

Scheer Warns Of Carbon Tax Hike If Trudeau Wins Vote In 2019

REGINA: Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer welcomed 2019 with a warning that if Canadians re-elect Justin Trudeau this year, the federal carbon tax that's going to take effect will only climb.

"Canadians know what Justin Trudeau is going to do. Now that his carbon tax is here, it's only going to go up. And if he gets re-elected in 10 months, it will go up even more," Scheer said during a New Year's Day news conference in a Giant Tiger store in Regina.

"This time next year I plan on being able to tell Canadians that Justin Trudeau's carbon tax is a thing of the past."

The federal government's new carbon pricing system comes into effect in 2019 in provinces that don't have carbon pricing mechanisms of their own. The carbon price outlined by Ottawa starts at a minimum of \$20 a tonne and rises \$10 annually until 2022.

But Scheer told reporters that government officials are saying the tax would need to rise to \$100 per tonne for it to be effective at reducing carbon emissions, and he says the federal environment department is planning for a carbon tax of \$300 per tonne.

"So we know Justin Trudeau will raise the carbon tax higher.



His experts are telling him to. His own government departments are telling him to," Scheer said.

"At that price home heating bills will rise by more than \$1,000 a year and gas prices would go up by more than 60 cents a litre."

When asked by a reporter about his own plan to fight climate change, Scheer responded that the Conservatives' plan will help reduce global emissions by capitalizing on Canada's clean technology and cleaner energy, which he said will also keep manufacturing jobs in Canada instead of moving to countries without those things.

Canada's former parliamen-

tary budget officer predicted in a report in April that the federal government's carbon tax will cut economic growth by 0.5 per cent or \$10 billion dollars when it's fully implemented in 2022, and would generate significant revenues. However, Jean-Denis Freche-ette's report noted the impact on the economy will depend on how those revenues are used.

Trudeau says Ottawa will return 90 per cent of the money it collects from a carbon tax to Canadians.

Saskatchewan is asking its Court of Appeal to rule on whether the carbon tax is unconstitutional and has argued its climate change plan is enough to reduce emissions and a carbon tax would hurt the Saskatchewan economy.

Scheer, who represents Regina-Qu'Appelle in Parliament, said Saskatchewan's fight against the tax gets easier as more provinces elect governments that also oppose it, like Ontario and New Brunswick did in 2018.

"Premier (Scott) Moe and Premier (Brad) Wall before him had a bit of a lonely battle but now they've got reinforcements. And my message to Canadians is come 2019, the battle will be won," Scheer said.

Indo-Canadian Scientist Among 103 Added To Order Of Canada

OTTAWA: Indo-Canadian researcher Dr. Digvir S. Jayas is one of the 103 distinguished personalities added to the Order of Canada this year.

The list of new appointments unveiled by Rideau Hall includes former politicians, such as one-time New Brunswick premier Camille Henri Theriault and Frank Lewis, who served as P.E.I.'s lieutenant-governor.

There are researchers like Geoffrey Hinton, a world expert in AI; journalists like Lyse Doucet of the BBC; and trailblazers in sport like Rhona and Rhoda Wurtele, the twin sisters who comprised the Canadian alpine ski team at the 1948 Olympics.

The Order of Canada is the cornerstone of the Canadian honours system whose ranks are now closing in on 7,000 members.

Dr. Digvir S. Jayas (Ph.D. University of Saskatchewan; M.Sc. University of Manitoba; B.Tech. G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology in Pantnagar, India), is the Interim President of NSERC, (November 8, 2018 to November 7, 2019.

He is Vice-President (Research and International) and a Distinguished Professor at the University of Manitoba. He was also Vice-President (Research), Associate Vice-President (Research), Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, Department Head of Biosystems Engineering, and Interim Director of the Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals.

Greg Zeschuk and his friend Ray Muzyka took a winding path to the Order of Canada. It started



Dr. Digvir S. Jayas

in medical school in the 1980s when the two became friends, and grew as they combined their mutual interest in software development to create the Edmonton-based firm BioWare in 1995. Eventually, the two gave up family medicine for gaming, and after 17 years, BioWare as grown into a leader in role-playing games. Zeschuk runs breweries and a restaurant in Edmonton that focuses on hosting charitable events.

When Beckie Scott left behind her competitive cross-country ski career in 2006, the Olympic gold medallist didn't foresee the path she would take next. A dozen years later, Scott has become a leading international voice to root out doping in sports. Now she is a member of the Order of Canada.

Helping people is a theme in the work of painter Maxine Noel. The Indigenous artist has tried to use her work to help raise awareness about Indigenous Peoples in Canada. Her painting called "Not Forgotten," which recognizes the lives of Indigenous women and girls, hangs in the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Que.

Burnaby Will Be Jagmeet's Big Test

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Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has not yet set a date for the byelection in Burnaby South, which was vacated by former New Democrat MP Kennedy Stewart, now Vancouver's mayor. Trudeau is expected to call byelections for the Burnaby South, Outremont, Que., and York-Simcoe, Ont., ridings soon.

The byelection, expected for February, marks Singh's biggest political test to date, while he also tries to calm party fears about fundraising, slumping polls and a growing list of veteran MPs who say they won't run in 2019.

Singh has said he plans to focus on campaigning in the riding over the next month, so he can check "elected" off his to-do list for the critical campaign year ahead.

In the 2015 federal election, the NDP won Burnaby South by just over 500 votes.

A party leader who can't win a seat customarily steps aside, although that hasn't happened in a byelection since the 1940s. Singh won't say what he'll do if he loses.

Corporate lawyer Jay Shin is running for the Conservatives in the byelection, while Green party leader Elizabeth May has said the Greens won't field a candidate.

Maxime Bernier's People's Party of Canada plans to name a candidate in the next two weeks, spokes-

man Martin Masse said. Because the party is so new and only recently established electoral district associations in the riding, the candidate won't be selected through a typical nomination voting process.

"Essentially, the leader will choose the candidate in each byelection," Masse said.

Ahead of the nomination vote Saturday, Eduljee told a crowd of about 100 party members gathered at a banquet hall in Burnaby that the "whole country" will be watching the vote in Burnaby South's byelection.

CPP Premium Hike, Tax Changes

OTTAWA - The new year brings with it tax changes at the federal level that will affect just about every Canadian, as well as small businesses.

One of the first changes workers will see is an increase in Canada Pension Plan premiums coming off their paycheques.

This year's C-P-P hike is the first of five years of increases that will end in 2023 _ to pay for enhancements to the pension plan.

Employment Insurance premiums, on the other hand, will drop by four cents for every 100-dollars of insurable earnings.

For small businesses, their tax rate is going down from 10 to nine per cent. But changes to how much so-called passive income a small business can hold are also coming into effect, which is expected to push some businesses into paying a much higher corporate tax rate.

Also in 2019, low income workers can qualify for an increase in the Canada Workers Benefit. But they will have to wait until 2020 to receive the extra money. The federal government's new carbon pricing system will also come into effect in provinces that don't have carbon pricing mechanisms of their own, resulting in higher costs for fossil fuels by April, and direct rebates to partly offset the costs.

Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer is already gearing up to make it an issue leading to the October federal election.

Vic Fedeli, Ontario Minister of Finance said: "We will not stop in our fight for Ontario businesses. Simply put, small businesses can't afford the federal carbon tax on top of higher payroll costs and our workers and businesses deserve to know what the real cost of these initiatives is going to be." "Our government will vigorously protect and advance Ontario's economic interests," said Fedeli.

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