

New Democratic Party of Canada Response to The Lung Association

1) Will you support funding The National Lung Health Framework, Canada's first national action plan on lung health?

The effort to coordinate lung health through the National Lung Health Framework is an important step forward on a major health issue affecting a growing number of ordinary Canadians.

The guiding principles and goals of the National Lung Health Framework are shared in the New Democrats' approach to health care and disease prevention. We have been consistently committed to improving the lung health of all Canadians and a New Democrat government will work with the Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Lung Association and other stakeholder groups, and the research community to ensure that adequate funding is designated to support the Framework's objectives.

In the interim, New Democrats have undertaken in our election platform to: work with the provinces and territories to develop long-term strategies to better manage chronic diseases; launch a federal Determinants of Health Initiative with emphasis on clean air, safe water, reducing poverty and improving children's health and nutrition; increase federal support for provincial and territorial health initiatives, including the Cancer Control System; and take actions to improve air quality that are described in our response to Question 2, below.

2) Will you back strong legislation and regulations to clean up the air Canadians breathe?

Jack Layton has led the fight for action to clean up the air that Canadians breathe because choking smog is a major contributing factor to lung disease. A New Democrat government will clean up Canada's deteriorating environment— not with Mr. Harper's idle words or by taxing you and your family – but with tough laws that force polluters to clean up the mess they've made.

As Prime Minister, Jack Layton will set leading air quality standards for each air pollutant defined in the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* and give the Environment Minister the authority to designate "significant areas" such as more heavily polluting areas or more sensitive areas for specialized information-gathering and targeted action.

We will make big polluters pay. We will put a price on carbon through a "cap-and-trade" carbon pricing system that establishes hard limits on pollution and a tough charge on polluters who exceed the limits. All revenue will be applied to environmental solutions.

New Democrats will invest \$4 billion over four years in stable, annual transit funding, combining an extra cent from the existing gas tax with revenue from making big polluters pay. We will also introduce Canada Environment Action Bonds, a secure new investment that Canadians can purchase to help fight climate change by raising capital for environmentally-friendly infrastructure and renewable energy. And we will establish a Canadian Renewable Energy Agency responsible for encouraging and developing renewable energy in Canada.

New Democrats will also introduce an Environmental automobile strategy to:

- ❖ Invest in Canadian production of low-emission cars to ensure our auto industry remains viable, with aggressive incentives for manufacturers who develop and manufacture cars in Canada with low or zero greenhouse gas emissions.
- ❖ Provide federal government support for pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths in communities as part of our commitment to sustainable transport. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improved pedestrian and cycling infrastructure will have health benefits for Canadians who choose to walk or cycle.
- ❖ Bring in mandatory vehicle emission standards for all vehicles sold in Canada, based on leading North American standards.
- ❖ Reduce pollution through an *Early Adopters Program* that encourages the purchase of commercial electric hybrid vehicles.

3) Will you support increased funding for research on lung disease?

Jack Layton and his team of New Democrats are committed to increasing funding for university and college-based research, and for graduate and post-graduate studies.

We will work with Canada's health research community and networks to ensure that research on lung diseases is adequately funded within our health research funding strategy.