**Sheer's climate plan is not effective**

The leader of the Conservative Party of Canada has called his recently announced plan "the best plan" to fight climate change, but in reality it will do little to reduce Canada's per-capita green house gas emissions, one of the highest in the world.

First of all, he proposes to cancel the carbon tax program which, since 2015 with provincial initiatives, has reduced Canada's projected emissions for 2030 by more than 200 megatonnes. It does, however, leave a projected gap of 79 megatonnes, the result of insufficient initiatives taken by the federal Liberals to reach the 2030 target. According to experts, the gap for the Conservative Party's plan would increase to approximately 130 megatonnes due to cancelling the carbon tax.

Second, the Conservative Party's plan has ignored emissions in the transportation sector (the second highest sector, after Oil and Gas) which produced 24% of Canada’s emissions in 2017 and have increased by 2.1% since 2005. Many countries have decreased emissions in the transportation sector by investing in public transportation, providing rebates for electric cars and installing charging stations. It seems that Sheer prefers to follow Doug Ford's "Do Nothing" approach, initiated by cancelling Ontario's Cap and Trade program that paid for electrical vehicle rebates and the cost of charging stations.

Third, Sheer, among other things, intends to restore the homeowner retrofit program cancelled by the Harper government. According to the Environment and Sustainable Development 2006 Report, only 35% of money spent on the identical EnerGuide by the previous conservative government went towards efficiency grants, whereas 25% was spent on government administration and 40% was spent on audits. The retrofit program will cost almost $150 per tonne of emissions, which is five times higher than the cost of British Columbia's carbon tax. In addition, as noted on the Conservative Party’s website, Sheer has promised to eliminate the 5% GST on residential heat and energy consumption. The cheaper oil, gas and electricity will encourage energy consumption and increase emissions as a result.

Fourth, the Paris Agreement contains a method to receive credit for low-carbon exports, called internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs). This provision allows one country to receive credit for the reduction of emissions in another country. So far, the implementation methods are not defined. Sheer proposes in his plan, for example, to substitute China's coal plants by exporting liquid natural gas (LNG) or carbon capturing technology to China and receive in return credit for emission mitigation for Canada. If Sheer's plans materialize, all countries that export electric cars, solar panels or other environmental friendly products to Canada should be able to receive credits for emission reductions in Canada. Is there a net gain of credits for Canada with Sheer's plan?

The Conservative Party’s plan is a populist initiative focused, among other things, on popular programs like home retrofits or tax cuts on home energy consumption. This may result in more votes for the Conservative Party in the upcoming federal election but will do little to effectively fight against climate change. It also ignores emissions in the transportation sector and relies on other countries' energy decisions to receive credits that are out of the Canadian government’s control.

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges that humanity is facing in the 21st century – it needs to be addressed responsibly and seriously.

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