

Election 2019

Party platform comparison on issues of poverty reduction, affordability, health equity, and food policy. Compiled by Community Food Centres Canada on October 10, 2019.

For full party platforms, visit each party’s website.

Poverty reduction						
	Liberal Party	Conservative Party	NDP	Bloc Québécois	Green Party	People’s Party
Taxes and tax credits	<p>Increase the basic personal amount (the level below which one does not pay income tax) to \$15,000 (estimated to lift 40,000 people out of poverty)</p> <p>Increase the Canada Child Benefit by 15% for parents of children under one</p>	<p>Cut the tax rate on income under \$47,630 from 15% to 13.75%</p> <p>Remove GST from home heating and energy bills</p> <p>Relaunch a children’s fitness tax credit that would allow parents to claim up to \$1,000 in fitness and sports activity expenses</p> <p>Relaunch a children’s arts tax credit that would allow parents to claim up to \$500 for expenses related to arts and educational</p>	<p>Make the Family Caregiver Amount, a tax credit designed to help Canadians who take care of dependents with an impairment in physical or mental functions, refundable</p>	<p>Make the Family Caregiver Amount tax credit refundable</p> <p>Ensure the tax credit for home care is delivered automatically, without requiring receipts</p> <p>Create a tax credit for recent graduates and immigrants who accept jobs in less populated areas</p>	<p>Establish an arm’s length Federal Tax Commission to analyze the tax system for fairness and accessibility, based on the principle of progressive taxation</p>	<p>Increase the basic personal amount to \$15,000</p>

		<p>activities</p> <p>Increase the government's contribution to RESPs from 20% to 30% for every dollar invested, up to \$2,500/year. Parents who qualify as low-income would receive 50% on the first \$500 they invest every year.</p> <p>Bring back the public transit tax credit of up to 15% on monthly and weekly transit passes or electronic fare cards</p>				
Employment Insurance	<p>Make parental benefits tax-free</p> <p>Introduce Guaranteed Paid Family Leave for new parents who don't qualify for leave through EI</p> <p>Introduce a Career Insurance Benefit for people who have worked for</p>	<p>Offset the tax paid on EI parental benefits with a 15% tax credit</p>	<p>Lower the number of work hours required to access EI to 360 from 420.</p> <p>Restore the EI appeals system</p> <p>Make the Extra Five Weeks pilot project, which provides five more weeks of benefits</p>			

	<p>the same employer for five years and are laid off when the business closes, which will kick in after EI ends and provide an additional 20% of insured earnings in the first year and an extra 10% in the second year. Benefits would not be clawed back if other income is earned</p> <p>Extend EI sickness benefits from 15 weeks to 26 weeks</p> <p>Improve EI for seasonal workers</p> <p>Create an EI Disaster Assistance Benefit for people who need to temporarily stop working after a disaster</p>		<p>for seasonal workers, permanent</p> <p>Bring in a new special leave that allows parents to take shorter parental leave at a higher replacement rate</p> <p>Allow self-employed workers to opt into parental benefits</p> <p>Double leave for parents of multiples</p> <p>Increase the income replacement rate from 55% to 60%</p> <p>Create a low-income supplement so that no one receiving EI receives less than \$1,200 a month</p> <p>Extend sickness benefits to 50 weeks and create a pilot project to allow workers with</p>			
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			<p>episodic disabilities to access EI sickness benefits periodically</p> <p>Protect the EI Operating Account in law so that future governments can't use it for general revenue</p> <p>Allow workers who quit their job to go to school to qualify for EI benefits</p>			
Pensions and support for seniors	<p>Increase Old Age Security by 10% for people over 75</p> <p>Increase the CPP/QPP survivor's benefit by 25%</p>	<p>Increase the Age Credit by \$1,000 per year</p> <p>Require federally regulated companies to report on the solvency of their pension funds, encourage underfunded pensions to grow back to fully funded status, and restrict incentives for managers of companies undergoing</p>	<p>Ensure pensioners are the first to be repaid when a company goes bankrupt</p> <p>Create a Pension Advisory Commission to develop a long-term plan to protect and enhance Old Age Security, the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and the Canada</p>	<p>Reform old age pensions to protect household incomes</p> <p>Increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement</p> <p>Create pension funds in case of corporate bankruptcy</p> <p>Create a tax credit for employers to train seniors who wish to keep</p>	<p>Develop a National Seniors' Strategy</p> <p>Increase the Canada Pension Plan income replacement rate from 25% to 50%</p> <p>Protect private pensions in case of companies going bankrupt by ensuring pensioners are the first to be paid</p>	

		<p>bankruptcy proceedings if the pension plan is underfunded</p>	<p>Pension Plan</p> <p>Make automatic enrollment in Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement retroactive</p> <p>Lead a National Seniors' Strategy</p> <p>Establish a one-year delay to help seniors who are at risk of having their Guaranteed Income Supplement benefits suspended for being unable to make the required income statement</p> <p>Tackle seniors' isolation by working with cities to make transit more affordable, create more community recreation spaces, and support housing solutions like intergenerational co-housing</p>	<p>working and to keep them employed</p> <p>Increase the income limit for working seniors before their Guaranteed Income Supplement is clawed back</p>		
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<p>Support for people with disabilities</p>	<p>Double the Child Disability Benefit to up to \$5,664 per year</p> <p>Provide \$3,000 in free counselling for veterans with disabilities before a disability claim is required</p>	<p>Reduce the number of hours spent on therapy needed to qualify for the Disability Tax Credit from 14 to 10 hours per week</p> <p>Provide more pension support for veterans with disabilities</p>	<p>Launch a full review of income security programs to help tackle poverty among Canadians living with disabilities</p>		<p>Provide support for all veterans, including those with disabilities, to allow them to live in dignity</p>	<p>Reinstate the disability pension for veterans</p>
<p>Basic income</p>			<p>Work with provinces to launch a basic income pilot project</p>		<p>Work with provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples to establish a Guaranteed Livable Income</p>	
<p>Labour support and protections</p>	<p>Institute a \$15 federal minimum wage for federal employees</p> <p>Enstate greater labour protections for gig economy workers</p>		<p>Institute a \$15 federal minimum wage for federal employees</p> <p>Put in place rules to ensure that part-time and contract workers are compensated equally to full-time workers</p> <p>Ban unpaid internships</p>	<p>Facilitate, through incentives, more jobs for Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>Institute a \$15 federal minimum wage for federal employees</p> <p>Work with other levels of governments and Statistics Canada to set municipal minimum wages</p>	

Health equity						
Pharmacare	Spend \$6 billion to strengthen the health-care system, including taking critical next steps toward the implementation of a national universal pharmacare program		Spend \$10 billion annually to create a universal pharmacare program that would launch in late 2020		Establish a universal pharmacare program and invest \$26.8 billion in 2020-21	
Dental care			Work with provinces and territories to develop a roadmap toward including dental care in the <i>Canada Health Act</i>		Provide dental care for low-income Canadians	
Affordability						
	Liberal Party	Conservative Party	NDP	Bloc Québécois	Green Party	People's Party
Housing	Continue to roll out the \$55-billion National Housing Strategy, whose goals are to cut chronic homelessness in		Work with provinces and municipalities to create 500,000 units of affordable housing over 10 years		Appoint a Minister of Housing to strengthen the National Housing Strategy Set a target of	

	<p>half, remove 530,000 families from housing need, and invest in the creation of 125,000 new affordable homes.</p> <p>Provide an additional \$15 million per year for new affordable housing units for homeless veterans</p>		<p>Increase federal housing funding by \$5 billion in the first year and a half</p> <p>Set up fast-start funds to kickstart the construction of affordable housing</p> <p>Waive the federal portion of GST/HST on the construction of new affordable rental units</p> <p>Implement co-developed First Nations, Métis and Inuit housing strategies</p> <p>Set the goal to end homelessness within a decade</p> <p>Work with community services and the veterans community to end veteran homelessness</p>		<p>25,000 new and 15,000 rehabilitated units of affordable housing annually for the next 10 years</p> <p>Increase funding for new builds by \$750 million</p> <p>Increase funding for the Canada Housing Benefit, which provides rent support for low-income Canadians, by \$750 million</p> <p>Create a Canada Co-op Housing Strategy</p> <p>Provide financing to non-profit housing organizations and cooperatives to build and restore housing for seniors, people with special needs and low-income families</p> <p>Restore tax incentives for</p>	
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					<p>building rental housing</p> <p>Refocus the core mandate of the CMHC on supporting the development of affordable housing</p> <p>Change legislation that prevents Indigenous organizations from accessing financing through the CHMC to invest in self-determined housing needs</p> <p>Prioritize high-quality, safe and affordable housing in Indigenous communities, particularly in the north</p> <p>Increase access to shelters by investing \$40 million over four years to provide more than 2,100 new and renovated spaces in shelters and hundreds of</p>	
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					spaces in transition houses	
Child care	<p>Create 250,000 before- and after-school child-care spaces for children under 10</p> <p>Reduce before- and after-school care costs by 10%</p> <p>Create a national secretariat to lay the groundwork for a pan-Canadian child-care system</p>		<p>Introduce legislation that enshrines Canada's commitment to public child care in law</p> <p>Invest \$1 billion in child care in 2020 and grow that investment annually</p> <p>Invest \$10 billion over the next four years to create 500,000 new child-care spaces</p>		<p>Collaborate with stakeholders and other levels of government to create a policy road map to affordable, universal child care</p> <p>Increase federal child-care funding to hit the international benchmark of at least 1% of GDP spent on childcare, adding an additional \$1 billion each year until it is reached</p> <p>Eliminate GST on all construction costs related to child-care spaces</p>	
Post-secondary education	<p>Increase Canada Student Grants by \$1,200 per year</p> <p>Give students two years after graduation or until their youngest child is five to start</p>		<p>Eliminate interest on student loans</p> <p>Increase access to Canada Student Grants, moving away from loans</p>		<p>Spend \$10 billion on post-secondary education to eliminate tuition; provide more funding to universities; increase access to post-secondary</p>	

	repaying loans, and ensure loans don't have to be paid back until people make \$35,000		Expand financial assistance for children who grew up in care		education for Indigenous youth by removing the 2% funding cap; and forgive the portion of student debt that is held by the federal government	
Cell phones	Introduce regulations aimed at reducing cell phone bills by 25% over two years		Put in place a price cap for cell phone and internet bills			
Transit and travel	<p>Increase transit spending by \$3 billion per year</p> <p>Allow residents of Northern communities to deduct up to \$1,200 in travel costs from taxes owing</p> <p>Give low-income families \$2,000 bursaries to visit national parks</p>		<p>Modernize and expand public transit</p> <p>Establish a permanent funding mechanism for modern public transit</p> <p>Grow affordable transit services for rural communities, including reestablishing rural bus routes cut by Greyhound</p>			
Legal aid			Increase funding for legal aid			

Food Policy						
	Liberal Party	Conservative Party	NDP	Bloc Québécois	Green Party	People's Party
National food policy	Fulfill commitments in the \$134.4-million A Food Policy for Canada, which includes support for initiatives that help Canadian communities access healthy food, promote local food, support food security in Northern and Indigenous communities, and reduce food waste		Create a National Food Policy and Canadian Food Strategy		“Green” A Food Policy for Canada through initiatives that address the food system’s impact on the environment and climate change	
National school food program	Work towards creating a national school food program, as introduced in 2019 budget		Work toward a national school nutrition program		Support a national school food program	
Local food	Establish a \$35-million Buy Canadian marketing campaign included in A Food Policy		Create a Canadian Food Strategy to invest in agricultural communities, support young	Promote local food and quality Quebec products	Set a target to replace one-third of Canada’s food imports with domestic production	

	for Canada		<p>and new farmers and take steps to ensure that rural livelihoods are good and sustainable</p> <p>Work with producers along the supply chain to increase the amount of Canadian food that is sold, processed and consumed in local and regional markets</p> <p>Support local food hubs</p>		<p>Support rooftop and community gardens and urban food production in canneries, slaughterhouses and other value-added food processing</p> <p>Invest \$2.5 million per year into a land and quota trust program and farming apprenticeship programs to expand local, small-scale agriculture and help new farmers get started</p> <p>Assist in re-establishing the infrastructure for local food production</p>	
Northern food insecurity	Improve food security in Inuit Nunangat, including through the implementation of the Harvester Support Grant		Reform Nutrition North to improve food access, including to country and traditional foods		Improve food security in northern communities by consulting with residents on Arctic farming, working with non-profit	

	(announced in the 2018 Fall Economic Statement)				groups to build greenhouses or hydroponic towers and funding education programs in nutrition and horticulture	
Indigenous food sovereignty			Support Indigenous food sovereignty		Negotiate with Indigenous Peoples over primary hunting, fishing, trapping and logging rights on traditional lands, especially lands under federal jurisdiction	
Clean water	Eliminate all long-term drinking water advisories on reserve by 2021	Continue to support efforts to end long-term boil-water advisories	Lift all drinking water advisories by 2021		End drinking water and boil-water advisories Develop a national water strategy to ensure safe drinking water for all Canadians	Prioritize bringing clean drinking water to remote First Nations communities
Food waste	Reduce food waste at the processing and retail levels, as well as by the federal government, as outlined in A Food		Create a national food waste strategy			

	Policy for Canada					
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