

When politicians say that we want evidenced-based policy, we must mean it, and act on it.

Whether it's that prevention is the best way to reduce crime, while putting more people in prison longer makes it worse; whether opening up to markets and engaging in international trade is better for our prosperity than putting up walls; whether access to abortion services is better for overall maternal and societal health in poor countries; whether supply management in dairy, poultry, and eggs costs consumers too much, exports jobs and hurts our trade prospects and needs to be dismantled; whether a price on carbon would reduce emissions – whatever the evidence suggests our policies should be – we must have the courage to promote those policies and stand by them.

Not everyone will agree – and sometimes the truth can be inconvenient. But challenging inconvenient truths, refusing to let ideology alone govern our actions, allowing sacred cows out to pasture if that's where they belong, is something we have to be able to do. The Liberal Party will only regain the trust and confidence (even if not always the agreement) of Canadians, by standing up for what we believe is right. It's easy to do when the crowd around us agrees. Standing up for what is right in the face of adversity is called leadership.