

Election Tool Kit

The 2008 general election provides CAA with the opportunity to engage the public and our 5.3 million members in a public policy debate on issues that are top-of-mind for all Canadians. With members representing every region of Canada, CAA has a responsibility to frame the discussion and inform our Clubs and membership of each party's position on these important issues.

1 What commitment is your party willing to make to improve Canada's road infrastructure?

Conservative
Under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the Conservative Government has made Canada's largest infrastructure investment in over 50 years through our seven-year, \$33 billion Building Canada plan. The Conservative Party plan for infrastructure is affordable, realistic, and delivers results for Canadians.

Liberal
www.liberal.ca
The Liberal Party agrees that the current allocation for infrastructure is simply not enough. We are committed to spending all unanticipated surplus funds (beyond a \$3 billion contingency fund) on infrastructure projects. We are also committed to providing a long-term fiscal framework for the funding of infrastructure projects.

NDP NPD
The longer we wait, the higher the cost for [infrastructure] repairs. Today the municipal infrastructure deficit stands at \$123 billion up from \$60 billion only a few years ago. The federal government must pay its share to bring down this deficit. New Democrats are committed to working with all stakeholders to solve this crisis.

BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS
The Bloc Québécois will pressure the federal government to modify infrastructure investments in such a way as to take into account the capacity of each investment. The federal government would assume 50% of the expenses, Québec and the provinces 35% and the municipalities 15%, which would be a fair representation of the financial capacity of each level of government.

green party of canada
The Green Party would achieve "smart growth" by: increasing the Gas Tax Transfer to municipalities to 5 cents/litre; improving rail service between major cities; doubling existing funding to stimulate re-investment in public transportation infrastructure; and creating Municipal Superfunds to provide stable infrastructure funding to municipalities.

2 Would your party support a tax policy that would ensure that any sales tax on gasoline be applied to the pre-tax price only?

Conservative
If re-elected, a Conservative Government will cut the federal excise tax on diesel fuel in half, from four cents per litre to two cents per litre – reducing transportation costs, keeping the price of consumer goods down and strengthening the national economy during a time of global uncertainty.

Liberal
After two and a half years of fiscal mismanagement, a \$10-billion surplus has been squandered, leaving Canada in deficit for the first two months of this fiscal year. As a result, there simply isn't enough money available to contemplate changes to the way that the GST is calculated.

NDP NPD
We believe that a solution to consumer gouging would be for the government to set up a gas and fuel monitoring agency. Such an independent watchdog would produce reliable data on oil prices and, more importantly, on costs in the industry. This kind of accurate and timely price information will help protect consumers against spikes in gas-pricing and future gouging.

BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS
The Bloc Québécois proposes proactive measures that will directly reduce gas expenses for drivers while minimizing the impact of continuously fluctuating oil prices. We propose investing in financial incentives for the purchase of hybrid cars and enhancing the tax credit for public transportation in order to allow Quebecers to reduce their dependence on oil and avoid fluctuations in oil prices.

green party of canada
The Green Party supports the adoption of a revenue neutral carbon tax with an immediate price of \$50 per tonne of CO₂, as supported by numerous economists and environmentalists including Sir Nicholas Stern.

3 What measures will your party take to make fuel-efficient vehicles more accessible to Canadian consumers?

Conservative
The Conservative Government has taken concrete steps towards improving our environment by initiating new programs to make it easier and more affordable for Canadians to purchase fuel-efficient vehicles. If elected, our government will work with industry to develop a balanced, made-in-Canada solution regarding zero emission vehicle technologies that are both practical and safe for Canadians.

Liberal
The Liberal Party platform takes direct aim at removing barriers to green technologies and providing incentives for their use across Canada. A Liberal government would promote the use of fuel-efficient vehicles and work with the provinces to encourage their quick certification and legalization.

NDP NPD
As outlined in our Green Agenda, New Democrats would invest in green car production, offer a GST rebate on the purchase of a green car and create a vehicle purchasing consortium for all governments. This would create a market for greener vehicle production and offer incentives for private industry to also green their fleets.

BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS
The Bloc Québécois proposes to re-establish Technology Partnerships Canada for all the high-tech areas that the Conservatives have failed to support (for example: production equipment, environmental technologies, new materials, etc.) with the aim of supporting research and development of new products.

green party of canada
The Green Party would: work with the automobile industry to develop a sustainable vehicles strategy leading to an 85% reduction in emissions by 2040; adopt standards for a 30% reduction in CO₂ emissions from new vehicles sold in Canada by 2015; accelerate the market arrival of Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles or electric vehicles; adopt mandatory vehicle fuel-efficiency labeling; and provide manufacturer incentives.

Point of View



CAA is a federation of 9 automobile clubs serving 5.3 million members through 148 offices across Canada. CAA provides a wide range of member services, has affiliates in 100 countries and works to improve travelling and motoring conditions at home and around the world.

CAA Member Clubs

- CAA British Columbia
- Alberta Motor Association
- CAA Saskatchewan
- CAA Manitoba
- CAA North & East Ontario
- CAA South Central Ontario
- CAA Niagara
- CAA Québec
- CAA Maritimes

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For more information and the full answers to our questionnaire please visit www.caa.ca/election2008

