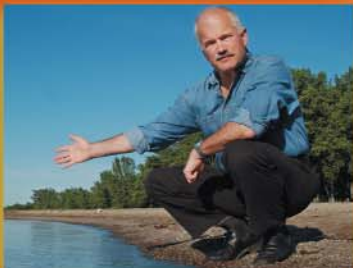
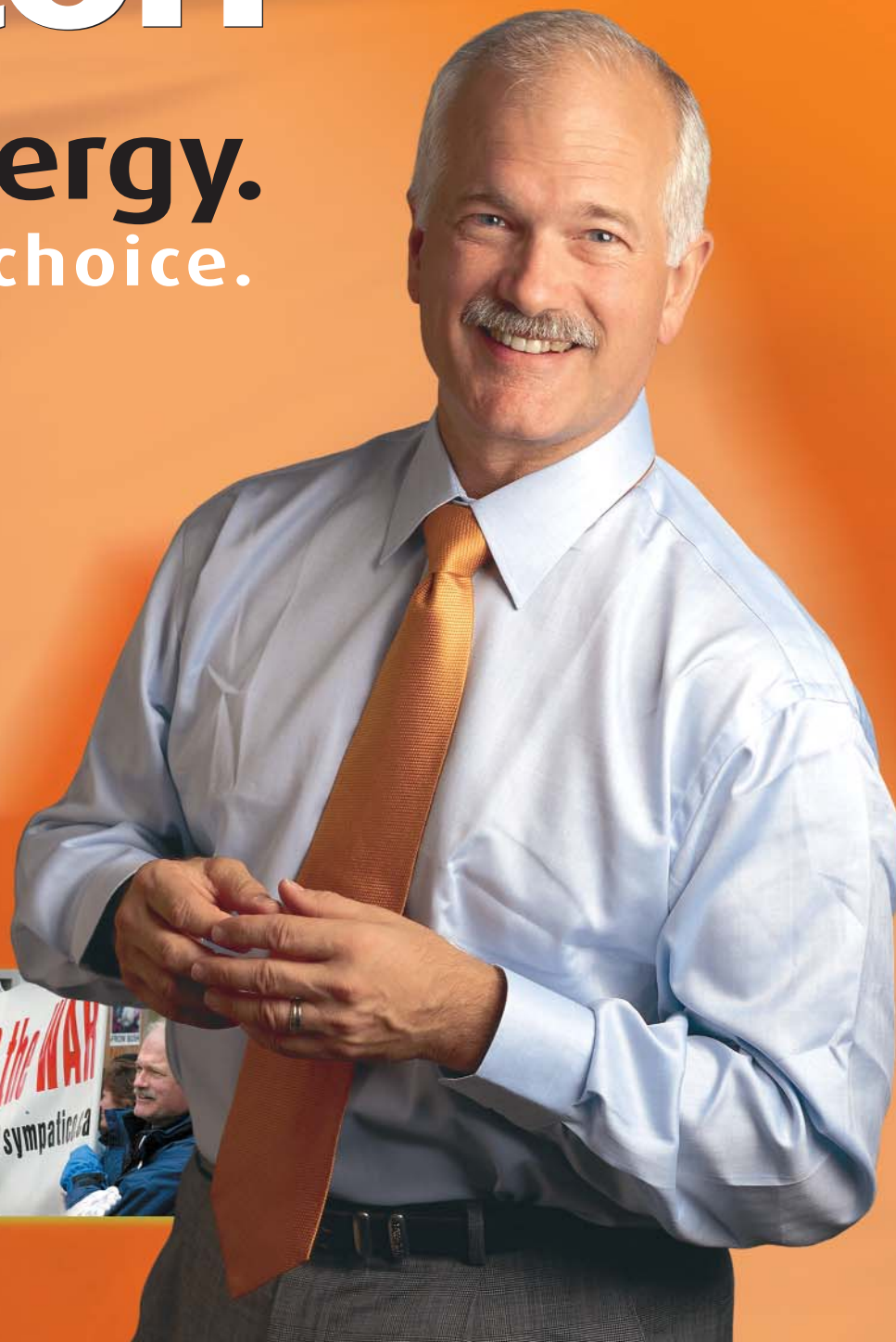


Jack Layton

New energy.
A positive choice.

Platform 2004
Environment





Building The Planet We Want

Canadians stand on the brink of a transformational choice. Either we embrace the world's green energy revolution and maintain our status as an energy exporter or we cling to old rhetoric about jobs versus the environment and import this century's energy from somewhere else. We need an ambitious plan to clean our air and water and protect the environment and human health from toxic chemicals, transforming Canada into a sustainable, clean economy for the 21st century.

Canadians are intelligent. We treasure our country's great wilderness, its forests, rivers and lakes. However, we know our fresh waters are becoming more polluted and less habitable for fish. We experience increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather. The glaciers are melting and with them the water source for Prairie rivers. Smog is getting worse across southern British Columbia and along the swath from Windsor through to the Atlantic provinces. The Arctic ice cap is melting, and we are concerned about toxins in our air and water.

Jack Layton and Canada's NDP know Canadians are ready for change, to address the growing environmental deficit our country and our world faces. We are ready to reassert ourselves on the world stage as a voice for good and to clean up our own back yard for ourselves, our children and for future generations. It's time to be bold about building the planet we want.



Building the foundation for a green, clean energy future

The world's oil and coal resources cannot last forever. Do we begin weaning ourselves from our almost complete dependence on fossil fuels and nuclear power in a thoughtful way that respects the communities, workers and businesses affected? Or, do we do nothing and get hit with overnight change that will have drastic effects? Add to this the impact of smog on Canadians' health and air and the dangers of nuclear power, which are too compelling to be ignored. We need a plan now for clean air and green energy.

Around the world, many governments and businesses choose to manage change, evolving to a sustainable future to protect prosperity. Canada must do likewise. It's time for a bold plan based on Kyoto's targets and time frames, using Kyoto as a trigger for transformation and recognizing that, as with calculators and computers, the more new technology is used and sold, the cheaper it becomes.

We need to take the initiative today to make sure we have a green, clean and prosperous tomorrow.



Jack Layton and Canada's NDP will kick start the clean air revolution by:

- Leveraging the federal government's remaining 18 per cent stake in PetroCanada with a new Crown corporation focusing on conservation and renewable energy and committing Canada to creating jobs through green energy self-sufficiency.
- Putting Canada on track to be a global leader in new environmental technology by using the new Crown corporation to establish innovation centres in solar, tidal, wind and geothermal power across Canada, located near fossil fuel centres to ease in the economic transition to a sustainable economy, and by providing tax incentives for renewable energy businesses to locate in those areas.
- Imposing hefty fines for polluters that match the clean-up costs (the polluter-pay principle).
- Using the new Crown corporation to invest in under-used industrial capacity to re-tool machines and create jobs by building wind turbines in Canada and using a new national infrastructure program to foster markets for wind energy.
- Fully phasing in over four years a tax shifting regime to transform incentive, subsidy and investment programs to focus upon green and co-generated energy, including wind power, solar energy, tidal power, biofuels, and energy efficiency as well as transitional technologies such as combined heat-and-power and community energy systems, rather than those that contribute to climate change such as fossil fuels or that produce toxic residue such as nuclear power. Implementation will be sensitive to and include negotiated adjustments for regional economic impacts, maturity of sectors and establishment of compensating strategies.
- Taking responsibility to fairly negotiate, promulgate and implement the regulations in respect of Crown Share Adjustment Payments (CSAP) for Nova Scotia to ensure that Nova Scotia receives its fair share of resource revenues which has been provided for and established in Federal Legislation.
- Making the necessary changes to ensure the spirit of the Atlantic Accord is achieved in practice and the people of Newfoundland and Labrador are treated fairly.
- Working with Saskatchewan to ensure it is treated on an equitable basis with Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador with respect to energy revenues and equalization.
- Establishing a just transition fund for energy workers and the communities in which they live and providing assistance to coal-dependent provinces to close coal plants.
- Assisting provinces to shift from coal-powered plants through a National Power Strategy that meets Canadian needs in a sustainable manner, providing a means to export cleaner hydro power from Quebec and Manitoba to coal- and nuclear-dependent provinces.

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- Developing a transition fuel strategy that maintains an adequate domestic supply of natural gas to replace oil and coal by directing the National Energy Board to ensure Canadian energy needs are met before allowing unlimited natural gas exports to the United States.
- Creating the Canadian Climate Exchange, using market economics to generate revenue for green energy and sustainable development by auctioning off emission credits to corporations, with a steady decline of available credits over time. As the price for pollution credits rises, the financial incentive for corporations to pollute will decline, with the auction proceeds funding Canada's green energy transformation.
- Supporting family farms by expanding incentives for ethanol as a transitional fuel and supplementing farm incomes by importing innovative ideas from states like Iowa, which rents strips of land from farmers for wind turbines.
- Helping northern and remote communities avoid expensive diesel by using Canadian technology and importing innovative ideas from Alaska, which replaces high-cost generators with wind turbines.
- Maintaining the moratorium on oil and gas exploration off the Pacific coast and in the Great Lakes.
- Working to establish a university degree program in green technology to support the education of Canadians to work in this emerging industry.
- Establishing a national building energy-efficient retrofit program to reduce demand for electricity, with funds coming from and profits going to the CPP and by using tax incentives to create housing in city centres to fight the effects of urban sprawl.
- Establishing a commission to recommend innovative federal financial and taxation steps, like shifting current taxes to green taxes or environmental incentives in a revenue neutral framework.

Paul Martin and the Liberals have:

- Been consistently vague on Kyoto and made the environment ministry the target of some of the largest cuts to pay for tax reductions for oil and coal companies. In his corporate life, Martin's company was the Great Lakes' largest shipper of coal, which changes the climate and causes smog faster than any other fuel, and he plans on giving away emission credits to corporations for free.



Building green cars and promoting green transportation in Canada

It's time for practical solutions that challenge the myth that workers and environmentalists have opposite goals. In July 2003, Jack Layton joined with Greenpeace and the Canadian Auto Workers to unveil Canada's first green car industrial strategy – one that shows how we can use technology, regulation and the private sector to create jobs by building green cars.

Jack Layton and Canada's NDP will create jobs and clean the environment by:

- Providing tax incentives and funding for research and development into new fuel technology for cars, giving incentives to manufacturers to retain and expand plants in Canada.
- Replacing voluntary emission targets with mandatory emission targets for all manufacturers selling cars in Canada, mirroring California's tough rules.
- Joining with states like California and Massachusetts to set mandatory sales targets for vehicle manufacturers for green cars. By enacting these tough rules, Canada could help create a North American market of almost 80 million people for cleaner cars.
- Providing significant GST rebates on greener cars, with the incentive increasing with the fuel efficiency of the car, and enacting green car purchasing policies for the federal government.
- Sharing half the federal gas tax with municipalities to support sustainable transportation with public transit, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in urban areas and freight rail and rural roads in rural communities.

Paul Martin and the Liberals have:

- Delivered nine budgets that provided no incentive to make or buy green cars, nor help for urban transit.



Building a sustainable future through Kyoto's targets and timelines

Polluters say environmental rules cost jobs. They used that argument against unleaded gasoline, against the world's fight to outlaw ozone-depleting chemicals and against Canada's effort to stop acid rain. They were proven wrong three times. It's time to stop listening to polluters and their friends and move ahead on the targets and timelines contained in the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

Jack Layton and Canada's NDP know Kyoto is a modest first step, and that its emission-reduction targets are not enough. But if we adhere to its targets and timelines, it will trigger the chain reaction of change that will achieve far larger emission cuts.

Jack Layton and Canada's NDP will implement Kyoto and clean our air by:

- Aggressively funding investment in public transit, rail and renewable energy.
- Establishing a national energy-efficiency building retrofit program to reduce energy costs, cut pollution and create jobs.
- Establishing an east-west power grid to export cleaner hydro power from Quebec and Manitoba to coal-dependent provinces.
- Implementing mandatory vehicle emission targets and incentives for the purchase of greener cars.
- Supporting improvements in Via Rail's passenger rail system with a long-term objective of high-speed rail in the Quebec City to Windsor corridor and other corridors where it can be cost-effective.
- Supporting only those carbon sink projects that improve local biodiversity, create local economic development and do not divert funds from permanent solutions such as energy efficiency and green power.

Paul Martin and the Liberals have:

- Ignored the Red Book promise that committed Canada, by 2000, to cut emissions by 20 per cent from 1988 levels. On the contrary, Canada's emissions have gone up 18 per cent since 1988.



Building a future with clean water

Canadian families are concerned about the quality of the water they drink. We want action to improve the infrastructure that delivers water and to prevent toxic chemicals from even entering our water. It's time to recognize lax rules for corporate polluters, decaying infrastructure and increasingly large farms aren't sustainable and to implement innovative ideas to protect Canada's clean water resources.

Jack Layton and Canada's NDP will protect clean water by:

- Making clean drinking water systems and sustainable waste water treatment a priority of the infrastructure component of the new deal for municipalities, as well as a top priority for rural, Aboriginal and remote communities.
- Providing increased support to family farms to help foster sustainable farming, in contrast to large factory farms and the inevitable challenges to clean water that result.
- Supporting farmers as they try to reduce their dependence on pesticides and antibiotics and supporting municipalities in legal battles with chemical corporations after attempting to limit pesticide use in their community.
- Implementing a ban on the bulk export of Canadian fresh water, as Manitoba has done.
- Creating national guidelines for clean drinking water and using existing federal authority to require full federal environmental assessments on transborder projects, such as the proposed dump in Northern Ontario or incinerator in New Brunswick, which will affect water safety.
- Introducing a far more comprehensive Water Stewardship Act to protect our most valuable natural resource.
- Creating a department of water stewardship, like Manitoba's, to pull together all federal water issues (12 ministries currently have jurisdiction), develop common standards, invest in infrastructure and work with provinces and territories to ensure co-operation on water quality and quantity issues.
- Taking an aggressive stand on cross-border water issues by using the powers of the International Joint Commission to protect Canadians against threats like the Devils Lake diversion and deal with Canadian corporate polluters, like those involved in befouling the St. Clair River.
- Creating a Canadian Centre for Environmental Health to promote research on human and ecological health.
- Overhauling the Canadian Environmental Protection Act to reverse the current focus on voluntary action and replace it with mandatory pollution prevention measures for corporations and institutions.

Paul Martin and the Liberals have:

- Consistently refused to help communities provide clean water for their citizens, choosing instead to bring in the largest tax cuts in history for corporate Canada.



Building a future without toxics

The sad fact is that when the Liberals took office in 1993 they promised to clean up North America's largest toxic waste dump, Cape Breton's Sydney Tar Ponds. After a decade in office, not a spoonful of toxic waste has been removed.

With flame retardants now showing up in the breast milk of Inuit women in the Arctic and the government having yet to complete tests on existing toxics – let alone new toxics – there is no time to waste.

Countries are taking action against some of the world's most toxic chemicals, but Canada is lagging far behind. It's time we caught up by cleaning up Canada's dangerous toxic hot spots and taking a proactive, innovative approach to preventing toxic pollution.

Jack Layton and Canada's NDP will fight toxics by:

- Creating jobs and working proactively to prevent further pollution – funded by applying the polluter-pay principle and requiring corporations and public bodies responsible for toxic waste to pay for the clean-up.
- Banning all imports of toxic waste.
- Shifting the burden of proof onto chemical companies, requiring them to produce scientific evidence of a chemical's safety before it enters our environment.
- Serving notice to renegotiate NAFTA to respect environmental treaties. NAFTA has been used twice to force Canada to accept toxics: by overturning a Canadian ban on a toxic gasoline additive banned in the US and by forcing Canada to accept the import of toxic waste in contravention of an international treaty.
- Overhauling the Canadian Environmental Protection Act to reverse the current focus on voluntary action and replace it with mandatory pollution prevention measures for corporations and institutions.

Paul Martin and the Liberals have:

- Promised repeatedly to clean up the Sydney Tar Ponds, North America's largest toxic waste dump. But after nine years as finance minister, not a spoonful of toxics has been removed, despite the largest federal surpluses in history.



Building respect for Canada's biodiversity

Canadian species at risk began 2004 without the protection of an endangered species law, despite the Liberals' promise during three consecutive elections. Canada's forest industry still relies too much on exporting jobs and logs instead of creating wood-based processing jobs here. And regulations on approving new biotechnology crops remain desperately weak, allowing genetically altered crops into our environment without long-term knowledge of their effects on biodiversity or human health.

It's time to stop taking Canada's rich heritage of plant and animal life for granted and work to protect our biodiversity for generations to come. We need to respect our environment and maintain a priceless resource that may contain answers to humanity's greatest challenges.

Jack Layton and Canada's NDP will respect biodiversity by:

- Honouring Canada's obligations to future generations by strengthening our support for national parks and reducing the fees they charge.
- Implementing an endangered species law that protects habitats of species at risk and gives scientists, not politicians, responsibility for determining whether a species is at risk.
- Placing a moratorium on all new genetically engineered crops, particularly wheat, to protect Canadian markets overseas and changing current regulations so that biotech corporations must prove new technology is environmentally safe before it is used.
- Respecting Canadians' right to know what they eat by implementing mandatory labelling for genetically engineered food, like that already in place in much of Europe, Asia and Australia.
- Working with forest communities, workers and businesses to develop value-added wood product industries to create jobs and reduce Canada's unsustainable reliance on exporting logs for processing in the US and overseas and by working with provinces to end clear cut logging in old growth forests and move to sustainable forest practices.
- Recognizing that current fish farm practices are unsustainable and urging provinces to impose a moratorium on current operations, phase them out, and replace them with closed-containment fish farming.

Paul Martin and the Liberals have:

- Avoided taking a stand on the mandatory labelling of genetically engineered food.