their detriment, unduly favour the most privileged requires, first, deciding what outcomes a political party wants from the economy for citizens. It's those outcomes that citizens should consider; that's what affects them directly.

PARTICIPATION, EQUITY, STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

In 2016, the Rockefeller Foundation published, *The Five Characteristics of an Inclusive Economy: Getting Beyond the Equity Growth Dichotomy*. In keeping with the Animal Protection Party of Canada's (APPC) recognition of the importance of 'best practices,' the Rockefeller Foundation publication is a useful starting point for developing economic policies, consistent with APPC values.

From the paper, but edited for brevity, “the five characteristics of an inclusive economy are defined by the Foundation as the following:”

1. Participation: People are able to participate fully in economic life and have greater say over their future...
2. Equity: More opportunities are available to enable upward mobility for more people...
3. Growth: An economy is increasingly producing enough goods and services to enable broad gains in well-being and greater opportunity...
4. Stability: Individuals, communities, businesses, and governments have a sufficient degree of confidence in their future and an increased ability to predict the outcome of their economic decisions...
5. Sustainability: Economic and social wealth is sustained over time, thus maintaining inter-generational well-being. Economic and social wealth is the social worth of the entire set of assets that contribute to human well-being, including human...and natural capital. In the case of natural capital, human use must preserve or restore nature’s ability to produce the ecosystem of goods and services that contribute to human well-being...

These are desirable characteristics, except one. The exception is “Growth.” We do need an economy that is “producing enough goods and services to enable broad gains in well-being and greater opportunity,” but “Growth,” as it is currently understood, is not the right means to achieve it.

“Sustainability” and economic growth are antithetical. Growth (again as it’s commonly understood) will inevitably destroy the economy upon which we rely because it is devastating the environment which is the foundation of every economy. Most political parties have faith in “Growth” to deliver the other four characteristics of an inclusive economy. This faith is a mistake for which we—and the animals and plants with which we share this planet—are paying a very high price.

The best scientific evidence available informs us that our current type of economy is exceeding the “natural capital” that’s available, and rapidly depleting it. Not only must we not grow today’s economy but we must also contract and transform it.

“Natural capital,” let us never forget is the millions of interdependent species of non-human life that have the same intrinsic right to life that we enjoy, and upon whom we depend for our existence.

A “STEADY-STATE” ECONOMY

To have any hope of realizing an inclusive economy, the way forward is what economists call a “steady-state economy.” What is a steady-state economy? It is an economy that,

“aims for stable or mildly fluctuating levels in population and consumption of energy and materials. Birth rates equal death rates, and production rates equal depreciation rates.”

“Sustainability is achieved when the human economy fits within the capacity provided by Earth’s ecosystems. Economic activity degrades ecosystems, interfering with natural processes that are critical

to various life support services. In the past, the amount of economic activity was small enough that the degree of interference with ecosystems was negligible [in the absence of technology]. (2)

The current economic system, based largely on advertising-driven consumer consumption(3) and planned obsolescence, (4) has not alleviated poverty as is claimed, (5) and is exacerbating the wealth and wage gap between the rich and the rest of humanity. The widening gap is also undermining democratic rights, as the wealthy—individual and institutional—have inordinate political power which they wield to serve their own interests.(6) Integral to a steady-state economy and an inclusive economy is an equitable distribution of wealth, all within local and global ecological limits, and equitable distribution of political power.

Doughnut Economics author Kate Raworth points out that current economics has resulted in deepening inequality in many countries and is pushing the world towards ecological collapse.

“Humanity’s 21st century challenge is to meet the needs of all within the means of the planet. In other words, to ensure that no one falls short on life’s essentials...while ensuring that collectively we do not overshoot our pressure on Earth’s life-supporting systems, on which we fundamentally depend.”(7)

Identifying the problems and deficiencies with the current economic system and proposing an economic system that would address them is very straightforward, entailing little more than researching current studies and analyses. The political challenge is transitioning from the current system to one that is inclusive and, in particular, sustainable without creating extreme, short-term disruptions to people’s livelihoods and well-being that, for some, would cause more harm than good. The prevailing economic model with its enormously destructive and blithely accepted “business cycle”(8) offers regular tragic examples of how harmful to people’s lives extreme disruptions can be. Every effort must be made to avoid them when transitioning to a steady-state economy, and where disruptions do occur, implement government programs to support people as they go through them.

ROADMAP TO A STEADY-STATE ECONOMY

First steps towards a steady-state or “doughnut” economics might include, but would not be limited to, the following:

- increasing taxes on the wealthiest,
- phasing in basic income programs,
- expanding protections for workers in the private sector,
- providing low-cost government financing for smaller businesses and co-operatives,
- establishing a ‘sovereign’ fund that invests in shares of major Canadian corporations,
- eliminating tuition and other costs for post-secondary education,
- establishing a government-owned retail banking corporation,

- enhancing the Canada Pension Plan, funded with royalties from non-renewable resource development,
- creating a consumption tax regime that takes into account a good's effects on sustainability,
- phasing out subsidies on economic activity that impedes sustainability, such as those supporting oil and gas development,
- developing a world-leading, globally competitive "Canada Quality" standard of excellence that would encourage Canadian industry and artisans to develop consumer products that put quality, leading artistry and design, finest materials, long life, repairability, 'best practices' labour standards, and environmental sustainability ahead of planned obsolescence and low cost, and
- promoting the voluntary choice of smaller family sizes with the benefit of more societal resources available to focus on fewer children, and reducing demand for the earth's limited resources.

Transitioning to a steady-state economy would be a long-term process, much like transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy or, in the past, the Industrial Revolution.

Climate Action

Environmental protection, restoration, recovery, and enhancement are critical and multi-faceted challenges. But, the most pressing issue today is climate breakdown. It is a slow moving, life and death catastrophe that is already harming us and every living being in the biosphere. We, and especially our politicians, must confront it with all the urgency necessary to overcome it. We caused it; we need to fix it. Nothing less will do than adopting a climate breakdown emergency plan. Politicians are unable or unwilling to appreciate the immediate threat and the real and direct dangers that the climate emergency poses to all Canadians.

CANADA CAN AND MUST LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Canada and Canadians are among the world's worst per-capita CO₂ emitters. Our .049% of the world's population is responsible for 1.6% of global GHG emissions. Canada cannot solve climate breakdown on its own. It's a global plague. What Canada and Canadians can do, however—and must do—is lead by example.

Canadian a Changing Climate,[2]a report by Environment and Climate Change Canada exposes the reality of global warming in Canada. Findings include:

- Increased temperatures: Temperature has increased in all regions of Canada and in the surrounding oceans. Since 1948, when nation-wide records became available, Canada's annual average temperature over land has warmed by a best estimate of 1.7°C, with higher temperature increases observed in the North, the Prairies, and northern British Columbia. Annual average temperature over northern Canada increased by 2.3°C since 1948. The greatest warming has occurred in winter.

- **Weather extremes:** In the future, a warmer climate will intensify some weather extremes. Extreme hot temperatures will become more frequent and more intense. This will increase the severity of heatwaves, and contribute to increased drought and wildfire risks. While inland flooding results from multiple factors, more intense rainfalls will increase urban flood risks. It is uncertain how warmer temperatures and smaller snowpacks will combine to affect the frequency and magnitude of snowmelt-related flooding.
- **Water availability:** The seasonal availability of freshwater is changing, with an increased risk of water supply shortages in summer. Warmer winters and earlier snowmelt will combine to produce higher winter flows in streams and rivers, while smaller snowpacks and loss of glacier ice this century will combine to produce lower summer flows. Warmer summers will increase evaporation of surface water and contribute to reduced summer water availability in the future despite more precipitation in some places.
- **Widespread effects:** The effects of widespread warming are evident in many parts of Canada and are projected to intensify in the future. The rate and magnitude of climate change under high-versus low-emission scenarios project two very different futures for Canada. Scenarios with large and rapid warming illustrate the profound effects on Canadian climate of continued growth in greenhouse gas emissions. Scenarios with limited warming will only occur if Canada and the rest of the world reduce carbon emissions to near zero early in the second half of the century and reduce emissions of other greenhouse gases substantially.

Canada has everything necessary to take on the challenge of reducing carbon emissions. As one of the world's wealthiest nations, it has all necessary fiscal and human resources and expertise. Few nations are better positioned to set an example and implement and showcase the many ways forward.

Why is Canada so uniquely positioned to lead on the climate breakdown issue? Canada is one of the world's worst climate breakdown offenders. It is one of the world's worst wasters of energy, and it is an irresponsible petro-state that puts revenue from its petroleum sector above all other considerations. It also has large animal agri-businesses, and according to the United Nations, industrial animal agriculture is one of the most significant contributor to climate change and global warming.

If Canada can make the necessary reforms to successfully defeat climate breakdown, it shows other countries they can, too. Canada can prove that a people can reform their nation and economy to function successfully without dependence on fossil fuels as a source of energy or economic activity and get as close to zero GHG emissions as is technically possible.

Canada can—and must—lead by example. That this would also reform Canada's economy to the betterment of its citizens is welcome, but it is incidental to the real task at hand: saving our lives and civilization.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

In the immediate term, the Animal Protection Party of Canada proposes:

- implementing an aggressive carbon pricing mechanism that would encourage rapid adoption of conservation measures,

- removing all tax incentives and subsidies from animal agriculture, assisting farms to transition from animal agriculture to a plant-based economy[3] and to biocyclic vegan agriculture,[4]
- imposing tariffs on goods from nations that do not have carbon pricing measures as aggressive as Canada's,
- large subsidies for the adoption and development of alternative energy sources implemented through collaboration with local communities.
- end subsidies to the oil and gas sectors, and
- halt the expansion and construction of new pipelines.

Where the private sector is unable or unwilling to develop and implement alternative energy sources, the public sector would take on the task. Given the urgency of the climate breakdown issue, further development of the Alberta oil sands would be halted, current projects wound down, and land reclaimed.

Climate change is not the only environmental issue that threatens Canadians' health and well-being, but it is the most urgent. APPC would strengthen Environment and Climate Change Canada—financially and legislatively—and charge it with accelerating in-depth reviews of all outstanding environmental issues and developing programs to rapidly and effectively address them based on best available science and best practices.

When imposing a carbon tax, governments have often emphasized non-agricultural commodities such as gasoline, although animal products have not been commonly discussed. We propose that taxing animal products would be an effective policy, as well as imposing price subsidies on plant-based products when necessary. This is supported through empirical data, as a number of studies have demonstrated that taxes on unhealthy products in conjunction with pricing subsidies for healthy products can be effective in changing consumer behaviour^{5,6,7}. Therefore, a tax on animal products may incentivize consumers to shift to plant-based diets, while subsidies, such as discounts and vouchers, can be provided for individuals of lower SES in order to counter the tax burden. This approach could help change population habits from the bottom-up, and thus promote a more plant-based culture. This would be a win-win for both the environment and population health.

With a shift in consumer behaviour comes a shift in the agricultural industry. We recognize that this could pose a challenge for industry workers, and thus we will ensure adequate financial support for affected farmers, similar to how Ontario tobacco farmers were provided support for the declining tobacco industry^{8,9}. Ultimately, a greener economy can be better achieved with a greater emphasis on plant-based agriculture.

Subsidies

The Canadian government has provided significant subsidies to a number of environmentally damaging sectors, such as animal agriculture and oil and gas. Consequently, APPC's platform calls for major subsidy reforms through investment in renewable energy sources and plant-based agriculture.

Below are some details on recent federal subsidies:

- \$1.9 billion to dairy, beef, pork and poultry industries in 2019 (10)
- \$1.75 billion in compensation for dairy farmers announced in 2019, with a plan to finish delivering the payments in the next 3 years (11)
- \$691 million to poultry and egg farmers for 10-year programs (11)
- \$125 million to AgriRecovery program for COVID-19, with a specific emphasis on beef and pork producers (12)
- Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) has recently provided funding to various oil and gas projects, despite eliminating “Unconventional Oil and Gas” as a funding priority (13, 14)
- A number of carbon pricing exemptions, such as methane leaks from oil and gas facilities, despite causing 44% of national methane emissions (13, 15)

On top of this, according to Canada’s Energy Future 2019, it is projected that there will be “a 50% increase in crude oil production and a 30% increase in natural gas production domestically by 2040” (13,16), further emphasizing a reason for concern with respect to current subsidy trends. Lastly, Canada is not on track to meet its 2030 emissions targets based on the Paris agreement, demonstrating insufficient environmental policy (13, 17, 18).

Despite these environmentally damaging subsidies, there have been reasons for encouragement. For example, the federal government has demonstrated interest in plant-based agriculture, as seen by a recent \$100 million investment in Merit Functional Foods, a plant-based company (19). APPC intends to continue promoting this trend while the demand for environmentally friendly products is ever-increasing.

Evidently, the funds are available to make significant changes and vastly reduce our environmental footprint. An economic shift does not happen overnight, and thus impacted workers will be provided adequate funding throughout our shift to a greener economy. It ultimately comes down to whether we are willing to invest in our future, or maintain the status-quo and cause irreparable damage to our environment.