

- 1. To help Canadians with their retirement security, the Green Party calls on the federal government to take the lead in building a consensus with the provinces to amend and expand the CPP/QPP, still the largest and most efficient pension arrangement in the country. Amending the CPP requires the agreement of at least seven provinces representing two-thirds of Canada's population.**

The CPP covers all Canadians, including the self-employed and workers without a workplace pension plan. Currently employees and employers contribute an equal amount – 4.95% (a combined 9.9%) of an employee's annual earnings up to a maximum of \$52,500. The self-employed pay the full 9.9% as long as they have minimum annual earnings of at least \$3500. The proposed Green Party expansion could involve two things: phasing in over 5 to 7 years, a doubling of the Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE); and gradually increasing the maximum CPP benefit from 25% of the YMPE to, say 40%. Currently the YMPE is set at \$53,600, and an individual's defined CPP benefit upon retirement maxes out at 25% of the YMPE up to the \$53,600 maximum. This would require an increase in the contribution rate. (Under CPP rules, any new benefit has to be fully-funded, so this would have to be phased in over a period of 5 to 7 years to build up enough capital to pay out benefits).

The Ontario government has proposed a provincial expansion that would require employers and employees to contribute a combined 3.8% of an employee's annual earnings up to a maximum of \$90,000. It is unclear whether this will apply to the self-employed. The aim is to phase in the new benefit over two years commencing in 2017 when it is expected that EI premiums will be reduced. Ontario has indicated its willingness to integrate its provincial retirement benefit with any CPP expansion.

Canadians who wished to save more than the new CPP maximum benefit could also be offered a publicly run alternative to private investment funds by allowing them to make additional voluntary contributions to their individual CPP/QPP pension accounts which are managed on their behalf by the respected autonomous and impartial CPP Investment Board. This would likely benefit from lower management fees and higher rates of return compared to those of traditional mutual funds. This option will be of particular interest to younger Canadians and lower-wage workers who support the CPP as a straightforward, secure portable option for saving that kicks in wherever they may work across Canada. This option will also be important if the self-employed are not included in the core CPP expansion. Stay-at-home parents could also decide that a voluntary contribution is preferable to the rather limited child-rearing CPP adjustment. The U.K. model could be followed to provide additional savings: the supplementary pension contribution would be automatically deducted from one's salary, but individuals could opt out of the deduction. Of course there would be no matching employer

contributions for this option.

2. The Green Party calls for the return of the mandatory Long Form Census that was cancelled by the Conservative government in 2011. The replacement has resulted in inadequate and inaccurate data. If even more detailed labour market information is needed, Statistics Canada would be directed to collect it as well.

3. Green Party MPs will re-establish Canada's National Dream and:

- Re-invest in our national rail systems, building more train cars in Canada, increasing train speeds and phasing in high speed rail where feasible, and creating green transportation and energy infrastructure corridors in key regions;
- Give VIA Rail a statute-based mandate, modeled on the U.S.-laws that govern Amtrak;
- Improve rail infrastructure and intermodal connections, increasing joint federal-municipal light rail investments, as well as improving VIA Rail service nationwide;
- Work with railway companies to improve rail infrastructure and to restore VIA rail service to all major regional cities;
- Create a national clean freight initiative, using both regulation and financial incentives to improve fleet efficiency and safety;
- Bring forward regulations for Positive Train Control systems for passenger and freight, ensuring safer transport;

There is no question that the Green Party would pay the Federal component of the funding to upgrade the rail line and re-introduce passenger rail service from Peterborough to Toronto.

4. **The Green Party approach to Canadian energy policies is clear: reduce energy development that results in fossil fuel expansion and the acceleration of climate change, and expand energy development that allows us to lower GHG's and**

mitigate climate change. The Green Party favours a climate change strategy and policies that rapidly reduce CO₂ emissions from our energy supply and our energy exports, including the implementation of a revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend. **Our goal is to maintain oil sands production at the current level of approximately 2 million barrels of bitumen a day, and eventually to transition off oil altogether; we strongly oppose the existing plan to triple production for export to 6 million barrels per day.**

The Green Party is also firmly against the expanded use of pipelines, rail cars, and tanker traffic for the purpose of getting raw bitumen (dilbit) from the oil sands to export markets. The Green Party supports developing refinery capacity in Alberta with “refineries of tomorrow” that will produce some low carbon liquid fuels (biofuel-gasoline blends like E85, E50), electricity and hydrogen, through carbon capture and storage. Building pipelines to transport refined product is very different from using pipelines to move dilbit. Unlike a dilbit spill, the spill of a refined product creates only short-term damage since the product volatilizes very quickly. Pipelines to move refined product are maintained as cleaner and safer means for transporting low carbon liquid fuels.

5. As your Member of Parliament my job would be to serve to you. Unlike the other three parties, the Green Party is not a whipped party and therefore Green MPs are not only allowed, but expected, to always work and vote in the best interest of their constituents. This is Green Party policy and is not dependent on our current leader Elizabeth May’s opinions. I look forward to listening to the business community in particular and learning from you about how I can best support a thriving economy in our riding.