

# Backgrounder

## Poilievre's anti-climate and anti-biodiversity policies

### History

Pierre Poilievre has been a Conservative politician [since 2004](#), including holding Cabinet positions in the Harper government. A recent [investigation](#) found that in this 20-year span, he has voted against environmental protection 400 times, as opposed to only thirteen times in favour.

### His Platform

#### Climate Change

Poilievre's Conservative Party [opposes](#) all significant federal measures to address climate change as attacks on the oil and gas industry, while advocating for an expansion of oil and gas production.

Aside from his promise to eliminate the carbon tax ("Axe the Tax"), Poilievre has promised to eliminate the major elements of the current federal climate plan. **This includes opposition to:**

- A [cap on pollution](#) from the oil and gas sector (which is the largest source of GHGs in Canada at nearly 1/3 of total Canadian emissions).
- The [Clean Fuel Regulations](#) (which requires oil companies to reduce the carbon content of the gasoline and diesel they sell). The [Clean Electricity Regulation](#) (which mandates a 'net zero' electricity system by 2035).
- The [Impact Assessment Act](#) (that includes climate change as an issue to be considered).
- [Just Transition policies](#) (that assist oil and gas workers affected by the energy transition).

#### **Additional statements on climate:**

- While Poilievre has refused to say whether he would keep the federal industrial carbon pricing program, one of his top advisors (Jenni Byrne) has [implied that 'Axe the Tax' includes industrial carbon pricing](#).
- As part of his commitment to support the rapid expansion of the oil and gas industry, Poilievre has [promised](#) to "clear the way for pipelines" and "to support pipelines south, north, east, west."
- Poilievre [won't commit](#) to achieving our Paris Agreement emissions reduction targets.
- Poilievre has said he would "[greenlight green projects](#)", but he has never spoken out against Alberta Premier Danielle Smith's moves to restrict wind and solar projects.
- He has [advocated](#) for increased exports of fossil gas, claiming it will reduce global greenhouse gas emissions [1].
- He has [hosted a private, \\$1650/plate fundraiser](#) with oil executives.

#### Biodiversity

Poilievre's Conservative Party has framed ecological protection as an assault on freedom and prosperity.

#### **They have:**

- [Described](#) efforts to reduce plastic pollution as "government controlling our lives."
- [Opposed](#) measures to protect endangered caribou in Quebec as an attack on the forest industry.
- [Denounced](#) measures to protect North Atlantic right whales as interfering with the "powerful paycheques" of the Atlantic lobster fishery.

## ENDS

### Notes to editors:

[1] The reality is that liquified natural gas (LNG) is not a climate solution, it is a carbon bomb. There is mounting evidence that [LNG is more greenhouse gas-intensive than previously estimated](#), and it could be worse for the climate than coal. LNG leaks methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas, more potent than carbon dioxide and [worse than coal](#) in the short term. It has [no or very limited impact](#) on coal consumption overseas and [research shows](#) new LNG infrastructure may displace the adoption of renewable energy in Asia.

In the past months, Greenpeace has been calling out Poilievre and the Conservatives anti-climate agenda in the media. See:

- Hamilton Spectator (February 4, 2024): [Poilievre's 'Burn, baby, burn' climate plan is emboldening oil lobby](#)
- Edmonton Journal (August 2, 2024): [Thoughts and prayers won't stop wildfires](#)
- Hamilton Spectator (October 23, 2024): [Big Oil pays big bucks for private meeting with Poilievre](#)

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