

David
Merner



My Plan to Transform the Green Party





My Pledge

I pledge to be the grassroots Leader that the Green Party needs at this critical time in our party's history. We need a builder and a uniter - a Leader who respects the wishes of Party members and who is willing to share power. We need a person who will lead by example and walk the Green Party talk with integrity.

A leader who will empower members, riding associations, and local campaigns is essential to building our Party. A leader who will unite our Party and focus on electing a strong Green caucus to Parliament -- without compromising our values -- is the kind of leader who can bring about the deep changes Canadians want and our planet needs.

My Plan



The Green Party leadership campaign has brought Greens together like never before. It's been inspiring to meet so many passionate, devoted people on the campaign trail. And renewal comes at the right time, when Canadians need Green Party MPs more than ever in Parliament.

Global warming is bringing about unprecedented challenges for all life on earth and Greens have been preparing for our whole lives to take on these challenges. For decades, we have been warning the world about what will happen if climate change is not addressed. During this time, we have also been getting ready for the time when we are needed.

We know what needs to be done. Our policies will transform Canada into a sustainable society. We must push harder than ever before to elect a strong Green caucus to the House of Commons. Because the challenge now facing human civilization is like no other.

To break through in the next federal election, Greens must move forward together, unified in our vision to transform Canada into a resilient, healthy, sustainable society – a Canada that leads the world.

Here's my plan to get us there

1. Remaining true to ourselves: values-based policy and decision-making



The Green Party is part of a global organization, the Global Greens. The Global Greens Charter identified six core values in 2001: **(1) Ecological Wisdom, (2) Non-Violence, (3) Social Justice, (4) Participatory Democracy, (5) Respect for Diversity, and (6) Sustainability.**

These values are the foundation to our electoral success. By remaining committed

to our values, true to ourselves, and focused on rising above the “same old politics” of the old-line parties, we can succeed as a true grassroots party.

2. Sharing power: re-establishing grassroots democracy in the Green Party

There was a time when the Green Party functioned in a decentralized manner, sharing power between the ridings, regions, and head office. The relationship between the Party's leadership and grassroots members was transparent and council meetings were very rarely held behind closed doors. Members remained very active between elections. We were a community.



Our success depends on building community for our grassroots: our members, riding associations, and local campaigns. Re-establishing our presence on the ground in every riding is Step 1 in turning the Green Party into a truly competitive force in Canadian politics. Under my leadership, I will work with Green members and Federal Council to establish:

- Electoral District Associations (EDAs) in every riding;
- Provincial and Regional Councils that organize, develop policy, and communicate our message regionally;
- GPC virtual offices every province and territory;
- Equitable revenue sharing between EDAs and the Green Party in Ottawa;
- Leadership Contests every eight years and Leadership Reviews every two years.

Many of these commitments will require changes to our constitution, by-laws, and other governing documents. All will depend on member approval and support.

3. Supporting local ridings and campaigns



In the lead up to the 2019 federal election, more than 200 Green Party ridings had no functioning Electoral District Association (EDA). Without an EDA in place, candidates are unable to run competitive campaigns. On my travels during this leadership campaign, I heard over and over again from candidates who started campaigning with less than \$40 in the bank and a handful of volunteers. This makes it very difficult for candidates to stay motivated and to live by the three rules of winning campaigns: start first, work hardest, and work smartest.

When hundreds of our candidates are simply unable to compete, the Party faces a huge challenge in building the Green Wave we need for success on Election Day. To get us headed in the right direction, my priorities as the new leader of the Green Party will be to build:

- Green Party Electoral District Associations (EDAs) in every riding;
- The supports necessary to grow EDAs and run competitive local campaigns, including campaign materials, skills training, and bi-weekly Zoom meetings between the national Leader and local leaders in each riding;
- “Hands on” candidate and volunteer recruitment opportunities, so we do not have to resort to “parachute” candidates and so we empower EDAs by supporting competitive candidate nomination contests; and, last but not least,
- A truly bilingual party, with campaign material in the languages each riding requires.

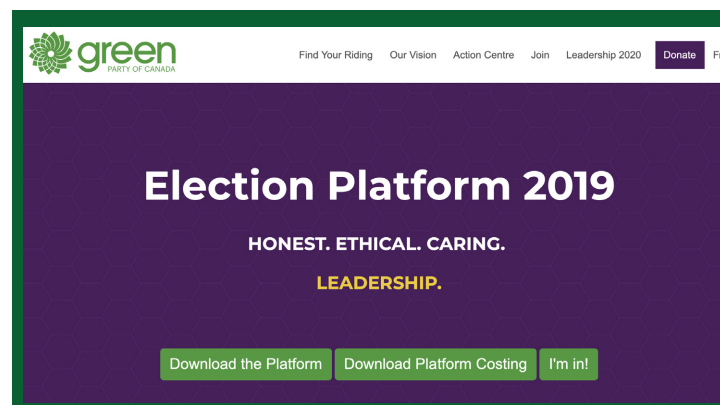
4. Clarifying our message

What will connect Greens with voters? Personal connections are key. By knocking on doors and listening, we hear Canadians telling stories – about the pandemic, lost jobs, disappointments, hopes and dreams. By listening and understanding, we build personal connections and we learn to tell stories.

One of our most important stories is about health: physical health, mental health, family health, the health of our communities, and global health. Greens must “connect the dots” between personal health, global health, and the future of human civilization as we face pandemics and the climate emergency.

Another key story is about the regions where we live. We live in a very big, diverse country. Our messages must resonate in each region. Indeed, they must be crafted and tested in each region by Greens from that region. By communicating clearly, looking voters in the eye, and telling our personal stories, we build connections. Peter Bevan-Baker, leader of the PEI Greens, ran 13 times before he was elected – that’s a lot of commitment AND connection!

You have my commitment to run the best election campaigns the Green Party has ever seen. Because together, we will move our country forward.



5. Electing a strong Green Caucus to Parliament

i) National campaign: To elect a strong Green Caucus of 20-30 members, the Green Party must run a truly national campaign in 338 ridings. The Green Party of Ontario's success in the 2007 provincial election, where they tripled their vote and achieved an all-time high of 8.3% support, depended on candidates running in every riding.

In order for our top candidates to win, Canadians must be talking about us in every corner of the country. When Canadians are not talking about us, we create the "buzz" that builds momentum and turns candidates into MPs on election night.

ii) Full slate, properly funded: Creating the momentum necessary to build a Green Wave large enough to sweep 20-30 Greens into parliament requires national campaign, with a full slate of local candidates funded through a minimum \$20,000 campaign budget, so every Green Party candidate can reach every voter in each riding. If Canadians don't hear from us, they won't vote for us.

iii) Running competitive campaigns: Competitive local campaigns require two essentials: (1) volunteers who work hard between elections, and (2) money. It is my objective to ensure all candidates have the funding and support they require to run competitive local campaigns, if they don't already have one, and to continue to remain active between elections.

When the Greens are united, properly funded, and breaking bread together in community, we will win more seats in Parliament. Over the remaining weeks of this campaign, I will be releasing a series of policy position papers that build on existing Green Party policy. So, check back regularly for more and please consider joining our email list and getting involved in our campaign.

Thank you.

David



Meet David



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As a husband, father to four daughters, and a long-term community volunteer, David understands the importance of commitment, hard work, and fun.

As a graduate of Harvard, U of A, Oxford, and U of T, he understands the importance of clear thought and getting the facts.

As legal counsel at the Department of Justice and the Privy Council Office in Ottawa, and as a key architect of the transformation of British Columbia's justice system into one of the most innovative in the world, David knows the innermost workings of government, and how to fix them.

Thanks to his experience as an organizer and volunteer at The Land Conservancy of B.C., the Habitat Acquisition Trust, and Mediate BC, and as an observer of elections in Haiti and Ukraine, David understands the power and importance of grassroots organizations and democracy.

He also understands the current government and why it puts winning power ahead of the welfare of people and the environment. David was a Liberal volunteer, organizer, and candidate, but left the party forever the day Justin Trudeau announced the purchase of the Kinder Morgan pipeline.

David believes that there IS a place in Canadian politics for ethics, collaboration and a sustainable environment. But the Trudeau government has shown that it must be forced to finally back its empty promises with real action. From issues like proportional representation, to improving the lives of Indigenous peoples, to making Canada's economy a thriving green example for the world, David is ready to go on Day One.

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