



Yukon Federal Green Party Platform Economy, Energy & Environment

October 2, 2008

The Green Party's vision for the northern economy is one that includes development designed to last for the long-term. Energy, the environment and economic development are tightly interwoven, especially in the North. Whether driven by high energy prices, the climate crisis, or both, the more rapidly Canada and the Yukon mobilize resources to develop and commercialize low carbon technologies (e.g. alternate fuels, renewable energy, efficiency and conservation), the sooner we will emerge with a thriving economy. Yukoners face an important challenge, but also a large opportunity as we shift to a low-carbon economy.

The Green Party commitment to Green tax-shifting will reduce income taxes, reduce payroll taxes, and introduce a carbon tax, sending a clear economic signal that wasting energy and resources implies significant costs. It makes sense to reduce taxes on things we want – income and employment – while increasing taxes on things we do not want, like greenhouse gases and climate change. Business should be encouraged to pursue profit, with clear signals of environmental, social and economic objectives.

As the Green Party MP for the Yukon I will

- Measure what counts: gross domestic product and an index of well-being (how our economic activity makes us healthier & better educated, and the environment cleaner)
- Put a price on carbon emissions; revenues generated will be offset by reduced taxes on personal income, payrolls and on green products and technologies
- Assist small business through Green Venture Capital Funds
- Invest in public facilities and services, like rail and communication, that will link us across our vast geography
- Allocate one cent from the GST to communities for "Green Cities" initiatives, including municipal infrastructure, transit and waste reduction
- Regulate for improved vehicle fuel economy and energy efficiency in appliances
- Retrofit 100% of Canada's buildings to a high level of energy efficiency by 2025 and require all new homes and buildings to be zero net energy after 2025
- Promote the use of wood waste (not food crops) to produce bio-fuels
- Work with provinces, territories, community authorities and industry to ensure life-cycle product stewardship, environmental liability insurance and adequate pre-funded remediation plans
- Create a separate federal Department of Tourism and encourage aboriginal Canadians to assume a significant role in the new ministry
- Reverse the decision to eliminate the GST rebate for foreign visitors
- Address the labour shortage through training and capacity building especially with First Nations and enhance research and development with a Northern focus
- Establish special task forces to prepare regional climate change adaptive strategies, starting with the Canadian North

John Streicker, Federal Election Campaign, Fall 2008

502 Wood St, Whitehorse, Y1A 2G1, 334.9616, yukongreen@gmail.com www.yukongreen.ca
Authorized by the official agent for John Streicker