



**Liberal Party of Canada**

350 Alberl Street, Suite 920  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6M8

**Parti libéral du Canada**

350, rue Albert, bureau 920  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

September 15, 2021

Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU)

Via email: media@ccu-csc.ca

Dear Members of the Confederation of Canadian Unions,

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership. We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

This is an election where there is a clear choice for all Canadians: the Liberal party has had Canadians' backs through the pandemic, and will finish the fight against COVID-19 with significant investments in health care and vaccines, including making them mandatory on planes and trains and supporting provinces and territories to adopt proof of vaccination requirements. Our recovery plan invests in the middle class and those working to join it, to make life more affordable and build a better, cleaner future for Canada.

Due to an overwhelming amount of correspondence and inquiries at this late stage in the election, we are unable to respond to each of your questions, however, we encourage you to review the full [Liberal Party of Canada platform](#) where you will find more information on relevant policy commitments to your organization.

In particular, we would point you to these commitments, addressing the issues of taxes, workers rights, healthcare, post-secondary students, gender equity, climate change, and international aid.

Tax system:

- Raise corporate income taxes on the largest, most profitable banks and insurance companies who earn more than \$1 billion per year and introduce a temporary Canada Recovery Dividend that these companies would pay in recognition of the fact they have recovered faster and stronger than many other industries.
- Create a minimum tax rule so that everyone who earns enough to qualify for the top bracket pays at least 15 % each year (the tax rate paid by people earning less than \$49,000), removing their ability to artificially pay no tax through excessive use of deductions and credits.
- Implement a tax on luxury cars, boats, and planes as outlined in Budget 2021.



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- Significantly increase the resources of the Canada Revenue Agency to combat aggressive tax planning and tax avoidance that allows the wealthiest to avoid paying the taxes they owe. This will increase CRA's resources by up to \$1 billion per year in order to close Canada's tax gap.
- Modernize the general anti-avoidance rule regime in order to focus on economic substance and restrict the ability of federally regulated entities, including financial institutions such as banks and insurance companies, to use tiered structures as a form of corporate tax planning that flows Canadian-derived profit through entities in low-tax jurisdictions in order to reduce taxes back in Canada.
- Work with our international partners to implement a global minimum tax so that the biggest companies in the world are not able to escape the taxes they owe here in Canada.
- Eliminate flow through shares for oil, gas, and coal projects to help promote clean growth and Canada's transition to a net-zero economy.
- Implement a national anti-flipping tax and move forward with Canada's first ever national tax on nonresident, non-Canadians on vacant land and residential property.

### Workers rights:

- Provide up to 5 new paid leave days for federally regulated employees who experience a miscarriage or still birth, which can happen in up to 1 in 5 pregnancies.
- Strengthen provisions in the Canada Labour Code to better support women that need to be temporarily reassigned to other duties during pregnancy and while breast-feeding.
- Create a fairer collective bargaining process by introducing legislation to prohibit the use of replacement workers, "scabs," when a union employer in a federally regulated industry has locked out employees.
- Work with federally regulated employers and labour groups to co-develop a new policy for the right to disconnect so that workers can disconnect at the end of a workday without worrying about job security and restore healthy work-life balance.
- Protect public post-secondary educational institutions, such as Laurentian University, from being subject to corporate restructuring.

### Healthcare:

- Immediately invest \$6 billion—on top of \$4 billion already committed—to support the elimination of health system waitlists.
- Negotiate agreements with every province and territory to ensure that Canadians who are waiting for care get the treatment they need as quickly as possible, and that the primary care system is positioned for the future and able to deliver the care outcomes that Canadians need.
- Provide \$3.2 billion to the provinces and territories for the hiring of 7,500 new family doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners.



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- Provide \$400 million over 4 years to build on the growing demand for virtual care that arose during the pandemic.
- Expand the number of family doctors and primary health teams in rural communities, by increasing by 50% (from \$40,000 up to \$60,000 over 5 years), the maximum debt relief that family doctors, residents in family medicine, nurse practitioners, or nurses are eligible for the under Canada Student Loans forgiveness program.
- Expand the list of professionals eligible for forgiveness to include dentists, pharmacists, dental hygienists, midwives, social workers, psychologists, teachers, and early childhood educators so that rural communities have greater access to the full suite of health and social service providers they need.
- Offer health care professionals, who are just starting out in their careers, a one-time income tax deduction of up to \$15,000 over their first 3 years of practice to help with the costs of setting up a practice.
- Strengthen federal powers under the Canada Health Act and the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act to deduct health transfers from provinces who enable extra billing for publicly insured services, in order to protect the integrity of our universal public health care system.
- Establish regulations under the Canada Health Act governing accessibility for sexual and reproductive health services so there is no question, that no matter where someone lives, that they have access to publicly available sexual and reproductive health services. Failure on the part of a province to meet this standard would result in an automatic penalty applied against federal health transfers.
- Establish a new federal transfer to provinces and territories—the Canada Mental Health Transfer—to assist jurisdictions to expand the delivery of high quality, accessible, and free mental health services. Building on the principles of universality and accessibility in the Canada Health Act, this transfer will help establish standards in each province and territory, so that Canadians are able to expect services that are timely, universal, and culturally competent. This will help each jurisdiction focus on and solve critical backlogs in service and provide help to those who need it, according to the unique needs in each region.
- Committo permanent, ongoing funding for mental health services under the Canada Mental Health Transfer, with an initial investment of \$4.5 billion over 5 years. Including the existing bilateral agreement on mental health services signed in 2017, this would bring federal support for mental health services to \$2.5 billion per year by 2025-26. This is in addition to further investments we will make to support First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities with better access to trauma and mental health services.
- Raise wages for personal support workers, including a guaranteed minimum wage of at least \$25 per hour and train up to 50,000 new personal support workers.
- Improve the quality and availability of long-term care homes and beds.



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- Implement strict infection prevention and control measures, including through more provincial and territorial facility inspections for long-term care homes.
- Develop a Safe Long-Term Care Act collaboratively to ensure that seniors are guaranteed the care they deserve, no matter where they live.

### Post-secondary students:

- Let new parents pause repayment of their federal student loans until their youngest child reaches the age of five. This would also include new parents who have graduated but still haven't finished paying off their loans.
- Permanently eliminate the federal interest on Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans to support young Canadians who choose to invest in post-secondary education. This will benefit over 1 million student loan borrowers and save an average borrower more than \$3,000 over the lifetime of their loan.
- Increase the repayment assistance threshold to \$50,000 for Canada Student Loan borrowers who are single. This means that new grads, working hard early in their careers, won't have to begin repaying their loans until they earn at least \$50,000 annually.
- Introduce a new fund for student well-being to improve wait times and increase access to mental health care at colleges and universities. The fund will support the hiring of up to 1200 new mental health care counsellors, including those who can support the needs of BIPOC students, at post secondary institutions across Canada. We will invest \$500 million over four years and dedicate 10% annually to support Indigenous-governed and operated postsecondary institutions.

### Gender equity:

- Adapt and apply the Canada Business Corporations Act diversity requirements to federally regulated financial institutions, applying an intersectional lens to ensure diversity among senior ranks of the financial sector.
- Move forward with our commitment to require Crown corporations to implement gender and diversity reporting, beginning next year.
- Please note, we were the only party to include Gender and Diversity Impact Summaries throughout our entire platform document. These summaries provide additional information on the Liberal Party of Canada's commitment to addressing gender equity in all of our policies.

### Climate change:

- Deliver on all policy and fiscal measures outlined in our Strengthened Climate Plan from December 2020, implement the recently passed Net Zero Emissions Accountability Act, and



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advance new measures to achieve an ambitious 40-45% reduction in emissions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

- Work with all Canadians and the Net Zero Advisory Body to identify ways to further accelerate climate action that will put us on trajectory to achieve net-zero emissions as soon as possible and no later than 2050.
- Continue to put a rising price on pollution, while putting more money back into the pockets of Canadians.
- Make sure the oil and gas sector reduces emissions at a pace and scale needed to achieve net-zero by 2050, with 5-year targets to stay on track to achieving this shared goal. And driving down pollution starts with ensuring that pollution from the oil and gas sector doesn't go up from current levels.
- Set 2025 and 2030 milestones based on the advice of the Net-Zero Advisory Body to ensure reduction levels are ambitious and achievable and that the oil and gas sector makes a meaningful contribution to meeting the nation's 2030 climate goals.
- Ban thermal coal exports from and through Canada no later than 2030.
- Accelerate our G20 commitment to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies from 2025 to 2023.
- Develop a plan to phase-out public financing of the fossil fuel sector, including from Crown corporations, consistent with our commitment to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Introduce a Clean Electricity Standard that will set Canada on a path to cut more emissions by 2030 and to achieve a 100% net-zero emitting electricity system by 2035.
- Establish a \$2 billion Futures Fund for Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador that will be designed in collaboration with local workers, unions, educational institutions, environmental groups, investors, and Indigenous peoples who know their communities best. We will support local and regional economic diversification and specific place based strategies.
- Move forward with Just Transition Legislation, guided by the feedback we receive from workers, unions, Indigenous peoples, communities, and provinces and territories.

### International aid:

- Increase Canada's international development assistance every year towards 2030 to realize the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- Donate at least 200 million vaccine doses to vulnerable populations around the world through COVAX by the end of 2022 and provide additional funding to support enhanced testing and production capacity in developing countries.
- Continue to build on Canada's historic support for education so the world's most marginalized children have access to the inclusive, equitable and quality education they need and deserve, including new funding for girls' and refugees' education.



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- Double our funding to grassroots women's rights organizations and continue to make significant investments in comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services as well as the global care economy.
- Provide greater assistance to people living with disabilities in developing countries

We hope you and your membership will participate in this federal election and get out to vote on September 20th.

Thank you again for your advocacy and political engagement on these issues.

Sincerely,

Liberal Party of Canada