

GREENER

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Think

As you learned above, one of the main reasons that people don't get out and vote is because they don't think that voting will impact their lives. This challenge is meant to help you become familiar with candidates who align with issues that you feel strongly about.

Challenge (Global citizens)

This is your chance to learn more about your current political leaders and any potential new leaders who are running for office.

Choose 2 current political leaders or future candidates, and do some research to answer these questions:

- **Leader #1:** Jagmeet Singh
 - **What party are they from and what office do they hold/are they running for?**
 - Jagmeet Singh is the leader of the federal Canadian New Democratic Party (NDP) since 2017.
 - **Background info about the Party:** The NDP is known as Canada's moderate, left-wing, and socialist political party.
 - **What are two policy issues that they have worked on while in office or that they have talked about during their campaign? Where do they stand on these issues?**
 - **ENERGY EAST PIPELINE EXPANSION:**
 - Singh opposes the expansion of the Energy East pipeline expansion and the Kinder Morgan project in Canada because he believes that the pipeline poses many ecological risks and violates First Nations rights to their spiritual lands and territories. If we also consider that one of Singh's main platform topics regarding sustainability is to reduce our

carbon emissions and to wean Canadian dependence off fossil fuels, his stance against pipeline expansion is totally justifiable and a necessary voice against our current government's narrow-minded, unsustainable way of thinking.

- CARBON EMISSIONS:
 - Singh promises to reduce Canada's carbon emissions to 30% of its 2005 levels by 2025. He plans to do so by implementing a nationwide public transit strategy and phasing out coal entirely by 2030. He also wants to set taxes on high-emission vehicles to incentivize against fossil fuels, as well as invest in electric charging stations across Canada to encourage electric hybrid vehicles. Singh hopes to build a renewable energy "supergrid" across the country, connecting areas with more hydroelectric access and solar access to areas which have less access to renewable energy sources. "Instead of spending billions of public dollars on increasingly obsolete fossil fuel infrastructure, I believe we should invest in clean energy to ensure we have quality, sustainable jobs for today and the next generation," he said in an interview where he also criticised the Canadian government for failing to follow the Paris Climate Accord.
- **What is your position on each and why do these issues matter to you?**
 - CARBON EMISSIONS:
 - I'm really glad that Jagmeet Singh is leading the NDP towards a carbon emissions-free future. Canada is ranked as the 9th worst emitter of carbon worldwide, making us one of the top ten contributors to the global anthropogenic greenhouse effect. I believe that as one of the heavier sources of greenhouse gases, Canada needs to start working on reducing our overall carbon emissions, from our sources of energy to our vehicles and transportation system to our polluting industries! Canada is displayed on the world stage as forward-thinking and innovative when it comes to climate engineering, but, in reality, it can't even live up to its promises for the Climate Change Accord of Paris or the Kyoto Protocol! We need to start living up to our reputation and owning up to our obligation to stop emitting so much carbon that we ruin the world for everyone else.
 - ENERGY EAST PIPELINE EXPANSION:
 - There are so many problems associated with the expansion of the Energy East pipeline. From trespassing on Indigenous lands to putting

innumerable ecosystems at risk due to possible leakage from the pipeline, there is really no good reason to build it, seeing as it's been proven to be no more economically beneficial (in the long run) than switching to renewable sources of energy. Canada needs to move away from fracking, fossil fuels, and risking the health of Canada's OTHER natural resources – forest health and our pure, clean waterways – for the sake of a marginal profit difference. I'm personally not in favour of the expansion of the Pipeline, and so I'm very supportive of Jagmeet Singh's stance with regards to the project.

- **Leader #2:** Mike Schreiner

- What party are they from and what office do they hold/are they running for?**

- Mike Schreiner is the leader of the Green Party of Ontario. He has held the Party's leadership role since 2009.

- **What are two policy issues that they have worked on while in office or that they have talked about during their campaign? Where do they stand on these issues?**

- **HOME RETROFITTING:**

- Mike Schreiner has always spoken on the importance of implementing more programmes to give homeowners the opportunities to sustainably retrofit their homes to make them more energy-efficient. Under his advice, the government of Ontario has begun offering subsidies for homeowners to install solar panels on their roofs, for rooftop gardens, for more efficient insulation in homes, and for upgrades on appliances. Schreiner wants to increase energy efficiency throughout Canada, starting in each and every home in need of amping up its energy efficiency.

- **SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION:**

- Schreiner gives support to local Ontario farmers and to sustainable organic farming practices in his policies and platforms surrounding sustainable food production. Thanks to his leadership in the party so far, there have been many efforts to connect local produce and Canadian products to more local consumers to increase the demand of sustainably-farmed foodstuffs both in local grocery stores and farmers' markets.

- **REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS:**
 - Mike Schreiner also wants to phase out internal combustion engines to reduce greenhouse gas emissions & introduce carbon pricing and taxation to discourage use of greenhouse gas-producing goods and services. He is a consistent critic of and lobbyist against Ontario's Long-term Energy Plan, stating that it's incompatible with the province's obligations to reduce its carbon emissions. According to Mike Schreiner, "Instead of building more gas plants and wasting billions of dollars on enormously expensive and outdated nuclear facilities, Ontario should invest in people, in our homes and businesses. We can change the playing field by making our buildings more energy efficient, helping people save money on utility bills while reducing our carbon footprint." (Green Party of Ontario website, 2018) He wants Ontario to make changes to a main cause of GHG pollution and which is also used by most citizens: transportation. He wants to push for more investment in greening transit and for a phase-out of combustion engines.
- **What is your position on each and why do these issues matter to you?**
 - **HOME RETROFITTING:**
 - I have lived in an old (100 years+) house for my entire life until this year, and so I can personally attest to the energy inefficiency of older homes. From our heating and cooling system due to poor insulation to our older non-Energy Star appliances, we're definitely not as eco-friendly a home as we could be. However, because many Canadians, including my family, has little disposable income to spend on updating our home, having government incentives to subsidize these actions is a massive aide in ensuring that many citizens' homes can be more carbon-friendly, energy-efficient, and will move in a sustainable direction towards a future of renewable energies.
 - **SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION:**
 - Mike Schreiner is an avid proponent of food sustainability, stressing that this idea is at the forefront of the environmental movement. He thinks that when an entire system of food distribution falls under one set of environmental and health guidelines, sustainability is more easily addressed. This issue matters to be because I realise that by distributing and consuming locally-grown foods within a decreased geographic radius, small and local businesses are given the opportunities to flourish and native crops are consumed more. There is also less fossil fuel consumption by not having as much transportation of foods from

overseas. Also, when a preference is placed on local crops and foods, it's easier to regulate their methods of growth. Pesticides, fertilizers, organic, free-range, crop turnover... all can be better-regulated when the circumference of distribution becomes a lot smaller than the entire world's perimeter. This is important for reducing the greenhouse effect and encouraging natural ecosystem and pollinator health in Ontario and Canada.

- **REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS:**
 - I really like the way that Mike Schreiner has been approaching the issue of turning towards more renewable energies. Throughout his campaigns and projects, he's always reminding us, the people, that we can either make an up-front investment into renewable energy NOW and reap the benefits later, or we can continue on our coal-guzzling path and witness the drastic detriments later. He combats the purely economic standpoint, and fights to direct peoples' attention to the idea of making smart, preventative choices towards renewable energies. I think that it's a really important step to be taking to switch our energy consumption to renewables as early as possible.

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