

NDP: Investing in better public transit

Only New Democrats will deliver the cleaner, greener transit Canadian cities need

TORONTO, sept 29/08 – New Democrat Leader Jack Layton blasted Stephen Harper for neglecting public transit investment and announced the New Democrat plan for better, greener transit.

“I urge everyone today interested in a positive, progressive vision for Canada – whether you voted New Democrat, Liberal, Green or Progressive Conservative in the past – to team up behind me and my team. And then ordinary working families will finally have their day in the halls of government.”

“Better public transit is a critical need all across Canada,” Layton said. “Provinces and cities are doing their best, but need support and leadership from the Prime Minister. Stephen Harper won’t do it. I will.”

Layton pointed to the release of his election platform yesterday. “It’s a balanced and responsible plan. It shows exactly how we will pay for our commitments to working families.”

Focusing on a key commitment to invest in public transit, Layton emphasized its importance. “Better public transit creates better communities. It makes life more affordable for working families. It means cleaner air and fewer smog days.”

Highlighting his own record on public transit and that of leading New Democrat MPs Olivia Chow and Peggy Nash, Layton set out his plan. “We have a prudent and practical plan that will increase support for cleaner, greener transit across Canada.”

The Jack Layton plan:

- Dedicates one cent per litre of the federal gas tax to public transit, beginning at \$400 million in the first year and increasing as finances permit
- Invests revenue raised by the sale of carbon permits to big polluters directly into green transit solutions, beginning at \$350 million a year.
- Ensures stable, annual funding to cities and provinces for newer, cleaner and better public transit
- Creates good green-collar jobs, strengthens communities, and eases pressure on family budgets.