

## **JUST GREEN WELLBEING**

### **A VISION FOR A DIFFERENT FUTURE**

This document is a manifesto for change. It contains the platform documents developed by the Platform Committee for Dimitri Lascaris' 2020 campaign for leadership of Canada's Green Party, a campaign that elicited such enthusiastic support from such a broad left in Canada that it inspired us to launch Green Left/Gauche verte. We take these documents as the starting point for developing our a vision for an ecosocialist, just, and antiwar alternative for Canada in the 21st Century.

We sum up our vision simply as Just, Green Wellbeing for Canada and the world. For Canada, it envisages a green, high wage, high skill economy, socially just economy that recognises Indigenous sovereignty and eliminates massive wealth differences in place of today's destructive, extractive, belligerent juggernaut. We envisage societies that care for their people, the earth and the world.

Canadians have become increasingly and uneasily aware of just how badly our economy, society, political system and culture have suffered since the neoliberal turn some forty years ago. The pandemic, an iconic outcome both of our burgeoning environmental failures and a social system that has ceased being able to care for its people, has thrown a harsh light on the accumulated failures of Canada's government and policies.

It is waking Canadians up to the realization that we cannot sit idle while catastrophes wash over us. We cannot just leave everything to the market, nor place it at the mercy of corporate greed. That has created the unacceptable levels of inequality, discrimination and injustice that riddle our society today

We cannot go back to 'normal'. Normal is what produced the present catastrophe. It was already not working at all for too many - working people, Indigenous people and peoples, minorities, women - and working well only for a tiny elite. Now, it is failing everyone. In short, we cannot go on as before. A radical new policy orientation is called for.

We were already not producing enough of the right things and producing too much of the wrong. The recent scramble for medical supplies has exposed Canada's neglect of the deep infrastructure its health and care system needs. This neglect went hand in hand with economic and environmental disasters of the get-rich-quick oil boom that benefitted few, trampled on Indigenous people's lives and is now locked in a downward spiral of job losses provoked by the uncontrollable collapse of demand and the failure to turn to new, green technologies.

Abroad, Canada's reputation has been dragged through mud as our government masquerade as the US State Department's attack dog. It claims to speak for 'human rights' and the 'rule of law' whilst selling arms to Saudi Arabia. It is spearheading coercive sanctions and regime change. All the while, it hypocritically turns a systematic blind eye to the racism and injustice of our own society in its treatment of Indigenous peoples, Black people, women, LGBTQ people, and people with disabilities.

Canada's labour relations and laws continue to lag behind the standards required by elementary needs of working families, as have the appallingly low levels of the minimum wage and the lack of any provision for income guarantees.

This document is the fruit of a remarkable team effort drawing on input from activists, professionals, experts, from the climate activists, Indigenous scholars and leaders, the unions, and campaigners for justice and equality. It therefore represents a major step forward in Canadian politics. It lays the groundwork for a manifesto for change and an answer to a crisis we ourselves have created and we ourselves must solve.

This is just a beginning. We invite the Canadian people to join in the widest possible debate around this handbook, and build the broadest possible movement to change Canada and the World, to end injustice and inequality and to end the ecological emergency.