

Confederation of Canadian Unions
Political Party Questionnaire for 2019 Manitoba Provincial Election

Greetings,

The Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU) is the nation's largest federation of independent labour unions. Founded in 1969 on the initiative of labour organizers Kent Rowley and Madeleine Parent, the CCU is dedicated to the establishment of a democratic, independent Canadian labour movement free of the influence of American-based international unions. The CCU includes almost 20,000 members in affiliated unions across the country in both the public and private sectors, and represents the values of hundreds of thousands of workers throughout Manitoba.

Like previous federal and provincial elections, the Confederation of Canadian Unions has once again established a political education campaign, named "Raise Your Voice, Cast Your Vote," to help its membership make informed voting choices for the Manitoba Election on September 10, 2019. The following questions have been sent to all four major parties in Manitoba, including the Progressive Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party and the Green Party.

The answers from each party will be posted on the CCU website (www.ccu-csc.ca). We ask that answers to each of the questions range from 150 to 250 words, and returned in Word format to Sean Cain at media@ccu-csc.ca by August 23, 2019 so we can prepare our membership for the vote on September 10.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email. And thank you for participating.

Sincerely,

Kelly Johnson
President, Confederation of Canadian Unions
250.365.5309
contact@ccu-csc.ca
www.ccu-csc.ca

QUESTIONS

The Economy

1. No one should work full-time and live in poverty. Yet according to Manitoba Labour and Regulatory Services, 48% of minimum wage workers in the province are over the age of 24, and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives determined that a living wage within the province is \$15 an hour, even though the current minimum wage is set at only \$11.35. Will your party commit to making the minimum wage in Manitoba a living wage of \$15 an hour and indexing it to the rate of inflation?

The Green Party of Manitoba is committed to ensure every Manitoban thrives. The Green Party of Manitoba has several different methods to ensure a substantial reduction in poverty level through our Guaranteed Basic Income program. This program is provided on a scale based on need derived from income level. That said, the minimum wage the Green Party of Manitoba would establish is \$13.70/hour. Together with the GAI, this is a living wage. The amount received from the GAI is indexed.

2. Research illustrates that the privatization of public services in areas like health care, public auto insurance, railways, water and hydro can lead to increased costs, poorer delivery of services, job losses, and less accountability to the public. Will your party commit to keeping crown corporations like Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Public Insurance, Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries under public ownership and democratic control? The Green Party of Manitoba will commit to keep essential Crown corporations in order to offer the lowest possible costs to Manitobans while maintaining efficient services.

3. Fair, progressive taxation doesn't only reduce levels of inequality, it provides governments with the revenue necessary to pay for vitally important social programs without going into debt. What will your party do to create a more progressive taxation system in Manitoba based on the ability to pay?

The Green Party of Manitoba has various policies in place to ensure fair taxation and assistance where required, these are included in our Green Economy policies and our Income security policies. These along with the Balance Budget policies will ensure the people of Manitoba pay a fair and equitable tax while the government maintains a level of service to the province and its people.

4. Fewer than 40% of Canadians have access to a workplace pension plan. What will your party do to protect pensions in both the private and public sectors in Manitoba and ensure that retirees can enjoy their golden years in dignity. The Green Party of Manitoba is committed to protecting pensions of workers.

Labour

5. The Public Services Sustainability Act (Bill 28) undermines the democratic right to collective bargaining and violates International Labour Organization Convention 98, of which Canada is a signatory. It will also freeze wages and reduce living standards for over 120,000 public sector workers in the province. What is your party's view of the Act, and what will you do to restore free collective bargaining in the province?

The Green Party of Manitoba upholds the right to collective bargaining and respects the Labour relations codes in Canada. The Green Party of Manitoba would repeal this act and rely on fair collective bargaining.

6. Research from Statistics Canada shows that workers in labour unions in Canada receive 23% more pay than those who aren't, and they enjoy superior health benefits and pensions, better health and safety

standards, more training and education, and work in places that are more equitable. What are your views on labour unions, and will you make it easier for workers to join unions in Manitoba?

The Green Party of Manitoba respects the rights of workers and their choice to join a union, we also honour the collective bargaining process.

7. Each year, thousands of Manitobans are injured on the job or develop illness from dangerous conditions at work. What will your party do to improve health and safety conditions and help protect workers in the province?

Manitoba is one of the last provinces to enact stricter workplace safety and health laws. We are also a province that has cut our health and safety officers substantially to a point where worker safety and rights are at risk. The Green Party of Manitoba will ensure workers in all workplaces have a safe environment in which to work and that worker rights are never at risk.

Social Programs

8. Research from the University of Quebec (economist Pierre Fortin) shows that a provincial childcare program wouldn't only give tens of thousands of children a better start in life, it would allow more parents to work, or work more hours. Will your party commit to a universal, affordable childcare program throughout the province and invest in the training of Early Childhood Educators?

The Green Party of Manitoba is committed to a long term vision of early childcare and support based on the report of the Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Commission 2016.

9. Our publicly administered, universal health care system is cherished throughout Manitoba. Yet more of our health services are being de-funded and privatized. What policies will your party implement to ensure that health care in the province remains under public control and is accessible to everyone?

The Green Party of Manitoba will implement policies to ensure healthy living, public access to healthcare and adequate funding to provide efficient services for all Manitobans.

10. Canada remains the only country in the world with a universal health care system that doesn't include prescription medication. Drug prices continue to skyrocket for Manitobans and more people have to choose between getting the medications they need and paying for necessities like food or rent. Will your party commit to creating a universal, comprehensive, publicly-administered and sustainable Pharmacare program that is accessible to all Manitobans?

The Green Party of Manitoba will work with other provinces to jointly purchase pharmaceuticals to provide the lowest possible cost for medications needed by Manitobans.

11. Grade schools, high schools, colleges and universities in Manitoba depend on government funding to maintain a high-quality, comprehensive education system. What are your plans for education funding in the province, and can you promise voters you will not cut funding to education while in office?

The Green Party of Manitoba will not cut education funding. Greens know education is critical in our society today, with that we will provide the necessary changes to our education system to ensure every Manitoban has an equal opportunity to fulfil their educational goals.

12. According to the government of Manitoba Population Report (2016), during the next fifteen years, over 100,000 Manitobans will reach the age where they may require long-term care services. How will your party guarantee adequate home care funding that will grow with the province's aging population?

The Green Party of Manitoba believes the best care for our aging population is an age in place model where people can stay in their homes with some minor assistance for as long as is feasibly possible. This provides a level of comfort and security to the aging population. When the time comes for people to move to care facilities, the Green Party of Manitoba will ensure adequate services are provided to care for the people.

13. Research indicates addictions are often caused by lack of access to necessary social and living supports, which is often a result of poverty or inadequate financial supports. Addictions are on the rise in Manitoba as evidenced by increased use of methamphetamine. What will your party do to confront the meth crisis in the province, and will that include funding for long-term treatment and transitional housing? The Green Party of Manitoba will implement a Guaranteed Living Income to assist people out of poverty. These are not meant to be a hand out but a hand up, providing the opportunity to put food on the table and pay the bills. This income is based on a person's previous years' tax return and will be adjusted appropriately, allowing the person to work without being cut off of this supplement entirely. The proven model of an income supplement will reduce drug use, reduce crimes and assist with housing.

The Environment

14. What policies will your party implement to reduce climate change and protect the environment? The Green Party of Manitoba has a wide array of polices to help the environment, including reducing waste, cleaning the air, cleaning the waterways and promoting renewable energy. All of these policies will be implemented under a Green government.

15. What plans does your party have with regards to incorporating and strengthening economic and labour market growth with environmental protection within our province? Statistics show that green tech and the green job market are producing more jobs than many other sectors, not only that but they have little to no subsidy unlike the oil sector. With removing subsidies from the dirty non-green sectors and funding green initiatives, the labour market will grow exponentially and protect the environment.

16. One of the best ways to reduce our carbon footprint on the environment is public transportation. What will you do to make public transportation throughout the province more affordable and accessible to Manitobans? The Green Party of Manitoba will implement the fare free transit for urban residents and work with other communities throughout Manitoba to ensure reliable affordable public transportation is made available.

17. Will your party commit to restoring the 50/50 funding agreement between the province and the City of Winnipeg for upgrades to the city's transit system? The Green Party of Manitoba will do better than a 50/50 model. As outlined in our policy platform, The Green Party of Manitoba will fund 60% of the system if the City chooses to use a fare free model.