

2021 Debate Sample Questions

1) Global Crisis on Climate, Nature and Pandemic prevention

Covid-19 has brought to light the links between the climate crisis, the human impact on nature, and the rise of global pandemics. Like SARS, Ebola and nearly three quarters of infectious diseases, scientists generally agree that Covid originated in other animal species, and spread to humans in large part because of the pressures on these species brought on by land use changes and unsustainable consumption. These factors are also leading causes of climate change.

We are asking three yes-or-no questions that each deal with immediate measures the government can take to address these inter-linked crises to protect the health of Canadians as we emerge from the worst of this pandemic.

- Will you develop a new and credible plan to halt and reverse nature loss, protect species at risk, and meet Canada's commitment to protect at least 30% of land, freshwater, and ocean by 2030?
- Will you commit to require all sectors to reduce carbon emissions by 60% by 2030, and make it law?
- Will you push your party's leadership to end all government subsidies for fossil fuels?

2) Recovery, touching on jobs and racism/justice

Will you commit to a green and just pandemic recovery? What would you do to address how women and other marginalized groups have been disproportionately affected by both the pandemic and our environmental crises?

3) Toxics

The Canadian Environmental Protection Act is our overarching law to protect the health and environment of Canadians. The Act has not been significantly amended since 1999, despite major changes in our understanding of toxic substances in our environment. A recent bill introduced in the last Parliament did not make it past First Reading. Will you support getting this bill reintroduced, strengthened, and made a top legislative priority?

4) Indigenous Rights

Indigenous people play a critical role in environmental solutions. Will you implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission? Will you invest in Indigenous-led land-use planning and the establishment of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas?