

Team  
Climate  
Crew

# DAY 8

# GREENER



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Even though I currently live in New York, I'm not an American citizen. I'm actually Canadian, so I'm going to investigate Canadian politicians today. In Canada, we had our last federal election in October 2019. Since we don't have a two-party system like the United States does, here are two of the leaders from lesser-known political parties who ran for prime minister last year.



## **Maxime Bernier, founder and current leader of the People's Party of Canada**

Maxime Bernier belongs to the People's Party of Canada, where he holds the position as the founder and current leader. The party's policies include a withdrawal from global warming and climate change reforms, something I highly disagree with. Climate change prevention reforms are extremely important to me because global warming is an issue that affects everyone, and by not protecting the environment, the quality of life for people and nature will decrease dramatically. Furthermore, the party also has a proposed policy to limit immigration, something I also heavily disagree with. The party advocates for cutting down the number of refugees to Canada and fencing off places where refugees mainly use to come to Canada. I disagree with this because refugees, who have nowhere else to go, come to Canada in hopes of finding haven, and turning them away shows hostility and hatred towards those of countries other than Canada, and is of detriment to all involved.



## Jagmeet Singh, leader of the New Democratic Party

Jagmeet Singh is the leader of the New Democratic Party, Canada's social democratic and most left-leaning major party. One of the platforms the NDP Party ran on in the federal election was the New Deal for Climate Action and Good Jobs, which I really admire. Its goals are to ensure that Canada will be completely powered by net carbon-free electricity by 2030, as well as create 300,000 well-paying jobs for Canadians in the renewable energy industry. To reach this objective, the government would ban single-use plastics, end fossil fuel subsidies for corporations, and make zero-emission vehicles and electrical charging more affordable to all families. Additionally, the New Deal promised that they would amplify the voices of and partner with indigenous communities to protect their lands and the biodiversity of the country.

I really support this set of reforms since it aims to comprehensively address both economic inequality in Canada as well as combat climate change, which I believe are the two most pressing issues today in not just Canada, but also the United States and the rest of the globe. Like the American Green New Deal, many of Singh's political opponents in the Conservative Party (who deny climate change) and even the center Liberal Party (who proposed a plan that was too vague and nonsubstantive, in my opinion) would claim that the New Deal is overly radical, but I believe that immediate and significant action is necessary to create an impactful change in carbon emissions. It's extremely important to me that Canada is able to meet the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's limit of 1.5 degrees celsius of global warming above the global pre-industrial average. With the NDP's New Deal plan, there will be a focus on ensuring that this goal will be met when also making sustainable living affordable to all Canadians. I also love how it involves indigenous communities in the decision-making process, since native communities are often on the front-lines of climate action in Canada today because their ancestral lands are being threatened by pollution, global warming, and rising sea levels.

Another one of the policy platforms of the New Democratic Party under Jagmeet Singh's leadership that I support is their plans to help improve the economy for normal, working class and middle class Canadians. They want to accomplish this by rolling back the tax cuts that the Conservative and Liberal governments have implemented on the wealthy. On their new tax plan, NDP proposed a new 1 percent wealth tax on individuals who make more than \$20 million a year. Personally, I don't believe that the rich should be able to pay even less taxes than the middle class, in fact they should need to pay more taxes! Rich people benefit off of Canada's public services just as much as other people do and the wealthy would be able to live comfortably even if were a wealth tax. I very much agree with this plan because it will ensure that the wealthiest millionaires pay their fair share of taxes. This way, the country can invest more in low-income and minority communities, and focus on making the country more sustainable so that our country can survive this environmental emergency.