

# A Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty: building a stronger, greener and more equitable Canada

Canada needs a **Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty**: a bold, comprehensive transformation of our economy to simultaneously tackle the triple crises of Trump's economic war on Canada and the world, growing economic inequality and the increasingly damaging and costly impacts of extreme weather events caused by climate change, and we need it now!

The goal is to mobilize the creative imagination and energy of our people, our institutions, organizations and businesses, our vast public resources and capabilities combined with federal and provincial/territorial governmental leadership. This will allow us to quickly transition from an economy excessively reliant on serving the United States and based on exploitation and the burning of fossil fuels, to one that is more self-reliant, driven by dignified work, clean renewable energy, more equitable and with efficient public services for all.

A **Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty** will:

- **reduce our reliance on burning fossil fuels**, reducing national and global carbon emissions, and expand renewable energy technologies so that we can transition to a green, low-carbon economy as quickly as possible;
- **build up our domestic production capacity** to supply Canadians with quality, made-in-Canada goods and services that meet our needs and help expand our global trading opportunities and markets while reducing our reliance on the American economy;
- **respect and work with First Nations** to address genuine and meaningful reconciliation and development as desired and determined by the respective nations;
- **take action to protect, preserve, and re-green our natural habitat** and endangered species in Canada and globally;
- **reach out to and uphold our international obligations and relationships** with nations and peoples around the world to advance mutual cooperation and equitable trading relationships within an environmentally responsible framework;
- **encourage coordination between national and provincial/territorial and municipal governments** and our diverse Canadian population to consciously build a healthier, more resilient, more inclusive, and more economically equitable social economy that leaves no one behind;
- **employ a creative mix of public and private financing and resurrect wartime financing tools** such as low-interest loans through the Bank of Canada and the

marketing of **Canadian Sovereignty Bonds** to harness Canadians' private savings so that we finance the lion's share of the investment internally and minimize the impact on our international balance of payments.

A New Green Deal for Canadian Sovereignty will create hundreds of thousands of well paid, family-supporting jobs in every community from coast to coast. It will consciously redirect the Canadian economy away from simply supplying the U.S. with raw and semi-processed materials and will, with coordinated government leadership, strengthen our international relationships and markets and lessen our dependence on an increasingly unreliable and belligerent United States.

Canada will not become the 51<sup>st</sup> state! Canada will not negotiate our borders! Canada will not bow down to U.S. bully tactics! Canada will stand up and stand firm for Canadian values and Canadian sovereignty, now and forever.

The significant majority of Canadians want, and expect, our federal and provincial governments to stand up to the U.S. threats *and* they want our governments to take much more robust action to combat climate change. We can and must do both. Our governments must all step up and accept their responsibility to lead.

Building a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty will require a coordinated national effort by citizens, organizations, labour, business, and governments. A Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty can, and will, address simultaneously both our economic and climate crises. Working together, we will reap success and show our struggling American friends, by our living example, that there is a better, more responsible and equitable path forward.

### **Reduce our reliance on burning fossil fuels**

On December 12, 2015, Canada joined with 195 other nations and signed on to the Paris Accord. It came into effect on November 4, 2016, committing signatories to reduce greenhouse gases by 30% by 2030 to keep global warming below 1.5 C degrees above historic averages. To do that, we need to rapidly reduce the burning of fossil fuels, cease new investments in fossil-fuel extraction and transportation, and quickly invest heavily in green, renewable energy projects.

The primary end uses for burning fossil fuels – coal, oil, and gas – are to heat our homes and power our industries and various modes of transportation. This is the main cause of air pollution, global warming, and the increasingly damaging and costly extreme weather events that are devastating community after community across Canada and around the globe.

Fossil-fuel deposits tend to be located at a distance from major population centres. They require massive and expensive extraction and transportation infrastructure to move the extracted resource to where it can be processed, refined, and consumed. The cost of the

financial investment for related equipment and labour must be recovered from the end user, along with legitimate royalties paid to host governments in exchange for the right to extract. At each step along the way, every corporate entity involved takes its profit margin on top of their respective expenditures.

Building pipelines is very expensive and they take many years to plan and construct. At the same time, they almost always run up against much public opposition along their thousands-of-kilometres lengths. They require a commitment to keep the lines full and flowing for 30 to 40 plus years. They also require expensive refineries at the receiving end that are capable of handling the product received. These refineries also require a long-term commitment of equal duration to the pipelines. Our blue planet can no longer afford our addiction to burning fossil fuels, no matter how enormous the private profit. Canada and the rest of the world need to dramatically reduce the burning of fossil fuels to save our planet and peoples. If we are to pass on a liveable planet to our grandchildren and their grandchildren, there is no other choice.

All fossil fuels, especially oil and gas, should be reclassified as valued carbon resources and preserved for higher-value uses and products, whose production does not require burning and adding to our overheated atmosphere. We *do* need the advanced chemicals, high-impact plastics, textile fibres, carbon fibre, and seemingly endless list of end products those carbon resources allow, but we *do not* need to continue burning them.

The world needs more energy to satisfy our human needs and wants, but that energy is now abundantly available in the form of low-cost, easily accessible, renewable energy. There is no charge for the sun, wind, tides, water in the sea, lakes, and rivers, nor the thermal heat of Mother Earth. All one needs to do is use existing and developing technologies to harvest the otherwise free energy. As we learn those lessons, we will find we are able to harvest them forever, with increasing efficiency.

One of the significant cost and environmental advantages of many renewable energy technologies is that they allow for energy production relatively close to, or at, the site of consumption. This eliminates the need for extensive and expensive long-distance transportation infrastructure. Hydrogen, for instance, can be extracted from any water source, whether it be an ocean, river, lake, or even by dewatering (removing ground water) of public sewage. It can be distributed much as gasoline and diesel are now, yet all one gets from combusting or transforming hydrogen into useable energy is water vapour, which simply returns to the global hydrological cycle to be used again and again.

Renewable energy technologies and infrastructure take far less time to plan and construct than fossil fuel infrastructure. They are scalable and easily transported from point of manufacture to where they are needed. They can produce energy from early portions of the installation even as the remaining portions of a larger project are being constructed.

In addition, thermal energy projects use exactly the same drill rigs and crews used for traditional oil and gas drilling and can be quickly reassigned to harvest the heat of the earth's core in short order. The power created from renewable energy projects can be transported by existing and expanded national energy grids.

Petro-corporations continually rail against renewable energy technologies, claiming that they are not feasible at scale. They are wrong! The reality is that they are simply trying to delay the inevitable and extend their obscenely profitable gravy train while continuing to overheat the planet. Their voice needs to be seen for what it is: entirely self-serving. They deliberately fail to serve the societies in which they operate, both in Canada and around the world.

Canada needs to invest significant public resources into renewable-energy research and technology applications to help producers bring these new technologies to economies of scale sooner rather than later.

Canada needs to demand that petro-corporations reduce their emissions and clean up contaminated sites. Canadian taxpayers should *not* pay for their infrastructure.

Canada, its provinces, and territories need to promote a strong carrot-and-stick approach by enacting enforceable sanctions against corporations that fail to meet climate mitigation targets. We need to end corporate subsidies for fossil fuel producers and instead, reward green, renewable-energy corporations with incentives to bring clean, green technologies to scale quickly. Let's not subsidize the past while starving our better future!

### **Build up our domestic production capacity**

***“In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity!” – Albert Einstein***

The Trump-Musk axis has effectively declared economic war on Canada and the world. They are ripping up trade agreements and security relationships without notice to, or concern for, their longstanding trading partners and allies, Canada included. They are blackmailing their own states to gain advantage. They have become a rogue state devoid of any moral or economic compass and respect no international norms. They appear hellbent on destroying their own economy and setting fire to the global economic framework. They cannot be trusted now or in any reasonably foreseeable future. The sooner Canadians recognize that the rules have changed completely, the better off we will be and the sooner we can mobilize our country to fight back and resist the American onslaught.

Canadians recoil at the dramatic, hard-right turn that U.S. economic and military policy is taking towards our nation and the world. Restricting Canadian access to US markets with with an unfounded tariffs war and increasing existential threats to our sovereignty from the Trump-Musk axis is maddening. Canadians are looking for ways to resist and fight back. Shoppers are increasingly seeking out Canadian and non-U.S. goods and services (see

sidebar) in lieu of purchasing familiar American brands or using U.S. distributors. Canadians are foregoing travel to U.S. destinations, seeking out other locales.

All of this is good, but we need to do much, much more. **Canada needs to seize the moment and turn this crisis into great opportunity!**

As we discover just how much of our daily consumption is tied to all-too-familiar American brands, we also find how few Canadian and non-U.S. alternatives are available to us. We need our federal and provincial/territorial governments to compile lists and categories of those products for which, so far, there are few Canadian substitutes. Our governments should mount websites to promote Canadian products. They should develop incentivized support programs to encourage greatly increased output from existing Canadian production facilities and assist in the speedy construction of new facilities to produce goods and services for which there are not yet Canadian suppliers. We also need to seek out non-U.S. suppliers of equivalent goods and services.

As we upgrade our domestic production of goods and services, we should aim to produce the best possible products. These should embody the most up-to-date and appropriate technological features to better serve our domestic needs and be made available and attractive to the world at a reasonable cost.

Canadian medical, health, and other scientific research is among the best in the world. As the U.S. shuns lifesaving investments in medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, and other hard goods, Canada should be prepared to step in and fill the breach. We need to grow our domestic, collective expertise and invite the best and the brightest to come and join our national effort.

While Canada has enormous natural resources, we should plan to use our technical, medical, and intellectual skills to heavily invest in the production of higher-tech goods and services both for our own consumption and for sale around the world. That way, the relative value of our manufacturing sectors will become a higher percentage of our overall output each year. That will also mean developing better technologies to boost productivity in the extraction and processing of our natural resources. Our goal should be a reasonable return on investment and not simply to maximize return at the expense of the end user.

Canada should seriously look to establish Crown corporations to produce critically needed goods and services where the private sector lacks the will or sufficient resources to produce them at scale and at reasonable cost.

Some of the best minds working in the U.S. are Canadians who were drawn to cutting-edge research and production opportunities south of the border. Now that the Trump-Musk axis is slashing and gutting its own economy, it's time to welcome our Canadian diaspora back home to help us build a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty. We should also welcome bright American minds who want to escape the proto-fascist madness in the U.S. and bring

their families to our true north strong and free, and help us build a new green Canadian economy. Collectively, by our living example, we can offer hope to the many good people of the United States that there is a better way. It is a truism worth repeating that some of the very best Canadians used to be American, British, Brazilian, Nigerian, Chinese, and so on. Canada wants, and needs, good people from around the world to join our multicultural tapestry to help many others, in turn, around the world.

Canada is well positioned to reach out to many other nations in the crosshairs of the Trump-Musk axis and offer up our goods and services while seeking theirs in return. Countries being “tariffed out” of the U.S. market, like Canada, have an immediate incentive to seek out alternative suppliers and customers, just as we do. Our federal and provincial/territorial governments can play a critical role to help make this happen soon, thereby dulling the impact of the U.S. tariffs and actions.

When supply chains are disrupted, it takes time to find alternative suppliers and customers and create effective workarounds. However, as these are developed, new and positive relationships are established. Once these relationships become successful and familiar, there’s a long-term rationale to maintain them and not return to untrustworthy sources and markets. While the Trump-Musk axis risks losing long-term, reliable customers and suppliers, our responsibility is to look forward for Canada.

Canada has vast mineral resources yet we have significantly limited our economy to a “rip, strip and ship” routine, sending our raw and semi-processed resources to the rest of the world, primarily into the U.S. market. We have allowed others to do the more labour-intensive, value-added work and reap the lion’s share of the returns by turning our resources into their salable products. This has to stop! As previously noted, we need to publicly invest in advanced manufacturing production to create world-class output for our own consumption and for sale abroad.

In doing so, we need to stay vigilant against the threats posed by a belligerent U.S. administration. Canada needs to strengthen our foreign investment review regulations. Too many foreign corporations invest in Canada, take away short-term profits, then leave Canadian taxpayers to clean up the damage done in their pursuit of maximum profit.

Norway provides an example we can learn from. It welcomes foreign direct investment but both foreign and domestic investments and acquisitions are governed by the NSA or *National Security Act*. In brief, *“the NSA is intended to help prevent, detect and counter activities that present a threat to national security, and ensure that security measures are implemented in accordance with fundamental legal principles and values of a democratic society.”* (Source: Lexology: “Snapshot: foreign investment and law policy in Norway”; <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=f830227f-3c8c-4ebd-b2ef-b9f02d86a22c>)

The Trump-Musk axis is prompting Canada and other nations to dramatically increase their military spending. Their primary reason is that most of the weaponry the U.S. expects other

countries to purchase is made in the United States at very high profit margins and with very significant political contributions backflowing into re-election campaigns. Some 80% of Canadian military procurement involves purchases of U.S.-made equipment. Canada can become fully capable of producing its own defence equipment.

Currently, the U.S. accounts for some 42% of global arms sales. The longstanding rationale for NATO allies to purchase U.S.-made equipment and weapons systems has been to achieve “interoperability” with the United States. Hence, in situations where we are all fighting on the same side, it made some sense that communications capabilities are compatible and the equipment is interchangeable. This allows inoperable and damaged equipment to be used for spare parts to keep similar equipment in working order.

However, with the recent 180-degree pivot in its foreign and military policy, the U.S. has abandoned its traditional allies and embraced past foes. This calls into question whether Canada and our other global allies should want to continue to be on the same side as the U.S. The disgraceful Trump-Vance ambush on Ukraine’s president Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office on February 28, 2025 is an ominous warning to the entire world. The U.S. has changed sides, in terms of global relationships, and is now allying with authoritarian regimes and in opposition to democratic nations. As a result, Canada must undertake a thorough review of its foreign and defence policy.

Although Canada is already a significant player in the global arms industry, we don’t make whole weapons systems. Instead, we primarily make components for U.S. arms manufacturers. If we can no longer count on, or wish to be on the same side as the U.S., Canada needs to rethink our defence strategy, including the orientation of its arms manufacturing industry. It might make more sense to redirect efforts towards bolstering our own self-defence and sovereignty capabilities and to work more closely with compatible allies within the Commonwealth, the EU, and elsewhere. If Canada chooses to take that turn, the U.S. will find that their so-called whole weapons systems are no longer whole. They will need to scramble to buy time to find alternatives to their current Canadian suppliers.

Many Canadian military families are forced to rely on food banks to make ends meet. This is absurd and has to stop! Canada must increase the pay, benefits, and accommodations of our enlisted men and women if we are to have any reasonable expectation of overcoming current barriers to attracting good people to serve our country. This would also be good for our economy since those military families will spend their deservedly higher income in their respective domestic economies.

The world wants and needs peace, not warmongers promoting international conflicts to bolster profits for insatiable U.S. arms corporations. One of America’s largest and most profitable business sectors is the export of arms and munitions and fomenting wars to use up these weapons and sell replacements. If we and the rest of the western world cooperate to redirect our and their own production for our collective protection, we can deliver a well-deserved hit to the infamous U.S. military-industrial complex.

There has never been any rationale for Canada to wall itself off from the rest of the world. Healthy, equitable international relationships are more important for us now than ever before. In contrast, the Trump-Musk axis seems hellbent on increased economic and political isolation, seemingly oblivious to the probability that their sought-after “success” might result in the U.S. becoming increasingly priced-out of global markets, which comprise some 7 billion people beyond their borders.

## **Respect and work with First Nations**

As with many other western nations, Canada has a checkered past regarding our mistreatment and genocidal conduct towards Indigenous peoples. Thankfully, through decades of hard work by First Nations around the world, working within the United Nations, we have succeeded in achieving the ratification of UNDRIP – *the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. It lays out a roadmap for working towards open and honest reconciliation with First Nations here and around the world.

Federally, Canada’s Parliament passed UNDRIP on December 3, 2020 and it received royal assent on June 21, 2021.

The British Columbia legislature enacted DRIPA – the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* – into provincial law by unanimous consent on November 28, 2019, proudly becoming the first jurisdiction in Canada to enshrine UNDRIP into law.

It took many, many years of hard work by First Nations around the world, within Canada and within BC, to bring about this landmark change as to how our governments should work with First Nations on a government-to-government basis. There have been, and will continue to be, bumps along the way, but genuine progress is being made. Old attitudes are beginning to fade and positive change is on the rise.

The Supreme Court of Canada, in ruling after ruling, has slowly, but increasingly, recognized Indigenous rights and title. It has repeatedly encouraged long-overdue proactive policies by federal and provincial/territorial governments to fairly address First Nations with respect to governance, rights to land, and the resources contained therein. All governments in Canada now have a legal and moral responsibility to approach development issues within declared and contested First Nations lands on the basis of “free, prior and informed consent” of the respective First Nation, recognizing and respecting each nation’s traditional governance and decision-making processes. Gone are the days when a distant bureaucrat in a national or provincial capital could simply give consent to non-Indigenous corporations to walk in and extract resources without due consideration of the rights of the First Nation concerned.

As we build a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty, we must ensure that those plans fully engage with First Nations so that we all move forward together in a spirit of genuine



respect and equality. As we work with First Nations in the coming years, we need to look towards the eventual abolition of the paternalistic *Indian Act*. We must be prepared to put alternate support mechanisms in place, recognizing that not all First Nations are as advanced in their self-sufficiency as others. It will take time to get there but at least we are walking the same path together.

### **Take action to protect, preserve, and re-green our natural habitat**

There is no longer any serious doubt that human burning of fossil fuels contributes to raising the temperature of our overheated planet. We all have an obligation to ensure that we take the necessary steps to abate and counteract the resultant global warming. Despite overwhelming scientific evidence to the contrary, a relative few desperately cling to the past, living in a cultivated state of denial that humans cause or influence environmental and planetary change.

Global petro-corporations lead the shrinking pool of climate deniers. For five-plus decades, they have deliberately lied and concealed the prescient internal warnings of their own top scientists, choosing, instead, to knowingly and wantonly inflict massive damage on our planet while raking in their obscenely bloated superprofits. The petro-corps need to be brought to heel and made to pay their fair share of the mounting costs of dealing with the damage from extreme weather events. To date, these costs, to repair and upgrade our varied infrastructure, are borne by our federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal governments. Currently, these costs are forced solely upon our taxpayers. These petro-corps also need to be made to pay the full costs of cleaning up their polluted sites and surrounding areas and to seriously cut their carbon emissions, even as we move to clean and green energy alternatives.

Canadians and the world also need to collectively address the increasingly dire consequences of the loss of biodiversity and wildlife habitat for terrestrial and marine flora and fauna.

Looking to high-cost, profit-making technological fixes to address climate change might be good for private-sector earnings but more often than not, they are surprisingly inefficient. Some of the most effective ways to mitigate damage caused by global warming is to re-green our planet. For example, mass planting of diversified forests not only provides desperately needed wildlife habitat but those regenerated forests efficiently capture carbon. They can actually cool the planet, changing regional weather patterns and restoring the hydrological cycle for the better. Re-greening is labour intensive and technologically light and helps the planet heal itself. It is generally more economical and produces far better outcomes than the same amount of financial and human resources spent on high-tech solutions. It doesn't require the varied resource inputs required to produce technology. It creates meaningful employment, putting local people to work repairing and rehabilitating the places where they live for the direct benefit of their neighbours and the entire planet.

## **Reach out to, and uphold, our international obligations and relationships**

No nation is an island unto itself, nor should they seek to be. We all share this beautiful, blue planet and we all have an obligation to protect our one and only home. As the slogan goes: “There is no Planet B!”

The developed “western” world has been primarily responsible for the development of a myriad of technologies and the massive consumption of fossil fuels and other resources that have produced the warming of the planet. In doing so, we have also reaped far more than our fair share of the benefits, leaving most of the developing world to pay the highest price. Our standard of living was not built solely on what we accomplished within our own national boundaries or within our own lifetimes. We collectively built what we have today on the backs of generations of people elsewhere who did not fare so well from our actions. We have created a debt to the people of the planet. That debt must now be repaid. Consequently, we have an international responsibility to undertake the lion’s share of the cost of mitigating the damage that we have wrought. We need to accept the influx of people who have been, and are increasingly being, driven from their homelands by rising sea levels, extreme temperatures, ever more massive and damaging storms, extreme poverty, disease, and more.

Much more can, and must, be done to bring about better public health, equitable development, and meaningful, well-paid employment for those adversely affected nations so that their nationals have genuine hope for a better future within their homelands. Where that is not possible, it is incumbent on us to welcome them to new homes within our respective borders.

The United Nations and its associated agencies are only as effective as the support and financial resources we collectively make available to allow them to carry out their respective mandates. Although not perfect, they are unquestionably the best organizations available to do the necessary work internationally. Radical, right-wing voices would have us abandon the UN and allow billions to starve so that those with much can have much more. Those same voices would also abandon most of our own population to a declining standard of living so that a minute fraction of society can live in perceived comfort and safety, walled off within privileged, gated enclaves, isolated and insulated from the common people. We cannot allow this privileged elite to dictate what happens to the people of the world. When we fight for the rights of those on the lower rungs of the socio-economic ladder, we also fight for ourselves.

Canada never has been, and never will be, an imperial power, throwing its weight around to maximize benefits for itself at the expense of others. But we have ridden the coattails of Great Britain and more recently, the United States. Nevertheless, the history of our founding and development as a nation, dealing with seasonal climate extremes and our vast geography, has meant that we have depended more on cooperation than competition. As a nation, we have always valued public education and seeking knowledge. While our

education system can always be improved, it is among the best on the planet. Pooling our collective resources to create universal healthcare, pensions, and other valued social programs easily caught our popular imagination and allowed us to build the political will to create them.

As we unite to build a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty, we need to build on, and expand, our social programs, not curtail them out of misplaced and outdated fiscal orthodoxy.

### **Encourage coordination between national, provincial/territorial, and municipal governments**

The scale of the work required to simultaneously combat the Trump War on Canada and address and mitigate climate change will require a unified all-of-government approach. It cannot be left to the private sector alone as their first priority, now and always, will be the maximization of private profit. With so many corporations operating in Canada owned in the United States, it is naïve to expect that they will, of their own accord, help redirect the Canadian economy away from reliance on the American economy. However, some American-owned companies operating in Canada do see continued value in potentially growing within a reborn Canadian economy and they should not be shunned. Many American corporate owners and managers are not on board with the Trump-Musk agenda. They are potential allies, not enemies.

Canada needs to review and update its domestic and foreign investment and acquisition policies so that all corporate entities are evaluated on their contribution to a green, democratic, equitable, and resilient society and are held to adhere to such standards.

Only a unified Canadian governmental approach has the legal and moral authority to guide our country to a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty. Only governmental leadership has the capability to focus our collective action on the best overall interests of the nation.

The recent Covid-19 pandemic brought together various levels of government to guide Canada successfully through it while minimizing the adverse outcomes. Although our hospitals were under extreme stress, we maintained the necessary beds to deal with other serious and life-threatening illness and conditions that simply would not have happened had those beds been occupied with Covid patients. While the overall response was not without hiccups, Canada weathered the Covid-19 storm in quite remarkable fashion, especially compared to the abysmal failure we witnessed south of the border under Trump's first term in office. The pandemic demonstrated to Canadians that good government really does matter.

This time of multiple crises calls for bold and decisive national action. Governments, business, labour, political parties, organizations and our people need to come together under the banner of a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty.

### **Employ a creative mix of public-private financing and resurrect wartime financing tools**

***“If we don’t change direction, we’re going to end up where we’re headed!”***

Canada should commit to creating a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty to restructure our economy while simultaneously reducing our dependence on fossil fuel consumption and mitigating the impacts of climate change. It is clear we need to change direction if we are going to mobilize the nation to build a better future. Let us not squander our efforts by simply placing temporary band-aids on gaping structural wounds, hoping that they heal so we can resume our old polluting ways. Let us think big and act boldly for a better, greener future.

It is sincerely hoped that the American people will mobilize and overcome their current retrograde administration sooner rather than later. Although there are signs that this is happening, waiting in hope for the U.S. to regain its bearings and right its ship of state is no substitute for Canadians planning our future now.

### **Preludes to a Green New Deal**

The inspiration for a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty harkens back to the groundbreaking New Deal of U.S. president Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Between 1933 and 1938, his New Deal pulled the United States and global economy out of the Great Depression and gave tens of millions of Americans hope that a better and more equitable future was possible. A Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty can simultaneously lift our economy, protect our sovereignty, and seriously address climate change.

During the past decade or so, a lot of serious thinking has gone into developing a Green New Deal in Canada:

- In 2016, the Leap Manifesto challenged Canadians to imagine and work towards an equitable green future (<https://theleap.org/our-work/the-leap-manifesto/>);
- On December 5, 2019, Peter Jullian, NDP Member of Parliament for New Westminster, BC, tabled a motion in federal Parliament to create a Green New Deal for Canada ([https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/peter-julian\(16399\)/motions/10599252](https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/peter-julian(16399)/motions/10599252));
- In 2019, a broad cross-section of Canadian civil-society organizations came together to envision a Green New Deal for Canada (<https://canadians.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/greennewdeal-guide.pdf>);

- In 2020, Seth Klein published his brilliant, detailed analysis of how Canadians can bring about, and pay for, the needed changes in building a Green New Deal in his ECW Press book *A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency* ([https://www.google.com/search?gs\\_ssp=eJzj4tVP1zc0TCsxKljPMs8yYPQSTVRiz89PUSHPLFloTi3JUMjOSc3MAwDhJgxO&q=a+good+war+seth+klein&rlz=1C5CHFA\\_enCA896CA991&oq=A+Good+War+&gs\\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqBwgBEC4YgAQyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQLhiABDIHCAIQABiABDIHCAMQABiABDIHCAQQABiABDIHCAUQABiABDIHCAQYQABiABDIHCacQABiABDIHCAgQABiABDIGCAkQRRhA0gEINjU4MmowajGoAgewAgE&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?gs_ssp=eJzj4tVP1zc0TCsxKljPMs8yYPQSTVRiz89PUSHPLFloTi3JUMjOSc3MAwDhJgxO&q=a+good+war+seth+klein&rlz=1C5CHFA_enCA896CA991&oq=A+Good+War+&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqBwgBEC4YgAQyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQLhiABDIHCAIQABiABDIHCAMQABiABDIHCAQQABiABDIHCAUQABiABDIHCAQYQABiABDIHCacQABiABDIHCAgQABiABDIGCAkQRRhA0gEINjU4MmowajGoAgewAgE&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8));
- In 2019, as the Covid-19 global pandemic set in, much of the momentum for pursuing a Green New Deal around the world necessarily took a back seat. In Canada, our provincial and federal governments pulled together a coordinated response of health measures and public financial supports to both individuals and businesses. This minimized illness and death and prevented our health care system from being overwhelmed with Covid-19 patients filling all available hospital beds. The response, while not perfect, did highlight the value and benefits of responsible governments assuming leadership in a national crisis; and
- 350 Canada has developed an outline for a New Green Deal (<https://350.org/canada/gnd>).

While most iterations of a Green New Deal have focused primarily on climate change imperatives, the need for Canada to make itself less dependent on the U.S. economy and build up our internal production capacity is palpable. Today, the focus on a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty brings together the climate change imperative *and* the political-economic imperative for us to change our direction so that we don't end up where we are headed, that is, as a fully subservient satellite state of the U.S., or worse yet, forced into the fetid American melting pot. A Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty demands our undivided attention now.

### **So how do we get there?**

Klein's book *A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency* is the single best source outlining why a Green New Deal is needed. It spells out, in great detail, how we can get there. It is recommended reading for all who care about Canada's future.

In *A Good War*, Seth draws from the experience of how Canada mobilized during the Second World War to rapidly transform and upgrade the Canadian economy and our manufacturing capabilities. This included the development of broad social cohesion from coast to coast. He argues that a similar national effort is both needed and possible to combat climate change, and I would add, to now realign our economy to counter U.S. designs on Canadian sovereignty.

During the Second World War, Canada financed most of its war costs by borrowing from the Bank of Canada at low interest rates and by selling Victory Bonds to the Canadian public. Our entire nation was fully engaged in fighting back, as is necessary in a war. After the war was over, while the loans had to be repaid, the low interest rates meant Canadians were not burdened by excessive private-sector interest profits. Today, while federal and provincial governments borrow primarily through commercial financial markets, they still have the legal capacity to borrow from the Bank of Canada at low interest rates.

Given that we are in an economic war started by the United States, Canada should, once again, resurrect its war-financing approach and fund our collective efforts through the Bank of Canada. The federal government should issue and promote the sale of **Canadian Sovereignty Bonds** to mobilize Canadians' savings to help finance our green economic re-birth and secure our sovereignty. The beauty of this approach is that when Canadians borrow from Canadians for our mutual benefit it does not adversely affect our international balance of payments.

### **One example of what's achievable: public housing**

Canada is facing a critical national shortage of affordable housing for our existing population. With Trump's threats to enact the largest mass deportation of immigrants in U.S. history, it is inevitable that many innocent people will seek out Canada as a safe haven within which to protect their vulnerable families. It is already happening. Our need to create much more affordable housing will only increase in the months and years ahead. Our current, almost exclusive, reliance on the private sector to finance and deliver affordable housing has not been working for some time. Going forward, we need a different approach if we are to provide the needed housing within a reasonable time frame.

The CMHC – Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation – has been allowed to languish for many years. Their once proud history of helping to provide Canadian families with affordable housing needs to be reinvigorated, and quickly.

Our federal, provincial, and municipal governments all own vast tracts of land on which housing can be built. Most of the products and components that go into Canadian housing are already made in, or can be made in, Canada. All homeowners know from their annual property assessments that the largest portion of total value goes to land and the minority to the value of the buildings on the land.

If the federal and provincial governments were allied to undertake a massive not-for-profit housing program, by reigniting the CMHC and developing housing co-ops that could not be re-sold for speculative gain, by using donated public land, with the cost of development and construction financed at low interest rates through Bank of Canada, the cost of that publicly supported housing would plummet dramatically. That additional supply of housing at substantially lower cost would, in turn, reduce demand and speculation on privately owned

housing. In turn, that would significantly dampen the impact of the commodification of residential housing markets, which has become a major driver of out-of-control housing costs in recent decades.

A coordinated, holistic approach to provide public housing would create hundreds of thousands of well paying jobs in every community in the country. Increased demand for the components that go into housing, from lumber, to nails, wiring, windows and doors, toilets, heat exchangers, etc., will also create hundreds of thousands more jobs. We would be consuming for ourselves, the goods and services the US is tariffing out of their market.

The spending power of all who are directly and indirectly involved in a massive public housing program will circulate throughout all communities and economic sectors. This will support and create still more hundreds of thousands of multiplier jobs for restaurants, hairdressers, clothiers, vehicle sales, entertainment and more.

Onsite, stick-built construction is far more expensive and slower to construct than factory-built, modular housing. Onsite construction workers earn \$50 to \$75-plus per hour, while factory labour is more in the range of \$30 to \$45 per hour. Today, computer-aided design of factory-built housing can easily produce any architectural outcome desired. Preassembled building components can be transported to the site, where onsite labour has created the foundations and services in advance and can erect the components to complete the building in a matter of weeks as opposed to months. Factory-built housing wastes less material and that reduced waste can be recycled more efficiently, further reducing costs.

The federal and provincial governments, in consultation with municipal governments, could also commission numerous designs for single-family and multi-family housing units. These could be preapproved for engineering and building code compliance, greatly speeding up the municipal approvals process and thereby, cutting out multiple and repetitive cost layers. Those designs would be capable of personalized finishes to avoid a cookie-cutter appearance while dramatically lowering costs and speeding up construction times and move-in dates for more happy individuals, couples, and families.

Most builders want to build and keep their crews working. It does not really matter to a construction crew whether they are building on government-owned or privately owned land: a good job is a good job that supports their families.

Just as during the Second World War, today's federal and provincial governments can use their capacity to borrow from the Bank of Canada to underwrite private-sector investment to expand existing production and create more efficient new production capacity to produce the goods and services needed to prosecute the economic war effort. They can cooperate and underwrite the expansion of housing factories and other supply businesses needed to meet the housing needs of Canadians and help resist the American economic war against Canada.

Housing is but one example of the kind of economic activity that Canada needs more of. Many other sectors should also be considered for federal and provincial governments to cooperate around incentivizing the private sector to better produce the goods and services we need and help Canada stand up to Trump's economic war against our nation. Where the private sector is reluctant to create the necessary capacity, Canada should create Crown corporations capable of meeting our needs.

### **The battle plan: key lessons from the Second World War**

In *A Good War*, Seth Klein lays out key lessons learned from how Canada succeeded in the Second World War. These are worth reviewing as Canada looks ahead to protecting our economy from the vagaries of the U.S. administration. Klein's key points, summarized below, appear on pages 14 to 20 in his book:

- **Adopt an emergency mindset, prepared to do what it takes to win.** Naming an emergency and showing the need for a wartime-scale action creates a national sense of shared purpose and creates an excitement when what was previously thought not possible, through a less restrictive lens, now looks achievable.
- **Rally the public at every turn.** Make sure the general public is fully informed and engaged in the reasons for, and purpose of, the plan. Ensure that public literacy on the climate and economic imperatives becomes part of everyday consciousness and conversation. Ensure that all media outlets operate under codes of journalistic integrity and that dis- and misinformation is flagged and stopped.
- **Inequality is toxic to social solidarity and mass mobilization.** Success requires that everyone understands and sees that we are all in this together, that the well-off as well as working families are making the necessary sacrifices and contributions along with the rest of the population.
- **Embrace economic planning and create the economic institutions needed to get the job done.** Incentivize the private sector to build out productive capacity but do not shrink from creating Crown corporations to do the needed work where the private sector is unwilling or incapable. Do not leave national planning to the private sector.
- **Spend what it takes to win.** In emergencies, governments are remarkably capable of allocating funds to get the job done. Low-interest loans through the Bank of Canada and/or through the sale of Canadian Sovereignty Bonds can go a long way to achieving a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty.
- **Leave no one behind.** Ensure that workers are trained and available to match the requirements of the needed work. Create opportunities to involve people in every aspect of the project. Just Transition programs must be put in place to bridge workers from jobs lost into new, good green jobs.
- **Reject the straightjacket of neoliberal economic thinking.** Be prepared to cast off free-market economic orthodoxy and limitations and bring the nation along to embrace a level of economic planning, public investment, and public enterprise



previously thought unimaginable. As Canada faces a U.S.-imposed crisis, new thinking and approaches are needed now to create great opportunity.

- **Transform government.** Create a whole government approach to address the challenges with specific coordinating staff in the prime minister's office and within all provincial and territorial premiers' offices. Foster good relationships with municipal governments to maximize efficiency and secure good outcomes.
- **Indigenous leadership, culture and title and rights are central to winning.** Recognize and welcome the role First Nations can play in the process and embed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into law and into the planning process at all levels.
- **Everyone has to do their bit.** Households, businesses, institutions, and government departments all need to do their bit. Create a Youth Climate Corps to provide employment for, and involvement of, younger Canadians.
- **This time, human rights must not be sacrificed.** The collective planning and execution process must fully respect human rights and not run roughshod over the rights of any group within Canadian society.
- **Canada is not an island.** We didn't win the Second World War on our own. We won by contributing to an international effort to achieve the goal. We will win by contributing to the international effort to build a Green New Economy in Canada and around the world.
- **When necessary, real leaders throw out the rule book and become the heroes.** Put people and the planet first. Be prepared to take the risks necessary for success.
- **Know thine enemy.** The enemy was clear in the Second World War, less so today. The fossil-fuel industry will fight to extend its economic dominance to continue to rake in enormous profits. Climate-deniers will attempt to stop and misdirect public policy. Don't buy it! Keep your eyes on the prize: a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty can keep push us forward to a better Canada!

## **National and provincial leadership**

It is becoming increasingly clear that the Liberal Party will choose Mark Carney on March 9 as its new leader. The dramatic shift in public opinion polls, following Trudeau's announced departure, coupled with the possibility of a Carney win have upended the probable electoral results. The Conservatives have fallen dramatically. Given Pierre Poilievre's aping of Trump's tactics and catch phrases, his closeness to Trump and Musk has become an albatross around his neck. The Liberals have pulled marginally ahead and that lead is likely to increase following Carney's win. A Mark-Carney-led Liberal Party might well produce another Liberal minority or perhaps a even a Liberal majority government. Given those potential outcome, it is important to keep in mind that Mark Carney was a past governor of both the Bank of Canada and Bank of England. He fully understands the deep history and successes that both Canada and Great Britain reaped by choosing to finance the Second World war debt through

their respective national banks and bonds rather than through private lenders. He could be a critical ally in the formation of a national unity government following the election.

Assuming Mark Carney wins the Liberal leadership and becomes prime minister, it's anyone's guess as to when he will call a federal general election. If Carney wins big and the public opinion polls show a large margin over the Conservatives, Carney will likely want to go ahead sooner while the honeymoon glow is fresh. If the polls show a modest lead, Carney might want to take some time to negotiate with the NDP and the Bloc over what it might take to secure their support in the event of a minority, in which case an early call is less likely.

Canadian federal political parties have a winner-take-all and first-past-the-post electoral system baked into their organizational DNA, where 39% of the vote virtually guarantees a so-called "majority government." They might be reluctant to put down their rhetorical swords in advance of the election and cooperate with other political parties for the good of the nation.

The real work will come after the election. Assuming either a Liberal minority or majority government, Mark Carney will need to win the hearts and minds of Canadians as he pulls together a working plan to resist the American assault and rally the nation to a fight-back agenda. He will need support across the board. Canadians will need to convince the other parties to get on board and offer their critical support in fashioning that plan and full support in executing it. For the good of Canada, we need a nation above party commitment from all.

(Before Franklin Delano Roosevelt introduced the New Deal, which brought about an end to the Great Depression and the rebirth of the American economy, he met with a group of political activists. They sought to convince him of the worth of many of the ideas that were to become core components of the New Deal. He listened intently and then famously said, "You've convinced me. Now go out and make me do it!")

As Canadian activists, we need to foment a popular national discussion to build a solid base of support for a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty and insist that all political parties join in that discussion. Our guiding concept has to be "planet and nation first."

Canadians need to open a public discussion on the benefits and necessity of a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty. We need to build a base of support for the concept so strong that political parties that ignore the popular will do so at their own peril. Working together, we can push the incoming government farther and faster than they would go on their own. Our job, as activists, is to go out and make the incoming government do it. The Conservative leadership might balk but its party base can be won over to fight for Canada. We don't need the support of all Canadians, just the substantial majority.

## **Conclusion**

The Trump regime has clearly forewarned Canada of its political designs on our national sovereignty. Canadians need to begin planning now for the Trump-initiated economic war against our nation: to be forewarned is to be forearmed.

We genuinely hope that the American people are able to mobilize and overcome their current retrograde administration sooner rather than later. However, hope is no substitute for planning and no reason for Canadians to postpone planning our better, more equitable, green future.

The proposals put forward above are a clear departure from business as usual, but so too is U.S. economic warfare against Canada, one of their longest and strongest allies and one of their most critical trading partners. The purpose of Trump's war against Canada is the extermination of Canada as a sovereign nation and our total absorption into the festering "melting pot" of contemporary United States politics, with all the filth and corruption that entails. That is not a future that any Canadian should entertain or support.

Regardless of which party or parties form or support the next federal government, or the current and upcoming provincial/territorial governments, one thing is certain: corporate lobbyists will inundate every federal and provincial Minister, every governing and non-governing MP, MLA and MPP, and every senior bureaucrat within both the federal and provincial/territorial governments. Their message, first and foremost, will be singularly directed to promote the interests of their corporate paymasters, even though they will package their messaging to suggest that it is in the best interests of Canada. Make no mistake about this: That's what they are paid to do.

To balance that corporate barrage, the Canadian people and our respective organizations need to talk about what we want to see in a reorganized Canada. We need to make sure that we clearly communicate our ideas and concerns to our fellow Canadians and to all levels of government. Let us make sure that our collective voices are heard and that we don't sit back and allow corporate voices to be the only ones our elected representatives hear.

Canada is at a major turning point. We can, and must, turn this crisis into great opportunity and build a better society based on a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty that will bring enormous and lasting social, ecological, and economic benefits for all Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

A Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty can simultaneously address climate change and build a more equitable, successful economy with reduced reliance on, and greater political independence, from the United States. Canadian citizens, activists, and organizations can, and must, push our governments faster and farther to secure our society, our environment, our economy, and our sovereignty.

**It is now up to us to be the leadership that we have all been waiting for. Let's go, Canada!**

Jef Keighley  
Garden Bay, BC  
March, 5, 202

## Sidebar

### **Bending the arc of justice**

Canadians are asking **how** they can help save our country. What more can we do beyond buying Canadian in the face of the U.S. economic war on Canada? What follows is a collection of ideas for both individuals and groups who want to help support the call for a Green New Deal for Canadian Sovereignty. Here's how you can unite with family, friends, neighbours, and co-workers to broaden the national discussion. Let's go, Canada!

#### **What can YOU do to bend the arc of justice?**

- **Talk with your family, friends, and co-workers about Trump's War on Canada.** Offer your thoughts and ask for their opinions on what they think Canada should do to build our nation better and counter the Trump regime's policies, as they affect Canada. Do what you can to stimulate the discussion.
- **Be vigilant in your shopping habits.** Check labels and do your best to avoid shopping American. Wherever possible, shop Canadian or from any other non-U.S. country when buying goods and services. If you come across good Canadian or other non-U.S.-produced alternatives, let your family and friends know what they are and where they can be bought.
- **Ask your supermarkets to be proactive.** Have them move Canadian products up to optimum eye-level on shelves and either discontinue American products or move them to lower shelves. Ask the store to specifically and clearly identify Canadian-made products to make everyone's shopping easier.
- **Search out credible information sources on the internet.** Take a more active role in educating yourself on issues. When you come across good, on-point articles, share them on social media and with your family and friends. Include a brief intro on why you think the article is a good read because people will more likely respond to a personal recommendation.
- **Celebrate success stories and share them widely.** Tell others when you hear inspiring, good-news stories about how Canadians are succeeding in resisting U.S.

domination and rebuilding our domestic economy. We're all going to need more good news in the months and years ahead.

- **Write letters to the editor on the issues that matter to you.** Include online publications plus daily and/or weekly newspapers that you read regularly. To maximize your chances of publication, make sure that you adhere to their deadline times and dates and word-length policies. Even if your letter is not printed, share it with your networks to inspire others to take similar actions. If your letter is printed, copy it and share it with your networks.
- **Write letters to your government representatives at all levels: federal, provincial, and municipal.** Whether as an individual and/or an organizational rep, tell politicians that you expect all three levels of government to work together to better diversify our local, regional, and national economies in an ecologically responsible way. This will make Canada more independent in our production capacity and less reliant on simply serving the U.S. economy.

Don't simply communicate your views and leave it at that. Always include specific questions and seek answers from your elected officials to the issues you have raised. Such letters are harder for a politician or bureaucrat to ignore and are far more likely to elicit a response. They *will* be noticed. Publicize the responses you receive, both good and bad.

- **Ask your union or professional organization, if applicable, what they are doing to protect Canada and resist the Trump onslaught.** You might find productive relationships that offer a good place to engage in activism and allyship with like-minded others. If you don't normally go to union meetings, start going and bring a co-worker. Organized labour can be a powerful, public voice where you can find a comfortable home and lots of good friends. Like most organizations, unions are only as effective as the collective will of the people involved. If more members are involved, the collective voice will be that much stronger. You can help build that voice!
- **Know your allies.** As you become more active, keep track of, and get to know, those who are there with you. Exchange telephone numbers, email addresses, and social media contact information and stay in touch. Go for coffee and be supportive as we all build our collective resistance.
- **Organize pot lucks or other house gatherings in your neighbourhood.** Invite others to come and brainstorm on how you can all collectively work together to achieve better results. As the weather improves, organize picnics to build upon, and strengthen, the bonds and commitment you have already established. Bring the kids and have fun. Play games and celebrate your collective achievements.

- **Openly support election candidates who are committed to a more diversified, independent, and environmentally responsible government.** Question candidates during elections for all three levels of government. If you don't see candidates that share your values, consider putting yourself forward or canvass your support groups to find and nominate a candidate who will champion your values. Then help them get elected.
- **Be prepared to provide financial support.** Give to citizens' organizations and political candidates and parties that support building a more diversified, independent and environmentally responsible government network from coast to coast.

### Takin' it to the streets

- **Get out onto the streets.** Look for opportunities to join with others to publicly show your love of Canada and your opposition to Trump's War on Canada. You don't have to wait for others to organize a protest in your town. Join with other like-minded folks and organize actions of your own. Choose a location such as your city hall, a prominent federal or provincial government building or another major civic focal point. For maximum visibility, look for locations with a lot of foot and vehicular traffic.
- **Choose simple, clear promotion.** Put up posters to publicize an action and make it known far and wide through social media. Make sure that your signs are on point and written in big, bold letters so that passersby will be able to read them and understand why your group is there. Good billboards rarely use more than seven words in their headlines because people cannot read and absorb more words than that while driving. Think of a poster as a small billboard. Be creative and know that "less is more." Humour and clever sarcasm can often be very useful. To catch people's attention, use bright colours, such as fluorescent poster paper.
- **Build supportive camaraderie.** After your demonstration or action plan, go for a coffee, drink or snack with your fellow activists to both congratulate yourselves on a job well done and plan out how you can do more and better next time. Building supportive camaraderie is critical in creating effective organizations. Establish a working network to stay in touch with others. Ask people to let their contacts know that your organization exists. Always invite ever broader participation.
- **Think ahead.** Whenever possible, announce a preplanned "next action/activity" to an existing gathering. Include the event's purpose, date, time, and venue on small handouts so people have something to work towards and to help recruit a broader level of participation. Even if the next activity isn't your own organization's event, let

everyone know about it at your event. Building cross-organizational solidarity is critical to long-term success.

- **Build a relationship with your local media.** As your organization grows, keep newspapers, radio and television stations, online blogs and websites apprised of your activities. Issue press releases ahead of your events so that the media can attend and/or amplify your message and help you reach a wider audience. As you develop your media contacts, in addition to issuing press releases, be sure to call your contacts ahead of time and ask them or someone else in their organization to send a reporter along to cover your event.
- **Take good photos and/or short videos of your event.** Make sure someone or certain people are responsible for taking images and/or footage of your event to include in your social media posts after the fact. You can also provide these, with a brief write-up, to any media who were not able to cover your event. Timeliness is everything in media, so make sure you get them this content as soon as you can before their deadline. Since local newspapers all run on shoestring budgets, they will likely appreciate receiving text and visual aids to cover those issues they might not have the resources to attend in person. Assuming you have a follow-up event planned, include that information in your write-ups on social media. Build, build, build!
- **Seek out meetings with elected officials.** As your organization builds, communicate your collective perspectives at all three levels of government. Ask for the support of those elected officials to carry your message forward to their respective level of government. Let them all know that Canadians are waking up across the land and that we expect more from them than simply business as usual. Keep track of the responses you receive from those officials and let your network know, both good and bad, what the officials' responses are. Write more letters to the editors about those responses. Give credit where it's due and respectful criticism when and where appropriate.

### **Creativity on the home front**

- **Grow a sovereignty garden.** Grow your own food: in your yard, on your balcony, wherever you can find space. Replace grass with productive gardens. Get together with others to build a community garden. Make use of neighbourhood boulevards, vacant lots. If a greenhouse in your vicinity is not in active use, contact the owners and see if your community garden group can use it for an expanded, longer-season community garden. If you don't know how to garden or make preserves, learn. If you do know, teach your neighbours. Learn how to preserve your bounty to enjoy through the winter. Put on canning and preservation bees so that several families can work together. If you have canning and preservation equipment, lend it to friends and neighbours.

- **Make sovereignty clothes.** If you know how to sew or knit, do so. Make clothes, sweaters, toques, gloves, mitts, etc. and teach others to sew and knit. If you don't know how to do either, learn. Create makers' circles for women and men to get together and talk about the issues of the day as you sew and knit, and enjoy coffee, tea, and each others' company.
- **Design and create a quilt to celebrate Canadian sovereignty.** If you quilt and/or belong to a quilting community, why not design and create a quilt that celebrates the positive benefits of Canadians working with other Canadians to build a better country? Teach others to quilt. Why not create a quilt that reflects all of the different ethnic groups, diversities, and nationalities within your community and seek to display them in public spaces?
- **Create Canadian graffiti that celebrates our vibrant nation.** If you are a tagger, why not dream up and create beautiful Canadian graffiti that inspires others to work for a better country? Turn our national rail cars into voices for a better Canada.
- **Use your cultural or artistic talents to celebrate our collective will to survive and thrive.** If you are artistic, musical, a poet, writer or videographer, why not create art, songs, poems or stories that help us build a better, cleaner and more egalitarian Canada? Share your works with others. Put on themed art shows, musical gatherings, and coffee houses. To inspire others, research and learn older songs and stories of struggle and success and perform them at gatherings. Encourage younger Canadians to describe the nation of their dreams and aspirations. Create videos and blogs that capture and promote the hopes and dreams of our youth. Feature such cultural expressions at rallies and events.
- **Speak to seniors who remember the war years or their parents' retold stories about those times.** Record and retell their stories about how the country came together cooperatively to support the war effort at home and overseas. Ask them to speak at rallies and gatherings. Honour and respect their past sacrifices. Take their lessons lived and apply them today and tomorrow to inspire greater cooperation and collective unity.