

Dear Neighbor,

I originally moved to Ottawa from B.C. to work as a political aide to the Federal Minister of the Environment (Liberal) in 1982. Later I worked on Parliament Hill as an advisor to the Leader of the NDP. From 2001 to 2017 I was active in association management, becoming CEO of a national not-for-profit devoted to the health and well-being of children and youth in the school system. More recently I took on full time parenting duties while publishing an Economic Blog and assuming the role of director of a breakfast and lunch program for families in Westboro suffering from food insecurity. I studied political economy and earned degrees from Queen's University, the London School of Economics and Oxford University (PhD.). I am married to Philippa and we have three children. I am running in this election because I believe deeply in the need for a number of changes that would help us all.
Chris

Voting Day is October 21st

Consult elections.ca

Chris G. Jones
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System Change...
to preserve our future

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Volunteers and donations
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for Chris G Jones

1. End lobbying of the federal government by companies
2. Corporations to pay the full financial costs of the social and environmental impacts resulting from their business activities
3. Create Citizens' Assemblies now

The Challenge

Fundamental change is needed in the Canadian political system as it no longer serves the interests of ordinary Canadians or the natural environment.

A political system that is failing to address -

- ⇒ massive household indebtedness and ever widening income inequality;
- ⇒ a narrow economic strategy, fixated on real estate and energy exports;
- ⇒ the hurdles facing young people and others seeking to find affordable housing;
- ⇒ a growing crisis in the health of Canadians (obesity, chronic illness, substance abuse);
- ⇒ the unacceptable socio-economic condition and treatment of Aboriginal peoples;
- ⇒ the isolation, loneliness and variable care quality of seniors;
- ⇒ a mental health crisis of major dimensions among Canadian youth;
- ⇒ the poverty, immobility and lack of participation of Canadians with disabilities; &
- ⇒ the erosion of soils, the disappearance of habitat, and the loss of plant/animal species.

.... needs major reform.

We urgently need an open, sustainable and reciprocal economy built on fostering trust and social equity among citizen-peers. It is time to stop the archaic practice of 'free-riding' by externalizing costs to ordinary Canadians and the natural world we cherish.

Three Policies

The policies I am advocating in this election are the necessary, practical and realistic response to the environmental, economic and public health crises we face.

1. Ban all lobbying by for-profit interests (corporations, sectoral organizations, think tanks).

The voices of ordinary Canadian citizens have effectively been muted by corporate interests and are no longer heard in a meaningful way by our elites. We have a politics where insiders and 'stakeholders' shape public policy far more than citizens. We have gone from a 'participatory' to a 'commercialized' democracy in Canada.

2. The federal government needs to enact a law requiring that full social and environmental cost accounting be applied to all corporations and companies conducting business in Canada and overseas.

Social costs are "unpaid" business costs transferred to the community as a whole, the natural environment and future generations. For example, banks and hedge funds trade in speculative financial instruments that can create chaos for us all; oil companies process bitumen causing tailings ponds and contamination of the watershed; tract housing developers consume valuable farmland/greenspace; food & beverage

companies make and promote low nutritional quality food resulting in obesity and preventable disease; and, global warming, linked to the burning of fossil fuels, causes climate volatility resulting locally in severe flooding and devastating tornadoes. We can ignore this no longer.

3. Create Citizens' Assemblies in every federal riding made up of 30 randomly chosen citizens.

Today's 'elite' and hyper-centralized governance requires leader-approved candidate nominations, heavy-handed caucus discipline, and whipped voting as the norm. In practice, the Prime Minister, a few cabinet ministers, some senior public servants, and a select group of aides make most policy decisions. This system is failing badly. Over time and in a phased transition, we should allow independent citizens, chosen randomly and without pre-screening, to meet as a group, inform themselves, and prioritize expenditures in health care, education, the labor market and environmental protection.

Provided paid time away from work, and equipped with data, facts, and publicly-funded research, they should assemble regularly to reflect on our societal priorities. Initially, our legislators should be obligated to meet with them at least twice a month. Consulting the people must be about more than voting once every four years or the selective use of focus groups.

VOTE INDEPENDENTLY!