

# BRIEFING: NATIONAL CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT

For Green Party Candidates - March 31, 2025

## TODAY'S POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT

Today, the Green Party is announcing our transformative National Civil Defence Corps plan:

- **Creating a 120,000-strong National Civil Defence Corps** to strengthen Canada's resilience and sovereignty
- Providing meaningful employment while building national preparedness for emergencies
- Addressing multiple threats simultaneously: climate disasters, infrastructure protection, and national security

## HOW THE CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS WORKS

Our plan achieves resilience and security through a civilian-led national service program that:

- Creates 120,000 well-paying jobs across Canada, prioritizing communities facing economic transition
- Trains Canadians in emergency response, disaster management, and infrastructure protection
- Builds on Canada's historical experience with civil defence while modernizing for 21st century threats
- Complements but remains distinct from military functions, focusing on civilian protection

## KEY MESSAGING POINTS

### 1. ADDRESSING UNPRECEDENTED NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

- Canada faces rapidly evolving threats from climate change, international tensions, and critical infrastructure vulnerabilities
- Current emergency response capacity is stretched thin, with municipalities and provinces often overwhelmed during major disasters
- A Trump presidency has demonstrated the United States can no longer be counted on as a reliable ally and may actively threaten Canadian sovereignty
- Climate disasters are increasing in frequency and severity, requiring a more robust national response capacity

### 2. TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT FOR CANADIANS

- Creates meaningful employment while developing valuable skills that transfer to the civilian economy
- Builds community connections and a sense of shared purpose and national pride
- Helps communities transition from fossil fuel economies to sustainable employment

### 3. DIRECT SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES

- Local Civil Defence Corps units will be embedded in communities across Canada
- Training and equipment will be available to assist in climate disaster response
- Indigenous-led units will protect northern sovereignty and provide specialized knowledge
- Rural communities will benefit from both employment opportunities and enhanced local emergency response

## CANDIDATE TALKING POINTS

**On National Security:** "As international tensions rise and climate disasters intensify, Canada requires a new approach to national security. Our National Civil Defence Corps will strengthen our resilience from the ground up, enabling communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies while protecting our sovereignty."

**On Economic Benefits:** "The National Civil Defence Corps represents a dual investment in both our national security and our people. By creating 120,000 good jobs across the country, we're building skills, strengthening communities, and ensuring Canada is prepared for the challenges ahead."

**On Climate Resilience:** "Climate change isn't just an environmental issue—it's a security issue. When wildfires, floods, and storms hit our communities, Canadians need trained responders ready to act. Our National Civil Defence Corps will ensure we're prepared for the increasing climate emergencies we face."

**On Community Empowerment:** "The strength of Canada has always been our communities. By establishing Civil Defence Corps units across the country, we're empowering Canadians to protect what matters most—our people, our infrastructure, and our way of life."

**On Response to Critics:** "Some may call this unnecessary, but Sweden, Finland, and other countries have proven that civilian preparedness strengthens national security. This isn't about militarizing society—it's about building community resilience in an increasingly unpredictable world."