



Climate Emergency Questions for Federal Election Candidates

We encourage you to send these questions to the candidates in your riding via email. Start with a quick introduction of yourself and why you care about this issue. You can share what you heard from them with your community and, if you'd like, with the team at the Climate Emergency Unit (CEU). You can also use these questions for local candidates debates or as a basis for a letter to the editor.

QUESTION 1

Background: Emergency mobilizations require social cohesion, but inequality undermines such collaboration. The COVID-19 pandemic has further lifted the veil on the inequities in our society.

Question: How do you propose to tackle the climate crisis and these inequities at the same time? One required element of doing so is referred to as Just Transition – what is the role of the federal government in ensuring no one is left behind in the grand decarbonization transition before us?

QUESTION 2

Background: The path forward has to be one of true cooperation and partnership, and one that honours and respects Indigenous title and rights. We need a path forward that seeks to make right the injustices of the past and fundamentally breaks with the colonial practices that have marked so much of our politics and economic development for centuries.

Question: What are you hearing from Indigenous communities about the climate crisis? How can you and the federal government walk a path forward on climate that respects and honours Indigenous title and rights?

QUESTION 3

Background: During the COVID-19 pandemic, our governments committed to spending what it takes to ensure the safety of our citizens. According to climate and economy experts, we need to spend 2% of our GDP on climate action and green infrastructure and another 2% on just transition and social infrastructure to ensure no one is left behind. That would be about \$80 billion annually.

Question: Given the urgency of the climate emergency, are you prepared to spend what it takes to contribute to the global effort to avoid the worst of the climate crisis?



QUESTION 4

Background: During World War Two, in order to meet the military production and social needs of its population, Canada created 28 new crown corporations. Within two years, Canada increased manufacturing of aircraft 25 fold. Before the war, shipbuilders numbered only 2000, at the end of the war, there were 30,000 shipbuilders.

Question: Given the scaling up that is necessary to combat the climate crisis, how can the federal government create new institutions to get the job done, or leverage existing institutions?

QUESTION 5

Background: The pandemic has seen our governments issue health orders and take strong actions to shut down non-essential parts of the economy when needed. When it comes to the climate emergency, however, actions taken to date have been almost entirely voluntary. We encourage change. We incentivize change. We offer rebates. We send price signals. But what we have decidedly not done is require change. We need to set clear, near-term dates by which certain things will be required. For example, we should mandate that all new buildings will not be permitted to use natural gas or other fossil fuels for heating as of 2023.

Question: Are you prepared to switch from incentive-based and voluntary policies to mandatory measures to combat the climate crisis? What would those mandatory measures be?

QUESTION 6

Background: The leaders we remember best from the Second World War were outstanding communicators and orators who walked a careful line. They were forthright about the gravity of the crisis, yet still managed to impart hope. Similarly, that's how our present governments have modelled emergency communication throughout the pandemic. We receive daily press briefings. We hear regularly from public health officials. The media has taken seriously its duty to provide the necessary information on a daily basis. Government leaders and the media have listened to science and health experts, and have acted accordingly.

Question: Are you prepared to implement emergency-level communications about the climate emergency? What does that look like for you?