

# Ready *for* Better

NEW DEMOCRATS' COMMITMENTS TO YOU



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**\*Please note that some of the photos in this document were taken before the pandemic.**



# My commitments for a New Deal for People

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## **Dear friends,**

It's time for a government that delivers real results for people like you.

These last 18 months have been beyond challenging for too many Canadian families. The truth is, these are tough times for many people. So many of us are just struggling to get by, a situation that the COVID-19 pandemic only made worse.

In every corner of the country, families are worried about jobs, the health of our loved ones, and the public services that everyone counts on.

We all want to go back to some sort of 'normal' after the pandemic: to take care of our loved ones, build a good life, and give a bright future to the next generation.

But as I listen to Canadians, I hear the worry in people's voices. In every part of the country, even before COVID-19, life was getting harder.

Sadly, for the last six years the Liberals haven't done much to make life any easier. It's been harder to keep up, as wages stay the same and good jobs with benefits become harder to find. It's harder to find a home, as rents sky-rocket and housing prices balloon out of reach for most people. It's harder to get the health care that we need, with families stuck paying high out of pocket health care costs and worrying about the quality of long term care loved ones receive. It's harder to have hope for the future when we see the dangers of the climate crisis growing, and threatening everything we hold dear.

Going back to that isn't good enough.

The past 18 months have shown that Canadians can confront any challenge – when we have to, when we choose to, and when we come together. It's also shown us that thanks to the decisions of Liberal and Conservative governments, many of the supports that we rely on just aren't there when we need them. From the neglect of seniors in for-profit long-term care, to the lack of affordable childcare for working families, we see that decades of Liberal and Conservative cuts and privatization have left us all vulnerable. Meanwhile, those at the top have done very well – profiting during the pandemic while ordinary Canadians struggled.

It's time to do better.

Justin Trudeau wants to look like he cares. He says the right things, but when it comes to helping Canadians, he had to be forced to provide real support. Over the last six years, he could have taken real action against stagnating wages, sky-rocketing housing costs, unaffordable child care, crippling student debt, and ballooning prescription drug prices. But he chose not to. When push comes to shove, he gives big corporations and his wealthy friends a free ride – because that's the world he comes from and that's who has his ear.

Meanwhile, Erin O'Toole's Conservatives offer nothing except more cuts, more privatization, and more pollution. O'Toole didn't get a single benefit for Canadian families during the COVID-19 crisis – he was too busy protecting the interests of his rich friends.

It's frustrating, but not surprising. The Liberals, the Conservatives, and their revolving door of corporate influencers do not want to change things for Canadians – because even during a global health emergency, the system works perfectly for the people and corporations at the very top.

It works for them – but not for you.

If we want different results, we need to make different choices. And what we need now is the courage to act together. And that is exactly what New Democrats offer to Canadians.

We don't answer to the powerful. We fight for people, and deliver the help that families need first. It's who we are. We believe that we can work together to take care of each other – so everyone benefits.

New Democrats are focused on getting results for Canadians. We are fighting for the support that people need now. And we are winning results – getting more help to more people, faster.

Ready for Better is our vision for what we believe is possible. And it is our commitment to the real results that we're going to deliver for Canadians.

This election is our chance to build a better future for everyone.

- ➔ A future with health care that puts you first.
- ➔ A future with good jobs, and help when you need it.
- ➔ A future where your life is more affordable, and the wealthiest pay their fair share.
- ➔ A future where our communities can confront the climate crisis and win.
- ➔ A future where we take on longstanding inequalities that are hurting our country, and end them.

Our vision is built on our values, the ones that have driven our movement from the very start. Our commitments are inspired by the hopes and dreams of Canadians today.

New Democrats are ready – to lead us forward together, get results for Canadians, and rebuild better than ever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jagmeet Singh". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Jagmeet" and the last name "Singh" clearly legible.

**Jagmeet Singh, MP**

Leader, Canada's New Democrats



# Making life more affordable for you and your family

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## Making sure everyone can afford a place to call home

Owning a home has become an impossible dream for too many Canadians. Finding a decent place to rent is out-of-reach. Everyone should have the right to a safe and affordable place to call home. Working people should be able to afford to live close to their workplaces, including in the heart of our biggest cities. Young people should be able to stay in the neighbourhoods they've grown up in. And seniors should never be forced out of the communities that they've spent their lives in.

But for too many families, safe and affordable housing is increasingly out of reach, thanks to skyrocketing rents, demo-victions and ballooning home prices. The pandemic has only made things worse for people on the edge, with too many families struggling to make rent or mortgage payments during the crisis. Parents lie awake at night, worrying about how they can afford the family home, as costs keep going up but paycheques don't keep up. And huge numbers of young people are being forced to give up on the dream of ever owning their own house.

Canada is in the midst of a national housing crisis impacting every area of the country: Average rents rose in every single province last year, and 1.6 million Canadian households spend more than 30 per cent of their income on housing<sup>1</sup>. Canada has the fastest growing house prices in all of the G7, a trend that shows no signs of slowing.

What this means in real terms is that families in our communities are facing constant stress and impossible choices between rent or food; living in substandard housing or relocating out of their community; or worse, the real risk of homelessness.

The worry and anxiety that people feel today is the result of the bad choices that Liberal and Conservative governments have made.

The Liberals have neglected the housing crisis in Canada for too long, turning their backs on families that are struggling to stay in the communities where they want to live and work. Even with modest new announcements to try to fill the gaps, the reality is that their housing program is too small to make a real difference for most Canadians. The Liberal government is telling Canadian families that they're just going to have to wait longer for help, struggle more every month, and settle for less.

New Democrats believe that it's time to help people – now. We have an ambitious plan that will make a difference in every community in our country – because finding a good, affordable place to live shouldn't be like winning the lottery. It's time to relieve the stress and worry that people feel by choosing to make it easier to rent and buy a home.

<sup>1</sup>Statistics Canada, "Core Housing Need, 2018 Census." Available online at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/201002/dq201002a-eng.htm>

A major part of the long-term solution to the problem is to ensure that more affordable rental units are built across the country. One in three Canadians is a renter. In many cities, what few affordable apartments there are get snapped up quickly, and people end up living in either inadequate housing or simply forced to spend a huge chunk of their income on rent.

After six years in government, the Liberal plan is simply inadequate compared to the scale of the housing crisis Canadians are facing. We need to take urgent action now towards an ambitious plan to build affordable places to live in every community across the country.

That's why a New Democrat government will **create at least 500,000 units of quality, affordable housing** in the next ten years, with half of that done within five years. This will be achieved with the right mix of effective measures that work in partnership with provinces and municipalities, build capacity for social, community, and affordable housing providers, to provide rental support for co-ops, and meet environmental energy efficiency goals. This ambitious plan will create thousands of jobs in communities all across the country, jump-starting the economic recovery, and helping Canadians get the affordable housing they need.

In order to kick-start the construction of co-ops, social and non-profit housing and break the logjam that has prevented these groups from accessing housing funding, we will set up dedicated **fast-start funds** to streamline the application process and help communities get the expertise and assistance they need to get projects off the ground now, not years from now. We'll mobilize federal resources and lands for these projects, turning unused and under-used properties into vibrant new communities.

A New Democrat government will also spur the construction of **affordable homes** by waiving the federal portion of the GST/HST on the construction of new affordable rental units – a simple change that will help get new units built faster and keep them affordable for the long term.

These measures will help address the housing crisis at the source, but we also need to make sure that families that are hurting get help now— especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Families do not have years to wait, when every day is a struggle and a constant worry. That's why we'll provide **immediate relief** for families that are struggling to afford rent in otherwise suitable housing, while we bring forward long-term solutions to the housing affordability crisis.

## Ready for Better: New Democrats' Commitments to You

While making affordable rental housing more available is critical, New Democrats believe that the dream of homeownership shouldn't be forever out of reach for Canadian families. That's why we will re-introduce 30-year terms to CMHC insured mortgages on entry-level homes for first time home buyers. This will allow for **smaller monthly payments**, freeing up funds to help make ends meet for young families. We'll also give people a hand with **closing costs** by doubling the Home Buyer's Tax Credit to \$1,500.

For Canadians who are open to innovative paths to home ownership, a New Democrat government will provide resources to facilitate **co-housing**, such as model co-ownership agreements and connections to local resources, and ease access to financing by offering CMHC-backed co-ownership mortgages.

Big money investors are driving up the costs of houses. No one can win a bidding war against investors with deep pockets who are looking to turn a profit, not build a neighbourhood. To help put an end to speculation that's fuelling high housing prices, we'll put in place a 20% **Foreign Buyer's tax** on the sale of homes to individuals who aren't Canadian citizens or permanent residents. New Democrats will also fight **money laundering**, which fuels organized crime and drives up housing prices. We will work with the provinces to create a public beneficial ownership registry to increase transparency about who owns properties, and require reporting of suspicious transactions in order to help find and stop money laundering.





## Medicine for all

In the days before Medicare, New Democrats saw neighbours who were suffering because they could not afford the health care they needed. We saw people losing their homes, their farms, and their businesses to pay their medical bills. We saw illness destroying entire families.

In response to that reality, New Democrats led the fight to establish universal public health care for all Canadians. Medicare changed the lives of millions of people – and it is one of our party's proudest achievements.

But today, decades later, as we look across this country, we see the pain of inaccessible and unaffordable health care, once again. As we work together to come through the COVID-19 crisis, we see evidence of a health system pushed to the brink.

Millions of families cannot afford to take the medications they need because they have no employer-provided drug coverage. The number of uninsured people forced to skip their medications is growing as more people work on contract, are self-employed, or have jobs that just don't come with health benefits. And too many seniors are putting their health at risk because they don't have drug coverage and can't afford to pay out-of-pocket.

The stress and worry that people feel isn't an accident. It's the direct result of deliberate choices that have been made by Liberal and Conservative governments. They have chosen to let drug companies gouge patients. And they have chosen to leave millions of people uninsured or underinsured, paying hundreds or thousands out of pocket for medicine they need.

Today, Canada is the only wealthy country in the world with a universal health care system that lacks universal prescription insurance coverage. We pay the third highest prices for prescription drugs in the world, straining our health care systems across the country, and have to deal with a patchwork of programs and coverage – if we're lucky enough to have coverage at all. In the face of a global pandemic, the need for a strong, national pharmacare program has never been stronger.

For ten years, instead of addressing the growing costs of drug coverage, the Conservatives made the problem worse by reducing health care funding to the provinces and undermining efforts towards a national approach to pharmaceutical pricing. Now, the Liberal government has spent six years stalling, by promising lower drug costs but delivering delays and more of the same piecemeal system that is failing Canadians and costing us more. They've delayed important changes that would reduce the price of drugs in Canada three times, because pharmaceutical companies asked them to. And the Liberal's 2021 Budget confirmed that they've completely walked away from their commitment to pharmacare, just when Canadians need it most.

New Democrats believe that we must do better. Just as our party led the fight to establish universal public health care for all Canadians, we are leading the fight to expand Medicare – to include **quality prescription drug coverage for everyone**, regardless of your job, where you live, your age, your health status or how much money you make. We will begin working with the provinces right away to target a 2022 start date, with an annual federal investment of \$10 billion.

This will go hand in hand with developing a national strategy to cover drugs for rare diseases, so that coverage is no longer determined by where you live or what private insurance your family has, as is currently the case.

A national pharmacare program means access to necessary medicines and medical devices in the same way that we currently 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.

Making prescription drugs more affordable saves everyone money. Seniors, families and young people get a break. Small businesses who want to provide coverage for drug costs are able to do it. Negotiating prices with big pharmaceutical companies brings down prices for everyone – saving money in our health care system that can be used to improve care.

Our plan will guarantee that every Canadian can get the medication they need. And it will mean big **savings for employers** who currently pay for employee benefits, helping to reward good employers and boost economic growth. It will also cost our system less overall, as a result of pooling the purchasing power of the entire country – freeing up much-needed funds for the provinces to re-invest in improving healthcare.

Most importantly, our pharmacare plan will mean a healthier Canada where no one has to make the impossible choice between the medicine they need and other essentials, like rent and food.

Coverage for every Canadian and permanent resident; saves even families that currently have private drug coverage an average of \$550 per year; it would save employers approximately \$600 per employee with extended health benefits; targeted to begin in late 2022; system-wide savings of \$4.2 billion.

## Affordable post-secondary education for everyone

Accessible and publicly-funded education is a great source of opportunity for everyone in our society. It can transform lives, opening new horizons and new opportunities for people from every background. That makes education the greatest gift that we can give to each other, to our children, and to the next generation.

We believe that access to education should never depend on how much money your parents make or how much debt you can carry. If you have the grades and the drive to study hard, you should be able to get the education you want – at any age, and in every community. That's why New Democrats are committed to ensuring that every Canadian has lifelong access to publicly-funded education – from affordable child care and early years education through to university and college, apprenticeship training, skills development, and retraining programs.

But today, too many people are being denied access to education. COVID-19 has put the future on hold for too many young people. Students are being forced to give up on their dreams because they can't pay sky-rocketing tuition prices. And young people are struggling under the weight of crushing student debt, at the very time when they should be excited about building their lives.

These barriers to quality education have been set up by Liberal and Conservative governments – and it's time to tear them down. They've allowed the costs of post-secondary education to balloon with no end in sight – and have continued to profit off students by charging interest on student loans, to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars per year. Liberal and Conservative governments have chosen to make life harder for students, young people, and their families.





Today, the average student with debt owes \$28,000 at the end of an undergraduate degree – and a student who has to borrow to pay for their education will end up paying over \$10,000 more than a student who is lucky enough to be able to graduate without taking on debt<sup>2</sup>. Students are also more likely to be in low-wage, precarious work that has been impacted by the pandemic, cutting off a critical source of income. And working conditions for academic staff have gotten worse, with a third working contract to contract with limited access to benefits.

These inequalities are setting young people up to fail. It's time to do better.

Our vision is for every Canadian to have access to quality post-secondary education, regardless of their income. Over the long term, this means working with the provinces and territories to cap and reduce tuition fees, and building towards **making post-secondary education part of our public education system** so kids can go from kindergarten to a career without the barrier of cost. This is an important goal and we believe that with the right leadership and political will, we can get there.

There are steps we can take to make education more affordable right now. Five provinces have already shown leadership in eliminating interest rates on student loans. It's time for the federal government to do the same, and **stop profiting from student debt**. New Democrats will remove interest from federal student loans, and to help lift the debt burden from young people starting out, we will introduce a targeted debt forgiveness program for graduates that will **forgive up to \$20,000 in student debt**. In the first year alone, this will wipe out 20% of all student debt and help 350,000 borrowers save money every month.

We'll also move away from loans and permanently double non-repayable **Canada Student Grants**. Accessing financial support for your post-secondary education shouldn't be a debt sentence – we'll make sure that young people can start out in life without a crushing debt burden.

“ It is my firm belief that a student should not have to choose between a roof over their head or eating just so that they can afford tuition, but this is the reality of many of my peers.”

—  
Maja Lampa

<sup>2</sup>Canadian Federation of Students, "Education Justice 2018." 2018, p. 10. Available online at: <https://cfs-fcee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CFS-EducationJustice-Report-ENG-nobleed-1-1.pdf>

## Affordable, quality cell phone service and high-speed broadband for all

Now more than ever, Canadians need a fast and reliable internet connections at home to be able to work and go to school, and we all rely on our cell phones to keep us connected wherever we are. Particularly during the pandemic, these are essential utilities, yet too many Canadians still struggle to access the affordable the services they need.

More than half of Canadians living in rural areas don't have access to high-speed internet, and among comparable countries, Canadians pay some of the highest prices for mobile wireless and broadband subscriptions in the world.

People are being gouged, every month, because instead of standing up for consumers, the Liberal and Conservative governments have left it to industry to set the prices. The result is that Canadian families are stuck with sky-high bills, and the profit margins of the Canada's biggest telecom companies in Canada are over 40 per cent<sup>3</sup>, while two million Canadians living in rural, remote and Northern areas still don't have access to reliable internet service<sup>4</sup>. The only thing worse than cell phone and internet companies gouging consumers are the politicians who let them get away with it.

It's time for a government that's on your side – protecting your pocketbook and delivering the modern services you need.

New Democrats believe that no matter where you live in Canada, you should be able to stay connected – without breaking the bank because of unfair gouging.

That's why, until the industry becomes more competitive, we'll put in place a **price cap** to make sure that Canadians aren't paying more than the global average for their cell phone and internet bills.

Expanding cell coverage and delivering reliable, affordable broadband internet to **every community** in Canada is vital to the economic future of rural Canada and remote communities. But it has been ignored by successive governments for far too long. That's why we believe that we need to act urgently to close the digital divide now, not ten years from now as the Liberal government proposed. We are committed to **declaring high-speed internet an essential service** and making sure that every Canadian has access to affordable, reliable high-speed broadband within four years. This will include taking the first steps to create a Crown corporation to ensure the delivery of quality, affordable telecom services to every community.

In addition, we'll make sure that providers offer a **basic plan** for wireless and broadband that is comparable with the affordable plans that are available in other countries. To put an **end to surprise bills**, we'll require companies to offer unlimited wireless data options at affordable rates, as exist elsewhere in the world, and abolish data caps for broadband internet.

And finally, to protect Canadians from unfair wireless and internet sales and services practices, we'll introduce a **Telecom Consumers' Bill of Rights** and put an end to gouging for good.

## Better services all Canadians can rely on

Canadians should be able to count on their government to provide reliable services to make life a bit easier and to help when crisis strikes. But instead of making the right choices to help Canadians, Conservative and Liberal governments have spent years cutting back the basic things that Canadians need, leaving Canadians to deal with everything from cancelled mail delivery to long wait times for government services.

That's what happens when governments choose to focus on false tax cuts and harmful service cuts: People wind up paying more out of their own pockets for the services that their families need, or they can't rely on the services at all.

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. Justin Trudeau maintained the cuts to health care transfers made by Stephen Harper and has resisted calls from provinces to restore

health care funding. Cuts to health care led by Conservative Premiers like Jason Kenney, Doug Ford and Brian Pallister made it harder for the health care system to cope with the pandemic and put people at greater risk. The federal government cannot stand by while healthcare is under threat – New Democrats will fight for **public healthcare** and **stand up to privatization** that costs Canadians money and undermines our public healthcare system.

The Liberals once promised to restore door-to-door mail delivery, which had been cut by the Conservatives. But when they got into government, they broke their commitment and left hundreds of thousands of people without the mail services they need – and hitting seniors and persons with disabilities especially hard. Now that we rely on mail more than ever, New Democrats have your back to **restore door-to-door mail delivery** to all communities that lost it under the Conservative government, and protect against future cuts to this important service.



When it comes to accessing help from government, people want reliable services that work – but the Liberal government failed to even pay public servants correctly, and the Conservatives are more interested in making cuts than in making government work. A New Democrat government will put in place a **Service Guarantee** that will make departments responsible for establishing and publishing binding service standards for programs like Employment Insurance, veterans support, Indigenous services, passports, Canada Revenue Agency call centres, and other services. Ministers will be held responsible for delivering on these targets.

A New Democrats have the courage to stand up for you and increase consumer protection for financial transactions, and require financial advisors to offer advice that is in **your best financial interest**, not what is best for the bank's bottom line. This will include more powers to investigate and enforce these rules, and compensation for consumers who have been misled. We will also bring in legislation to protect your privacy and prevent credit and debit card companies from selling your personal information.

To expand consumer choice and cut down on waste, we'll establish the **right to repair** electronic devices and other products at affordable prices, and make companies responsible for e-waste linked to their products.

New Democrats make sure that **prices at the pumps** are fair by creating a Fair Gasoline Prices Watchdog to investigate complaints about gouging, and boost the power of the Competition Bureau to proactively investigate allegations of anti-competitive activity in the gasoline market. To protect travellers' safety and consumer rights, a New Democrat government will also strengthen the Air Passenger Bill of Rights. Finally, New Democrats will modernize Canada's competition laws to address the challenges and evolution of today's economy.

<sup>3</sup> Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, "Communications Monitoring Report 2020." Available online at: <https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/publications/reports/policyMonitoring/2020/cmr1.htm#a6.4>

<sup>4</sup> Federation of Canadian Municipalities. "Broadband: Quick Facts," 2019. Available online at: <https://fcm.ca/en/focus-areas/broadband>

# Building an economy that works better for more people

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The pandemic changed the way many of us work. Overnight, millions of jobs disappeared. People who could work from home scrambled to juggle work and family responsibilities. Parents – mostly women - without childcare were forced to leave their jobs. Essential workers stayed on the job – many without decent wages, protection from COVID-19 or sick days. Frontline workers – especially in health care – were heroes.

Longstanding failures to create good jobs and protect workers were exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It's time to address these failures. Canadians work hard, and deserve a good life and hope for the future in return. It's not too much to ask for.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, working life has kept getting harder for lots of people, and a secure future is out of reach for too many Canadians. Young people are struggling to find good jobs and deal with student debt – and being forced to delay starting a family. Parents are juggling two or three part-time jobs – and have no time left to spend with their kids. While those at the top are doing better than ever, too many workers are earning less than a living wage, often doing vital front-line work – all without the security and benefits that a union brings.

The growth of low-paid, insecure work is the result of decades of decisions by Liberal and Conservative governments. From scrapping the federal minimum wage in the 1990s to telling Canadians to “get used to” short-term, precarious work, the Liberals have shown time and again that they can't be trusted to stand up for working Canadians and fight for good jobs.

New Democrats are different – because we are working people. For our whole history, we have fought for better working conditions and standards that lift everyone up. We know that good jobs that treat people fairly make a real difference to Canadian families – and that setting Canadians up for success in the work world of the future benefits us all. New ways of thinking can shape the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, help make our economy fairer and deliver the results we all want: greater equality and a path to the clean jobs future that we need.

## Good jobs and new opportunities in every part of the country

For too long, Canadians have been told that opportunity is cyclical, boom and bust – or worse, that it can never come to their region at all. For decades, Conservative and Liberal governments have denied the existence of climate change, protected big polluters, and destroyed protections for our air and water. They've told Canadians that it's a trade-off: environment, or jobs, never both.

Young people have been told to settle for gig work that keeps them living paycheque to paycheque, families have to leave their communities to chase decent-paying jobs, and during the pandemic women have been pushed out of the workforce entirely to care for children. All this while the reality of climate change and its devastating impacts unfolds around us every day.

These failures hurt our communities and put unbearable stress on too many families. The reality is that Justin Trudeau can't talk his way out of the climate crisis, the Conservatives can't be allowed to drag us back to a time before climate change existed, and we can't return to normal after this pandemic when normal simply hasn't worked for so many Canadians.

New Democrats are committed to doing better. We believe that Canada can't truly recover from the COVID-19 pandemic until hope, prosperity and security are within reach of everyone.

When we build back, we have to build back for better. That means ensuring that the economic recovery also sets us up to succeed in a low-carbon future. New Democrats are ready to position Canada for the next boom – making sure that bold public investments are directed to clean energy, climate resilience, social infrastructure, and energy efficiency in communities across the country.

We're committed to making work better with supports like **paid sick leave** and prescription drug coverage, because we know that creating jobs means treating workers as essential at all times, and not just during emergencies.

Our plan will put people to work building up our communities with energy-efficient retrofits and affordable homes, because building housing and infrastructure will lead to more jobs and stronger communities in every region.

New Democrats also know that helping Canadian workers make more products here at home will boost our manufacturing sector and better position us to fight the climate crisis and build the economy of the future.

We also know that investing in care work means creating good quality, dignified jobs for those who care for our loved ones. Good wages, benefits and stable, full-time work are the basics that these workers deserve.

## Ready for Better: New Democrats' Commitments to You

Our plan will cut greenhouse gas emissions at same time as it will create good, family-sustaining jobs in every part of the country. It will clean up our environment and make sure that the water, air and land are protected from catastrophic climate change. It will create opportunity for today, and security for generations to come. And it will ensure that the rewards of our prosperity go to ordinary people working hard to build a better future, not to big polluters.

Our investments will **create more than a million good jobs** in a first mandate, addressing the climate crisis, boosting our economic recovery and making life better for all Canadians.

These jobs in energy efficiency retrofits, affordable housing, renewable energy, infrastructure, transit, child care and more will lift up every part of the country and give families hope for the future.

This job-creation plan will be paired with new access to training and education for the low carbon future, and targeted support for impacted workers, families and communities so that the changing economy works for them. With New Democrats, no one will be left behind and there will be new opportunities in every part of the country.





## Making Employment Insurance work for you

When a crisis hits, working families need to be able to count on our Employment Insurance (EI) system to be there for them. But as we've seen throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our EI system is out-dated, under-funded and inflexible, and too often doesn't provide any help to those who need it most.

Although all workers pay into EI, even in normal times less than 40 percent qualify for benefits when they need them. Only a third of unemployed women can access EI, a trend that's only set to worsen with the growth of precarious and part-time work.

For decades, Liberal and Conservative governments have used the EI fund to balance the books, while fewer and fewer workers can access the benefits that they've already paid for. The Conservatives brought in mean-spirited changes to EI that hurt workers, families and communities – and the Liberals have tinkered at the edges, rather than improving the system for all. During the COVID-19 crisis, the changes they've made to EI are temporary and won't fix the underlying problems that prevent Canadians from getting the help they need.

It's time to make EI work for Canadians, for good.

To help make ends meet while on EI, we'll create a low income supplement so that no one who is relying on EI regular or special benefits to stay afloat receives less than **\$2,000 a month**.

Particularly in the midst of a global health crisis, New Democrats know that there are circumstances where people leave a job voluntarily but still need support. That's why we would **make EI available** to people who quit their jobs to go back to school, to provide necessary childcare, or to protect their health or the health of immunocompromised family members.

For many Canadians who need EI when they're dealing with an illness, the current system falls far short and doesn't provide the kind of help people actually need. To make sure that Canadians can count on EI when they're dealing with a serious illness, a New Democrat government will extend **sickness benefits** from 15 to 50 weeks, and create a pilot project to allow workers with **episodic illnesses and disabilities** to access EI sickness benefits a day at a time, as they need them. This flexibility will help support those who want to continue to work while providing the seriously ill with the benefits they need.

## Ready for Better: New Democrats' Commitments to You

New Democrats also understand that seasonal workers face particular challenges accessing EI. To help Canadians in seasonal industries bridge the gap between the end of EI and the start of seasonal work, we'll bring back the former **Extra Five Weeks pilot project** and make it permanent, and we will restore the economic regions in the territories and PEI to their 2014 boundaries.

Parental leave should be available for all Canadian families, in the way that works best for them. Eighteen months of leave is an attractive option for many parents, but not many Canadians can afford to live on just 33 percent of their salary. New Democrats will bring in a **new special leave** that allows parents to take shorter parental leave at a higher replacement rate. We'll also allow **self-employed workers** to opt-into parental benefits at any time before taking the leave, and move to double leave for parents of multiples.

Finally, we will also **protect the EI Operating Account** in law, so that future governments can't raid it for general revenue. Premiums, which are currently at a historic low, will be frozen until the economy recovers.





## A livable income when you need it

For too long, Liberal and Conservative governments have told Canadians that the real income safety net that keeps people out of poverty is impossible. They've chosen to hand out tax breaks to big business while underfunding the programs that people rely on when they are older, when they lose a job, or when they can't work because of disability.

As we grapple with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, too many Canadians are living on the edge, or sliding deeper into poverty. Even when the economy recovers, it's clear that those who are struggling now will be at a disadvantage for a long time to come. We need big ideas to confront the challenges our country is facing.

New Democrats believe that this is a critical moment to strengthen our social safety net and to improve income supports so that all Canadians can live in dignity and security. We know that when we invest in meaningful income supports, it gives people a chance to live full and healthy lives.

With the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, we have seen what's possible when governments mobilize to make a livable income a priority. But unlike the Liberals, who moved quickly to cut these benefits, New Democrats won't stop there – we'll 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**, and build from there until every Canadian can count on a basic livable income when they need it. This will be complimented by bold new investments in housing, health care, post-secondary education and training to set all Canadians up to succeed.

In time, New Democrats will work to expand all income security programs to ensure everyone in Canada has access to a guaranteed livable basic income. Making the creation of a guaranteed livable basic income a priority will strengthen our social safety net and finally ensure dignity, security and peace of mind for everyone in Canada.

## Quality, affordable child care when you need it

Young families need access to quality, affordable child care. But today, there is an affordability crisis in child care across the country. Families are struggling to find child care spaces – before their children are even born. Costs are unaffordable in many cities. Not-for-profit child care centres across the country are closing down because of the pandemic. And parents are forced to make impossible choices between delaying their return to work or paying huge amounts for the child care they need.

The pressure that parents feel today is the result of inaction by Liberal and Conservative governments. For ten years, the Conservative government worked against every effort to make quality child care more accessible to Canadian families – and in the six years since taking power, the Liberals have only offered promises that haven't made a difference for families struggling to find the care they need.

The result is a broken system with child care costs that are among the highest in the world, and enormous worry in the lives of Canadian families. Failing to invest in child care also keeps women out of the workforce, which will be a huge barrier to economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Our vision is to give families relief. Every parent across Canada should be able to find **affordable child care you need, when you need it**, with a licensed provider making a fair wage.

We'll work with other levels of government, Indigenous communities, families and child care workers to ensure that care is inclusive and responsive to the needs of all Canadian children. And we'll introduce legislation that enshrines Canada's commitment to high-quality, public child care in law. Public early childhood education and child care that is **affordable and available to all families** is critical to our economic recovery, and gives parents **real choices**.

In the absence of federal leadership, provinces have stepped up to take strides towards affordable, accessible, quality child care – Quebec continues to be a leader, and the New Democrat government in British Columbia has shown that investments in child care make a real difference in the lives of children, women, and families.

It's urgent to both protect existing child care spaces, and create more. We will take immediate action to save not-for-profit child care centres that are at risk of closure with relief fund to re-open spaces that were lost during COVID-19. From there, we'll immediately work with the provinces to build a universal, **\$10 a day child-care** system that's there for all parents, no matter where you live. New Democrats will actually create enough spaces so families don't spend months on wait lists, and ensure that child care workers are paid a fair, living wage. Canadian families deserve no less.



## A new, fairer deal for all workers

Liberals and Conservatives like to say they support workers, but when push comes to shove, they always take the side of big corporations. This has never been more true than during the COVID-19 pandemic, when they failed to support universal sick leave and minimum wage policies, putting the most vulnerable workers and their families at risk.

New Democrats know that the federal government has an important role to play in making work better, fairer and more secure for everyone. We can do so much better to protect the health, safety and rights of all workers in Canada.

We believe that membership in a union is the best ticket into the middle class, and that workers and our entire economy are better off when worker's rights are protected and bargaining is fair.

That's why New Democrats believe that it should be easier 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.

New Democrats will make sure that workers and employers can take action together to improve health and safety, eliminating unsafe working conditions and ensuring that whistleblowers are protected.



We believe that it's time to update the Canada Labour Code to enhance safeguards for workers so that everyone can stay safe and healthy at work. We urgently need to do more to make sure that people can access paid sick leave when they need to take time off from work due to illness.

New Democrats will work with the provinces to update federal standards and bring in a permanent safety net of paid sick leave across the country, and to close the gap until every worker has access to paid sick days, we will fix the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit and keep it going until all Canadians have access to paid sick days.

We'll allow sick leave to be taken by workers one or two days at a time, give full income replacement to workers who are sick, and reimburse employers instead of putting the onus on workers to apply for the program. Unlike the Liberals, we'll move immediately to legislate 10 paid sick days in the Canada Labour Code for federally regulated workplaces.

During labour disputes, the use of scab replacement workers undermines workers' ability to negotiate fairly and hurts labour relations. Scabs prolong strikes and give the employer little incentive to reach a fair deal. New Democrats would prioritize anti-scab legislation that will ban the use of replacement workers in labour disputes – for good.

For too long, the Liberal and Conservative governments refused to take action on low wages. It's not okay that Canadians can get up every morning and work 40 hours a week, yet still live below the poverty line. New Democrats believe that everyone deserves a living wage –

and unlike the Liberals who stalled on a federal minimum wage for years, we'll actually put in place a **living federal minimum wage** starting at \$15 an hour and rising to \$20 an hour, indexed to the cost of living. Not only will this help hundreds of thousands of workers; it will also set a national standard for a fair, living wage.

Right now, without access to benefits like extended health coverage and dental care, temporary workers earn roughly 75 per cent of what permanent employees do – a divide that hits the most vulnerable and precarious workers hardest, and gives employers an incentive to limit the number of full-time positions they offer. We don't think that's right, and we will put in place rules to require that part-time and contract workers be **compensated equally** to full-time workers.

The rampant use of unpaid internships exposes young workers to abuse. The Liberals promised to end unfair unpaid internships, but nothing has been done. A New Democrat government will immediately **ban unpaid internships** outside of education programs.

Finally, public servants make incredible contributions to our country – and they deserve a government, and an employer, that treats them with respect. New Democrats will replace the failed **Phoenix pay system** brought in by the Conservative and Liberal governments. We will also work to reduce the inefficient and costly practice of contracting out government work, which has only grown under the Liberal government, and we will take action to put an end to harassment in the federal workplace.



## More accessible job training and lifelong learning for all

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, technology was rapidly changing the workplace. These developments could lead to economic growth and prosperity, but only if we make sure that workers share in the gains that will come from these changes. But instead of broadening opportunity for everyone, the Liberal government made the disappointing decision to exclude unemployed and precariously employed Canadians – people who need support the most – from the opportunity to get paid training.

New Democrats know that we can do better for all workers. We're committed to working with the provinces to ensure that Canadians have access to education throughout their professional lives, including **proactive training and retraining**, as well as support when they are unemployed.

Our vision is one where training opportunities are flexible enough to work with people's busy lives, and significant enough to really improve job prospects.

To get there, we'll change EI rules to allow workers who quit their job to **go to school** to qualify for EI benefits, so that families can count on some income support during that period of transition back to school. We'll also **expand options** for workers in designated sectors and regions to take EI funded training in advance of losing a job while at the same time promoting investment to ensure that regional economies are creating good jobs that support families and communities. Finally, to make sure that businesses are investing in the training that Canadians need, a New Democrat government will require large employers to spend at least **1 percent of payroll** on training for their employees annually.

In order to deliver these changes, we'll work closely with the provinces to establish national training priorities, and create a new Workers Development and Opportunities Fund to **expand training options** beyond people who qualify for EI. This fund will be provincially directed, with dedicated support for marginalized workers, those in transitioning sectors and for efforts to improve literacy and essential skills.



## Supporting small businesses

Small businesses are one of the engines of job creation in Canada, and an important part of every community across the country. Local shops keep our communities running, and they need our support now more than ever.

Too many main street small and medium-sized businesses have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Small businesses need a government that helps them access the services and infrastructure they need to recover, thrive and expand, while investing in a healthy and talented workforce.

New Democrats believe that small businesses should have access to all the support they need to get through this crisis, grow, innovate and stay competitive in Canada and around the world. That's why we have stood up for emergency small business aid during COVID-19, lower small business taxes, opposed unfair merchant fees, and fought to make it easier to pass on small businesses to the next generation.

We know that there's so much more to do to help the small businesses that our communities rely on. That's why New Democrats will make sure that small businesses **wage and rent subsidies** continue until small businesses are able to fully reopen. To help small businesses get people back to work, we'll put in place a long-term **hiring bonus** to pay the employer portion of EI and CPP for new or rehired staff.

New Democrats will keep working hard for small businesses to tackle issues that impact their bottom line. As more and more small businesses rely on credit card and virtual transactions, we'll put an end to gouging by **capping high credit card merchant fees** at a maximum of 1%.

Our plan for public, universal **pharmacare** will also save businesses approximately \$600 per employee with extended health benefits every year – and it means that all small businesses can feel confident knowing that their employees are able to access the prescription drugs they need.

To help Canadian small business step out on the world stage, a New Democrat government will streamline access to government **export services** and make it simpler to break into foreign markets. We'll also provide small- and medium-sized businesses with a single point of contact to help ease regulatory processes and support compliance - freeing up time for entrepreneurs to invest in growing their business.

Recognizing that a shortage of workers is a major barrier for many small businesses operating in rural areas, we'll make important new investments in **training Canadians** and boost support to traditionally underemployed groups, ensuring that they can access good jobs that pay a fair wage.

## Fair trade that grows our economy and benefits more people

Canadians know that trade is essential for our economic success – but they expect that trade deals will be fair, respect human rights, protect the environment, and put the interests of Canadian workers and communities first. Unfortunately, under Liberal and Conservative governments, trade negotiations have too often hurt Canadian industries – and cost us jobs.

New Democrats support **fair trade** that broadens opportunity in all areas of the country, while protecting our industries and upholding labour standards, environmental protections and human rights around the world. That's why we'll always **defend Canadian workers** in trade negotiations, **protect supply management**, stand up against **unfair tariffs**.

We're committed to improving the **transparency** of trade negotiations, so that Canadians can clearly understand the costs and benefits of any proposed agreement and have their say before it's signed. Already, New Democrats have won changes that require the government to notify Canadians before trade negotiations begin, make them put forward clear negotiating objectives in advance, and do a full economic impact assessment of every deal.

A New Democrat government will directly **engage with Canadians** on the expected costs and benefits of potential trade deals, as well as ensure that all trade agreements are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We will evaluate all potential trade deals for their social, environmental and gendered impact on Canadians.

When it comes to what's on the negotiating table, Canadians know that there are some things that we shouldn't be willing to compromise on, like investor-state dispute settlement measures that hand too much power to corporations and undermine the rules that keep us safe and healthy.

Trade agreements should have enforceable labour, human rights and environmental protections – and New Democrats will always **protect Canadians** against measures that could increase the cost of pharmaceuticals, weaken our cultural protections, or undermine privacy rights. We will also protect Canadian businesses who are taking action to transition to a low-carbon future with a border carbon adjustment that will level the playing field on imports from areas without a carbon price.

A New Democrat government will also do more to defend Canadian workers and communities from **unfair trading practices**. We will modernize Canada's trade remedy system and make sure that trade unions have full standing in trade cases and the ability to initiate trade disputes, as is the case in other countries.

## Building Canadian industries and supporting good jobs

From steel mills and auto plants to farms and high-tech companies, and everything in between, Canadian industries power our economy and sustain the jobs that families across the country rely on. But for too long, Liberal and Conservative governments have ignored the need to support Canadian industry, trading away advantages in trade deals and failing to invest in the targeted support that our industries need to thrive.

As the global economy slowly bounces back from the pandemic, we have a critical opportunity. If we make the right choices now, we can make Canada an even better place to invest, protect and create good jobs for the future, and make Canadian industry a global leader as market needs evolve.

New Democrats are committed to putting Canadian workers at the centre of a robust strategy to drive innovation and boost competitiveness, now and into the future. And as we recover and grow our clean energy economy, we'll protect and create good jobs for families today – and tomorrow.

The pandemic has shown the critical importance of domestic manufacturing. Without it, Canada has struggled to get necessary personal protective equipment and vaccines. For the security of all Canadians, we can't leave this to chance. That's why New Democrats will develop comprehensive industrial strategies to incubate and **expand critical domestic manufacturing capacity** and supply chain infrastructure including for auto, aerospace, shipbuilding, construction materials, pharmaceuticals and personal protective equipment

New Democrats will begin by strengthening and modernizing 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'll scrap the failed Invest in Canada agency and create iCanada, a one-stop shop inside the federal government to help **attract investors** to Canada and turn their plans into reality – and champion Canadian industry on the international stage.

New Democrats are committed to reenergizing a made-in-Canada auto industry. For generations, millions of Canadian families have been supported by good jobs in the automotive and parts industries. Those good jobs have helped to build many of our communities. And, today, we need to protect and keep those jobs – while attracting the next generation of automotive manufacturing to Canadian communities.

A New Democrat government will urgently convene an **auto summit** with provincial, municipal, industry and labour leaders to develop a consensus on a National Automotive Strategy to attract and retain jobs and investment. This strategy will make sure that Canadian product lines and manufacturing processes are adapted to meet changing consumer needs and evolving realities in the manufacturing industry – while **protecting workers** for the long term.

We will also restore the Automotive Innovation Fund and make contributions to automakers tax-free to help secure **next generation production capacity**.

And we will commission an independent study into the causes and consequences of the trade deficit in automotive products with Mexico, along with potential strategies for reducing it.

New Democrats will help Canadian industry lead in the development and manufacturing of the vehicles of tomorrow. We'll work with labour and industry to make sure that Canadian workers have the **skills** they need to benefit from the adoption of these new technologies – and drive demand by ensuring that federal incentives for zero-emissions automobiles prioritize **made-in-Canada** vehicles.

We understand that manufacturing helped to build Canada. And good manufacturing jobs should continue to build Canada's future, too.

A New Democrat government will bring together all levels of government, together with business and labour leaders, to develop a **national industrial strategy** to build an advanced low carbon manufacturing economy in Canada that will provide good middle-class jobs to Canadian workers. We will also take measures to grow the domestic market for **Canadian manufactured goods**, and provide strategic supports to our long-neglected steel and aluminum industries to attract and retain jobs and investments in communities across the country.

When the Liberal government signed a new trade deal with the United States that contained damaging steel and aluminum tariffs, New Democrats fought alongside labour and the industry get the tariffs permanently removed – and won. But there is still much work to be done to **protect Canadian jobs** against the risk that the U.S. could impose new tariffs. For New Democrats, no tariffs against our steel or aluminum will ever be acceptable.

As well, Canadian mills and workers continue to be affected by unfair foreign exports – especially from China. That's why we will adopt measures to stabilize the Canadian steel market, and protect the sector from predatory practices of foreign producers who are shut out of other markets.

Liberal and Conservative governments have failed to use Canadian government infrastructure procurement to support Canada's manufacturing economy, and have often negotiated trade deals that put domestic procurement policies at risk. New Democrats will require the use of **Canadian-made steel and aluminum** for infrastructure projects across the country.

A New Democrat government will step up as a partner to **foster entrepreneurship**, including through dedicated support to get the hard-hit **tourism** sector back on its feet.

We will help launch a Canadian **start-up culture**, with a focus on helping Canadian companies in all regions of the country commercialize new technologies and **scale-up**, train and retain the highly-skilled Canadian workforce needed to support industry growth, and bolster Canadian competitiveness on the world stage.

Agriculture is another vital sector of our economy. It's time for a government that's actually working on the side of Canadian farmers, producers, and farm families. New Democrats have a plan for a **Canadian Food Strategy** that will take a whole-of-government approach to address regional needs and priorities by investing in our agricultural communities, supporting young and new farmers and taking steps to ensure that rural livelihoods are good and sustainable.

## Ready for Better: New Democrats' Commitments to You

Supply management protects our family farms, rural communities and hundreds of thousands of jobs. New Democrats are committed to **fully protecting supply management** and ensuring reciprocity in all trade negotiations, and supporting our supply managed sectors as they innovate and grow.

We also know that it's a challenge to grow a business without **modern communications infrastructure**. That's why New Democrats will make sure that high-speed broadband and cell phone infrastructure is available to connect our farmers and rural communities to the services and tools they need, no matter where in the country they are.

Finally, New Democrats will introduce a **payment protection** program for produce growers and take immediate steps to restore protection for growers selling to the United States under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act.

A New Democrat government will invest in **forestry** innovation and support **value-added Canadian wood products** – and the good jobs that go with them. Our plan will support forestry research and development, help companies commercialize new technologies, and expand **market access** for wood products to keep Canada competitive.

New Democrats are committed to a vision of strong coastal communities, sustainable fisheries and thriving marine and freshwater ecosystems. With the right choices today, we can **protect our fisheries** and the jobs they provide for generations to come – and make Canada a global leader in **ocean and freshwater sustainability**.

In order to **protect wild salmon** on the Pacific coast, our approach will be focused on conserving, protecting, and restoring critical habitat. We will fully implement the recommendations of the Cohen Commission and work with the province of British Columbia and First Nations to support the transition to land-based **closed-containment** systems.

On the Atlantic coast, New Democrats will ensure that resource allocations in the fishery are guided by the principles of adjacency, historic dependence and sustainability, while also respecting Indigenous rights.

When it comes to sustainability, New Democrats recognize that the wellbeing of our communities is reliant upon the health of our marine and freshwater ecosystems. That's why we will invest in **habitat restoration** and the rebuilding of fish stocks, as well as in strengthening our response to oil spills and derelict vessels to better protect our coasts.



## A new deal for tax fairness

Canadians know that good services we can all count on need to be funded sustainably. But for too long, Liberal and Conservative governments have told Canadians to expect less – cutting back on services, while handing out special deals for big corporations and big polluters and giving tax breaks to their wealthiest friends. Instead of lowering costs for Canadian families, they have delivered outrageous giveaways to the richest few – and watched as costs grow for everyone else.

The COVID-19 pandemic has driven these inequalities even deeper. While millions of families and small businesses have been pushed to the brink during the pandemic, the super-rich are doing better than ever. Canadian billionaires are \$78 billion richer since the first lockdown in 2020 – and counting. They're making big money while people suffer.

It's scandalous. And it's time to put a stop it.

We believe that those who have profited off the pandemic should be the ones to pay for the recovery – not families who are struggling to make ends meet. It's time to demand that the wealthiest pay their share, so we can build a better future for everyone.

We'll protect family budgets, and force big corporations and big polluters to start paying what they owe. And we will raise revenues through **new, fair and progressive taxation sources** to make the investments Canadians need to thrive.

No one should be profiteering during a global health crisis when so many Canadians are suffering and need help more than ever. New Democrats will introduce a temporary **COVID-19 excess profit tax** that puts an additional 15% tax on large corporate windfall profits during the pandemic. We will go after large corporations that took publicly-funded COVID-19 wage subsidies and turned around and paid out executive bonuses, executed stock buy-backs or paid shareholder dividends.

To make our tax system fairer and ensure that the wealthiest individuals are paying their fair share, we will increase the capital gains inclusion rate to 75 percent. A New Democrat government will also boost the **top marginal tax rate** two points, put in place a **luxury goods tax** on things like yachts and private jets, and ask the **very richest multi-millionaires** to pay a bit more towards our shared services with a **wealth tax**.

A New Democrat government will ensure that large, profitable corporations are contributing to the important services and infrastructure that make Canada such a good place to do business. We will roll back the Conservatives' **corporate income tax** cuts by three percentage points to 2010 levels. We will also ensure that **internet giants** like Facebook, Google and Amazon pay their fair share of taxes, just like every other company – unlike the Liberals, who broke their campaign promise to make these companies play by the rules.

To boost the integrity of our tax system and combat tax evasion, we will take measures to **close loopholes** that include eliminating bearer shares, compelling companies to prove the economic reason for their offshore transactions, and improving transparency on the taxes paid by large corporations. We will also boost compliance funding to Canada Revenue Agency's enforcement section dealing with international and corporate taxation, to ensure that companies can't evade new measures.

New Democrats will make the investments needed to help Canadian families who are struggling and improve the services we all count on. In all cases, we will manage debt and deficits responsibly, borrowing when required to defend the services that Canadians and their families rely on, and moving towards balance in the future when it's prudent to do so.



# Protecting our environment, securing our future

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This summer, Canadians watched in horror as temperatures repeatedly smashed record levels, and out of control wildfires endangered lives and communities. Smoke from fires hundreds of kilometres away blanketed major cities throughout the country. And excessive heat has taken hundreds of lives.

The terrifying scenes out of Lytton, British Columbia, serve as a reminder that the climate crisis is here, and that its effects are catastrophically impacting lives and livelihoods.

Canadians are already paying the price - from watching their homes and communities burn due to forest fires, to seeing loved ones suffer and die from record-breaking heat and smog.

The climate emergency isn't just a threat to the environment. It is a clear and present danger to the health and wellbeing of Canadians right across the country. And these effects are being borne disproportionately by the most vulnerable people and communities.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has outlined the urgent need to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The next ten years will be critical as Canada moves towards its target – a target now set in law – of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Two years ago, the House of Commons declared climate change an emergency. But combatting this existential threat – one of the greatest threats facing Canadians and our planet – will take more than talk.

Consecutive Liberal and Conservative governments have continuously failed to meaningfully tackle this crisis. They have missed every single climate target that has been set, they have presided over the worst GHG reduction effort in the G7, and they have failed to reduce emissions.

Justin Trudeau's talk is not being backed up with action. His plan is riddled with loopholes that let big polluters off the hook. And it doesn't do nearly enough to support the very communities that are most impacted, and the very workers who should be fueling our shift to a new low-carbon economic reality.

European countries like Germany and France are releasing bold plans to kick-start a sustainable economy, but the Liberal government has spent public dollars purchasing a bitumen pipeline. US President Joe Biden has committed to eliminating oil and gas subsidies and instead making climate investment that create good jobs, but Justin Trudeau is still subsidizing profitable oil and gas companies.

We have seen with COVID-19 that emergencies need to be tackled urgently and with the political will to do what it takes. Canadians have been doing their part to fight an urgent public health emergency, but the need to tackle climate change has not gone away. We need a government that approaches the climate emergency with that same sense of urgency.

New Democrats have a plan to tackle the climate emergency and create good jobs. With the NDP's leadership, Canada now has a Net Zero law in place. But that is only the first step. New Democrats will fight to build a cleaner future.

- ➔ **We will take climate leadership**, building on Canada's new net-zero law, by setting an ambitious target of reducing our emissions by at least 50% from 2005 levels by 2030. To help us reach that goal we would eliminate fossil fuel subsidies, put in place carbon budgets and change the mandate of the Bank of Canada to focus on contributing to net zero.
- ➔ **We will create good jobs in all regions**, with green infrastructure investments that will ensure that working people are not left behind as the world moves to a zero-carbon economy. Our plan to create one million new good jobs will help rebuild local economies while helping vulnerable workers and those impacted by the shifting economy.
- ➔ **We will improve where we live and work**, because these improvements help reduce carbon pollution, save money, and make life better for everyone. This means retrofitting all buildings in Canada by 2050. And we would create a National Crisis Strategy to help communities reduce and respond to climate risks, complimented by a new Climate Corps of young workers to respond to climate impacts and build an equitable clean-energy economy.

- ➔ **We will change how Canadians get around**, because improving transit and getting our transportation infrastructure right will create jobs, strengthen communities, and reduce our carbon footprint. We will support transit by permanently doubling the Canada Community-Building Fund and we will develop a public inter-city bus program.
- ➔ **We will power our communities carbon-free**, with a clean energy revolution to power Canada into the future. To do this we will set a target of net carbon-free electricity by 2030, and move to 100% non-emitting electricity by 2040.
- ➔ **We will protect our land and water**, safeguarding our outdoors to ensure a good quality of life for Canadians. This includes enshrining in law an *Environmental Bill of Rights* and protecting 30% of our land, freshwater and oceans by 2030.
- ➔ **And we will do it by working together**, putting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – which is now law – into action in our collective fight against the climate crisis. And creating an Office of Environmental Justice to address the disproportionate impacts of pollution and loss of biodiversity on low-income, racialized and other marginalized communities

## Ready for Better: New Democrats' Commitments to You

Re-opening and re-building our economy as we recover from COVID-19 will be a significant task – but as we take steps to help the recovery, we need to ensure a sustainable recovery.

We know that fighting inequality and fighting the climate crisis go hand in hand. Earlier this summer, New Democrats launched a plan to create over one million good jobs in a first mandate. Building for better means positioning Canada for the next economic boom – making sure that bold public investments are directed to clean energy, climate resilience, social infrastructure and energy efficiency in communities across the country.

Our plan will cut greenhouse gas emissions at the same time as it will create new good jobs in every part of the country. It will clean up our environment and make sure that water, air and land are protected from catastrophic climate change. It will create opportunity for today and build a strong foundation for generations to come.

And it will ensure that the rewards of our prosperity go to ordinary people working hard to build a better future, not to big polluters. Justin Trudeau can't talk his way out of the climate crisis, and the Conservatives can't be allowed to drag us back to a time before the climate emergency was acknowledged.

And most of all, we can't return to normal after this pandemic when normal simply hasn't worked for so many Canadians.

The climate crisis remains an urgent priority and an existential threat. It calls on all of us to be courageous, act decisively, and be accountable. Future generations are counting on us. We can show that we are equal to the challenge.



## Taking climate leadership and getting to net-zero

After having overseen emissions increases every single year in which they have been in power, the Liberals have set a target that is not in line with what the best available science says is needed, and won't do enough to prevent the catastrophic consequences of warming above 1.5 degrees.

Parliament recently passed C-12, to put in law our collective commitment to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. New Democrats are proud of the role we have played in getting here – from Jack Layton's advocacy for climate accountability legislation almost 15 years ago, to our success in ensuring C-12 included short-term accountability measures – measures that will be so critical in setting Canada up to meet those targets.

C-12 was a step in the right direction, but it was not the bill New Democrats would have written. New Democrats are committed to helping stabilize the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. To that end we will set a target of **reducing Canada's emissions by at least 50% from 2005 levels by 2030**, reaching further wherever possible to account for Canada's fair share. We know that reaching net-zero by 2050 means taking action now, during the term of this next Parliament. We will work with partners to establish multi-year **national and sectoral carbon budgets** as a key guiding framework to develop Canada's path to 2030 and beyond. And we will create and fund a Climate Accountability Office, to provide independent oversight of federal climate progress, to engage the public, and to make recommendations on how to achieve our goals.

Putting a price on carbon has been an important tool in efforts to drive emissions reductions. We will **continue with carbon pricing** while making it fairer and rolling back loopholes this Liberal government has given to big polluters. But we also recognize that carbon pricing won't be enough to tackle the climate crisis. Further action is needed.

Building on net net-zero legislation will also be a priority for a New Democratic government. We will support Canada's net-zero target by reviewing financial legislation, such as the Bank of Canada Act, the Export Development Canada Act, and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board Act, to **ensure federal financial levers and Crown corporations are aligned with the goal of net-zero**. We will work with provinces to put in place a **framework for corporate climate accountability** to ensure mandatory transparency on carbon risk from publicly traded companies. And we will ensure that strict rules are in place to prevent big companies from using the purchase of offsets as a way to escape their net-zero obligations.

One thing we won't do is continue down the path that Liberal and Conservative governments have chosen when it comes to spending public money on oil and gas subsidies. Under Prime Minister Trudeau, the federal government spent \$18 billion to support oil and gas exploration, production, refining, transportation and more in 2020 alone – and that's on top of purchasing the Kinder-Morgan oil pipeline. New Democrats know that public funds are best spent supporting the transition to renewable energy, rather than on profitable oil and gas companies. We will fulfill Canada's G-20 commitment to **eliminate these fossil fuel subsidies** and redirect these funds to low carbon initiatives, and make sure that future governments can't reverse this by putting in place legislation to ban any future oil, gas and pipeline subsidies.

We'll work with the provinces and territories to make Canada an innovation **leader on methane reduction** in such areas as real-time monitoring and leakage detection, ensuring that provincial methane regulations are genuinely equivalent with the federal regulations, and increasing the ambition of those targets in the 2025-30 period.

The federal government can also **model change**, by becoming a trail-blazer in energy efficiency, clean technologies and renewable energy use. We will lead by example and procure from Canadian companies producing clean technology, ensure that federal buildings use renewable energy, and move the vehicle fleets of the federal government to electric by 2025, choosing made-in-Canada wherever possible. We will protect Canadian businesses who are taking action to transition to a low-carbon future with a border carbon adjustment that will level the playing field on imports from areas without a carbon price. And we will **appoint a Climate Emergency Committee of Cabinet** and establish a strong Climate Emergency Secretariat in the PMO to ensure a whole-of-government approach to responding to the climate emergency.



## Creating good jobs in all regions

Canadian workers are worried about their place in the changing global economy. The global climate is changing, and Canadian jobs are changing too. But successive Liberal and Conservative governments have left workers to navigate these shifts on their own. New Democrats know that skilled Canadian workers - construction, trades, engineering and others - will be needed to build a low-carbon economy. We will put those workers front and centre of our climate action plan, and fight for workers and their communities to make sure nobody is left behind.

We have a plan to create over a million new good jobs in all communities and rebuild local economies with meaningful, family-sustaining work in every part of the country, all while helping to make the changes we need to succeed in a low carbon future. This will include jobs **building green infrastructure** in communities across the country, and because products produced by Canadian workers have some of the lowest carbon emissions in the world, we will **require the use of Canadian-made steel, aluminum, cement and wood products for infrastructure projects** across the country. And just as climate change disproportionately impacts marginalized communities, we are committed to ensuring these same communities benefit from the job-creation and community-building benefits of these investments.

As we turn the corner on COVID-19 and build an economic recovery for people, we have a precious opportunity to build back better. New Democrats would ensure that recovery funding is used to support our net-zero objectives. To that end we would ensure that large businesses receiving recovery funding **agree to plan for net-zero** – and we would ensure those funds go to supporting Canadian jobs, not executives or shareholders.

The workers most impacted by the changes in our economy cannot pay the price of action on climate change. We will work together with labour, employers and the provinces and territories to find solutions for workers and communities. This includes providing dedicated employment support combining access to **expanded EI benefits, re-training and job placement services, ensuring companies retain and redeploy their workers when in transition, and ensuring that workers nearing retirement have the retirement security they have worked their whole lives for, without penalties to their pensions if they retire early.**

We will boost clean tech research and manufacturing with new funding, incentives and Buy Canadian procurement of environmentally friendly technologies. This will help bring more innovative Canadian clean technology to market and **support Canadian manufacturing of batteries, energy storage solutions and alternative fuels** like biofuels made from waste. It will also help keep jobs here in Canada.

We will work to put in place joint workplace environment committees – modelled on the successful joint workplace health and safety committees which have had a major impact on making workplaces safer – to help reduce emissions at the source in every workplace.

And we will support sustainable agriculture, working with Canadian farmers to promote sustainable land-management techniques and methods to reduce GHG emissions. We'll also work with the agricultural sector to help them access low carbon tools and technology, and adapt to climate-induced weather changes and other impacts of the climate crisis, including the associated increase in pests and invasive species.

## Improving where we live and work

Our communities are where we can most clearly feel the impacts of the climate emergency – and one of the best places that we can invest to rapidly reduce emissions, save money and make life better.

At the current pace, it will take 142 years to retrofit all low-rise residential buildings in Canada. New Democrats will undertake a mission-based approach, setting an ambitious retrofitting program to upgrade where people live and work, including **requiring large scale building retrofits in all sectors**. And we will set a target of **retrofitting all buildings in Canada by 2050 – beginning with upgrades to all buildings built before 2020 in the next 20 years**. Helping families make energy efficient improvements to their homes through low-interest loans help save families almost \$900 or more per year on home energy costs. Targeted supports would be provided to low-income households and to renters. Supporting retrofits to improve indoor air quality will also help prevent further waves of COVID-19.

We will work with provinces, municipalities and Indigenous government to make sure that communities have the resources they need to cope safely with extreme weather events. This **National Crisis Strategy** will help communities plan for and adapt to the changing climate and the weather extremes we are already facing – particularly for vulnerable, remote, and Indigenous communities. The strategy would be supported with long-term funding for adaptation, disaster mitigation, and climate resilient infrastructure.

And a **new Civilian Climate Corps** would mobilize young people and create new jobs supporting conservation efforts and addressing the threat of climate change by undertaking activities such as helping restore wetlands, and planting the billions of trees that need to be planted in the years ahead.

We'll improve the National Building Code to ensure that by 2025 every **new building built in Canada is net-zero**. Energy efficiency and sustainable building practices will be at the core of our national housing strategy, leveraging the power of federal investments to create good jobs all across the country delivering the affordable homes Canadians need.

As more Canadians have become accustomed to working from home as a result of the pandemic, more than half of Canadians living in rural areas still don't have access to high-speed internet. We will **make sure that every Canadian has access to affordable, reliable high-speed broadband** within four years. This will include taking the first steps to create a Crown corporation to ensure the delivery of quality, affordable telecom services to every community. Supporting more remote work will reduce commuting times and support efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



## Changing how we get around

Improving how Canadians get to and from work, and how we travel within and between our communities, means investing in better ways to get around. If we make the right choices now, we can create good jobs and build the vehicles and transit infrastructure we need to keep Canadians moving.

Municipalities are already making investments in public transit in their communities, but they need a federal partner to champion public transit throughout the country. New Democrats will **modernize and expand public transit** within and between communities across Canada, and ensure that federal transit funding flows with an emphasis on scaling up **low carbon transit** projects like zero-emissions buses and electric trains with the goal of **electrifying transit** and other municipal fleets by 2030.

For provinces and municipalities that identify it as a priority, we will help them build towards **fare-free transit** to ease commutes, help people make ends meet and lower emissions. To help replace the loss of Greyhound routes, we'll **develop a public inter-city bus system**. We will also support creating **high-frequency rail** along the Quebec-Windsor corridor, expand rail service options in other regions, and work to restore the **Ontario Northlander** to support the crucial transportation link for communities and businesses alike in Northern Ontario.

Because we know Canadians want to do their part, we will **make it easier to get and use a zero-emissions vehicle** (ZEV). As Canada moves towards 100% of all new car sales being zero-emissions by 2035, **we will make sure that more of these vehicles are built here in Canada**. A New Democrat government will extend federal incentives for ZEVs and provide

a break for working families by waiving the federal sales tax on ZEV purchases, and grow these incentives up to \$15,000 per family for made-in-Canada vehicles. We will expand the use of ZEVs in the public sector – including Crown Corporations – and by freight vehicles. To make ZEV use easier for Canadians in all regions, we'll build out Canada's charging infrastructure and help people purchasing new or used ZEVs cover the cost of installing a plug-in charger. We will create a centre of excellence for research and development of ZEVs to move forward related technologies such as hydrogen, batteries, and energy storage solutions. We will look for further opportunities related to green hydrogen fuel cell technology which could help reduce emissions for heavy trucks, freight, marine and aviation sectors. And we will look at ways to strengthen the low-carbon fuel standard.

Lastly, we will promote smart community planning and **active transportation** like walking and **cycling**, helping Canadians make choices that are healthier and more affordable for everyone. And we will work with other levels of government to encourage the use of electric bikes and their safe integration into our active transportation network.

## Powering our communities carbon-free

Canada has huge untapped renewable energy potential. With the right leadership, we can build good jobs across the country while making the shift to electricity that meets our emissions targets and the needs of our communities.

The International Energy Agency has called on governments throughout the world to dramatically speed up efforts to build renewable energy. New Democrats will set a target to power Canada with **net-zero electricity by 2030**, and move to 100% non-emitting electricity by 2040. To drive this progress, we will establish a new **Canadian Climate Bank** that will help boost investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency and low carbon technology across the country. It will also provide support for interested provinces to inter-connect power grids and introduce **smart grid technology**, to bolster Canada's energy security and distribute clean power across the country. The Climate Bank will also support **made-in-Canada manufacturing** of renewable energy components and technologies, and help scale up Canada's clean energy industry.

Meeting this carbon-free electricity goal in a way that respects local communities and creates good jobs is essential. We'll support investments in innovative **community-owned and operated clean energy projects** to keep jobs and expertise local, work in partnership with Indigenous and northern communities to move off diesel, improving energy security and cutting emissions and air pollution.

New Democrats also believe in giving Canadians a stronger voice in energy decisions that impact their communities. That's why we have committed to overhauling the process for reviewing major projects to ensure adequate time for public consultation, and provide core funding to support Indigenous communities participating in these processes.

Our commitment is to ensure that proposed projects align with our emissions reductions targets, respect Indigenous rights and create good jobs here in Canada.

## Protecting our land and water

From our national parks, to our mountain ranges and our coasts, Canadians expect a government to protect natural areas for them and for future generations. Protecting land and waters will help Canada meet its climate change goals while safeguarding a good quality of life for generations of Canadians to come. New Democrats will stand up to the abuse of power by polluters – the harms of which disproportionately impact remote and marginalized communities.

New Democrats are committed to expanding protections for our natural environment, beginning with **enshrining the right to a healthy environment in a Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights**, to ensure all communities can enjoy a guarantee to clean water, land and air. We will strengthen the Canadian Environmental Protection Act – building and improving on the government's Bill C-28 – to **better protect Canadians from toxic substances** in everyday products like cosmetics. And we will strengthen the federal environmental impact assessment process for new coal mines and mine expansion projects. We know that taking action to protect our environment will also support people's health – with recent projections showing that the impacts of climate change could cost Canada's healthcare system billions of dollars over the coming decades.

To reduce waste in our landfills and communities, we will **immediately ban single-use plastics**, while protecting workers in this sector by supporting the transition of these production facilities to new products. We will hold companies responsible for the entire lifecycle of their plastic products and packaging, **help municipalities improve their waste management and recycling systems, and support improved standards for what products can be labelled as recyclable**. New legislation will also **ban the export of plastic waste** and help **reduce electronic waste** by removing unnecessary restrictions preventing people from repairing their devices.

We are committed to pursuing a Nature agenda, anchored by our commitment to safeguarding ecosystems and biodiversity by **protecting 30% of our land, freshwater and oceans by 2030**. We will expand urban national parks and restore urban biodiversity, and ensure the *Species at Risk Act* is enforced. We will launch a 10-year nature plan to **reverse species loss** and we would **curb the import and domestic trade of wild animals**. We will further **protect our oceans and our freshwater**, by reducing emissions from shipping and fishing, expanding marine protected areas, reducing key threats to ocean ecosystems and implementing a national freshwater strategy. And we will support Indigenous-led nature conservation and land-use and climate planning, including by growing the Indigenous Guardians Program and working hand-in-hand to advance the protection and restoration of wild Pacific salmon populations on the west coast.

Focused investments in forest management will help reduce forest fire risk, and we'll take steps to encourage innovation in forestry, including valued wood production and re-forestation.

We will support environmental remediation and job creation by getting tough on polluters and **forcing big oil companies to pay to clean up inactive wells**. If done right, this alone could quickly create jobs for workers and clean up the environmental hazards these wells represent.

The way we grow crops, raise livestock and use food also has an impact on our climate future – and nutrition for all Canadians. We'll work to connect communities to farmers through **local food hubs**, and develop a **national food waste strategy** to reduce the huge amounts of food that currently go to waste in Canada. A New Democrat government will also partner with farmers and communities to support biodiversity and to monitor and protect **pollinator health**.

## Working Together

New Democrats will fight for you, putting people at the centre of our climate policy by prioritizing the needs of workers, addressing inequities at home, and upholding Indigenous rights.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has been passed into law. As a next step, New Democrats will **build reconciliation into the heart of our plan to address the climate crisis**, ensuring First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples are full and equal partners in Canada's efforts to confront the climate crisis.

Indigenous peoples are best placed to protect cultural and biological diversity through control over their territory. We are committed to working with indigenous governments, respecting Indigenous knowledge, and **upholding Indigenous rights to protect lands, waterways and biodiversity**. The means making First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples **full and equal partners** in Canada's efforts to build a low-carbon future, including encouraging energy sustainability in remote communities and equity opportunities for renewable energy projects. And it means ensuring Indigenous people - as the original peoples and stewards of their territories. - a seat at high-level decision-making tables to help direct Canada's efforts to confront the climate crisis.

Too often the effects of climate change and of pollution are disproportionately borne in marginalized communities. On top of driving us towards net zero, New Democrats will **ensure that climate investments are directed towards reducing inequality, honoring Indigenous rights and supporting communities** that have been left behind by decades of Liberal and Conservative inaction. And we will **create an Office of Environmental Justice** to address the disproportionate impacts of pollution and loss of biodiversity on low-income, racialized and other marginalized communities.

# Taking better care of each other

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## Better health care for all Canadians

The stress placed on our public health care system has been clear through the pandemic. We also have seen the impact on our doctors and nurses, long term care workers and those working on the frontlines to keep us safe. Years of cuts and neglect by Liberal and Conservative governments brought the health care system to the brink of collapse – and resulted in catastrophic loss of life in long term care.

When our loved ones fall ill, we shouldn't worry about whether they can afford to get the care they need. This principle is at the heart of New Democrats' unwavering commitment to public health care. Universal access to public health care is one of the proudest achievements of New Democrats. And in the decades since Tommy Douglas brought Medicare to Saskatchewan and expanded it across the entire country, public health care has saved us money and become a defining Canadian value for so many of us.

But today, too many of the health care services we need – like access to prescription medications – fall outside Medicare, leaving families facing huge out-of-pocket costs. Meanwhile, powerful people and companies who oppose public health care are continuing to quietly push for privatization, threatening what we've built together. And, for years, Liberal and Conservative governments have cut health care transfers and refused to expand access to care, making things worse.

Families are spending time and money they can't afford or they are sacrificing other things to pay for needed health care. Or they are getting sicker unnecessarily because they can't afford or find the right care at the right time.

It's not just a crisis for individuals, it's a crisis for all of us.

New Democrats are the party that will change that. We are committed to strengthening public health care – and expanding it to make sure everyone is covered for the care they need to get and stay healthier longer.

After decades of promises, the Liberals have once again failed to make sure every Canadian can afford the medications they need. That's why New Democrats are fighting for a national, universal, public **pharmacare** program to make sure that all Canadians can access the prescription medicine they need with their health card, not their credit card – saving money and improving health outcomes for everyone. These programs will also free up resources to tackle emerging threats to public health, like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under our system, everyone should have access to quality health care no matter where they live. But too often, Canadians are getting different care depending on their province of residence – a problem made worse by a lack of federal leadership under successive Liberal and Conservative governments. New Democrats believe that the federal government has a critical role to play in upholding and enforcing the Canada Health Act, especially against the creeping threat of **privatization and user fees**. We will also act immediately to prevent the sale of blood products, and to make sure that people can access safe abortion services in all regions.

A New Democrat government will work with the provinces and territories to tackle **wait times** and improve **access to primary care** across the country – and we'll work with the provinces to develop public infrastructure for secure, accessible **virtual healthcare**. We will identify coming gaps in health **human resources** and make a plan to recruit and retain the doctors, nurses and other health professionals Canadians need. New Democrats will also work with the provinces and territories to expand and improve access to palliative care across the country.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed serious weaknesses in Canada's **pandemic preparedness and response** capacities. New Democrats will strengthen these system so that Canada is never again unprepared and left behind in a global pandemic. We believe the government should immediately take a leadership role in a federal vaccination strategy to ensure all Canadians can be vaccinated. Moving forward, we'll provide stable, long-term funding for the Public Health Agency of Canada so they can protect public health and be ready with surge capacity in the event of a crisis.

Canada needs to have the capacity to produce vaccines for public health emergencies, a capacity that we lost under Liberal and Conservative governments. New Democrats will establish a crown corporation charged with **domestic vaccine production** so that Canadians are never again at the back of the line.

To protect medical personnel, patients and essential workers, we'll ensure that Canada maintains an adequate and responsibly-managed stockpile of **personal protective equipment**, with an emphasis on supporting domestic production.

During a crisis, it's more important than ever that Canada's Chief Public Health Officer be able to **speak freely** about public health issues to Canadians without the fear of political retribution. We'll ensure that their **independence is protected by law**, and require the Chief Public Health Officer to report to parliament annually about recommendations to improve Canada's public health emergency preparedness.

Finally, Canada is a leader in innovative **health research**, a field that is more important than ever. We will work with universities and health professionals to make sure that public research on critical health issues continues to flourish. New Democrats will reverse the Liberals' reckless move to weaken the **Global Public Health Intelligence Network**, which provides surveillance and early warnings that are critical for managing international public health emergencies like pandemics. The federal government must also step up and **regulate natural health products** under stand-alone legislation.

## Better access to quality home care and long-term care

Our parents and grandparents built this country. As they age, they deserve to live in comfort and safety. People with disabilities, who may have no independent living options, are often living in long term care homes or other settings with many people and caregivers. Yet because of decades of cuts, under-funding and privatization, COVID-19 has claimed the lives of thousands of Canadians in long-term care homes – the highest proportion in the OECD<sup>5</sup>. Liberal and Conservative governments have failed to invest in the public services that Canadians need, and too many families have paid a tragic price.

Every senior and person with a disability must have access to the care they need, helping them remain in their own homes. Family caregivers deserve more support – and should never have to worry about whether their loved ones are getting good care. And every Canadian, of every age, deserves to live in dignity and be treated with respect by their government and the health care system.

While all provinces and territories fund home care services as part of publicly insured healthcare, there are inconsistent standards -- and when it comes to long-term care, understaffing at residential homes is an ongoing and critical problem across the country. Ongoing staffing shortages make for poor quality care, hamper infection control and also leave health care workers at risk of experiencing workplace violence.

It's time to work with the provinces and territories to take a new approach to addressing the complex health care needs of our aging population. It's time to **take profit and greed out of the care of our most vulnerable** loved ones. It's time for a government on the side of aging Canadians, their families, and frontline health care workers.

New Democrats believe that families need access to quality home care and long-term care no matter where they live. To that end, we will **end private, for-profit long-term care** and bring long-term care homes under the public umbrella, beginning with the federally-owned long term care company Revera.

We will work collaboratively with patients, caregivers, and provincial and territorial governments to develop **national care standards** for home care and long-term care, regulated by the same principles as the *Canada Health Act*. By doing so, a New Democrat government would legally protect access to home care and long-term care services, and ensure a consistent quality of care across the country.

<sup>5</sup>Canadian Institute for Health Information. Pandemic Experience in the Long-Term Care Sector: How Does Canada Compare With Other Countries?. Ottawa, ON: CIHI; 2020.



This process will be backed by funding tied to meeting these standards, and include determining a core basket of home care services that will be available and covered by provincial insurance plans, and setting minimum national care standards for long-term care residents. We will also work with the provinces to develop and support workforce strategies and violence prevention to recruit and protect front-line staff, and ensure a safe working environment for personal support and health care workers.

Better long-term care starts with making sure that the workers providing this care have better wages, stable jobs and health and safety protections. Paying and protecting long term workers will be an essential part of our approach to national standards.

Elevating the quality of care provided in long-term care homes will protect residents and health care professionals, and give families and caregivers peace of mind.



## Extending Medicare to cover services you need

Canada's health care system today reflects the health care needs of the 1950s. Back then, New Democrats boldly transformed the health care system by guaranteeing that Canadians who needed to see their doctor or go to a hospital would not be faced by bills they couldn't pay.

A decade of Conservative neglect has hurt our public health care system and eroded public trust. The Liberal approach – a patchwork of interventions, programs here and there – simply isn't delivering the results that Canadians need. Too many Canadians, even those with private insurance, just aren't able to get the help they need.

As it stands, the *Canada Health Act* is supposed to fund all medically necessary services that Canadians might need. But in reality, there are many kinds of medical services that Canadians need for their health and wellbeing that aren't covered by public health care plans. As jobs with extended health benefits become harder to find, fewer people will have access to extended healthcare services.

You and your family deserve better. New Democrats believe that over the next decade, Canadians need a historic expansion of the services covered under our national health care system.

One in three Canadians has no dental insurance – and almost seven million people don't visit the dentist every year because they can't afford to<sup>6</sup>. Too many people are forced to go without the care they need, until the pain is so severe that they are forced to seek relief in hospital emergency rooms.

We know now that good oral health is a critical component of overall good health – and that means our health care system should cover it, too. A New Democrat government will work together with provincial partners, health professionals and dentists to develop a roadmap to incorporate **universal dental care** into Canada's public health care system, and immediately deliver dental care coverage for people who don't have any private insurance.

There's a lot more to do to modernize our health system for today's needs. Mental health support is an enormous unmet need across the country; over one in five Canadians struggling with mental health challenges who have expressed a need for counselling weren't able to get it<sup>7</sup>. Eye check-ups are important for preventing vision loss and identifying other health issues – yet many, particularly children and seniors, don't get regular eye care, or struggle to pay for the glasses that they need to function.

New Democrats believe that we need to work towards health care that covers us from head to toe. COVID-19 took a tremendous toll on Canadians' mental health. This is especially true for young people who are reporting high levels of depression and anxiety. **Mental health care** should be available at no cost for people who need it

As a first step, a New Democrat government would bring in mental health care for uninsured Canadians – ensuring that people with no coverage for mental health services could gain access to these supports without worrying about the cost. Our comprehensive pharmacare plan will also mean that prescription medication for mental health care will now be available free of cost to Canadians. We will work with provinces and territories to build on these initiatives and put in place a truly comprehensive approach to mental health services. And we believe that no new parent should struggle alone – it's time for a national **perinatal mental health strategy** to support growing families before and after birth.

Everyone should be able to get **eye care** and **hearing care**. Canadians struggling with **infertility** should also have access to the procedures and care they need, no matter which province or territory they live in.

The long-term path to providing public coverage for these services will require strong federal re-investment in our health system, with the knowledge that investing in preventative health services will ultimately save money and give Canadians the care they need to live healthy, full lives.

<sup>6</sup> Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. "Improving Access to Oral Health Care For Vulnerable People Living in Canada," 2014, Ottawa. Available online at: [http://cahs-acss.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Access\\_to\\_Oral\\_Care\\_FINAL\\_REPORT\\_EN.pdf](http://cahs-acss.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Access_to_Oral_Care_FINAL_REPORT_EN.pdf), Statistics Canada. "Health Care Fact Sheets: Dental Care," 2019. Available online at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/82-625-x/2019001/article/00010-eng.htm>

<sup>7</sup> Statistics Canada. "Health Fact Sheets: Mental Health Care Needs 2018," 2019. Available online at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/82-625-x/2019001/article/00011-eng.htm>

## Confronting the opioid public health emergency

Across Canada, seventeen Canadians die every day from opioid-related causes<sup>8</sup>. Tens of thousands of families have tragically lost parents, partners, siblings, and children to the out-of-control opioid crisis. Every part of the country has been impacted by these highly addictive and dangerous drugs, from our busiest downtown neighbourhoods to the most remote communities. And too often, the impacts are even worse for the most vulnerable and marginalized people.

Despite the obvious harm that these drugs are causing and the shocking death toll that they've caused, over the last four years the Liberal government failed to mobilize an effective response. They have not declared a public health emergency, nor taken any steps to investigate the role that drug companies may have played in fuelling the crisis. The federal government is lagging behind the urgent action being taken by provinces like British Columbia.

New Democrats believe that there is much more we can do to save lives and support those struggling with opioids. In government, we will declare a **public health emergency** and commit to working with all levels of government, health experts and Canadians to **end the criminalization and stigma** of drug addiction, so that people struggling with addiction can get the help they need without fear of arrest, while getting tough on the real criminals - those who traffic in and profit from illegal drugs. We'll work with the provinces and health professionals to create a safe supply of medically regulated alternatives to toxic street drugs, support **overdose prevention** sites and expand access to **treatment on demand** for people struggling with addiction. We will also launch an investigation into the role drug companies may have played in fueling the opioid crisis, and seek meaningful **financial compensation** from them for the public costs of this crisis.



<sup>8</sup>Statistics Canada. "Opioid- and Stimulant-related Harms in Canada," 2021. Available online at: <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/substance-related-harms/opioids-stimulants/>

## Healthy food in every community



We believe that every child in Canada should have access to nutritious food – and that no one should have to try to learn on an empty stomach. A recent UNICEF report ranked Canada 37 out of 41 countries in terms of access to nutritious food for children<sup>9</sup> -- and despite the urgency, the Liberal government has failed to improve access to healthy food for kids.

New Democrats will partner with provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous communities to work towards a national **school nutrition program** that will give every child in Canada access to healthy food, and the food literacy skills to make healthy choices for life. We'll aim to make culturally-appropriate food available to children in every community in Canada, so that all children can grow and learn.

We know that supporting our **local food** systems is essential to ensuring that Canadians have access to healthy, affordable food. We'll work to **connect Canadians to farmers** with initiatives like local food hubs, community supported agriculture, and networks to increase the amount of food that is sold, processed and consumed in local and regional markets.

New Democrats will also work together with farmers and food producers to develop a **National Food Policy**, making our food systems stronger all across the country – including food labelling and traceability, so that Canadians can be confident in what they're purchasing to put on their family's plate. We'll also work to put in place a **food waste strategy** to reduce the huge amounts of food that currently go to waste in Canada.

Our government will support **Indigenous food sovereignty**, working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities to expand access to healthy food, including traditional and country foods. Working together with northern communities, we're committed to reforming the **Nutrition North** program to improve food security for northern families.

<sup>9</sup> UNICEF, "Building the Future: Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries." Innocenti Report Card 14, 2017. Available online at: <https://www.unicef-irc.org/article/1620-global-press-release-innocenti-report-card-14.html>

## Removing barriers for persons living with disabilities

We can do much more to make Canada an inclusive and barrier-free place. As a start, New Democrats will uphold the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and strengthen the Accessibility Act to cover all federal agencies equally, with the power to make and enforce **accessibility standards** in a timely manner.

To help tackle the unacceptable rate of poverty among Canadians living with a disability and ensure that everyone has the chance to thrive and live in dignity, we will expand income security programs to ensure Canadians living with a disability have a **guaranteed livable income**. While the Liberal government spends years talking about a new federal disability benefit, New Democrats will get to work immediately to deliver it.

When it comes to **employment**, everyone deserves a fair shot at a good job that fits their unique abilities. A New Democrat government will continue and expand employment programs to make sure that quality employment opportunities are available to all.

For Canadians facing a serious illness, we'll make **Employment Insurance** work better by extending sickness benefits to 50 weeks of coverage, and creating a pilot project to allow workers with episodic disabilities to access benefits as they need them.

Canadians living with disabilities shouldn't need to worry about the cost of prescription medication, dental work, how to find housing, or how to get their mail. In addition to putting in place a universal, publicly funded national **pharmacare** and **dental care** program that will offer full benefits to all Canadians, a New Democrat government will restore door-to-door **mail delivery** for those who lost it under the Conservatives, and create affordable, **accessible housing** in communities across the country.

Finally, we will work with Autistic Canadians to develop and implement a **national Autism strategy** that will coordinate support for research, ensure access to needs-based services, promote employment, and help expand housing options.



## Protecting pensions for everyone

Retirement should be a time of new opportunities and new experiences, not worry and stress. We all want to retire with security and maintain our standard of living. And we want to live our retired years with dignity and comfort.

But for more and more Canadians, the prospect of retirement is a cause for anxiety. As costs keep rising and wages don't keep up, people are struggling to save for retirement during their working years. And many retirees, who paid to have a secure pension, have been let down by governments that protected investors, not pensioners, when big companies went bankrupt. Instead of strengthening support for Canadian workers and retirees, the Liberals have sided with rich corporations to undermine retirement benefits.

New Democrats believe that every Canadian should be able to count on a dignified, secure retirement – and we'll fight hard to protect pensions that workers have earned. To that end, we will make sure that **pensioners are at the front of the line** when a company goes bankrupt – making sure unfunded pension liabilities owed to workers, and employees' severance pay, are the top priority for repayment.

We'll stop companies from paying out dividends and bonuses when pensions are under-funded, and we'll create a mandatory, industry-financed **pension insurance** program to make sure that no worker is deprived of the retirement benefits they've earned through no fault of their own.

The federal government has a critical role to play in **protecting defined benefit pensions** across the country. The Liberal and Conservatives' openness to target benefit plans in the public sector, which don't guarantee stable benefits for retirees, puts defined benefits at risk for all Canadians – and we will immediately put a stop to this chipping away of retirement security.

We are committed to **strengthening public pensions** and improving retirement security for all Canadians and providing a basic guaranteed livable income for seniors. A New Democrat government will create a Pension Advisory Commission to develop a long-term plan to enhance Old Age Security, boost the Guaranteed Income Supplement to lift all seniors out of poverty, and strengthen the Canada Pension Plan. We'll also make automatic enrollment in OAS and GIS retroactive, so no retiree misses out on benefits that they should be receiving, and support efforts to make sure Canadians have good retirement financial literacy.

## Security for all seniors

Everyone deserves to be able to age well, living with dignity as a valued member of the community. But years of Conservative cuts and Liberal inaction are making it harder and harder for seniors to get by. The Conservative government recklessly raised the age of retirement from 65 to 67, with no consultation – and the Liberal government refused to protect workers' pensions, while dragging their feet on the creation of a real plan to deal with the health challenges faced by Canadian seniors.

As more Canadians enter their senior years, we need to make better choices to be ready to meet their needs and ensure that everyone can age with dignity. With the right leadership, we can make sure that our institutions and public services are strong and prepared – and that every senior has access to the health care and social support they need to make life a little easier.

To deliver these results all across the country, we will lead a **National Seniors Strategy** that will work with the provinces, territories and Indigenous governments to make seniors health care a priority, reduce isolation and tackle seniors' poverty. This will include a funded national **dementia** strategy, and an **elder abuse prevention** plan developed with seniors to put an end to abuse and neglect in our communities.

Our national **pharmacare for all** plan will provide prescription medicine to all seniors, saving seniors hundreds of dollars every year and ensuring that no one needs to choose between medicine and other essentials, and our **dental care** plan will mean that uninsured seniors can go to the dentist when they need to, without facing costly bills.

Seniors deserve a retirement that's financially secure and dignified. And no senior should miss out on **benefits** they qualify for because of a paperwork oversight – but that's exactly what's happening to tens of thousands of seniors today. We'll put in place a one-year delay to help seniors at risk of having their GIS benefits suspended for being unable to make the required income statement.

Many seniors are themselves **caregivers** to a loved one, or rely on the caregiving of family members. In order to help make life a little more affordable for caregivers, who are overwhelmingly women, we'll make the Canada Caregiver Tax Credit refundable. This will provide thousands of dollars to the most low-income caregivers, many of whom have given up work completely to care for a loved one.

Every senior should have a safe and affordable place to call home. Our commitment to create half a million affordable housing units in the next decade will include **accessible housing** that will increase choices for seniors. We'll also support connection to community and **tackle seniors' isolation** by improving seniors' access to technology and support to stay connected with family, providing more funding for community programs that do outreach to seniors to combat isolation, working with cities to make transit more affordable and convenient, creating more community recreation spaces, and supporting innovative housing solutions like intergenerational co-housing.



## Honouring our veterans

Canadian veterans have made untold sacrifices for our country. To honour their service, we need to offer the best care and support possible when they come home.

Unfortunately, for too long, veterans have had to fight for the benefits they've earned. For a decade, the Conservative government denied and clawed back benefits, took veterans to court, and cut access to basic care. As Minister of Veteran's Affairs, Erin O'Toole did nothing to reverse the closure of nine regional offices and the firing of nearly 900 staff that provided services for tens of thousands of veterans across Canada.

While hopes were high that the Liberal government would improve veterans care, after half a decade in power they've broken their commitments, failing to improve long wait lists and left billions in money earmarked for veterans care unspent. Years of court cases and broken promises have deepened the disappointment and mistrust that's felt by many of Canada's veterans.

It's time to do right by our veterans.

A New Democrat government will honour the special bond of mutual obligation between Canadians and veterans, and deliver the services that veterans need and deserve. As part of this process, we will work with veterans to design a system that provides fair benefits to all veterans, including equal access to **lifetime pensions**.

Veterans shouldn't have to wait weeks or even months or years to receive the services they need. We'll get rid of backlogs and step up high-quality, personalized service delivery by actually providing **one caseworker for every**

**twenty-five veterans**, hiring more disability adjudicators to clear the backlog, putting in place automatic approvals for the most common injuries, and improving services that are delivered by phone and online.

There's also much more that we can do to **ease the transition** from service for veterans. A New Democrat government will give Canadian Forces members access to care and support before the transition, and make sure that their benefits are in place before they are released from service.

New Democrats know that sometimes a sacrifice abroad means being unable to care for yourself when you return, and we will help support veterans and their families by **expanding the caregiver allowance** to more people.

New Democrats will work with partners in community services and the veterans community to **end veteran homelessness** for good – because one veteran on the streets is one too many.

To ensure that taxpayer money earmarked for veterans care actually gets spent on it, we will automatically carry forward all annual lapsed spending in Veterans Affairs to **improve services**. There should never be an incentive for any government to save money on the backs of veterans.

And finally, to hold all governments accountable to the sacred commitments we make to veterans, New Democrats will make the Veterans Ombudsman fully independent so they can report transparently and directly to Canadians.

## Tackling poverty

In 1989, NDP Leader Ed Broadbent rose in the House of Commons to put forward a successful motion to end child poverty in Canada by the year 2000.

More than thirty years after Canada's pledge, more than a million Canadian children are still living in poverty. Children are still going to school on an empty stomach – and growing up without a place to call home. That's because successive Liberal and Conservative governments have created a patchwork of underfunded supports that still leave millions of Canadians struggling on the margins. The Liberals even brought forward a poverty reduction strategy without a single dollar of new spending – telling Canadians who need help now that they have to wait.

We need the courage – and meaningful action – to build a Canada without poverty, where all Canadians can count on quality public services and community supports to help them lead dignified lives. A core component of our approach is fully implementing the right to housing, and working toward the goal of **ending homelessness** in Canada within a decade. In a country as wealthy as Canada, there is no excuse to leave any Canadian living in poverty or without a safe roof over their head.

Our affordable housing strategy will include measures to support Canadians at risk of becoming homeless, taking the lead from communities about local needs and adopting a "housing first" approach. To help people find an affordable home in the long term, we will support the creation of more **social housing** and other affordable options. To deliver help to the most vulnerable right away, we'll also work with the provinces and municipalities to

fast-track the purchase, lease and conversion of hotels and motels for emergency housing relief until more permanent, community-based solutions are available.

Poor health and poverty are linked, and a national pharmacare program will mean that all Canadians can access the **prescription medicine** they need, regardless of their income or address. Better access to **mental health** and **addictions support** will also form a key part of our approach to tackling poverty.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen that it is possible for the government to step up and provide basic income to Canadians in difficult circumstances, and that this support can be transformational. That's why New Democrats will begin work to expand income security programs, beginning with seniors and people living with disabilities, to build towards a future where all individuals residing in Canada have access to a guaranteed livable basic income.

We also know that developing a national, public, universal **child care** program is critical for lifting women and their families out of poverty, and an important way to give all kids a good start in early learning.

Finally, making sure that all Canadians can access healthy, affordable food is a cornerstone of our Canadian food strategy. A national **school nutrition** program will make sure that no child enters their classroom hungry. Children should always have access to healthy food – and the ability to concentrate on learning. In addition, New Democrats will ensure that a reformed Nutrition North program is able to better respond to the needs of Northern families, to put an end to chronic food insecurity in the North.





# Reconciliation in action

Indigenous peoples have lived with the impact and legacy of colonialism for decades. Their resilience in the face of genocide is why Indigenous people, language and culture survive. Canadians are reckoning with the theft of children from families and land from Indigenous communities. New Democrats believe that the time has come for a fundamentally different approach to Crown-Indigenous relations in Canada, one based on the recognition of the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples and self-determination. At the heart of our vision of a better Canada is the need for concrete, specific actions that **advance Indigenous peoples and all Canadians down the path of reconciliation**. The time for good words and promises is over – we need to work to build a new nation-to-nation relationship now.

Successive federal governments have denied the basic human rights of Indigenous peoples, stolen children from their parents, forced Indigenous

peoples off their homelands and territories, and claimed lands without consent or compensation. We have witnessed governments spend millions of taxpayer dollars fighting Indigenous peoples in court over lands, trying to overturn human rights rulings to compensate Indigenous children for chronic underfunding of child welfare and health care services and litigating against residential schools Survivors seeking accountability and redress for past harms. Most recently, we have seen successive governments chronically underfund vital services like water and housing, and even child welfare services on reserve, all of which have resulted in the COVID-19 pandemic having a disproportionately high impact on Indigenous peoples.

New Democrats are committed to undertaking the important work of reconciliation in good faith, and in true and equal partnership with Indigenous communities across the country. We believe that the Crown's relationship to Indigenous peoples must be based on an acknowledgement of our country's **colonial history** of genocide and stolen lands – and include legally binding commitments to fair and equitable redress going forward.



## Upholding Indigenous rights and advancing self-determination

New Democrats believe the federal government should not be able to pick and choose which Indigenous rights they will uphold, and which ones they will ignore. In line with recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which sets out minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous peoples, is the framework for reconciliation.

In partnership with Indigenous peoples, a New Democrat government will **fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** and the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action**.

New Democrats will work with Indigenous peoples to co-develop a **National Action Plan for Reconciliation**, drawing directly from the Calls to Action and the Declaration to ensure that Canada's laws, policies, and practices are consistent with Canada's human rights commitments – including cultural rights, land rights, and rights to self-determination and self-government.

Through legislation, we will establish a **National Council for Reconciliation** to provide oversight and accountability for this process, reporting regularly to Parliament and Canadians.

A New Democrat government will replace mere consultation with a standard of **free, prior and informed consent** for Indigenous communities affected by government policies – including for all decisions affecting constitutionally protected land rights, like energy project reviews. We are committed to good-faith, consent-based engagement and negotiations consistent with the *Tsilhqot'in* decision, an approach that honours Canada's legal and constitutional obligations.

We will recognize and **respect treaties**, supporting Indigenous Nations who are building and re-building their governance structures.

We will also respect **Inuit self-determination** by co-developing the federal government's *Arctic Policy Framework* through shared governance within the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, including through the adoption of an Inuit Nunangat policy in full partnership with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. We will support the economic and social self-reliance of Inuit by addressing the massive infrastructure deficit in Northern communities, including housing, access to high-speed broadband, and airports, and ensuring that federal election ballots include Indigenous languages like Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

New Democrats recognize **Métis self-determination** and in government, we will respect the path forward established by the Métis National Council and its governing members. We will pursue government-to-government negotiations on issues including self-government, education, housing and health.

A New Democrat government will work in partnership with Indigenous communities across the country to help protect and revitalize the incredible diversity of **Indigenous languages** in Canada with new legislation and stable funding. In response to Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 80, we will ensure there are funds to communities to commemorate a **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** to acknowledge the painful legacy of colonization, honour the Survivors of residential schools, and help communities across Canada commit to meaningful reconciliation.



## Justice and healing – addressing the harms of residential schools

A vital part of reconciliation is fully acknowledging the horror and harm caused to Indigenous children, their families and communities by the residential school system. These institutions systemically removed children from their families and inflicted abuse, sickness and death. The recent revelations of thousands of mass and unmarked graves at residential school sites across the country underlines the depth of horror that this genocidal policy inflicted for more than 160 years.

It's time to **find every child**, and bring them home.

A New Democrat government will fully fund the search for grave sites at former residential schools, as well as the maintenance, commemoration, reburial and protection of residential school cemeteries according to the wishes of Indigenous families, residential school Survivors and communities. We will also work with nations and Survivors to establish memorials to those lost to residential schools.

In order for there to be reconciliation, New Democrats recognize that there must also be **truth, accountability and justice**. We will ensure the appointment of a **special prosecutor** to pursue those who inflicted great harm on Indigenous children in Canada's residential school system. We will require that churches and governments **hand over any and all records** that could be helpful in identifying the children who lay buried in unmarked graves, or in finding individuals who were involved in their deaths.

Finally, recognizing the need for special supports to address the inter-generational impacts of colonialism and residential schools, a New Democrat government will support and fully fund **community-driven solutions for healing**, including projects similar to the former "Aboriginal Healing Foundation".



# Investing in children and ending funding discrimination

Children deserve the very best start in life. Every single child in Canada should have the care and opportunities that they need to succeed and thrive – without exception.

But for generations, the Canadian government’s treatment of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children has been a national disgrace and an unspeakable tragedy. While residential schools no longer operate, the intergenerational trauma caused by them is felt every day. And despite the apologies from political leaders, the reality is that systemic discrimination against Indigenous children continues today.

Indigenous children and young people have the right to culture, language and to be raised in their own communities – all of which are vital to overall well-being. By implementing the United Nations Declaration, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action and supporting self-determination, New Democrats will make sure that all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, young people and families are treated with the justice, respect and care that they deserve.

New Democrats will take immediate action to respect, support and resource Indigenous jurisdiction over **child welfare systems**, and will back this commitment with long-term, predictable funding guaranteed in legislation so that Indigenous peoples can exercise their jurisdiction and authority over matters involving their own children and families.

We also commit to **ending discrimination** against Indigenous children, young people and families by fully implementing the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal orders which ordered the Canadian government to stop chronically underfunding child welfare services on reserve, and working with the *First Nations Child and Family Caring Society* to implement the *Spirit Bear Plan*. We will put an immediate end to government litigation against Indigenous children.

A New Democrat government will also fully implement **Jordan’s Principle**, working with the provinces and territories to end the delays and ensure equitable access to health services and educational supports for Indigenous children from coast to coast to coast. We’ll end the court challenge and ensure that Jordan’s Principle applies to children off-reserve. And we will create a Spirit Bear Day to promote awareness of Jordan’s Principle and of the challenges faced by First Nations children when accessing government services.



## Safe, quality housing for all

New Democrats believe that everyone in Canada should be able to find a safe and affordable place to call home. And no one in this country should be forced to live in housing that makes them sick.

But, today, decades of colonialism perpetrated by the federal government has resulted in a devastating housing crisis for many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis families. The Liberal government has failed to help people, leaving communities with long waiting lists for housing, and overcrowded, dilapidated homes. The mold crisis continues to harm people's health. And chronic overcrowding is hurting people in Indigenous communities across the country, including by creating the conditions for rapid transmission of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Conservatives have an even worse record from their time in government: they announced a fund for 25,000 homes, yet six years later, fewer than 100 homes had been built.

It's time to end the housing crisis for good – with **safe and affordable housing** in every Indigenous community, on and off reserve.

New Democrats will address the Indigenous housing crisis and put an end to chronic overcrowding and long-wait lists by working with Indigenous communities to implement co-developed, fully funded **Indigenous National Housing Strategy** within our first 100 days in office. This innovative, ground-up strategy will mean sustainable and dedicated funding to meet the needs of Indigenous peoples, whether in urban, rural or remote communities.

We believe that the federal government must immediately step up to tackle the **mold crisis** affecting tens of thousands of homes, and provide support for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to ensure that their **homes are safe and healthy**. We will also ensure that Indigenous communities have the resources to make homes greener and more **energy efficient**, working to keep the benefits of good jobs, training and investment close to home.

## Closing the education gap

Under the Liberal and Conservative governments, too many young people in Indigenous communities don't have access to a quality education. Successive governments have failed to provide core funding for on-reserve education, failed to adequately support Indigenous post-secondary students and failed to deliver a plan for how the government will bring all schools on reserve up to provincial standards – despite Parliament committing to this when they passed the *Shannen's Dream* motion in 2012.

In government, New Democrats will ensure that **every child** is provided a **safe place to learn** and an opportunity to succeed, whether on or off reserve. We will implement *Shannen's Dream* of equitable **access to education**, backed by federal investments and infrastructure, so no student will be forced to learn in dangerous environments, as we have witnessed in Kashechewan First Nation.

Recognizing that barriers to **post-secondary education** and training continue, we will support Indigenous youth and help them bridge the gap to post-secondary education through expanded financial assistance and increased educational opportunities for children who grew up in care, and distance education for rural and remote students.

And we believe that all Canadians should be aware of the contributions and history of Indigenous peoples and understand the legacy of residential schools. We will work with the provinces to establish **Indigenous history education programs** for all Canadians, based on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action 62 and 63 – and ensure that the development and implementation of these programs are led by Indigenous peoples.



# Fostering thriving and resilient communities with clean water and strong public services

For communities to thrive, it takes strong public services that families can count on. It takes safe, reliable infrastructure, and opportunities for young people to build a good life.

But today, too many Indigenous communities across the country are still waiting for clean drinking water, basic emergency services, secure public transportation or help with environmental initiatives – sometimes with tragic consequences.

The Liberals promised to lift all **drinking water advisories** by 2021, and failed, even after the PBO warned them years ago that they were under-funding their promise by billions of dollars<sup>10</sup>. Now, the Liberals are telling Indigenous communities that they have to wait until 2026 for this clean water promise to be fulfilled. It's shameful, and we must do better.

New Democrats believe that it is past time for the federal government to step up and fully fund the services and infrastructure that Indigenous communities need to thrive – it is an important part of the responsibility that Canada owes to Indigenous peoples given the deep and intergenerational impacts of colonialism.

This means making the full investments required to ensure clean water and lift all drinking water advisories for good right now, not years from now, and supporting Indigenous-led water management training programs and water system operations as an immediate priority. And this means funding on-reserve emergency management and prevention, including **firefighting** training and equipment. It also means ensuring safe **public transportation**, by resuming and expanding rural and remote bus routes and passenger rail service.

Strong communities are sustainable communities, and many Indigenous communities have been at the forefront of the move towards renewable energy. We will work with them to protect infrastructure from **climate change** and increase the use of **renewable energy**. New Democrats will help expand community-owned renewable energy projects – and support efforts to transition remote communities away from polluting diesel and harmful fumes, towards reliable and clean energy alternatives.

<sup>10</sup> Parliamentary Budget Officer. "Budget Sufficiency for First Nations Water and Wastewater Infrastructure," December 2017. Accessed online at: [https://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/web/default/files/Documents/Reports/2017/FN%20Water/FN\\_Water\\_EN.pdf](https://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/web/default/files/Documents/Reports/2017/FN%20Water/FN_Water_EN.pdf)

## Nurturing healthy communities

Health care is one of the basics that every family needs. No matter who you are or where you live, you need to know that you can count on quality medical help when you and your loved ones need it, particularly in a public health crisis like COVID-19.

But today, a shocking number of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities do not have access to reliable health care services. People cannot get the mental health care they need. Residents of remote communities are forced to live with just a few days per month of medical care. And the crumbling and out-dated infrastructure at many federal nursing stations is simply inadequate for the needs of the communities.

After four years in government, the Liberals have failed to invest adequately in Indigenous health care to fix the problems – Inadequate funds for suicide prevention in the North, for medical clinics, for universal pharmacare and for traditional ways of healing. Meanwhile, when they were in government, the Conservatives not only failed to invest in health care; they cut funding for Indigenous-led health initiatives.

New Democrats will make sure that the federal government steps up to **close the health gap** in Indigenous communities, and supports Indigenous health self-determination. We recognize that healing the ongoing trauma caused by colonialism and residential schools will require long-term partnership and reliable, ongoing funding.



**Joyce's Principle** will be the basis for a new approach to tackling systemic racism in health care under a New Democrat government. This principle is named for Joyce Echaquan, an Atikamekw woman who died tragically in hospital after suffering racist care. Joyce's Principle demands that all Indigenous people have an equal right to the highest standard of physical and mental health, with a right to access traditional medicines.

We will make sure that people can get the **treatment they need** in their community through investments in Indigenous health care infrastructure, medical supplies and diagnostic equipment. We will work in partnership with Indigenous communities to improve access to **mental health** and **addiction treatment** services both on and off reserve – including an evidence-based **action plan to prevent suicide**, backed by dedicated federal resources, fully implementing the New Democrat motion on suicide prevention passed by the House of Commons.

A New Democrat government will also work with communities and care providers to ensure that Indigenous-led, culturally appropriate home care and long-term care is available for **Elders**, in their home communities and languages.

We will support Indigenous **food sovereignty**, and reform the **Nutrition North** program to improve families' access to food, including country and traditional food. New Democrats will work with northerners to turn Nutrition North into a social program that benefits communities in the North directly, rather than simply subsidizing companies.

Finally, we will build a treatment centre for residents affected by long-term **mercury exposure** and compensate families affected by the inter-generational problem of mercury poisoning in Grassy Narrows.

In every community, New Democrats are committed to delivering better access to health care. It's who we are.

## Supporting Indigenous employment and economic development

For decades now, Indigenous peoples have been seeking a **new fiscal relationship** with the Crown that respects the existence of inherent title and rights. A new fiscal relationship means secure funding to support programs and services, and access to revenue streams to help close the socio-economic gap and support self-government.

Making sure that Indigenous communities thrive also means working in partnership with Indigenous peoples to expand economic opportunities and create good jobs in Indigenous communities all across the country. In the wake of the pandemic, it's essential that Indigenous communities have a seat at the table to co-develop and benefit from the government's economic recovery efforts.

We believe that the economic recovery from COVID-19 must further reconciliation and economic justice for Indigenous peoples. A New Democrat government will work with Indigenous communities to support locally-driven **economic development** and **create good jobs** through infrastructure and public service investments, and expanded access to broadband **internet and cell service** for rural and remote communities. We commit to working with **Indigenous entrepreneurs** to find solutions for accessing capital and scale up, investing in Indigenous social enterprise projects and entrepreneurship, and to ensure that the federal government prioritizes procurement from Indigenous companies where possible.

Smaller Indigenous communities left behind by the current funding model need **dedicated regional economic development support** to help expand economic opportunities in a way that reflects the community's social and cultural values.

A New Democrat government will also create a **Northern Infrastructure Fund** to fast-track investment and focus on improving much-needed infrastructure like roads and broadband internet for communities in the north.



## Honouring Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people

Respect for Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people must be at the core of a new Crown-Indigenous relationship. But for too many Indigenous women systemic discrimination and violence continues to be a reality.

After the Conservatives refused to address the tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women for almost a decade, the Liberal government finally launched a long-overdue inquiry – but then set it up with a limited mandate, and failed to adequately care for the families who courageously shared their stories. The Inquiry's finding of a genocide against Indigenous women in Canada demands action from all Canadians.

The report from the National Inquiry must not sit on a shelf. New Democrats will work in partnership with Indigenous women, the families of the missing and murdered, and communities to **implement the Inquiry's Calls for Justice** and the calls to action brought forward by communities. This includes establishing a comprehensive, plan to **address violence against Indigenous women, girls and LGBTQI2S+ People** – ensuring that all those fleeing violence have access to culturally appropriate programming, emergency shelters and transitional housing.

We believe it's wrong that Indigenous women, and their children, still do not have **equal status rights** – including the right to pass on the ability to qualify for Indian status registration. Successive Conservative and Liberal governments have failed to fix this gross inequality. New Democrats will act to ensure full gender equality for First Nations status as a matter of priority, consistent with Canadian and international court rulings.

New Democrats acknowledge that respect for Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people must be made real by ensuring equitable access and **self-determination** over land, culture, language, housing, child care, income security, employment, education, and physical, mental, sexual, and spiritual health.

## Reconciliation and justice

Everyone should be able to count on the justice system to keep them safe and treat them fairly. But today, Indigenous peoples are disproportionately over-represented in Canada's prison system, and experience discrimination from police from coast to coast to coast. Tragically, many Indigenous people have experienced violence or even been killed by police: since 2017 an Indigenous person in Canada is more than 10 times more likely to have been shot and killed by a police officer in Canada than a white person<sup>11</sup>.

This must end.

New Democrats believe government must work to **end systemic discrimination** against Indigenous peoples in the justice system. In accordance with Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action 30, 31 and 32, we will remove most mandatory minimums, increase the discretion of judges during sentencing, ensure bail programs are culturally appropriate, bolster funding for community justice programs that focus on **healing and restorative justice** rather than incarceration, and uphold the use of Gladue principles in court proceedings.

We will work with Indigenous communities to enhance community safety and develop a **First Nations justice and policing strategy**. We will make First Nations Policing an essential service with long term, sufficient and equitable funding, while taking steps to end discriminatory policing practices like carding. New Democrats also believe that Inuit should have control over policing in their own communities, and we will allow the Inuit to independently oversee policing in Nunavut. We will also work with the Inuit to develop a long-term strategy for recruiting and retaining Inuit and Inuktitut speakers to work in community safety roles.

A New Democrat government will uphold and strengthen the *Directive on Civil Litigation Involving Indigenous Peoples* that puts an end to costly and adversarial legal battles with Indigenous communities. We will also keep **residential school Survivors** at the heart of decisions around justice for their experiences, ensuring fair compensation for St. Anne's residential school Survivors, Métis Survivors, and those who survived abuse in day schools.

<sup>11</sup> CTV News. "Why are Indigenous people in Canada so much more likely to be shot by police?" June 2020. Available online at: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/why-are-indigenous-people-in-canada-so-much-more-likely-to-be-shot-and-killed-by-police-1.4989864>

## Protecting the environment together

The climate crisis is not just an environmental emergency – it also threatens traditional food sources and the very survival of many Indigenous communities. We must move past the delays and inaction of past Liberal and Conservative governments and take a fundamentally different approach to our future – one that recognize a holistic definition of sustainability.

New Democrats will put reconciliation at the core of this effort, upholding **Indigenous knowledge** and respecting inherent sovereignty. We recognize that as original peoples of this country, Indigenous peoples have intimate connections to their homelands, territories and resources and have provided stewardship since time out of memory. Indigenous peoples are best placed to protect **cultural and biological diversity** through control over their territory – and so the recognition of inherent rights, title and treaty rights will be at the heart of our approach to addressing climate change. We will support the creation and expansion of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in all areas of the country.

To make full and equal partnership the basis of Canada's efforts, New Democrats will ensure that First Nations, Inuit and the Métis leadership have a seat at **high-level decision-making** tables to help direct climate change efforts in Canada.

We will also expand the **Indigenous Guardians Program**, invest in Indigenous-led science and support the creation of Indigenous-managed protected areas – and make sure that species recovery efforts respect Indigenous rights and embrace traditional knowledge to increase biodiversity. This includes working hand-in-hand to advance the protection and restoration of wild Pacific salmon populations on the west coast.

Indigenous communities are not only stewards of their territories – they are also on the front lines dealing with the **impacts of climate change** every day. New Democrat government will work jointly with Indigenous leadership and communities to develop coordinated action plans to respond to climate change **emergencies like wildfires and floods**. This work will be informed by Indigenous traditional and ecological knowledge and legal systems, and include improving existing infrastructure, developing new infrastructure and supporting response efforts to keep people safe.

First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples need to be partners in the development of **job creation**, employment training and infrastructure investments that flow from federal efforts to address climate change, ensuring that they are implemented in ways that fit the needs and priorities of local communities.

# A new deal to build stronger, more vibrant communities

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## Building the infrastructure we need

Investing in public infrastructure creates good jobs, make our communities more livable, and help fight climate change. It's one of the most important ways that governments can make people's lives easier.

But instead of rolling out an ambitious plan to get our communities moving, like they promised in the last election, this Liberal government wasted billions of taxpayer dollars on an infrastructure bank that's completed no projects since it was set up in 2017, while paying a CEO a million-dollar salary. This privatization of public infrastructure will hit Canadians in the wallet. In fact, private investors have been clear that they plan to profit from tolls and other user fees.

New Democrats believe that Canadians should be able to count on the federal government to invest in infrastructure to make a real difference in communities across the country – not to pad the bank accounts of investment firms.

Our vision is one where communities can afford to build the infrastructure they need to thrive, from roads and bridges to community centres, long-term care, child care centres and everything in between. These investments will **create good jobs** in every part of the country; and to get there, we will partner with provinces, territories, First Nations and municipalities to deliver reliable **public infrastructure** funding that puts people – not profit – first. By using *Community Benefit Agreements*, we will guarantee that good jobs, training, apprenticeships and support for local businesses are part of every infrastructure project.

When it comes to getting around, **public transit** should be a convenient and affordable option that makes your commute easier – all while taking cars off the road, cutting emissions and reducing gridlock. New Democrats understand that getting our communities moving is critical for our economy and our quality of life – that's why we'll put in place a permanent, direct, allocation-based funding mechanism for modern public transit across Canada for the long run. We'll also step up investments now to help cities transition their bus fleets to electric, and to expand affordable rail and bus options in all parts of the country. And for municipalities that make it a priority, the federal government should work with them towards fare-free transit to ease commutes and make life more affordable.

Nothing is more important than having a place to call home. No matter who you are, you need a safe and affordable place to live and raise your family. But Canadians across the country are facing a housing crisis – and we need a government that gets back to work building new **affordable housing** to help confront it. A New Democrat government will partner with provinces and municipalities to create half a million units of affordable housing over the next ten years. This will include **social housing, community and non-market housing**, as well as rental assistance for **co-ops**. We'll also streamline the application process and immediately provide dedicated fast-start funds to help communities get the expertise and assistance they need to get projects off the ground now, not years from now. Wherever possible, we'll encourage provinces to work with **social enterprises** to make sure that the training and jobs associated with building affordable housing go to those who need opportunities the most.

## Ready for Better: New Democrats' Commitments to You

As the impacts of climate change are felt across the country, New Democrats believe that all levels of government have to step up to help communities cope with the impacts of extreme weather. That's why a New Democrat government will expand federal funding to respond to disasters, and support communities in proactively adapting their infrastructure to **withstand floods, forest fires and other extreme weather** events. We will also partner with Canadians and communities to make serious investments in making buildings more energy efficient, to help families save money and fight climate change.

In our digital age, technological infrastructure is more important than ever. That's why we're committed to making sure that every community in Canada has access to **high-speed internet**. We'll also ensure that the right investments are made to expand cell phone coverage to all parts of the country, so that Canadians stay connected – affordably – no matter where they are.



## Supporting Canadian arts and culture

Arts and culture are at the heart of who we are as Canadians. It's how we listen and understand each other better. It's how we connect across vast distances and celebrate our identities. And in such a diverse country, it's how we share our incredible stories with each other, in both official languages – and with the entire world.

But the arts and culture sectors have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. This comes on the heels of decades of cuts, a rapidly digitizing media landscape and government inaction are putting Canadian arts, culture and jobs at risk.

It's time for a different approach.

New Democrats will **protect our heritage** and support a strong, independent Canadian arts and culture industry. New Democrats will be there to support with a dedicated re-building package for the performing arts, theatre, festivals and other arts that have been most severely impacted by the pandemic.

New Democrats will also make sure that Canadian talent can thrive on both digital and traditional platforms – here at home and around the world. We think that artists should be able to **earn a decent living** from their art, and that government has an important role to play in making sure that a diversity of Canadian voices tell our stories.

Most Canadians now get their news from Facebook, and Netflix is the largest broadcaster in the country – but despite the Liberals promising to take action, these **web giants** still don't pay the same taxes or contribute to funding Canadian content in the

same way that traditional media do. Canadian film, television, and media is up against a tidal wave of well-funded American content – and the Liberals have not done what it takes to level the playing field.

That's why we will step up to make sure that Netflix, Facebook, Google and other digital media companies **play by the same rules** as Canadian broadcasters. It means that these companies need to pay corporate taxes now, support Canadian content in both official languages, and take responsibility for what appears on their platforms, just like other media outlets.

New Democrats will do what the Liberals failed to do and modernize the *Broadcasting Act* fairly in order to create a level playing field between Canadian broadcasters and foreign streaming services, to rebalance negotiating power for Canadian independent producers and the Canadian cultural sector, and to ensure Canadian programming is owned by Canadians. In addition, we will prioritize partnerships with Canadian independent producers, increase funding for Telefilm and enhance financial support for the Canada Media Fund.

We'll also **increase funding for CBC and Radio-Canada** to help reverse the damage of decades of funding cuts under both Liberal and Conservative governments. Public broadcasting has a remarkable legacy of connecting all points of our country – and it needs to have an even stronger future now more than ever to help make sure that Canadians have access to accurate, relevant information no matter where they live.

## Ready for Better: New Democrats' Commitments to You

We will make sure that arts and cultural institutions receive stable, long-term funding to grow and promote Canada's diverse cultures and histories. We will also extend support to **Canadian media** to assist them in making the digital transition.

The arts also have a vital place in reconciliation. A New Democrat government will provide financial support for **Indigenous theatre** at the National Arts Centre as part of our larger efforts to honour and support Indigenous arts and culture.

Finally, recognizing the special challenges faced by people who make a living in the arts and culture industry, we'll make life more affordable by putting in place **income tax averaging** for artists and cultural workers.





## Investing in rural communities

We need a government that listens to all of Canada's regions, and recognizes the incredible contributions that our rural, remote and Northern communities make to the prosperity and strength of our entire country. Unfortunately, for too long Liberal and Conservative governments have tried to pit one region against another – while failing to deliver the help that Canadians living in rural and remote communities need. And the Conservatives made damaging cuts to service delivery in rural Canada, forcing people to drive for hours to get the services they need.

It's time for change that makes life better in all of our regions. New Democrats have a plan to make life easier, no matter where you live – and make sure that all communities in our country have a bright future.

People in rural Canada deserve better access to services – and the future of our rural communities depends on those services being available. That's why a New Democrat government will focus on improving access to **in-person services** in Northern and rural communities. In order to make our rural and Northern **communities safer**, and to recognize the selfless work of our volunteer emergency responders, we'll also expand the Volunteer Firefighters Tax Credit and ensure that federal funding for rural and First Nations policing is made available in a fair, predictable and sustainable way.

In many rural areas, simple things like going to the bank have become complicated and difficult. Despite record profits, financial institutions are closing rural branches and cutting services in more and more communities every year. It's clear that we need to find other ways to deliver these important

financial services. Today, almost 1,200 rural communities in Canada have a post office, but no financial services. That's why a New Democrat government will work with Canada Post to develop a model of **postal banking** that will help nearly two million Canadians access more affordable, quality banking services where none are currently available.

Travel is a necessity of life in rural Canada – and it should be easier to get around without putting a dent in the family budget. But instead of improving rural transit services, the lack of funding and coordination under this Liberal government made the situation worse. Combined with Greyhound's route cancellations, too many communities have been left stranded without reliable transportation services.

New Democrats believe that every community in Canada should be able to count on reliable transit to connect them to their jobs, health care services, schools, and family members. Greyhound's service cuts have hit rural communities hard, and we need a reliable alternative to help people get where they need to go. That's why we'll work with the provinces, territories and Indigenous communities to **create an affordable public transit service** that connects rural areas, including restoring cancelled bus services, expanding into under-served areas, restarting the Ontario Northlander train, re-establishing vital regional air routes and much more to keep our communities connected.

Staying connected digitally is more essential than ever, yet too many rural communities in Canada don't have reliable cell phone or broadband service.

A New Democrat government will change that, delivering high-speed **rural broadband** to all communities in Canada without delay, and ensuring that **reliable cell phone service** is expanded to every area of Canada – while keeping rates affordable for families and businesses.

Rural Canada drives at least a third of the country's economy, but successive Liberal and Conservative governments have missed the opportunity to develop these regions to their full potential. COVID-19 has hit small communities and rural areas hard, and Canada's economic recovery plan needs to respond to that reality. A New Democrat government will invest in **regional economic development** agencies and provide economic support for rural areas to invest in job creation in areas like tourism and community development.

Many Northern, rural and remote communities are working hard to **retain families, attract workers and stop out-migration**, but they can't

do it alone. That's why New Democrats will put in place a new tax credit for graduates to work in designated rural and Northern communities, and make it easier for employers to hire and retain the workers they need.

To make all of Canada's communities sustainable for the long term, we need to change how we build them. Rural communities need fair access to federal infrastructure and transit funds, and more help to prepare for and deal with the increasingly severe impacts of climate change. New Democrats will work with provinces to put in place a new deal for **rural infrastructure** programs that provide long-term predictable funding for communities – and we'll increase the amount of help the federal government provides to communities to adapt to climate change and rebuild when disasters happen. We'll make sure that affordable housing investments go to rural communities, too – and that federal infrastructure dollars flow now to create good local jobs that stay in the community.



## Welcoming new Canadians

Immigration makes Canada stronger, welcoming new talent and energy from around the world to build our communities and boost our economy. Canada is one of the most diverse countries in the world – and we are richer and stronger for it.

Yet, under the Liberal government, too many new Canadians are waiting years to reunify with family members. Highly educated people are struggling to get work in their field of expertise – causing stress for their families as they struggle to make ends meet and to fulfil their potential. And instead of helping, too many Conservatives want to make the situation worse, with dangerous statements that seek to divide our communities.

Our immigration system should be accountable to Canadians and rooted in the values of **fairness, respect, and dignity**. We know that immigrants strengthen our country, and we will always stand against those who would use fear of our neighbours to divide us. We believe in a Canada where newcomers can rely on a fair process, and find success when they arrive – and where no one is separated from their loved ones for years because of backlogs.

That's why a New Democrat government will make sure that our immigration policies and levels meet Canada's labour force needs and recognize people's **experiences, contributions, and ties to Canada**. We will work with the provinces to address gaps in settlement services and improve foreign credentials recognition.

We believe that in Canada, **family reunification** should be a priority. But thousands of families who hoped to apply to bring a parent or grandparent are let down by the lottery system when the available spots were filled in just

minutes. New Democrats will end the unfair cap on applications to sponsor parents and grandparents, and **take on the backlogs** that are keeping families apart. Under the Liberals the backlog of immigration applications for the family members of refugees nearly doubled by 2021 – meaning that people will have to wait years to be reunited with loved ones.

We need all kinds of workers in Canada. Throughout the pandemic, we depended on workers who came here from other countries to work in agriculture, caregiving and more. New Democrats believe that if someone is good enough to come and work here, then there should be a path for them to stay permanently.

New Democrats will **protect newcomers** by taking on unscrupulous immigration consultants, ensuring that the industry is regulated by the government. And we'll treat caregivers brought to Canada with **respect and dignity**, providing them with status and allowing them to reunite with their families without delay.

As the world experiences an unprecedented refugee crisis, Canada also has a vital role to play in resettling people forced out of their homes by conflict, persecution and disasters. But under the Liberal government, the backlog of asylum seekers is set to more than double in the next few years. A New Democrat government will fix the system to get rid of the backlog, and work with Canadians to **resettle refugees** in our communities, ensuring they are given the support they need to build successful lives and new homes here in Canada.

## Working together for safer communities

Every Canadian deserves to feel secure in the knowledge that their streets, home, business and community are safe. New Democrats know that building a sense of community safety is not just about the absence of crime – It's about making sure that everyone matters, that we address the root causes of crime, and that the justice system treats everyone fairly.

When we focus on increasing social inclusion, promoting public health, ensuring food security, access to education, affordable housing and increasing youth engagement, we not only provide Canadians with important services; we also reduce the risk of crime. But when crime threatens and safety is at risk, there's much more that the federal government can do to protect Canadians and foster safer communities for the long term.

Police accountability is an important way to make our communities safer. It's past time to put in place robust and independent civilian oversight of the RCMP. We'll launch a review of the RCMP's budget and the RCMP Act in order to ensure accountability of the RCMP to the public. A New Democrat government will release all use-of-force incidents by the RCMP and launch a full review of these practices.

For too long, successive Liberal and Conservative governments have stood by and done nothing while Indigenous, Black and other racialized communities are forced to live in fear and mistrust of the police. New Democrats are committed to putting an **end to police violence**, and will implement a federal

use-of-force standard with a **zero-tolerance policy** for inappropriate use-of-force. We will overhaul federal police training to ensure that every officer receives robust and ongoing de-escalation, implicit-bias and cross-cultural training throughout their career. New Democrats will also increase investments in non-police interventions, such as mental health and addiction supports.

It's time for the federal government to tackle white supremacy, terrorism and the growing threat of hate crimes targeting communities in Canada. We will begin work immediately to ensure that all major cities have dedicated **hate crime units** within local police forces, and to convene a national working group to **counter online hate**. New Democrats will always stand up against all forms of hate, racism, including anti-Black racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, gender-based violence, homophobia, and transphobia.

Too many lives have been lost in Canadian cities to rising **gun crime**. We will work to keep assault weapons and illegal handguns off our streets, and to tackle gun smuggling and organized crime.

To help protect our communities against gangs, New Democrats will make sure that communities have access to funding for **anti-gang projects** that help deter at-risk youth from joining gangs. We'll address radicalization by focusing on preventing youth from falling prey to **violent extremism**, including through support for community-led initiatives.

Our vision of public safety is one that is informed by the need for more restorative justice. **Victims** should have access to the services and supports they need, such as counselling, referrals, police and court-related services, and a voice in decisions that may impact their safety.

New Democrats will deal with threats to our **national security**, including foreign interference and espionage, terrorism and cybercrime, by working with our international allies, enhancing real-time oversight of security services, and fully respecting the privacy and Charter rights of all Canadians. We will also strengthen protection for Canadians who are victims of foreign interference and threats.



# The courage to do what's right

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## Advancing gender equity

We know that our families, our communities and our country are stronger when women thrive. In Canada today it's still all too common for women to experience discrimination and gender-based violence, particularly if they are members of a marginalized community. And when it comes to the COVID-19 pandemic, we know that women in Canada are bearing the brunt of an unprecedented wave of job losses while shouldering huge burdens of unpaid care.

Now more than ever, we need a feminist government. But the Liberals have failed to back up their words with strong action to address systemic discrimination against women, and the Conservatives slashed funding for women's equality while they were in power, setting us back decades.

Gender equity is a fundamental value for New Democrats, and we're committed to building a Canada where no one is left behind. Yet Canadian women make 32% less than men, and the gap is even wider for racialized women, Indigenous women, immigrant women and women with a disability. 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.

Our vision of Canada is one where women's organizations have stable core funding so that women can access the support and advocacy they need, when they need it. We will tackle femicide and we'll deliver a National Action Plan to **end gender-based violence**, backed by funding to ensure that shelter services and other programs are available in all regions of the country, especially areas that have traditionally been under-served. New Democrats will update the Canada Labour Code to include ten days of paid leave for those dealing with family and domestic violence, improve police training on sexual assault, and require universities to develop plans to end sexual violence on campus. And we'll **address violence against Indigenous women**, girls and LGBTQI2S+ people by working with Indigenous peoples to implement all the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry.



New Democrats believe that women shouldn't have to choose between having a family and having a career – but the fact is that nearly 300,000 more women in Canada could join the workforce if they had access to the child care they need<sup>12</sup>. It's time for quality, affordable not-for-profit **child care** that's available to all Canadian families, no matter where they live. We'll also make parental leave more flexible, make it easier to qualify for Employment Insurance, and support more options for women to build careers in the trades and other non-traditional fields like agriculture, innovation, research and STEM.

New Democrats believe in respecting peoples' rights to make decisions about their own bodies and their own lives. Yet many individuals seeking abortion services in Canada can't access them – only 1 hospital in 6 offers abortion, and some provinces refuse to cover the cost of surgical abortion outside hospitals. Lack of access is even worse for people in rural areas and the North.

Everyone deserves **safe, accessible abortion** and reproductive healthcare services – no matter where they live or how much money they make. It's not enough for elected officials to say that they won't reopen the abortion debate – we need leaders to take action to improve access to services. New Democrats will enforce the *Canada Health Act* to make sure that the provinces make medical and surgical abortion available in all parts of the country, without barriers. We will ensure that a full range of prescription **contraceptive and reproductive health care** options are easily accessible at no cost through Medicare and our national pharmacare program, and work with the provinces, territories and Indigenous governments to end period poverty.

And finally, New Democrats will tackle obstacles to **women's political participation** by reforming the electoral system and introducing legislation to encourage political parties to run more women candidates.



<sup>12</sup> Poloz, Stephen. "Today's Labour Market and the Future of Work," Speech – Queen's University, March 13, 2018, available online at: <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/multimedia/smith-school-business-queens-university-speech-webcasts-13-march-2018/>



## Upholding LGBTQI2S+ rights

Although Canada has made important strides in upholding LGBTQI2S+ rights, there is more work to be done to improve the lives of LGBTQI2S+ Canadians and make Canada a country where everyone can live free from hate and bias.

One of the most significant setbacks of recent years is the Liberals' decision to maintain the discriminatory **ban on blood donation** by men who have sex with anyone assigned male at birth. We need behaviour-based screening rather than policies that discriminate against an entire sexual orientation. A New Democrat government will immediately end the discriminatory blood ban and put in place policies based in public health evidence to secure the blood supply.

When it comes to sexual orientation and gender expression, damaging practices such as so-called "conversion therapy" have no place in Canada. Unlike the Liberals, who stalled for six years on this issue, we will immediately legislate a **ban on conversion therapy** in Canada, and work with provinces and territories to support eliminating this practice in all parts of the country.

Access to **gender confirming** procedures and medication can be life-saving for some transgender people. New Democrats will work with the provinces to make sure that there is equal access to gender confirming surgery across the country, and that these procedures and medications are covered by public health plans. We will also review and eliminate systemic barriers related to gender in the delivery of federal public services, and provide funding to support the creation and expansion of shelters for trans youth.

New Democrats believe that Canada has a unique and important role to play in helping LGBTQI2S+ refugees around the world. We will establish a clear and permanent path for resettlement of **LGBTQI2S+ refugees** in Canada to replace the current piece-meal approach that only deals with emergency cases as they arise.

We can also do more to **end employment discrimination** faced by members of the LGBTQI2S+ community. A New Democrat government will add sexual orientation, gender identity and expression to the *Employment Equity Act*, in order to address the disadvantages experienced by the LGBTQI2S+ communities – and particularly transgender people – in finding work.



## Confronting racism

Today, Indigenous and racialized people in Canada are facing a frightening evolution of hate. In communities across the country, racist discrimination and violence remain a reality, while extremist views are increasingly inescapable on the internet.

As New Democrats, we recognize the inherent dignity of all people and the fact that racism hurts deeply, and diminishes the humanity of marginalized people. The impacts of hateful speech are real: Canada has seen a 200% increase in active hate groups in the last 5 years, with an increasing number of violent incidents targeting Muslim, Jewish and Black Canadians. Indigenous peoples face discrimination and racism in their daily lives, too often with tragic consequences. More subtle discrimination exacts a toll, too. In Canada today, racialized people are more likely to face systemic barriers to employment<sup>13</sup>, while immigrants and racialized communities are the targets of divisive rhetoric that pits neighbours against each other.

New Democrats believe that we cannot stand by and allow racism to flourish in our communities, putting lives at risk. It's time to choose: we must turn the talk of diversity into action to **confront systemic racism**, and put an end to it for good. We will work together to tackle hate, white supremacy and the systemic discrimination that's hurting people across the country.

New Democrats will **take on white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups** with a national action plan to dismantle far-right extremist organizations, including those that promote white supremacy. We'll establish national standards for identifying and recording all hate incidents and their dispensation in the justice system and work in collaboration with non-profits to increase the reporting of hate crimes.

Anti-Semitism, anti-Black racism, Islamophobia and other forms of hate are too often allowed to flourish on the internet. A New Democrat government will convene a national working group to **counter online hate** and protect public safety, and make sure that social media platforms are legally responsible for the removal of hateful and extremist content before it can do harm.

Racialized communities paid a higher price in the pandemic. Jobs that relied on racialized people couldn't be done from home, often didn't come with sick leave and resulted in more exposure to COVID-19. Vaccines were slow to get to communities where racialized people live and lack of access to health care resulted in higher rates of infection and worse outcomes. Crowded housing conditions made it difficult to isolate people who were infected, leading to a wider spread of COVID-19. It's time to take on the systemic racism and inequalities that led to these tragic outcomes.

<sup>13</sup>Report on the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage. "Taking Action Against Systemic Racism and Religious Discrimination Including Islamophobia," House of Commons, February 2018. Available online at: <http://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/CHPC/Reports/RP9315686/chpcrp10/chpcrp10-e.pdf>

The federal government must take a leadership role in understanding how policies impact racialized communities and contribute to systemic racism. A New Democrat government will prioritize the collection of **race-based data** on health, employment, policing and more with the goal of improving outcomes for racialized communities. We will work with the provinces to improve race-based data collection, and develop reporting and accountability mechanisms alongside racialized and Indigenous communities.

Carding, or “street checks”, do not respect Charter rights. This practice is an example of systemic racism in action. . A New Democrat government will move immediately to **ban carding** by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and work with local partners across Canada to end this practice in all jurisdictions across the country. This will include a review of the information obtained through carding that has been retained by police, and an examination of how that information has been shared between the RCMP and other police forces and government agencies.

To address the **chronic over-representation** of Indigenous peoples and Black Canadians in the federal prison population, we will put in place a national task force to develop a roadmap to end this systemic injustice. Working alongside Indigenous communities, this approach will include addressing the discriminatory impact of mandatory minimums, providing greater

judicial discretion in sentencing, developing culturally appropriate bail programs, increasing restorative and community justice programs and better integrating Gladue principles in court proceedings. We will also develop and implement an *African Canadian Justice Strategy*<sup>14</sup>, working with Black Canadians with experience and expertise on criminal justice issues.

**Employment discrimination** on the basis of race continues to be an unacceptable problem in Canada, one that the federal government has failed to take on. Today, a university-educated Canadian-born member of a racialized community earns, on average, only 87.4 cents for every dollar earned by their white peers<sup>15</sup>, a gap that is even more pronounced for racialized women.

A New Democrat government will conduct a comprehensive review of the existing employment equity regime to help close the **racialized wage gap**. New Democrats will strengthen labour laws and ensure diverse and equitable hiring within the federal public service, and in federally-regulated industries. Jobs and training for under-represented groups will be a core part of federal infrastructure plans. Lastly, we will work with the provinces and territories to develop and enforce effective employment equity legislation, and to collect and analyze data on the racialization of poverty – because everyone should be able to build a good life with equal opportunity.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations Office of the Human Rights Commissioner. “Canada: UN expert panel warns of systemic anti-Black racism in the criminal justice system,” 2016. Available online at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20736&LangID=E>

<sup>15</sup> Conference Board of Canada, “Racial Wage Gap.” April 2017. Available online at: <https://www.conferenceboard.ca/hcp/provincial/society/racial-gap.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

## Promoting official languages

Canadians are proud of our two official languages, and they form an important part of our identity and our communities all across the country. But instead of making the changes needed to strengthen and promote language rights, over the last four years the Liberal government neglected and even reduced support in some areas.

It's time for a different approach, one that makes life easier and ensures a bright future for minority language communities everywhere. A New Democrat government will enhance the Action Plan for Official Languages to improve **access to services** in the language of choice, including working with the provinces and territories to improve minority language education, and attract more French-speaking immigrants to communities all across the country.

We'll also modernize the *Official Languages Act* to strengthen oversight and accountability, expand the scope of language rights and ensure that minority language communities are consulted on decisions that impact them. New Democrats will make sure that Canadians can access justice in their language of choice, and that judges on the Supreme Court are **bilingual**. We will also adopt the principle of asymmetry, which recognizes that as a minority official language, French requires particular protection and promotion.

These efforts will happen alongside our commitment to the promotion and revitalization of **Indigenous languages** – recognizing that honouring Canada's linguistic heritage must include reconciliation.

## Enhancing our justice system

Over a decade in government, the Conservatives made the wrong choices in criminal law that deepened inequality, led to the heavily clogged court system that we have today, and failed to make our communities any safer.

The Liberals came to power promising to make the criminal justice system fairer and more efficient. Instead, they've interfered in the justice process for big corporations facing criminal charges, and passed legislation that may actually lead to more wrongful convictions and leave many marginalized people without legal aid.

The result is a justice system that is overburdened, slow and doesn't treat everyone fairly. The status quo isn't serving Canadians, and it's time to change it to make the justice system fairer and better able to protect Canadians.

A New Democrat government will **restore the independence of the judiciary** by reducing reliance on mandatory minimums and allowing trial judges to have greater discretion in sentencing. As we work towards **reconciliation**, we will also make sure that Gladue principles are consistently applied in court proceedings, and uphold the importance of community-based and restorative justice approaches.

We will also proactively expunge criminal records for Canadians convicted of minor **cannabis possession**. With cannabis now legal in Canada, too many people are still burdened with criminal records for simple possession – records that mean real hardships that affect their employment opportunities and their ability to travel. These records for minor cannabis possession will be completely erased, allowing people to get on with building their lives.

Finally, to make sure that the most vulnerable have access to the legal support they need, New Democrats will increase federal funding for **legal aid** programs across the country.

## A government that works for you and not insiders

New Democrats know who we work for. While the other parties are busy working to protect big polluters, big corporations, and the richest few, New Democrats are working for you every day. We stand up for families, workers and communities, in every corner of this country. And we are driven to form a government that works for you – and puts people at the heart of every decision we make.

Sadly, many Canadians have a hard time believing government can be ethical and accountable to voters. And that's no wonder, given the decade of cynicism under the Conservatives, topped only by the eight ethics investigations launched under the Liberals and the fact that Justin Trudeau was personally found guilty of breaking ethics laws.

It doesn't have to be this way. We can clean up politics and restore people's trust in government. Ethical and transparent government is about more than talking points – it's about making sure that Canadians can have faith that their government is acting in their interests, not in the interest of rich, well-connected insiders. It's about making sure that the system works for the many, not the few. And that who you are or how you vote makes no difference when it comes to the services you get. Ethical government is essential for a healthy democracy, and when people lose that trust, we all suffer. It undermines our democracy.

That's why a New Democrat government will take immediate steps to boost accountability, end insider benefits and **take the influence of big money out of government** for good.

Canadians understand that our **conflict of interest** regime needs to be strong, comprehensive and impose real penalties when politicians break the rules. Instead, under the Liberals we've seen one violation after another – from ministers giving favours and awarding government contracts to their friends, to a Prime Minister's vacation on a billionaires' private island – with barely a slap on the wrist to show for it.

New Democrats will bring in tougher penalties in the *Conflict of Interest Act* to ensure that the abuse of public trust is treated seriously, and to **fully ban cash-for-access** events we will prohibit government officials from accepting donations from anyone whose private interest could be benefited by their decisions.

The rule of law also has to be free from political interference. Unfortunately, the last six years have made it clear that for this Liberal government, there is one set of rules for the well-connected – and another set of rules for the rest of us.

That's why New Democrats will formally prohibit corporations facing criminal charges from lobbying elected officials. Prosecutions of corporate crime must be thorough and completely **independent of political interference**.

Around the world people are rejecting institutions that don't work for regular people. Yet here in Canada, Liberal and Conservative governments have failed to fix an undemocratic, unaccountable Senate,

## Ready for Better: New Democrats' Commitments to You

We'll work with the provinces towards **abolishing the Senate**. In the meantime, a New Democrat government will insist that the Senate change its rules so unelected Senators can't hold up legislation for months when it has already been adopted by the elected Members of Parliament, who have been sent by voters to Ottawa.

We'll also introduce an ethical, social and environmental screen on government procurement, so that Canadians can be confident that their tax dollars are not going to pay for bribes in foreign countries, or pollution that we'll all have to pay to clean up later. Finally, we will empower the Auditor General to review taxpayer-funded government advertising to make sure that it is non-partisan.





## Making every vote count – for real

The right to vote is one of our most important and fundamental democratic rights. And we believe that every vote should count.

While generations of Canadians have built strong democratic institutions, our out-dated first-past-the-post voting system isn't working as well as it should. Too often, majority governments are elected with only a minority of support. And that can feed disillusionment and cynicism for everyone who feels like their voice is not being heard.

Justin Trudeau promised to 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 just one reason that millions of Canadians who supported Trudeau are deeply disappointed with his failure to deliver.

It's time to make our voting system fairer, and actually deliver democratic reform to make sure that **everyone's vote counts**. New Democrats are committed to cutting through the cynicism about politics and getting the job done.

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 the opportunity to experience the new voting system and compare it to the old one, we will hold a referendum to confirm the choice.

Young people are increasingly engaged in the world, and many are worried about facing a future with rising inequality and catastrophic climate change. It's no surprise: often they can see themselves paying the biggest price for the decisions governments are making today. Young people can and should have a say in their future. Simply put, if you are old enough to work and pay taxes, you are old enough to have a say in who forms the government. It's time to **lower the voting age to 16**.

Recognizing the threat posed by outside interference in Canadian elections, we believe that more needs to be done to **stop the spread of disinformation and “fake news”** online. Social media platforms must be held to their responsibility to flag and remove fraudulent accounts, and to respond promptly to harassment, threats, and hate speech. No one but the people of Canada should decide – or influence – the outcome of Canadian elections.

Finally, New Democrats will work to strengthen **privacy protections** for Canadians by updating privacy legislation to include a digital bill of privacy rights, and boosting the powers of the Privacy Commissioner to make and enforce orders and levy fines and penalties.



## A better role in the world

Canadians are proud of our role in the world, and they want a government that will make the right choices to help people - but under Conservative and Liberal governments, decades of cynical politicking and cuts have meant that Canada is often on the wrong side of important global issues.

It's time for a different approach.

New Democrats believe that Canadian interests are best served by a strong and principled foreign policy based on human rights, multilateralism and the best interests of global peace and security.

A New Democrat government will stand up to China with a strong and coherent strategy to defend Canadian interests at home and abroad. We will work with our allies to lead a robust and coordinated international response to China's disregard of the rule of law. New Democrats will call out human rights abuses by China, stand with Hong Kong pro-democracy asylum seekers, and provide coordinated support for those facing threats by Chinese entities here in Canada.

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<sup>16</sup>, even as we face unprecedented global challenges.

We will make different choices. A New Democrat government is committed to boosting Canada's **international development assistance**, with the goal of contributing 0.7 percent of our Gross National Income to international aid.

Canada must also do 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.

To improve **global health** and help end the COVID-19 pandemic everywhere, Canada should fully and generously support global efforts to make vaccines freely available to the world's most vulnerable. This includes supporting the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Waiver (TRIPS), that would waive intellectual property rights for COVID vaccines and ensure technology transfer, so that low-income countries can start making vaccines locally and save lives.

New Democrats also believe that we have an important role to play in ensuring that long-term strategies are in place to strengthen health systems in developing countries. Canada should also contribute more to *The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria* to end these epidemics and support health care systems in developing countries.

<sup>16</sup>Brown, Stephen. "Budget 2019: Peanuts for International Development," Centre for International Policy Studies. March 22, 2019. Available online at: <https://www.cips-cepi.ca/2019/03/22/budget-2019-peanuts-for-international-development/>

Upholding the rights of **women and girls** will always be central to New Democrat foreign policy, and we will step up efforts to promote gender equality abroad with a strong international agenda to promote rights and security and access to education for women and girls, including ensuring that women have a seat at the peace table. We'll also hold Canadian companies to a high standard of **corporate social responsibility** at home and abroad – and ensure they meet it.

Under a New Democrat government, Canada will be a force for peace. We will support nuclear disarmament, recommit to **peacekeeping**, and make sure that Canadian-made weapons are not fuelling conflict and human rights abuses abroad.

Recognizing that both Palestinians and Israelis have the right to live in safety and security, we will work towards a just and lasting two-state solution between Israel and Palestine that respects human rights and upholds international law. Canada must play an active and constructive role in advancing peace, beginning by suspending arms sales to Israel until the end of the illegal occupation.

In addition, as we work hard here at home to confront the **climate crisis**, Canada must also take a global leadership role in helping low-income countries deal with the impacts of climate change. This should include climate financing to help protect the people who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as well as living up to new, robust emissions reductions targets here at home. Never again do we want Canadian leaders to stand in the way of international action on climate change.

## Defence at home and abroad

Canada's military is responsible for three incredibly important roles – defending Canada, protecting Canadians at home, and contributing to a more stable, peaceful world through operations abroad. During the pandemic, members of the military took on the critical role of providing care to our seniors in long term care, exposing the terrible conditions that led to thousands of COVID-19 deaths. The Canadian Forces make our country proud because of the dedication of thousands of service members and veterans. And Canada's military families make incredible sacrifices to enable their loved ones to serve our country. We thank and honour them for their continuing dedication, service, and sacrifice.

Unfortunately, after decades of Liberal and Conservative cuts and mismanagement, our military has been left with outdated equipment, inadequate support and an unclear strategic mandate.

We need to do better for Canadians in uniform and for the defense of our country. A New Democrat government will make sure that our troops have the **equipment, training, and support** they need to do the difficult and dangerous work we ask them to undertake. We will ensure that funding supports our national defence and international commitments, with a renewed priority of advancing multilateral **peacekeeping** initiatives around the world.

Here at home, New Democrats are committed to bringing our search and rescue response times up to international standards, and ensuring that our capabilities are sufficient to meet the needs of the North.

In contracting for new military equipment, including ships and fighter jets, New Democrats will ensure maximum industrial benefits and jobs. This will help ensure the survival of healthy shipbuilding and aerospace industries all across Canada. And when it comes to operations here at home, New Democrats **oppose the privatization** of services on Canadian Forces bases across the country.

Our vision is a military where Canadian Armed Forces members can work safely, get the support they need when they need it, and count on **fair policies** to govern their work.

A New Democrat government will make **mental health** support for members and their families a priority. No member or veteran of the Canadian Forces should ever feel that they are all alone in dealing with the impact of their experiences or in transitioning to civilian life. They – and their families – need to know that their country and their government has their back, during their service and for the rest of their lives.

We are also committed to putting an end to **sexual harassment and assault** in the military. The Liberals have talked about the issue for six years but have failed to make needed changes, while survivors of sexual misconduct continue to suffer from a culture of silence and impunity that extends right to the top of the chain of command. We will immediately implement the recommendations of the Deschamps Report, including establishing independent oversight and accountability for sexual harassment and assault in the military.

New Democrats will also ensure that the recruitment and retention efforts of the Canadian Armed Forces reflects the diversity of Canada. Finally, we will **reform the universality of service principle** to make sure that ill and injured Canadian Armed Forces members are not unfairly pushed out of service.



# Our fiscal approach

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As Canada emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, there's no question that recovery is going to be challenging. These challenges will come not only from the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic – but also from the choices made by successive Liberal and Conservative governments to put the wealthiest first.

New Democrats believe that Canadians have scarified enough. Ordinary people shouldn't have to pay for the recovery.

But for too long, Canadians have been told to settle for less as governments cut, under-funded and failed to provide the basic services and supports that families need – from universal pharmacare to affordable transit. Rather than invest in people, Liberal and Conservative governments have chosen to spend public dollars enriching their friends in rich corporations.

As a result, good jobs, a clean environment, quality health care, and a dignified retirement are further away than ever for many Canadians.

As New Democrats, we are proud to have a fiscal plan that will jump-start rebuilding, while making life easier for ordinary people and building a brighter future for our children. Jagmeet and the New Democrat team are ready to make the richest pay their fair share towards the recovery, while delivering the help that people need now.

We know that Canadians pull together and help each other during tough times – it's who we are. Now it's time for the government to do the same – and our fiscal choice reflect these priorities.



## Kick-starting the economic recovery and delivering the help people need now

To build back from COVID-19, it's essential to make investments that pay off where it counts – in communities and families. Our plan will make historic investments to jump-start economic growth, get people back to work, and make life better for everyone. By making bold investments in priorities like community infrastructure and transit, affordable housing and energy efficient retrofits, pharmacare, long term care and training, we will create more than a million new jobs in a first mandate alone.

Strengthening public services, creating good jobs in every community, and delivering help to those who need it most are core to our recovery plan. These investments are good for Canadians, and they are also good for business – expanding our labour force and helping ensure that people can reach their full potential will cut costs for business and attract investment.

These measures are essential to return to strong growth. In addition, our progressive revenue and spending measures will reduce inequality and help make life more affordable for ordinary people.

In all cases, we will manage debt and deficits responsibly, borrowing when required to rebuild and defend the services that Canadians and their families rely on, and moving to balance when it is prudent to do so.

Canada's long-run finances will be fiscally sustainable according to the PBO's fiscal sustainability measures. Further, by assisting the provinces in areas from pharmacare to health care and child care, we will help to relieve the fiscal sustainability squeeze impacting the vast majority of Canadian provinces.



## Raising revenues through new, fair and progressive sources

Our approach to raising revenues will put people first, tackle the inequality crisis facing our country, strengthen the integrity of our tax system, and ensure that large, profitable corporations and the very richest pay a little bit more.

The no-strings-attached tax cuts that Liberal and Conservative governments have handed out to profitable corporations have not translated into more business investment or good jobs for Canadians. Despite that, the Liberal government kept Conservative corporate tax cuts in place, and added billions in new corporate giveaways on top of them – including allowing companies to use pandemic aid to pad shareholder profits and CEO bonuses.

While profitable corporations benefit from these generous breaks, Canadian families are falling behind. New Democrats believe that it's time to rebalance our priorities. We will roll corporate tax cuts back to their 2010 levels, or 18%, while maintaining the small business tax rate at its current level.

For the highest income individuals in Canada (those making over \$210,000), we will increase the top marginal tax rate by two points to 35 percent. Those at the very top – super-rich multi-millionaires with over \$10 million in wealth – will be asked to pay more towards our shared services with a 1% wealth tax.

The revenue raised by these measures will kick-start Canada's economic recovery and build a more secure future for everyday families.

To make our tax system fairer and more progressive, a New Democrat government will also increase the amount of investment profits subject to capital gains taxation to 75%, the rate that was in place in 2000. This will generate significant revenue every year to fund the services Canadians need while ensuring greater equality for our tax system, as 88 per cent of this billion-dollar benefit currently goes to the richest 1% of Canadians<sup>17</sup>.

A New Democrat government will also strengthen enforcement to stop the tax evaders and others who have benefited from offshore tax havens for too long. This will include forcing corporations to prove the economic substance of their offshore transactions, closing tax loopholes like the CEO stock option deduction, and reviewing and reprofiling tax expenditures that don't benefit everyday Canadians.

Finally, to help tackle the housing speculation that is making home ownership unaffordable for Canadians, we will put in place a 20% foreign buyers tax on purchases of residential property by foreign corporations or people who are not citizens or permanent residents.

For decades, governments in Ottawa have been talking about helping people but making fiscal choices that benefit the wealthiest most.

<sup>17</sup> Murphy, Brian et al. "Top-End Progressivity and Federal Tax Preferences in Canada: Estimates from Personal Income Tax Data," Canadian tax journal (2015) 63:3, 661 – 88.



New Democrats are ready to fight for the rest of us instead. Our plan will make life more affordable, improve health care and other services people count on and deliver good jobs, a clean economy and a brighter future for our kids.

**That's our commitment to you.**