

1. According to Statistics Canada, economic inequality has been on the rise since the 1970s, and the richest 10% of Canadians currently own almost 50% of the country's total wealth. How will your party reverse this trend and reduce the growing levels of economic inequality in Canada?

New Democrats believe that it's time for a government that's on the side of ordinary Canadians, rather than the wealthy and large corporations. We will take concrete steps to reverse the trend of growing wealth and income inequality by increasing taxes on the wealthiest Canadians, including a wealth tax and a luxury tax, and by closing loopholes that primarily benefit wealthy Canadians and cracking down on tax havens and tax evasion.

We will use the revenues to fund programs and services that benefit lower income Canadians, including investments in affordable housing, green infrastructure, and public transit. These investments will create good jobs with decent wages, provide important training opportunities to marginalized communities, and ensure that all Canadians have access to the supports and services they need, while making life more affordable.

2. Federal corporate taxes have almost been cut in half during the past twenty years by Liberal and Conservative governments, supposedly to "create jobs". Canada now has a federal corporate tax rate that is below that of most OECD countries. What will your party do to ensure that corporations are paying their fair share of taxes, like all other Canadians?

An NDP government will restore the corporate tax rate for large corporations to 18%. We will also introduce a temporary COVID-19 excess profit tax that puts an additional 15% tax on large corporate windfall profits during the pandemic. We will ensure that internet giants like Facebook, Google, and Amazon are paying their fair share of tax. We will make it harder for corporations to move money to tax havens by introducing economic substance rules and we will fight corporate tax evasion with significant investments in the Canada Revenue Agency.

3. Economic research shows that more of Canada's resource industries are being taken over by international conglomerates. This has led to the loss of thousands of good-paying jobs in Canada and capital flight (in the form of profits) out of the country. What concrete policies will your party implement to protect Canadian resource industries from foreign domination?

New Democrats will put Canadian workers at the centre of a robust strategy to restore our economy and boost competitiveness. We will strengthen and modernize the Investment Canada Act to protect Canadian jobs and undo the damage done by the Liberal government that allows more takeovers of Canadian companies by foreign investors without national security reviews. We will invest in innovation and value-added strategies to help resource industries thrive in Canada, while ensuring sustainability.

4. The COVID pandemic has put workers in numerous industries at enormous risk. Many workers also report wage cutbacks and reduced working hours. What actions will your party take to protect working people and keep them safe from COVID, both on and off the job?

All workers have the right to a safe workplace, but right now, too many workers are forced to choose between coming to work sick and putting their co-workers at risk or staying home without pay and falling short of money to pay for essentials like rent and groceries. In order to truly ensure a safe workplace and to stop the spread of COVID-19, all workers in Canada need access to paid sick days. Unfortunately, the Liberal government has offered only the inadequate Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit, which they are already clawing back from workers, before the pandemic is even over.

An NDP government will fix the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit and keep it in place until all Canadians have access to paid sick days. We will allow sick leave to be taken by workers one or two days at a time, give full income to workers who are sick, and reimburse employers instead of putting the onus on workers to apply for the program.

We will also move immediately to legislate 10 paid sick days in the Canada Labour Code for federally regulated workplaces. We will work with the provinces and territories to bring in a permanent safety net of paid sick leave, so that every worker, regardless of workplace, province, or income level, has access to paid sick days.

5. Statistics Canada reports that on average, unionized workers enjoy higher wages than non-unionized workers in the same line of work, as well as stronger pensions, superior health and safety standards, longer vacation time, better health and drug benefits, and more rights in the workplace. Does your party believe that unions play a positive role in our economy? If so, what policies will your party implement or revise to create a climate that is easier for unions to organize?

We believe that membership in a union is the best ticket into the middle class – and makes workers and our entire economy better off. That’s why New Democrats believe that it should be easier – not harder - to join a union that will protect your rights and ensure fair working conditions. We will defend the Rand formula, so that unions can effectively advocate for workers, and we will continue to oppose heavy-handed legislation that suspends the rights to bargain and to strike.

6. Throughout Canada, working people and their unions, especially in the public sector, are under attack by governments who are stripping away their most basic rights and freedoms. What commitments will your party make to ensure workers in both the private and public sectors will maintain their collective bargaining rights, including the rights to bargain fairly, timely and for all conditions of employment, including wages?

NDP Response: Confederation of Canadian Unions

Unlike Liberals and Conservatives, New Democrats actually believe in free and fair collective bargaining. We have opposed the use of heavy-handed back-to-work legislation every time that Justin Trudeau or Stephen Harper interfered with workers' right to strike. An NDP government will continue to support collective bargaining free of interference. We will ban the use of scab replacement workers, which prolongs strikes and gives employers little incentive to reach a fair deal.

7. In 1989, the House of Commons unanimously passed a motion calling for the eradication of child poverty in Canada by the year 2000. Yet today, nearly one in eight children throughout the country live under the poverty line, and one in four Aboriginal children. What specific policies will your party implement to end child poverty in Canada, once and for all, and by what date do you intend to accomplish this by?

Our social safety net in Canada is broken, but Liberal and Conservative governments keep telling us we can't do any better. New Democrats believe that this is a critical moment to strengthen our social safety net and improve income supports so that all Canadians can live in dignity and security – children *and* their parents and caregivers. That's why we're going to get to work right away, building towards a guaranteed livable income for all Canadians. We'll start this work immediately by lifting every senior and person living with a disability out of poverty.

We will also make bold new investments in housing, pharmacare, child care, and post-secondary education to ensure that all Canadians can access the services they need without going into debt.

8. Our publicly administered, universal health care system is cherished by Canadians throughout the country. More of our health services, however, are being de-funded and privatized. Does your party favour increased or decreased privatizations of Canada's health services and, and what policies will your party implement to achieve your goals and ensure that health care in Canada is properly funded?

Quality medical services are vital for keeping Canadian families safe and healthy. But, in too many places across the country, these services are under threat from privatization and cuts. The Liberal government of Justin Trudeau has failed to enforce the Canada Health Act and did nothing while right-wing governments moved to privatize health care. The federal government cannot stand by while health care is under threat – New Democrats will always fight for public health care and stand up to privatization that costs Canadians money and undermines our public health care system. We will also move to expand publicly-funded health care to include prescription medications, mental health care, and dental care.

9. Canada is the only country in the world with a universal health insurance system that doesn't include a national drug program. Currently, 2 million Canadians incur over \$1,000 a year in out-of-pocket expenses for prescription drugs, and one in five Canadian families can't even afford to fill their prescriptions because of cost. Yet Canada's parliamentary budget officer stated in 2017 that a national Pharmacare program would save \$4.2 billion every year. Does your party support a publicly administered Pharmacare program and what steps will your party take in government to create it?

New Democrats recognize that life has become more unaffordable for the average Canadian, leaving far too many people unable to afford both food and medications. Unfortunately, the Liberals have just talked about pharmacare for six years without taking action. New Democrats will get to work to make it a reality immediately. We will begin working with the provinces right away to target a late 2022 start date, with an annual federal investment of \$10 billion. That means access to necessary medicines in the same way that we have access to medical and hospital care – free at the point of care, financed by a public insurance system that covers everyone. It means that you'll need your health card – not your credit card – at the pharmacy till. And it puts an end to costly co-payments, deductibles and premiums that cost families hundreds and even thousands a year.

10. Canada's total student loan debt is reaching an incredible \$22 billion dollars, and many governments throughout the country are cutting funding for post-secondary education. Will your party take any steps to ease the current student loan burden and what steps will you take to prevent future students from burdensome student loans while guaranteeing funding to Canada's colleges and universities?

Today, thanks to years of Liberal inaction and Conservative cuts, the average student with debt owes \$27,000 at the end of an undergraduate degree. That's not fair, and it's an inequality that sets young people up to fail. New Democrats are committed to ensuring that every Canadian has lifelong access to publicly-funded education. In the long-term, that means working with the provinces and the territories to cap and reduce tuition fees and building towards making post-secondary education part of our public education system so that kids can go from kindergarten to career without the barrier of cost. To make education more affordable right now, and to help recent graduates, an NDP government will begin by eliminating interest rates on student loans because we believe that no government should profit from student debt. We will also forgive up to \$20,000 in student debt and permanently double non-repayable Canada Student Grants.

11. Although there have been advances towards greater gender equity in Canada, there is still much work to be done. Women only make 75% of men's income, one in seven women live in poverty, while five provinces in Canada still have no pay equity legislation. Does your party have a stated goal of achieving gender equity, and what specific policies will your party propose to ensure greater gender equity and a timeline to achieve women's equality in government, business and society?

NDP Response: Confederation of Canadian Unions

Gender equity is a fundamental value for New Democrats, and we're committed to building a Canada where no one is left behind. Right now, Canadian women make 32% less than men, and the gap is even wider for racialized women, Indigenous women, immigrant women and women living with a disability. The Liberals promised that they'd make gender equity a priority but six years later the only thing they've prioritized are their rich friends and big corporations. Canadian women deserve better than empty Liberal talk and half measures. That's why a New Democrat government will prioritize pay equity to put an end to gender-based wage discrimination, requiring employers to be transparent about pay and implementing and enforcing tough and pro-active pay equity legislation and regulations right away. We'll also legislate \$10-a-day child care to ensure that parents can enter the workforce without needing to worry about finding affordable, high quality child care.

12. Canada is one of the few countries in the western world that uses a Plurality voting system ("First past the post"). This has allowed parties with a minority of the vote to form majority governments. In the 2019 election the popular vote tally was roughly:

- **Liberal 33%**
- **Conservative 34%,**
- **NDP 16%**
- **Bloc 8%**
- **Green 7%.**

The Seats won in the House of Commons was:

- **Liberal 47%**
- **Conservative 36%**
- **NDP 7%**
- **Bloc 9%**
- **Green 1%**

Where does your party stand on reforming Canada's electoral system to one based on proportional representation?

Justin Trudeau said he would fix the democratic deficit. Before being elected, he promised to deliver reform that would ensure every vote counts – and to make 2015 the very last federal election to be held under this unfair electoral system. But once in power, he broke his promise to Canadians and turned his back on progressive democratic reforms. It's time to make our voting system fairer, and actually deliver democratic reform to make sure that everyone's vote counts. A New Democrat government will bring in mixed-member proportional representation that works for Canada – and we will do it in our first mandate in government. We'll establish an independent citizen's assembly to recommend the best way to put it in place for the next election to ensure both local representation and a federal government that reflects the voters' choice of parties. Once Canadians have had the opportunity to experience the new voting system and compare it to the old one, we will hold a referendum to confirm the choice.

13. Canada has one of the poorest environmental records in the entire western world. What policies, including timelines and goals, will your party implement to reduce climate change and protect the environment for current and future generations of Canadians? Will your party also commit now to end the billion-dollar subsidies given to the oil industry and instead use those funds to invest in environmentally-friendly forms of energy?

The climate crisis is an urgent, existential threat. It calls on all of us to be courageous and act decisively. That's why an NDP government will implement an ambitious plan to reduce Canada's emissions by at least 50% from 2005 levels by 2030, reaching further wherever possible to account for Canada's fair share. We will work with partners to establish multi-year national and sectoral carbon budgets, and create a Climate Accountability Office to oversee progress and make recommendations on how to achieve our goals. We will eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and redirect these funds to low carbon initiatives. We will invest in green infrastructure and retrofit Canada's existing homes and businesses to be more energy efficient. We will make the federal government a trail-blazer in energy efficiency and clean technology, while supporting Canada's manufacturing industry to become a world leader in zero emissions cars and clean tech.

14. Canada currently provides only 0.3% of its Gross National Income (GNI) to foreign aid, putting us 19th out of 41 donor countries in the OECD. Eight of those countries have already reached their 0.7% commitment. Will your party commit to ensuring that Canada keeps its international promises to reach its commitment of providing 0.7% of its GNI to foreign aid, and how will you direct the aid?

Canadians believe that we have an important role to play in helping the world's most vulnerable. This has never been truer than during the global COVID-19 crisis, where international cooperation and assistance will be critical to strengthen healthcare systems and save lives. But under Justin Trudeau, Canadian international assistance spending has fallen to the lowest levels in 50 years, even as we face unprecedented global challenges.

An NDP government will boost Canada's international development assistance, with the goal of contributing 0.7 percent of our Gross National Income to international aid. We will also ensure that Canada is doing our fair share to help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, including alleviating poverty, ensuring decent work, protecting the rights of Indigenous communities, and supporting global peace and justice. We will also work to improve global health and help end the COVID-19 pandemic.