

To Mayor Fred Eisenberg, his office and city council,

Thank you for getting in touch. I am very excited to open a dialogue with both the city and our shared constituents. I completely agree that, if elected, our respective positions are stronger together. City council will undoubtedly have my commitment in pursuing strategic change to make life better for all Hamiltonians.

**Forward together,
Jason Lopez
GPC**

1. Modernizing the Federal–Municipal Relationship.

Canadian Federalism has been unkind to the municipal order of government, often treating them as bottom feeders and providing inadequate and unpredictable funding for the broad range of responsibilities, including 60% of our infrastructure. Only 10 cents out of every tax dollar flowing to the municipal order of government, creating vast inequities in our governance structures and financial stability. If these responsibilities are downloaded to municipalities, then revenue sharing agreements need to be reviewed to ensure that those same municipalities have the funds to successfully fulfill those responsibilities. We need to provide steady predictable funding so that municipalities can provide the vital services that they are responsible for.

The Green Party would also revamp the Canadian Infrastructure Bank to exclude private profit in infrastructure. We would mandate it to provide much needed low interest capital directly to municipalities for both Infrastructure as well as Municipal housing projects. The Green Party supports giving cities a greater voice in policy that directly affects them. The specific needs of large urban centres like Hamilton must be better represented in all levels of decision making. Greens would achieve this by creating an intergovernmental council of Canadian governments to foster collaboration and give municipalities an equal say in policy that affects them.

Australia has a model that Canada could follow to create a more collegial and collaborative federalism without the need for constitutional change. Established in 1992, the Council fosters cooperation on policies and issues of national importance. It is generally well accepted and has enabled Australia to eliminate much of the inter-jurisdictional wrangling with which Canadians are so familiar.

2. New Funding Tools.

The Green Party believes that Canada needs strong, well-funded municipalities. We will follow the recommendations of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and double federal transfers of the current gas tax funds through the creation of a new municipal super fund. This will ensure ongoing funding that is both predictable and reliable. We will allocate one percent of the GST to housing and other municipal infrastructure on an ongoing basis to provide a consistent baseline of funding. In addition to this, as mentioned previously, we will provide access to low cost financing for municipal projects through a revamped Canadian infrastructure bank.

3. Predictable Transit Funding.

The Green Party believes an investment in transit is vital to our reduction in emissions. We will answer the call of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and call for a permanent, dedicated transit fund of \$3.4 billion annually. Through the Council of Canadian governments, the Green Party will develop a national transportation strategy. Transit will be a key component of the strategy to get people out of cars and to reduce up to 25% of greenhouse gas emissions. The electrification of rail, light rail and busses is key to our goal of moving to net zero transportation by 2040.

4. Housing Affordability.

The Green Party of Canada has a multifaceted approach to tackling the issue of affordable housing. We would

appoint a Minister of Housing to strengthen the national housing strategy so that it meets the needs for affordable housing, unique to each province, and to oversee its implementation in collaboration with provincial ministers. The target would be 25,000 new and 15,000 rehabilitated units annually for the next 10 years.

Other goals for increasing affordable housing are:

- Re-focus the core mandate of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) on supporting the development of affordable, non-market and cooperative housing, as opposed to its current priority of supporting Canadian lenders to de-risk investment in housing ownership.
- Create a Canada Co-op Housing Strategy that would update the mechanisms for financing co-op housing, in partnership with CMHC, co-op societies, credit unions and other lenders.
- Provide financing to non-profit housing organizations and cooperatives to build and restore quality, energy efficient housing for seniors, people with special needs and low-income families.
- Restore tax incentives for building purpose-built rental housing and provide tax credits for gifts of lands, or of land and buildings, to community land trusts to provide affordable housing.

5. Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Support.

Adapting to climate change is becoming an ever-greater necessity. The Green Party will establish special task forces involving all levels of government and scientific experts to prepare, over the next two years, area-specific climate change adaptation strategies. We will also restore and enhance funding to adaptation planning and measures across Canada, while establishing a Climate Change Adaptation Fund to assist those areas hard hit by 'natural' disasters linked to climate change. More work must be done to restore riparian ecosystems. We will work to restore critical wetlands where federal programs could be delivered through existing government agencies, and ENGOs like Ducks Unlimited.

The Green Party will revise the tax code and work with landowners providing incentives and tax breaks to restore and/or forego drainage on wetlands that currently receive much of spring melt water. There are some excellent models in existing provincial programs; for example, the Wetland Restoration Incentive Program (WRIP) initiated in 2008/09 as a partnership between Manitoba, DUC, and the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC). The Green Party of Canada is eager to learn from these examples.