

# **BRIEFING: ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**For Green Party Candidates - March 29, 2025**

## **TODAY'S POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Today, the Green Party is announcing our transformative economic sovereignty plan:

- **Creating Strategic Reserves of Canadian resources through Crown corporations**
- Protecting Canadian workers and communities from trade disruptions
- Ending the "rip and ship" approach to natural resources

## **HOW THE STRATEGIC RESERVES WORK**

Our plan achieves economic sovereignty by having the federal government purchase Canadian resources at the price set for current exports and divert them to Strategic Reserves held by Canadian Crown corporations. This straightforward approach:

- Requires minimal changes to the existing economic framework by utilizing Crown corporations and market-based purchases without creating new regulatory systems
- Ensures Canadian resources are not subject to foreign tariffs
- Allows resources to be either held as prices rise, used domestically, or exported to reliable trade partners

## **KEY MESSAGING POINTS**

### **1. ADDRESSING CANADA'S RESOURCE DEPENDENCY**

- Canada's economy remains heavily dependent on exporting unprocessed natural resources like lumber, minerals, and bitumen rather than value-added products
- This dependency leaves Canada vulnerable to foreign tariffs and trade disputes, particularly with the United States

- While other countries develop manufacturing and processing industries, Canada continues to lose economic opportunities by shipping out unprocessed resources

## **2. TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT FOR CANADIAN ECONOMY**

- This is not a token economic policy — it represents genuine economic transformation
- Strategic Reserves will protect Canadian workers from trade disruptions and economic bullying
- The program creates an asset-swap with negligible impact on the Government of Canada's fiscal balance sheet
- "Saving Canada Bonds" will allow Canadians to directly invest in securing strategic resources, providing both financial returns for investors and additional funding for resource acquisition without increasing the federal deficit

## **3. IMPLEMENTATION SIMPLICITY**

- Uses existing Crown corporations or establishes new ones under current legislation
- Works within market structures by purchasing at current export prices
- Doesn't require complex new regulations or oversight bodies
- Fiscally responsible approach that doesn't increase government debt
- Compatible with existing trade agreements while protecting Canada from unfair tariffs

## **4. DIRECT SUPPORT FOR DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES**

- Processing resources domestically will create thousands of high-quality Canadian jobs across multiple sectors and regions
- Sweden exports forest products primarily as finished furniture and value-added goods, generating 5x more economic value per tree than Canada's raw log exports
- Retaining strategic resources like lumber domestically will help address Canada's housing crisis by increasing supply and reducing costs for home construction
- Value-added processing generates significantly more tax revenue and economic activity than raw resource extraction alone

## CANDIDATE TALKING POINTS

**On Economic Independence:** "For too long, we've been shipping our raw resources straight out of the country. Our plan puts Canadians back in control of Canada's natural wealth. When we create Strategic Reserves, we're making sure our forests, minerals, and energy benefit our communities first, not foreign corporations."

**On Local Economic Benefits:** "When we ship raw logs and unprocessed resources overseas, we're shipping away good Canadian jobs too. Our plan keeps these resources here to be processed in Canadian communities, creating more jobs and making sure we have the materials we need to build affordable housing for Canadians."

**On Real Solutions:** "While retaliatory tariffs might feel good in the moment, trade wars hurt everyone. Instead of just reacting to the latest crisis, we're building long-term solutions that make sure Canada's resources work for ordinary Canadians, not just big corporations."

**On Fiscal Responsibility:** "Our Strategic Reserves plan is budget-neutral - we're simply exchanging money for valuable resources that Canada already owns. It's like moving money from one pocket to another while gaining more control over our economy. No complex new regulations, no increased debt - just a practical solution that works."

**On Facing Economic Challenges:** "When other countries threaten tariffs or trade restrictions, Canada needs to stand strong. Our Strategic Reserves plan gives us that strength. Instead of being at the mercy of foreign decisions, we'll have control over our own resources and the ability to weather economic storms while protecting Canadian workers."

—