

Sustainability and resilience

Question: What is your strategy to address climate change and holistic health through Government of Canada buildings and projects? How would you harness the capacity of Canadian architects and others working in design, construction, and procurement of the built environment (public and private sectors) to address climate change?

Greens believe in the need for bold and urgent climate action. Indeed, this is at the core of our entire mission. We have a comprehensive climate action plan, Mission: Possible, that will make Canada a global leader in addressing the climate emergency and making our country more liveable.

Buildings are major producers of carbon, and there is opportunity for improvements that will make our built environment more energy efficient. A Green government will:

- Launch a massive energy efficiency retrofit of residential, commercial and institutional buildings. To make a renewable energy transition possible, we have to eliminate energy waste. According to trade union research, this will create over four million jobs.
- Finance building retrofits and installation of renewable energy technologies such as solar and heat pumps through direct grants, zero-interest loans and repayments based on energy/cost savings.
- Change the national building code to require new construction to meet net-zero emission standards by 2030 and work with the provinces to enact it.

The federal government should also apply stringent greenhouse gas reduction goals to all its own operations. All new federal government buildings must meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) standards. Federally-owned buildings must adhere to LEED® Gold; leased buildings LEED® Silver standards. Standards should be continuously upgraded.

National Architecture Policy

Question: Do you support a national architecture policy, and how would your party work with professionals and industry leaders to improve the quality of Canada's buildings, infrastructure, and cities?

Canada's architecture is more than just practical infrastructure; it is an expression of our national identity to the world. Each new building presents an opportunity to bring communities together, foster economic growth, promote sustainability, boost tourism, encourage cultural engagement, and make our communities more livable. They are also a chance to engage with Canadian architects and designers and support a valuable, home-grown industry that is the envy of the world.

The Green Party supports the creation of a national architecture policy, in collaboration with civil society organizations and experts, to best promote Canadian architecture.

First Nations

Question: What is your plan for improving living conditions for Indigenous people, and how would you give agency to Indigenous groups and indigenous architects over their communities?

Canada's most pressing challenge is to address the profound inequality between many Indigenous communities and the rest of the country, and the Green Party is committed to closing this gap. We will change the way decisions are made in Canada through the creation of a Council of Canadian Governments that will fully engage on a nation-to-nation basis with First Nations, Métis and Inuit. With representation from federal, provincial, territorial, municipal and Indigenous governments, the Council will develop shared national goals - poverty reduction, restoring health care, solving the climate crisis, etc - and collaborate on collective solutions that leverage each jurisdiction's own policy tools.

The Green Party will implement all the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that are within federal jurisdiction. These recommendations serve as the means to work with Aboriginal communities to begin to overcome the historical and ongoing injustices of brutal colonialism and cultural genocide. Greens will swiftly implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. We will remove remove the 2% cap on funding for Aboriginal education.



All peoples of Canada - First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and otherwise - deserve access to high-quality, sustainable infrastructure that supports healthy, safe, and livable communities.

Through increased investment in the arts and in preserving Canada's built heritage, we will support Indigenous architects and designers.

Better procurement = better value for Canadians

Question: How would your party fix procurement to develop Canadian expertise for a sustainable and prosperous future?

The federal government is the largest customer for a wide range of goods and services in Canada. Our government should ensure it gets the best value for every dollar spent, but that means considering criteria that are essential to developing a just and sustainable society.

The Green Party believes that the federal government should set an example in its purchasing policies, ensuring that its expenditures support a strong Canadian economy, good labour practices, and environmental protection.

Green Party MPs will:

- Require that government purchase Canadian-made products and services wherever possible and, if imports are necessary, procure certified fair-trade goods (produced with responsible labour and environmental practices) wherever possible;
- Require that all government departments and agencies incorporate a 'triple bottom line' (social, economic, and environmental cost/benefit) analysis in purchasing goods and services and assessing their operations and programs;
- Require that all government departments and agencies meet the highest environmental standards including full recycling, purchase and use of small energy-efficient vehicles, and energy-efficient and toxic-free buildings with toxic-free grounds maintenance;
- Ensure transparency in purchasing decisions by making that information available for public oversight.

Greens see public procurement as an opportunity for government agencies to advance sustainable development through the government's purchasing power. This is in line with our overall goals, which include massive investments in building retrofits, building an east-west electricity grid, and commitments to infrastructure building to create jobs and combat climate change.