

Backgrounder: Questions Asked of Each Leader

1. There's a consensus among experts that putting a price on greenhouse gas pollution is a key element of any credible climate plan for Canada, and we have recommended a price level of at least \$30 per tonne in 2009. At the same time, countries are heading into the second half of crucial negotiations on the next global climate deal, which is scheduled to wrap up in December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

How will you ensure that Canada has an adequate price on pollution in effect by December 2009?

2. Few places in the world can still boast the kinds of wild spaces — and wild species — that can be found from coast to coast to coast in Canada. But in the face of rapidly accelerating climate change and pressure to expand resource development, we need to move fast to secure this natural legacy.

Will your government, in partnership with the provinces and other stakeholders, seize the opportunity to implement a “conservation first” planning framework for our lands and waters that will protect at least half of Canada’s intact wild areas and all our species at risk?

3. As we mentioned earlier, countries are now heading into the final stretch of crucial negotiations on the next global climate deal. Two important issues at those negotiations will be funding for developing countries, to help them deal with the impacts of climate change, and national targets that are consistent with climate science.

Please tell us what you would put on the international negotiating table as Prime Minister to make a positive contribution to the next phase of the Kyoto Protocol.

4. Evidence from across the country suggest that Canada will soon face a national water crisis. Climate change, burgeoning urban and industrial water use, and persistent pollution pose threats to water quality and quantity, and in turn to both human and ecosystem health. Water policy experts, scientists and concerned citizens are all calling for a national water strategy to address this looming crisis.

Do you and your party agree that Canada needs a national water strategy and support efforts by provinces and other stakeholders to manage water resources sustainably? What issues or regions should be priorities in addressing Canada's water concerns and how will your party take action in addressing these priorities?

5. Emerging renewable energy technologies like wind and solar energy can help address climate change and represent a new industrial economic opportunity for Canada. The federal government's only major support mechanism for renewable electricity, the ecoENERGY for Renewable Power program, will run out of funds next year. Stable

policies have been a key part of creating steady growth renewable energy in many European countries.

First, will you commit to renewing and expanding this support program in or before Budget 2009 — yes or no? And second, does your party have specific targets for renewable electricity in Canada in the medium term (2015–2020), including set-asides for northern and remote communities?

6. In one way or another, each of you have acknowledged that climate change is one of the most urgent threats facing humanity.

To help our viewers gauge your personal interest in this issue, please tell us about how you personally came to understand the seriousness and urgency of global warming.