

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Liberal MP, Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

October 26, 2015

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

The Policy Studies program at Kwantlen Polytechnic University would like to congratulate you on your win, your leadership, and your vision for a better Canada.

Kwantlen Polytechnic University is a teaching-focused university located on four campuses in BC's lower mainland, including Surrey Newton and Cloverdale-Langley City. Drawn from ridings such as Steveston-Richmond East, Delta, Surrey Centre and Fleetwood-Port Kells, our student body is diverse and economically mixed – exactly the demographics that your campaign was speaking to.

As one of the only undergraduate programs in Policy Studies in the country, with a focus on environmental and social sustainability, we encouraged our students to learn about the policy issues in the federal campaign, and to vote. The level of engagement was high and many students voted in the advance polls. One of our students ran as a Green Party candidate.

The day after the election, I asked our students about key issues they would like your new government to consider. Here is what they have recommended:

- **Ensure safe drinking water on reserves.** You have pledged to deal with this issue, and it should be a priority. It is unacceptable that there are communities in Canada that do not have access to clean water to drink.
- **Ensure protection of groundwater and water bodies,** including from contaminants in municipal wastewater, waste water from fracking, and tailings ponds from mining.
- **Take action on income and wealth inequality.** During the campaign, you spoke about creating a more fair and just society, and one of the most obvious ways of doing this is by narrowing the gap that exists between the wealthiest Canadians and everyone else. The virtues of economic growth can only truly be realized if the benefits of that growth are distributed equitably. **Fulfill the promise to pull back on TFSA contributions,** which is an example of policy that can help to limit the forces of divergence in wealth. Your government could also take a look at the capital gains tax (i.e., why is only 50% taxable?), and issues around the minimum wage.
- Canada needs a **national drug plan.**

- **Support Canadian products and people with a 'buy local' campaign.** This will allow the Canadian economy to grow and will also provide high paying positions to Canadians in the resource rather than the service sector.
- **Protect people and communities** when it comes to trade.
- **Update Canadian animal welfare legislation;** ban puppy mills and other animal breeding facilities where animals are kept in inhumane conditions, including the sale of puppies and other animals at pet stores. Legislation should also extend to kill-shelters.
- **Let's be a leader in the creation of cruelty-free farms;** this should extend to meat production facilities as well as fisheries.
- **Recognize environmental rights** as superior to the economy. The economy can only do as much as we, society, let it – and we can only do as much as the environment lets us. Therefore the environment should be our first priority. This doesn't mean that all funding needs to go to the environment, instead, we need to look at situations with a 7<sup>th</sup> generation viewpoint: whatever decision we make must consider the impact of the seven generations after us. This includes trade deals, partnerships, etc.
- **Invest in Canadian scientists** so we can rebuild our scientific community.
- Fulfill your commitment to **a more open and transparent government.** A more deliberative approach, one that goes beyond mere consultation on specific issues, is needed in Canada. Your government has the potential to bring 'Big Ideas' back into political discourse, and we would urge you to stay away from a consumer politics model of government.
- Include a **broad rather than narrow scope for the environmental review of the Trans Mountain pipeline project,** to ensure that the potential for disastrous environmental consequences from a spill along the BC coast is taken into account. Listen to the many British Columbians who believe that additional oil/bitumen tankers along our coast pose too great an environmental threat.
- **We risk triggering climate tipping points with irreversible impacts,** so we need to: work on ways to refine our oil in Canada while also reducing the serious downstream effects of oil and gas development; make international commitments to greenhouse gas reductions that will see Canada leave reserves in the ground; and, enable the transition to a clean tech driven economy.
- Canada should begin to **develop a comprehensive climate adaption strategy,** especially in the Arctic.
- **Develop and commit to a comprehensive, science-based national climate strategy:** a Canadian Climate and Energy Strategy should address adaptation to impacts as well as deep reductions in

greenhouse gas emissions, starting by ending subsidies to the fossil fuel industry and bringing in a national carbon tax, such as a carbon fee and dividend fund.

- **Curtail thermal coal exports** from our ports.

We would welcome you and our local Members of Parliament to our Surrey campus to discuss these policy matters – and how to realistically achieve a bright and sustainable future for our students and our country. We look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,



Ellen Pond

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The Right Honourable John Aldag, MP, Cloverdale-Langley City

The Right Honourable Sukh Dhaliwal, MP, Surrey Newton

The Right Honourable Ken Hardie, MP, Fleetwood-Port Kells

The Right Honourable Joe Peschisolido, MP, Steveston-Richmond East

The Right Honourable Carla Qualtrough, MP, Delta

The Right Honourable Randeep Sarai, MP, Surrey Centre