

## What is The Leap Manifesto?

**The Leap Manifesto is a vision for how Canada can tackle climate change in a way that changes our country for the better.** The Manifesto is available in twelve languages and counting, and has been signed by tens of thousands of people from all walks of life, from former Ontario Chief Justice Roy McMurtry to the head of Canada's Jesuits; from Oxfam to the Council of Canadians to Idle No More; dozens of religious, labour and Indigenous leaders; cultural figures like Leonard Cohen, Ellen Page, Donald Sutherland and Arcade Fire and some of our largest public sector unions.

## Who's behind it?

The Leap Manifesto was initiated in the spring of 2015 at a two-day meeting attended by representatives from Canada's Indigenous rights, social and food justice, environmental, faith-based and labour movements. **The meeting was convened to move beyond saying "no" to the worst attacks on our rights and environment, and to dream together about the country we actually want and how to get there.** The manifesto was shaped by the contributions of dozens of people.

## Is this a partisan project?

The Leap Manifesto is a non-partisan social and political initiative. Those who have signed include supporters of all parties, and some who support none. All share the belief that now is the moment for a transformative agenda to emerge from outside electoral politics and to influence and shape national policy. **History tells us that this kind of outside pressure is the best gift any government can receive.**

## Why leap now?

We launched the manifesto to demonstrate the widespread support for bold policy solutions that were not on offer from any of the major political parties.

**Scientists are telling us that 85% of reserves in the Canadian tar sands have to stay in the ground** to prevent catastrophic levels of global warming<sup>[1]</sup>. New research shows that Canada could run on 100% renewable electricity within 20 years<sup>[2]</sup>, and that our entire economy could transition off fossil fuels by 2050.<sup>[3]</sup> **Making this clean energy shift is a massive economic and social justice opportunity for our country.**

## What's a "justice-based" energy transition?

**A "just transition" is the idea that Canada can transition to a renewable-based economy in a way that changes our country for the better** — achieving meaningful justice for First Nations, creating more and better jobs, restoring and expanding our social safety net, building a better food system, and reducing economic, gender and racial inequalities.

## How do I get involved?

Join us at [leapmanifesto.org](http://leapmanifesto.org) to sign The Leap or endorse as an organization. Find out how you can start a local Leap group or host an event.

Our Resources page has downloadable versions of the manifesto in twelve languages, beautiful posters and social media materials.

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[leapmanifesto.org](http://leapmanifesto.org)

the leap  
manifesto.org

A Call for a Canada  
Based on Caring for the  
Earth and One Another



# The Leap Manifesto

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**We could live in a country powered entirely by renewable energy, woven together by accessible public transit, in which the jobs and opportunities of this transition are designed to systematically eliminate racial and gender inequality.**

Caring for one another and caring for the planet could be the economy's fastest growing sectors. Many more people could have higher wage jobs with fewer work hours, leaving us ample time to enjoy our loved ones and flourish in our communities.

## Canada is not this place today - but it could be.

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**1** The Leap must begin by respecting the inherent rights and title of the original caretakers of this land, starting by fully implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**2** The latest research shows we could get 100% of our electricity from renewable resources within two decades<sup>2</sup>; by 2050 we could have a 100% clean economy<sup>3</sup>. **We demand that this shift begin now.**

**3** No new infrastructure projects that lock us into increased extraction decades into the future. The new iron law of energy development must be: **if you wouldn't want it in your backyard, then it doesn't belong in anyone's backyard.**

**4** The time for energy democracy has come: wherever possible, communities should collectively control new clean energy systems. Indigenous peoples and others on the front lines of polluting industrial activity should be first to receive public support for their own clean energy projects.

**5** We want a universal program to build and retrofit energy efficient housing, ensuring that the lowest income communities benefit first.

**6** We want high-speed rail powered by renewables and affordable public transit to unite every community in this country – in place of more cars, pipelines and exploding trains that endanger and divide us.

**7** We want training and resources for workers in carbon-intensive jobs, ensuring they are fully able to participate in the clean energy economy.

**8** We need to invest in our decaying public infrastructure so that it can withstand increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

**9** We must develop a more localized and ecologically-based agricultural system to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, absorb shocks in the global supply - and produce healthier and more affordable food for everyone.

**10** We call for an end to all trade deals that interfere with our attempts to rebuild local economies, regulate corporations and stop damaging extractive projects.

**11** We demand immigration status and full protection for all workers. Canadians can begin to rebalance the scales of climate justice by welcoming refugees and migrants seeking safety and a better life.

**12** We must expand those sectors that are already low-carbon: caregiving, teaching, social work, the arts and public-interest media. A national childcare program is long past due.

**13** Since so much of the labour of caretaking – whether of people or the planet – is currently unpaid and often performed by women, we call for a vigorous debate about the introduction of a universal basic annual income.

**14** We declare that “austerity” is a fossilized form of thinking that has become a threat to life on earth. The money we need to pay for this great transformation is available -- we just need the right policies to release it. **An end to fossil fuel subsidies. Financial transaction taxes. Increased resource royalties. Higher income taxes on corporations and wealthy people. A progressive carbon tax. Cuts to military spending.**

**15** We must work swiftly towards a system in which every vote counts and corporate money is removed from political campaigns.

This transformation is our sacred duty to those this country harmed in the past, to those suffering needlessly in the present, and to all who have a right to a bright and safe future.

Now is the time for boldness.

## Now is the time to leap.

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[1] McGlade, C. & Ekins, P. The geographical distribution of fossil fuels unused when limiting global warming to 2°C. *Nature* 517 (2015) [2] Sustainable Canada Dialogues. (2015). *Acting on climate change: Solutions from Canadian scholars* McGill University [3] Mark Z. Jacobson et al., “100% Clean and Renewable Wind, Water, and Sunlight (WWS) All-Sector Energy Roadmaps for 139 Countries of the World,” draft paper (v3), April 26, 2016