

FACTS & INSIGHTS 4

A NEW GREEN ECONOMY

■ Canada and the world are faced with two major crises: a deep economic recession and climate change. Thousands of the world's leading scientists recently gathered in Copenhagen for an emergency climate summit. They had one overriding message for us all: climate change is even worse than we thought and urgent action is needed more than ever—action that is bound to have significant economic impacts. At the same time Canada continues to shed hundreds of thousands of jobs in the manufacturing, mining and forest products industries.

■ The dramatic damage to our economy and environment are not separate problems that are individually “fixable”. The fact is that the solutions to the climate crisis are the same measures needed to renew our economy. We do not have to choose either a strong economy or a clean environment. This is a false choice that sells our country short. The current economic downturn presents us with an opportunity to unleash Canadian ingenuity and develop the green technologies that will renew our economy and confront climate change.

■ Dynamic economies constantly reinvent themselves and grow through innovation. We need cutting-edge, made-in-Canada alternative energy technologies that will create new jobs making things like wind turbines and solar panels. The potential is enormous. According to the United Nations the emerging green technology economy will be worth \$4.2 trillion annually by the year 2020.

■ Studies show that “green” infrastructure investments create more jobs per dollar than investments in traditional fossil fuel industries, tax cuts or efforts to boost consumer spending.

OBVIOUS SOLUTIONS

- The federal government must:
 - ◆ Launch a major investment in public infrastructure that would create jobs now, promote our environmental goals and create new industries for the future;
 - ◆ Develop a national industrial strategy to renew Canada's manufacturing base and to help manufacturing industries adjust



to changing economic and environmental circumstances;

- ◆ Use the EI program to develop a Just Transition Strategy to re-train unemployed workers for jobs in a new green economy;
- ◆ Introduce new financial incentives for clean energy, including from solar, wind, water, biomass and other renewable sources;
- ◆ Establish a national fund to invest in research and development and the most promising clean energy technology companies;
- ◆ Create a strategy to attract the new green technology jobs that will be in high demand as more countries transition to a clean energy economy.

TAKE ACTION

■ Visit www.peoplesresponse.ca so you can:

- ◆ Find out about town hall meetings in your community;
 - ◆ Connect with like-minded people and get involved with a virtual campaign;
 - ◆ Make your voice heard by sending an email to your Member of Parliament, completing a short survey, and posting your own note or video;
 - ◆ Download information and other resources such as fact sheets, videos and podcasts.
- Invite your friends, family and colleagues to get involved and speak out.