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## FRACKING: IT'S TIME FOR A FEDERAL BAN

On October 6th, I asked the government if it would ban the destructive practice of gas fracking in Canada. In his response to my question, the Minister of the Environment stated that the government will exceed its 2030 emission reduction targets. Exceeding a target that is woefully inadequate is not a win.

The Minister also stated that the government has introduced regulations to reduce methane emissions. I appreciate the acknowledgement that the federal government has a role in regulating the extractive practices of the energy industry. This is especially true when those practices poison groundwater and release climate-destroying greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Fracking is a process for extracting methane that cannot be controlled. Reducing methane emissions at the well head does not make fracking a safe and acceptable practice. Methane is a climate change accelerator. For the first 20 years after methane is leaked into the atmosphere, it is 80 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than CO2.

Using chemical fingerprints, researchers have linked a significant spike in methane emissions to the boom in shale and oil gas fracking. This spike is linked to the accelerating pace of climate change.

An estimated 30 million abandoned oil and gas wells around the world are leaking methane. Methane leaks represent as much of a climate threat as burning coal to generate electricity. I don't see any provincial governments talking about building new coal-fired power plants. Why are some of them so fired up about fracked gas? The notion that exporting fracked gas to China will help the Chinese lower greenhouse gas emissions has been exposed as an outright lie. When will policy makers stop this dangerous thinking?

A new study published by Environment Canada researchers shows that Canada's methane emissions are twice as high as previously estimated. Our methane budget is spent. We have already released too much of it into the atmosphere. We must act now to stop these emissions, not just lower them.

For all of the reasons I have outlined, many jurisdictions around the world have either placed moratoriums on fracking or banned it outright including France, Germany, Bulgaria, Scotland, the United Kingdom, Tunisia, New York, Vermont, and the list keeps growing.

Fracking poses a direct and immediate threat to our future and the future of our children and grandchildren. It's time to ban fracking in Canada, because the only thing we should be accelerating is our transition to renewable energy.

To sign a parliamentary petition to ban fracking in Canada, please visit my website PaulManlyMP.ca.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECONCILIATION AND REPARATION: INDIGENOUS PROTECTED CONSERVATION AREAS

This year marks 150 years since British Columbia joined the Canadian confederation in 1871. This anniversary also marks a historic wrong.

The Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway (E&N) was a condition of British Columbia joining the Canadian Confederation in 1871. It completed the rail connection between Canada's provincial capitals, and was where Sir John A MacDonald drove the 'Last Spike'.

Coal baron Robert Dunsmuir used his wealth and political position as a BC cabinet minister to secure the contract to build the short stretch of railway. The federal and provincial governments granted Dunsmuir \$750,000 and 8,090 sq kilometres of land as part of the deal. This encompassed more than 20% of Vancouver Island, from the top of the Saanich Inlet to the Campbell River. The E&N Land Grant disregarded the rights and title of all First Nations in the area, including those that had signed treaties.

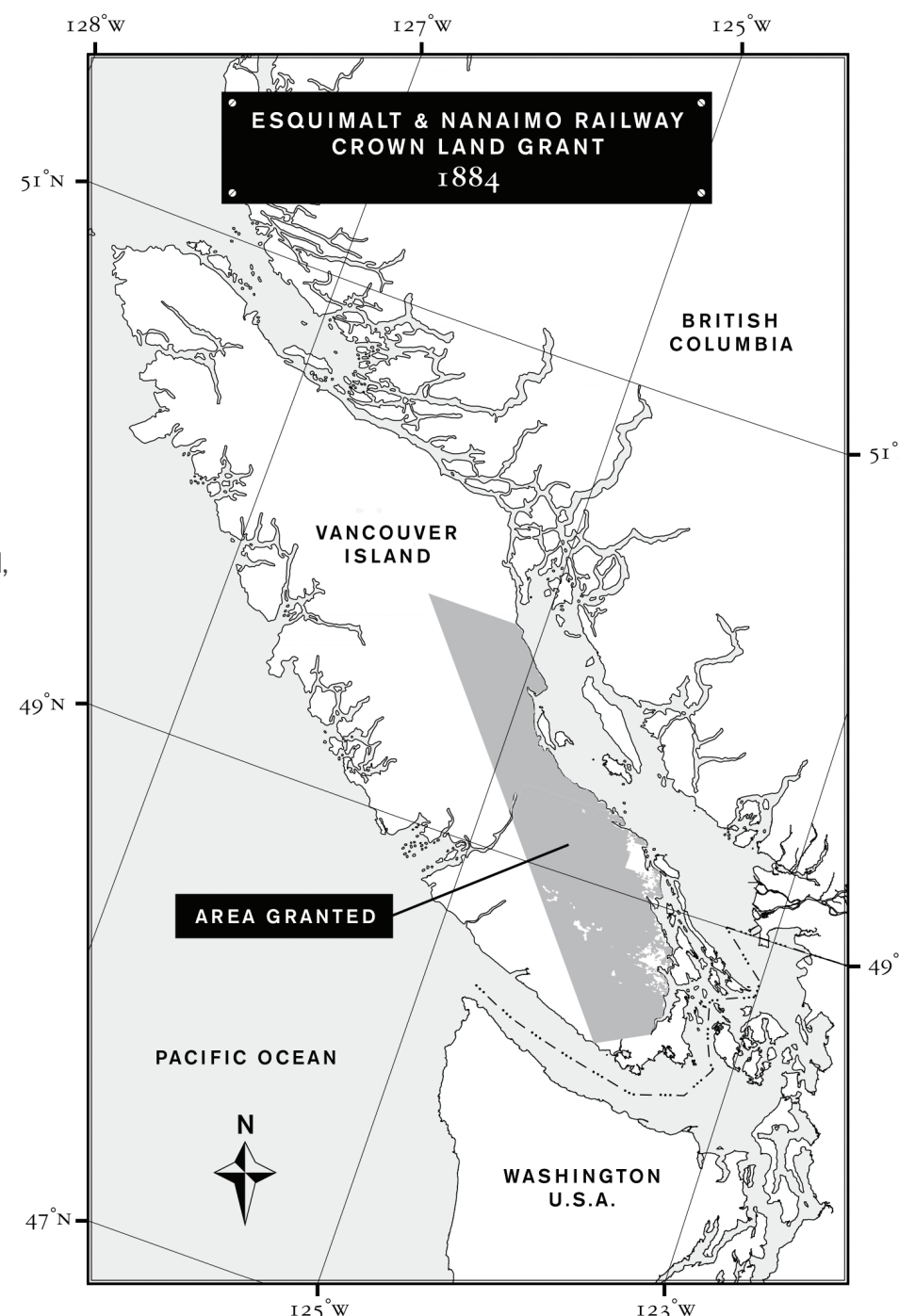
As a result of the E&N Land Grant, there is very little crown land on South East Vancouver Island. This makes it extremely difficult for First Nations in this region to negotiate modern day treaties. It also makes it nearly impossible to properly implement existing pre-confederation treaties.

The 150th anniversary of BC joining Confederation is an opportunity to correct this historic wrong. I am proposing a path toward Reconciliation through reparation and conservation.

The Canada's Nature Legacy initiative is a commitment to protect 30% of Canada's natural areas by 2030. A key part of this commitment is the creation of Indigenous Protected Conservation Areas (IPCAs). IPCAs fall under the jurisdiction and authority of the First Nations whose territories these protected lands are a part of. The Indigenous Guardians program connected to IPCAs supports management and oversight based on cultural responsibility for the land. IPCAs protect important ecosystems, like salmon spawning habitat or elk calving grounds. They also support sustainable economic activity and recreational use.

There is very little park land and few protected areas within the E&N land grant region. For example, the Nanaimo River is 56 kilometres long and its watershed is 750 sq kilometres. Less than 0.6 sq kilometres of that area is park land and only 10.3 sq kilometres is conservation areas. Recreational access to the river is increasingly limited by development.

Large areas of the E&N Land Grant region are developed. The primary landowners of undeveloped areas are forest companies. Land acquisition is one way to create IPCAs. Working in partnership with forest companies opens up more opportunities to create IPCAs through carbon offset

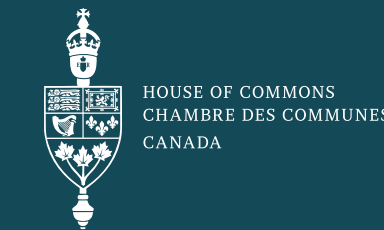


Map reproduced from the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group report "The Great Land Grab in Hul'qumi'num Territory"

agreements and land swaps. Under the Land Guardian program, co-management could be coordinated between First Nations within the Hul'qumi'num, Kwakwaka'wakw and Nuu-chah-nulth territories of the land grant region.

All communities in the region would benefit from the creation of IPCAs. It's hard to overstate the importance of protecting community drinking watersheds. Creating IPCAs would also ensure the preservation of accessible wilderness areas that are popular for camping, swimming, hiking, biking, kayaking, rafting and climbing.

Indigenous culture is connected to the land, and true Reconciliation must be more than words, it requires reparation and economic reconciliation. I hope you will join me in working to create a just and equitable reason for all of us to celebrate 150 years of BC in Confederation.



**PAUL MANLY**  
Member of Parliament  
Nanaimo-Ladysmith

Winter 2020/21

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Happy New Year! I think it's safe to say that many are glad to see 2020 behind us.

The second session of the 43rd parliament opened in late September with a Speech from the Throne. A transcript of my response to that speech is included in this newsletter.

Parliament now operates under a hybrid virtual/in-person system that includes remote voting. Ontario has been a COVID hotspot this fall, so I've been glued to my seat in my Nanaimo office for virtual parliament, which often starts before 7am.

In October the Liberal government turned an opposition motion into a confidence vote. The Conservative motion called for a special committee to look into government corruption related to the WE charity scandal. An independent investigation by the Ethics Commissioner is already underway.

I voted with the government on this confidence vote because I firmly believe that this is no time for an election. As I write this we are dealing with an alarming rise in COVID cases across Canada. MP offices receive a high volume of calls and emails every week from constituents seeking help. Much of our work this year is helping desperate Canadians access federal assistance. It would be unthinkable to suspend MP services for 5-8 weeks for an election in the midst of a pandemic. This is why I voted the way I did.

My staff do an outstanding job of helping constituents navigate government programs and resolving problems they encounter. When they run into issues that they cannot resolve with civil servants

we take it up to the ministerial level. They recently discovered that an identification problem was putting newcomers across the country in jeopardy. They were the first to bring the nationwide scope of this issue to the attention of senior civil servants at Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). IRCC is now working to resolve this problem.

Earlier this year a local teacher suggested that I develop a Youth Advisory Council. I love this idea. A broad range of organizations in town have been contacted for their feedback and suggestions. Plans are still taking shape and I look forward to sharing more information soon.

My thanks to all of you who responded to my previous newsletter. I appreciated hearing your concerns about long term care, old growth forests, and many other urgent issues. I also appreciated the positive feedback on Guaranteed Livable Income. I am continuing my advocacy on all of these issues.

As a member of the Green Party caucus, I stand by the values, policies and platform that I ran for office on. But when it comes to providing you with the services you need and helping you with the issues you're confronting, I am not concerned with how you voted. My office is not a Green Party office, and my staff and I are here to serve you with compassionate, caring, non-partisan service.

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In September I had a physically-distanced meeting with family members and advocates for Lisa Marie Young. In line with the recommendations of the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, I am advocating to have Lisa's case reviewed and re-examined.

## HIGHLIGHTS: FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The second session of the 43rd Parliament began in September 2020. Here is a small selection of highlights from my speeches and questions this fall. To view videos of my speeches, statements and questions in the House of Commons, go to [YouTube.com/c/PaulManlyGPC](https://www.youtube.com/c/PaulManlyGPC).



### September 2020

During the pandemic shutdown, Canadians banged pots and pans to thank front-line workers, including grocery store workers who were among the most at risk of contracting COVID-19. Meanwhile, over the past six months, Canada's 20 richest billionaires, including the owners of Canada's largest grocery store chains, increased their wealth by a staggering \$37 billion. Will the government implement a wealth tax so that Canada's wealthiest citizens contribute fairly to the public services that their businesses and employees rely on?

I echo the Honourable Member's concerns about the lack of targets established for climate change in the Speech from the Throne. We need definitive targets. We need to know that we are going to meet our international commitments under the Paris accord, to ensure a liveable future for our children and grandchildren. Would the Honourable Member support a ban on gas fracking in Canada?

Today is Orange Shirt Day, when we honour and remember residential school survivors and bear witness to their healing journey. It is important to recognize the destructive harm of Canadian governments and policies that sought to destroy the cultures, languages and way of life of indigenous people. True Reconciliation requires action. Sockeye salmon are not just an iconic species on the west coast of Canada, they are sustenance for coastal First Nations, and a key part of their culture and traditions. True Reconciliation demands that we protect wild salmon, but this year salmon stocks have crashed to an all-time low. Today is also the deadline to implement recommendation 19 from the Cohen Commission report. Despite overwhelming evidence that net-pen salmon farming poses a risk to migrating wild salmon, the government has not shut down these fish farms. It is time for the government to take action to protect wild salmon in B.C.

### October 2020

When we fail to understand the importance of mental health we pay the price as a society - in loss of employment, family breakdown, stress-related diseases, addiction, homelessness, and crime. Mental health care, such as counseling, should not be a luxury, only for those who can afford it - or a late intervention for those who are already in crisis. Will the government implement a national mental health strategy and fully include mental health care under the Canada Health Act?

This spring a freighter dragged its anchor and collided with another ship in Plumper Sound. Two weeks ago another freighter dragged its anchor and almost ended up on a beach in Ladysmith. Communities are fed up with the excessive noise, lights and exhaust from these freighters and are concerned about the environmental damage they cause. Will this government mandate improvements at the Port of Vancouver, ban the export of US thermal coal, use the 12 mile limit to control Freighter traffic and end the use of the Southern Gulf Islands as a parking lot for freighters?

### November 2020

Canada has failed to meet our commitments to foreign aid. We are failing to meet our commitments to climate action. We are the 15th largest arms exporting nation. We are considering purchasing offensive F-35 Stealth fighter jets. We have engaged in NATO wars of aggression and regime change. We have not signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. And we recently failed to gain a seat on the UN Security Council. Will the government conduct a full review of Canadian foreign policy and the role that this country plays in world affairs? On foreign affairs we are getting an F.

I absolutely agree with the Honourable Member for Victoria. These programs should be retroactive. There are small businesses that did not get this rent subsidy because their landlords refused to apply. Some small businesses have already shut down. It is too late for them, but others have racked up huge amounts of debt. Some of that is credit card debt that the banks have padded their wallets with. We are seeing huge profits by big banks. If we do not protect these small businesses, we will have more multinationals taking care of the goods and services in our communities and sucking all of that wealth out of them and putting it offshore. We absolutely need to protect our small businesses. These programs should be retroactive.

The government has reserved 414 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines with 6 private sector contracts. What will this cost taxpayers? For 70 years, government-owned Connaught Labs developed low-cost vaccines and other medicines. This model would ensure the financial viability of a Universal Pharmacare program in Canada. Will the government return to this model of publicly-owned laboratories to develop low-cost medicines and vaccines to serve the greater good?

## RESPONSE TO THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

*This is a transcript of my response the Speech from the Throne, delivered in the House of Commons on Oct. 5th 2020*

It is an honour to stand here today on the territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people to represent the constituents of Nanaimo-Ladysmith and Greens across Canada.

There are a number of things in the Speech from the Throne that I am pleased to hear. In fact there are some sections that sound a lot like the Green Party platform I ran on in 2015 and in 2019. There are also sections that echo the Green Party's roadmap to economic recovery from the pandemic, "Re-Imagining Our Future."

What the Speech from the Throne is missing is the plans for bold action in those documents. To quote our new Green Party leader Annamie Paul, "Platitudes are not a plan."

We are facing two unprecedented crises, a global pandemic and the climate emergency. Both of these crises require that we listen to the scientists and the experts. Both of these crises require bold action. This Speech from the Throne does not reflect the urgency of this moment.

We keep hearing that we are all in this together, but this pandemic has laid bare the inequality in Canada. Those most affected by the pandemic are seniors, women, people of colour, indigenous people, people with disabilities and low wage workers. At the same time the wealthiest Canadians have been making money hand over fist.

The 20 richest people in Canada have increased their wealth by 37 billion dollars during the first six months of this pandemic. It is time for a wealth tax in this country. It's time for the wealthy to pay their fair share for the public services their businesses and employees rely on. It's time that the internet giants and multinational corporations that do business in Canada pay their fair share of taxes as well.

Small and medium sized Canadian enterprises are suffering from the economic fallout of the pandemic. In particular the travel, tourism, hospitality and entertainment sectors need additional help so these businesses can survive. The nonprofit sector provides vital services to Canadians, especially right now. This sector needs targeted support.

Small and Medium sized businesses are the engine of the Canadian economy and employ almost 90% of Canadian private sector workers. These businesses need supports to get through the second wave of this pandemic.

We need to do a better job taking care of each other. We are the only country in the world with universal healthcare but no universal pharmacare. It's mentioned in the throne speech, but we've heard it before and we haven't seen a plan. Universal pharmacare will save billions in unnecessary healthcare costs by ensuring people have the medicine they need.

We need a universal dental program to complete our universal healthcare system. This too will save billions in unnecessary healthcare costs. A \$90 filling today can prevent a \$10,000 heart operation down the road.

Our recovery plan must focus on supporting women and families. Canada urgently needs a universal childcare program to enable more women to return to the workforce.

Thousands of people across this country are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It's more important than ever that the federal government invest in affordable housing, in particular community-owned cooperative housing. The announcements for housing programs sound good, but that funding needs to flow right away.

We have an opioid crisis in this country. Thousands of people have died from drug poisoning. Addiction is a health and social problem. Our public health officials are telling us to follow evidence-based solutions to this crisis. We need to listen.

The Green Party has long been calling for a national strategy for seniors including national standards for long term care and additional supports for homecare so people can age in place. Seniors deserve a top up of OAS and GIS to help make ends meet.

Many people with disabilities have been waiting for long periods of time for the benefits and protections that they need. The COVID-19 one-time support payment for people with disabilities was announced 3 months into the pandemic. It's now almost 4 months later, and those payments have not been made. People with disabilities are sick of waiting and sick of being left behind.

Veterans Affairs Canada had a backlog of almost 50,000 disability benefit applications as of March 2020. It will take three years to clear that backlog with the current resource levels. Veterans deserve better.

Young people and students were not mentioned in the SFT. The Green Party has been advocating for the elimination of tuition fees so we can create an educated workforce without burdening our young people with unsustainable debt. Northern European countries all have free tuition; it's a matter of priorities. Let's prioritize our young people.

The Canada Student Service Grant was a bad idea. Those funds should have gone to the Canada Summer Jobs program to help youth and non-profits get through the pandemic. I had 500,000 dollars in unfunded applications in my riding.

We need to bring our social programs in line with the northern European countries where citizens have a real social safety net, from cradle to grave.

The biggest opportunity that this government has missed in the Speech from the Throne is a Guaranteed Liveable Income. Our current patchwork of social programs allow too many people to fall through the cracks. A Guaranteed Liveable Income would create an income floor under which no Canadian could fall. It would eliminate extreme poverty in this country.

I can hear the objections now. How are we going to pay for all of this? So let's go back to where I began. Canada needs a wealth tax. We need to close tax loopholes that allow people and corporations to avoid taxes in Canada and off-shore their wealth.

It's worth emphasizing that the costs of social inequality are far greater than the costs of taking care of people properly. Let's use the resource wealth we have to create maximum employment and benefits for Canadians, starting with the First Nations and Indigenous people, who are the rightful owners of those resources.

We need to implement all of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls inquiry. It's time to implement and integrate the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People into Canadian law.

There are good things in the speech, and there are a lot of things that are missing, or need to be improved on. But the bottom line is that there is no real plan to do our part to stop our own destructive practices that are wiping out the biodiversity on this planet, destroying our climate and threatening the future of our children and grandchildren.

We still have the climate targets set by Stephen Harper's Conservative government. Pathetic, inadequate targets. And there is no plan to even reach those pathetic, inadequate targets. Since the first climate conference in Geneva in 1979, successive Canadian governments have been well aware of climate change. Only one government actually bothered to establish a plan to meet the targets that they agreed to. That was the Paul Martin government which was brought down by the Conservatives and the NDP before those plans could be implemented.

Britain has set carbon budgets in law. They set plans and hold to those carbon budget targets independent of the toxic partisan politics that dominate our electoral system. The UK has reduced their emissions by 42% below 1990 levels while Canada has increased emissions by 21% since 1990. Canada is a climate do-nothing. I will not vote for a Speech from the Throne that does not include the targets that science demands and a real plan of action to meet those targets and address the crisis we are facing.

My work here is not to ensure that I get re-elected, my work here is not to boost the fortunes of the Green Party, my work here is not to play a game of partisan politics. My work and my role here is to push this government as hard as I can to do the right thing, to improve the lives of Candians and take real action on climate change. We owe our children and grandchildren nothing less than a full defence of their future on this planet.

There are members of other parties who know this to be true. I want them to know that their work here is to fight for the existence of humanity. Their party bosses and big donors may be interested in making that last chunk of money from fracking, but they need to question what their purpose is on this planet, at this time, in this place. They need to look deep within their conscience. Think about those moments in their childhoods when they saw a world full of wonder and possibility.

We, in this house, have the power to make decisions that count, decisions that matter. Now is our time to meet the challenge of our time. This Speech from the Throne does not meet the challenge. It's time to do better. I will be voting no.



Meet my staff (left to right): Nadine Wiepning (Constituency Advocate), Deirdre O'Beirne-Rosaeg (Legislative Assistant, Ottawa), Ilan Goldenblatt (Chief of Staff), Laurie MacMillan (Communications Coordinator), Irene Brueckner-Irwin (Member's Assistant, Ottawa).

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[Read more statements and questions at PaulManlyMP.ca](#)