



Hon. Marie-Claude
Bibeau

DÉPUTÉE COMPTON • STANSTEAD M.P.

Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

**A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
FOR A HEALTHY ECONOMY**

Hello everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you well, physically and mentally. I understand that many of you are facing major personal or financial struggles. It's very tough not being able to hug the people you love at a time when you need it the most. Don't be afraid to ask for help from loved ones, regional organizations and even myself, your MP, if it involves navigating federal assistance programs.

This month, I wanted to share with you our government's commitment to the environment. COVID-19 will soon be behind us, but the threat of climate change is still very much present. Essential workers have been working twice as hard for a year now, but once the crisis is over, we will need to put everyone else back to work. With the need to massively invest in restarting our economy, the Trudeau government is committed to taking this opportunity to make a real shift toward a green economy.

Whether in terms of research and innovation, support for businesses, infrastructure construction and much more, our investments will be measured against their environmental value. Will it help reduce greenhouse gases or increase carbon sequestration? Will it create the jobs of the future?

Since 2015, we have been taking a series of actions to reduce our emissions, but we need to do a lot more if we are to meet our Paris targets and become a carbon-neutral country by 2050. The fall budget update and the first phase of our Green Plan that was released before the holidays demonstrate the scope of our commitment. The purpose of this newsletter is to share our vision and present the various areas that we will be focusing on, areas that over the coming months and years will lead to much more concrete initiatives.

Although I am writing this in February, you will probably receive this newsletter just before the tabling of the 2021 Federal Budget. No doubt it will be written in **green ink**.

In closing, I just want to say that luckily, we have maple syrup season to soften the blow of tax time! Please remember that it is very important for everyone to file a tax return. Yes, we all need to contribute to the public purse, based on our income. It is thanks to these contributions that everyone has access to free health care, among other things.

Filing your tax return is also the best way to receive the various benefits you are entitled to, including the Child Tax Benefit, the Canada Workers Benefit (low-income earners), Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors. Once again, if you require assistance, my team and I are here to help.

Take care everyone!!

The Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau
Compton-Stanstead M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

f **FACEBOOK LIVE**, Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 6:00 pm

The Environment, with Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and your MP-Minister, Marie-Claude Bibeau.

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Send your questions :
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CANADA'S STRENGTHENED CLIMATE PLAN

“The **most concrete and ambitious Canadian plan** we have ever seen.”

– Pierre-Olivier Pineau, Professor and Energy Expert at HEC Montréal

We all want and can live in a healthy environment and be part of a vibrant economy. The quicker we act, the more we will benefit. This important plan includes initial historic investments of \$15 billion, strengthens our commitments from 2015 and will, starting this year, help us do more in job of:

- creating decent jobs and supporting a sustainable economic recovery;
- improving the quality of the air, water and life by reducing pollution; and
- fighting climate change and cutting our emissions in half.

Experience and the experts agree: investing in the environment is win-win. It will provide better jobs and greater quality of life. Here is an overview of what we are planning to do in order to build an economy that is more inclusive and competitive as well as cleaner and more prosperous.

CLEAN INDUSTRIES

Canada has all the natural and human resources it needs to develop clean technologies and a sustainable economy, as demanded by nature and consumers.

By 2030, the transition to a green economy will generate 24 million new jobs and \$26 trillion around the world.

To take advantage of this opportunity, Ottawa will invest more than \$5 billion in technological innovation.

Other actions are also planned to promote the green industrial transition, including:

- harmonizing our industrial practices with our climate policies;
- adopting the Clean Fuel Standard tabled in December 2020;
- eliminating inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by 2025;
- **cutting in half the taxes paid by companies manufacturing zero-emission products;**
- implementing the Canada-wide **Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste** and banning single-use plastics; and
- issuing the **federal government's first green bond.**

CLEAN ENERGY

“**A serious plan.**”
Greenpeace Canada

Canada is a world leader in the production of clean energy: 80% of our electricity is generated from clean sources such as hydroelectric, wind and solar.

The Government of Canada will invest more than \$6 billion to benefit from its competitive advantage in a world transitioning to clean energy.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Solar energy is now more affordable than ever. Canada has 14 of the 19 metals needed to manufacture solar panels and all the minerals needed to make batteries for electric vehicles.

TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION

- **Zero-emission buses:** By 2030, the Canadian clean transportation industry will grow by 28% per year and create 14 times more jobs than in 2020.
- **Incentive for zero-emission vehicles (iZEV):** Rebate of \$5,000 on the purchase of a ZEV. More than 65,000 Canadians took advantage of this rebate and saved up to \$2,000 per year in fuel costs.
- **National electric charging network:** 4,300 fast-charging stations. The IGA grocery stores in Cookshire and East Angus will have theirs installed in 2021.
- **National active transportation strategy** in support of alternative solutions, such as cycling paths and hiking trails.

“**This is encouraging for the future!**”

– Electric Mobility Canada

The PRICE of POLLUTION

Polluting can no longer be free. That is why Ottawa has put a price on pollution that is consistent with its impact.

The more you pollute, the more you pay. The money collected from the price on pollution is then reinvested into sustainable socioeconomic and social development initiatives.

“**Carbon pricing is the most practical and cost-effective way to lower GHG emissions while encouraging low-carbon innovation.**”

— The Ecofiscal Commission

The Canadian price on pollution will gradually increase from \$30 per tonne of carbon today to \$170 per tonne by 2030.

It is quite likely that Quebec, a carbon exchange pioneer, will be able to adapt and redistribute these revenues to the most affected sectors such as agriculture.

OBJECTIVE : ZERO EMISSION

The **Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act** will now require the federal government to:

- set clear, specific climate targets;
- implement a strict emissions reduction tracking process; and
- achieve full net-zero emissions by 2050.

A GLOBAL EFFORT

In order to slow down, stop, if not reverse global warming that has been accelerating for 150 years due to human activity, Canada has joined 194 countries to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. This is the **Paris Agreement**.



NATURE BENEFITING COMMUNITIES



Canada has plenty of **all the essential natural resources**:

- 9% of the world's forests;
- 28% of the boreal forests;
- 36% of sustainable forests;
- 24% of the wetlands;
- 20% of fresh water; and
- the world's longest coastline.

This is a lot of wealth to be preserved and valued for the benefit of all Canadians.

Our natural heritage has enormous potential. More than 12% of Canada's GDP is directly dependent on agriculture, forestry and the oceans—even higher when you include tourism and recreation. **Another good reason to take good care of it.**

Since 2015, the Canadian government has made historic investments in the environment, including nearly \$3 billion to protect our lands and fresh water (12%), our coastal zones and maritime areas (14%). Under the Strengthened Climate Plan, we will invest \$4 billion to :

- restore sensitive ecosystems such as wetlands, bogs, prairies and agricultural lands; and
- plant **two billion trees** and thereby create 4,300 jobs, cover 1 million hectares, and capture and store carbon.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT COMMUNITIES

1 \$ = 5 \$ Each dollar invested in energy efficiency generates \$5 back into the economy.

Our homes and buildings release nearly 20% of GHG emissions. Improving **energy efficiency** helps reduce costs and pollution, creates **quality jobs** in the regions (R&D, manufacturing, sales, service, etc.) and boosts the local economy. The energy efficiency sector represents half a million direct jobs and nearly 10% in annual growth.

To benefit from this triple energy, economic and ecological opportunity, the Government of Canada will invest more than \$6 billion to fund energy-efficient construction and renovation (insulation, windows, ventilation, etc.) of community, commercial and residential buildings.

Each residential owner could receive:

- a grant of up to \$5,000;
- free EnerGuide ratings;
- and loan guarantees.

The Government of Canada will also help develop:

- sustainable, local and low embodied carbon construction materials (cement, insulation, etc.); and
- a model renovation code, in place by 2025.

Energy efficiency measures are among the most affordable, feasible, simple, accessible and efficient ways of fighting climate change. Public funding of such programs will benefit contractors, consumers and the environment.

AGRO-ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

Agricultural producers are the first to suffer the effects of climate change. There is no clear distinction between seasons, and extreme weather events are becoming more and more frequent.

We also know that farmers have worked hard over the last two decades to adopt more sustainable practices. Some sectors have been able to double their production without increasing GHG emissions. But in order to meet the Paris targets and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, we need to do more.

The agricultural sector has a key role to play in the federal government's Strengthened Climate Plan. Since the fall budget update, \$350 million have been earmarked for agri-environmental measures. These programs, currently in the development stage, will focus mainly on research and innovation, sharing best practices, and developing and accessing energy-efficient technologies and equipment that will reduce agriculture's environmental footprint.

Living laboratories are an excellent example of a new approach that brings together agricultural producers, scientists and associations such as the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA). Together, they develop and test innovative practices and technologies to solve agri-environmental challenges. The one in Lake Saint-Pierre, for example, is focusing on soil management, water quality and biodiversity.

Other initiatives will focus on reducing emissions caused by fer-

tilizers by 30%, clean fuel standards that will also open up a new market, and the planting of two billion trees, some of it on farmland.

Furthermore, under the latest Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), Canada transferred \$300 million over five years to Quebec. Programs such as Prime-Vert are being offered to farmers with 60% of the funding coming from Ottawa. It is quite likely that the next CAP, which will go into effect in 2023, will be even greener.



Marie-Claude Bibeau and the President of the Centre d'initiatives en agriculture de la région de Coaticook, Réal Trépanier. (Photo : Le Progrès de Coaticook - Vincent Cliche)

THE PROTECTION OF OUR LAKES AT THE HEART OF OUR LOCAL PRIORITIES

Since 2016, our leadership has made it possible to take a number of steps to limit the impact of boating on the fragile marine environments of which our lakes are a part.

As a first step, the Federal Ministry of Transport began a process of modernizing its regulations and, in spring 2019, tabled a new guide for local administrations. This finally allows municipalities to use environmental threats to moderate or deny access to their water bodies. The new guide also dramatically reduces delays.

At the same time as this technical advance, Transport Canada has been funding an innovative pilot project at Lake Massawippi for the past four years. Nautisme Intelligent de Bleu Massawippi scientifically assesses the impact of various types of navigation on the shores, the contamination of invasive species, as well as the outbreak of blue and green algae. The data collected is invaluable in guiding the ministry in its Phase 2 of regulatory modernization.

The pandemic has had its effects on the lakes. Boaters multiplied during the summer of 2020. This real explosion of users of all kinds has highlighted the importance and the urgency of offering municipalities effective tools to protect their lakes, especially the most vulnerable. These tools will come with Phase 2 which is expected this spring.



Marie-Claude Bibeau testing waters on the Massawippi Lake.

COVENTRY

The Roundtable of Elected Representatives for Lake Memphremagog, which includes MPs Bibeau, Brière and Besette alongside their provincial and municipal counterparts, ensures that the moratorium is maintained in order to ban the discharge of pollutants, such as leachate, in Vermont.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT

Several federal funding programs for environmental protection are already available. In addition to funding environmental restoration, wildlife and habitat conservation, the EcoAction program supports promising local environmental projects. **National Priority for 2021: Fresh water.**

More energy transition support programs are also available from other Canadian partner departments and agencies.

- Zero-Emission Vehicles Incentive — [TC.Canada.ca](https://www.tc.gc.ca)
- CMHC Green Home — [cmhc-SCHL.gc.ca](https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca)
- ISO50001 Buildings — [RNCan.gc.ca](https://www.rncan.gc.ca)
- Green Municipal Fund — [FCM.ca](https://www.fcm.ca)

Visit [Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca) or contact your MP to verify your eligibility to assistance programs.

BUYING LOCAL

You probably know your way around local shops and markets already. Since 4 out of 5 Canadians are willing to pay for locally grown fruits and vegetables, you might as well encourage local buying. You win in food quality and conservation, reduced transportation and pollution. It's a **win-win**.



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