

April 14, 2025

Dear Bert Blundon,

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to speak to the National Union of General and Public employees and share the Green Party of Canada's platform. We appreciate your continued advocacy.

Please find our response below.

Best regards,

Karine Cambron  
Coordinator, Survey and Questionnaire Response Team  
Green Party of Canada

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**1- Do you agree that Canada's response to Trump administration's unjustified attack on our economy requires a renewed commitment to our values, including the substantial increase in funding needed to strengthen the public services Canadians built together to ensure fairness and a dignified life for everyone in our country – such as public healthcare, public childcare, public post-secondary education?**

Yes. The Green Party of Canada believes Canada must stand firm against foreign economic coercion by investing in public services that make life fairer and more secure for all. We will increase funding for public healthcare, child care, and post-secondary education to ensure every Canadian has access to dignity, opportunity, and stability.

Our plan includes eliminating federal income tax on the first \$40,000 earned, and recovering billions through fair taxation of the ultra-wealthy and large corporations. We will end fossil fuel subsidies and redirect those funds to essential services.

We also propose strategic reserves of key resources, protections for domestic industries, and investments in public institutions to resist economic threats from abroad. These policies aren't just about resisting Trump—they're about building an economy that puts people first.

**2- To support workers in this moment of crisis caused by unjustified tariffs imposed on Canada and the world by the Trump administration, do you agree that our federal government must take urgent action to protect jobs, reinstate the Employment Insurance (EI) temporary**

### **flexibilities introduced in 2020-2022, and extend EI access to migrant workers who contribute EI premiums?**

Yes. The Green Party of Canada supports urgent federal action to protect workers from the harm caused by unjustified U.S. tariffs. These measures are an attack on Canadian jobs and communities. We must respond with fairness and solidarity.

We support reinstating the EI flexibilities introduced in 2020–2022—lowering eligibility to 360 hours, extending benefits to 50 weeks, and increasing the replacement rate to 66.6% of earnings. These flexibilities helped millions and are still needed today.

We also support extending EI to migrant workers who pay into the system. If you pay EI premiums, you deserve access. Migrant workers contribute to our economy and deserve equal protection.

These changes are essential to defending economic security and ensuring no one is left behind during this crisis.

### **3- Do you support putting an end to ongoing discrimination against Wildland/Forest Firefighters – who risk their lives to save others, protect communities, homes and ecosystems by battling increasingly frequent and devastating climate change-fueled wildfires across Canada, and who have also lent their expertise to assist our American neighbours during disasters such as the recent wildfires in Los Angeles – who are still being denied recognition as firefighters, including in the National Occupational Classification (NOC) where they are specifically excluded from the category of “firefighter” – an exclusion that leads to these first responders and public safety officers being treated like second-class responders, leaving them without the recognition, equal protections, benefits, equipment and tax treatment other firefighters receive?**

Yes. The Green Party of Canada supports ending the discrimination faced by wildland and forest firefighters. These first responders risk their lives protecting people, communities, and ecosystems. They deserve equal recognition, protections, and benefits.

We would support updating the National Occupational Classification (NOC) to formally include wildland/forest firefighters as “firefighters.”

We also support tax fairness—wildland firefighters must receive the same tax treatment and deductions as other firefighting professionals. Our plan includes funding for better training, protective equipment, and mental health care for all emergency responders.

These workers are on the front lines of the climate crisis. Recognizing them properly is not only just—it’s necessary for public safety and national resilience. Their contributions must be valued and protected.

**4- Do you support increasing the Canada Health Transfer to 35%, with funding tied to strong national standards, in order to stabilize our public healthcare system and ensure all healthcare professionals can continue to provide the care Canadians need in all our communities? And do you support the development and implementation of a Health Human Resources Strategy and Plan for Canada, developed in collaboration with governments, unions, employers and educational institutions?**

Yes, the Green Party of Canada supports increasing federal health transfers with strong accountability. While our platform doesn't name a 35% target, we commit to increasing the Canada Health Transfer and ensuring fair, transparent use of funds across all regions—especially in rural and remote areas.

We also support developing a Health Human Resources Strategy. Our 2025 plan includes aid to hire new family doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners. We aim to train and certify 50,000 personal support workers and set a \$25/hour wage floor for long-term care jobs. We also support fair pay and national credentialing for health professionals, including immigrants.

These actions will stabilize care, reduce worker shortages, and improve access for all Canadians.

**5- Do you agree that the federal government must act to stop the devastating cuts to public colleges and universities – investing instead in young Canadians, in the workforce we need today and in the future, through emergency funding and long-term commitment? This includes creating a dedicated federal transfer for postsecondary education; expanding Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) eligibility at public colleges, recognizing local labour market needs; establishing permanent status pathways for international students and grads; and developing national standards to keep education accessible and public.**

Yes, the Green Party supports urgent federal action to stop cuts to public colleges and universities and invest in young Canadians.

We call for a dedicated federal transfer for post-secondary education, separate from the Canada Social Transfer, with conditions to ensure accountability. We aim to restore federal funding to 0.35% of GDP.

Our platform supports tuition-free public post-secondary education, starting with low-income and Indigenous students. We also plan to eliminate federal student loan debt and expand permanent residency pathways for international students. Education must remain public, accessible, and protected from corporate influence.

**6- Do you agree that we must make taxes fair for everyone by ensuring the wealthy and the largest corporations are not protected against paying their fair share – to stop inequality from getting worse and to generate the public revenue we need to build and fix things that matter to all of us: housing, healthcare, childcare, education and a more vibrant economy for everyone?**

**This includes the measures you plan on taking to close loopholes and strengthen enforcement so that it is harder for the wealthy and large corporations to avoid paying their share.**

Yes, the Green Party agrees that we must make taxes fair by ensuring the wealthy and large corporations pay their fair share. This is essential to reduce inequality and generate the revenue needed to invest in public services like housing, healthcare, childcare, and education.

We will increase the corporate tax rate to 21% for large businesses and introduce a Windfall Tax on excess profits. We also support a progressive wealth tax on fortunes over \$10 million, a financial transactions tax, and stronger exit taxes.

We will close tax loopholes, end offshore tax evasion, and refocus the Canada Revenue Agency on recovering lost revenue. These measures will help build a fairer economy where everyone contributes and all Canadians benefit.