



**September 2021**  
**News from National – Election Edition**  
**Patricia Leson, President**

As you know, the Canadian federal election will take place on Monday, September 20, 2021, to elect members of the House of Commons to form the 44<sup>th</sup> Canadian Parliament. This election gives us the opportunity to ensure the parties' platforms are focused on the issues affecting women, children, and families for whom the NCWC has been advocating for over 128 years.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to seriously affect not only our physical health, but also our social and economic health. The past months exposed the raw truth of the inequalities of our social safety nets, and many of them were exacerbated during the restrictions that were so necessary for us to defeat the virus and protect our health. Now, we must elect members who have the vision, the platform, and the determination to implement the social and economic transformation that will ensure an equitable future distribution of resources.

Your Vice Presidents and Convenors have compiled a listing of some of the important issues that we feel are pertinent to discuss with your family and friends. Please review them, and if you have any comments and/or questions, please contact them personally. Many of the VPs included information from the Macleans' listing of the parties' platforms, which are updated regularly. They may be accessed at <https://www.macleans.ca/rankings/2021-federal-election-platform-guide/>.

The NCWC and our federates have always advocated for equality of opportunity. One of our Federates, the CFUW, has composed a document titled "Federal Election Toolkit". A portion of it is also attached for your perusal. It is very well done, and we thank them for sharing it with us!

History has shown that the aftermath of crises such as world wars, the Great Depression, and pandemics have led to positive changes and improvements in the status of women, children, families, and communities. Now, more than ever, we need major innovative investments in national programs in health care, education, the environment, seniors, housing, and income support programs.

Many years ago, women won an important victory for equality when we were enfranchised. The voting booth is one place where everyone is equal regardless of gender, race, religion, or socio-economic status. We, as women, must make our voices heard; we have the right and the responsibility to elect persons who echo our collective commitment to the achievement of a fair, equitable, and just Canadian society.

Canada is at a crossroads; there is no more important time than this.

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## **Climate Change and Environment**

**- Mary Potter, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Environment**

### **1. Tax Incentives for Renewable Forms of Energy**

Canada is the fastest warming country on the planet, and this year's above average temperatures, increase in violent storms, and drought have brought this to the forefront of election concerns. Since 1996, the NCWC has urged the federal government to give increased tax incentives for the development of renewable forms of energy and continue broadening the range of renewable forms of energy that receive a tax incentive while phasing out incentives for environmentally non-sustainable energy sources. Here's where the parties stand:

- **Liberals:**
  - Promote zero-emission vehicles by providing \$5,000 toward the purchase of such a car for more than 500,000 Canadians; require more than half of passenger vehicles sold be zero emission by 2030 and 100 per cent by 2035; build 50,000 more zero-emission vehicle chargers.
  - Reduce by 50 per cent the corporate and small business income tax rates for firms that manufacture zero-emission technologies.
  - Change the Climate Action Incentive payment to a quarterly payment
  - Help homeowners undertake energy efficiency upgrades through interest-free loans of up to \$40,000, through giving \$4.4 billion over five years to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.
  - Aid large-scale clean energy technology projects with \$1 billion over five years.
- **Conservatives:**
  - Introduce a tax credit to rapidly accelerate the deployment of carbon-capture, utilization and storage technology in the energy sector and other industries, with early mover bonus for facilities with tech in place by 2030.
  - Provide tax relief to the first five facilities that use new technology that provides meaningful emissions reductions but is costly.
  - Develop a National Clean Energy Strategy.
- **NDP:**
  - Offer low-interest loans to households making energy-efficient improvements, with targeted supports for low-income households and renters.
  - Establish a Canadian Climate Bank to boost investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency and low-carbon technology, support provinces interested in inter-connecting their power grids and implementing smart grid technology and support made-in-Canada manufacturing of renewable energy components and technology to scale up Canada's clean energy industry.
- **Green Party:**
  - Invest in comprehensive retraining and apprenticeship programs to repurpose skills of industrial trades workers for jobs in the renewable energy sector.

## 2. Projections in the Production of Greenhouse Gases

In 1998 the NCWC urged the federal government to instruct the National Energy Board to formulate projections incorporating possible changes/reductions in consumption of, and demand for, energy sources producing greenhouse gasses. Here's where the parties stand:

- Liberals:
  - Create a “census of the environment” to monitor trends, with \$25.6 million over five years to Statistics Canada.
  - Have Crown corporations with at least \$1 billion in assets report their climate-related financial risks as part of their corporate reporting as of 2022, with smaller organizations having until 2024.
- Conservatives:
  - Study the imposition of a carbon border tariff which would reflect the amount of carbon emissions attributed to goods imported into Canada.
  - Develop a National Clean Energy Strategy.
  - Devise a national climate adaptation strategy and a natural infrastructure plan.
  - Change the impact assessment process for mining processes so that communities can't cause “unnecessarily delays in providing approvals.”
- NDP:
  - Create and fund a Climate Accountability Office to independently oversee federal climate progress, engage with the public and make recommendations on achieving targets.
- Green Party:
  - Nothing.

## 3. Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 1999 and 2019 the NCWC urged the federal government to undertake programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and effectively address the climate change challenge. Here's where the parties stand:

- Liberals:
  - Implement a Low-Carbon Fuel Procurement Program for the federal government, with \$227.9 million over eight years.
  - Build a net-zero electricity grid by 2035.
  - Phase out thermal coal exports by 2030.
  - Invest \$5 billion over seven years in the Net Zero Accelerator to help companies reduce emissions.
  - Aid clean energy technology projects.
- Conservatives:
  - Introduce a zero-emission vehicle mandate based on British Columbia's, requiring 30% of light duty vehicles sold to be zero emissions by 2030.
  - Introduce a Renewable Natural Gas Mandate, based on British Columbia's policy, requiring 15 per cent of downstream consumption to be renewable by 2030.

- Finalize and improve Clean Fuel Regulations, with a low carbon fuel standard based on B.C.'s policy to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in carbon intensity for transport fuels.
- Invest an additional \$3 billion by 2030 in natural climate solutions focused on management of forest, crop and grazing lands and restoration of grasslands, wetlands and forests.
- Develop a Clean Buildings Plan, including a regulatory and financial framework that will facilitate Energy Savings Performance Contracting, with a bonus for retrofits completed by 2030.
- NDP:
  - Set a target of reducing carbon emissions to 50 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, getting there by eliminating fossil fuel subsidies, enacting carbon budgets on a national and sectoral basis and redrawing the mandate of the Bank of Canada, the Export Development Canada Act and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board Act to align them with a net-zero target.
  - Retrofit all buildings in Canada by 2050, beginning with all buildings built before 2020 in the next 20 years, along with requiring large-scale building retrofits in all sectors.
- Green Party:
  - Target 60 per cent reduction in GHG emission by 2030, with clear timelines.

#### 4. Biodiversity

In 1998 NCWC urged the Government to ensure biodiversity by enacting strong and enforceable Federal Endangered Species Legislation, provide the necessary funding to enable Environment Canada to inspect and enforce an Endangered Species Act, and develop and actively pursue a programme of constant surveillance of bio-systems in areas of natural resource exploitation. Here's where the parties stand:

- Liberals:
  - Protect old growth forests in British Columbia by reaching an agreement with the province to expand those areas and through a \$50 million B.C. Old Growth Nature Fund.
  - Establish a Natural Infrastructure Fund for natural spaces and crossings to support biodiversity, such as Toronto's ravines, with \$200 million over three years.
  - Enhance wildlife preparedness in national parks with \$100.6 million over five years, plus another \$28.7 million to map areas in northern Canada at risk of wildfires.
  - Stabilize and conserve pacific salmon and create a Pacific salmon secretariat and restoration centre of expertise with \$647.1 million over five years.
- Conservatives:
  - Invest an additional \$3 billion by 2030 in natural climate solutions focused on management of forest, crop and grazing lands and restoration of grasslands, wetlands and forests.
  - Reach a target of conserving 17 per cent of Canada's land and water with a goal to work towards 25 per cent.

- Restore funding to the National Wetland Conservation Fund; the Recreational Fisheries Partnership Program; and the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund.
- NDP:
  - Launch a 10-year nature plan to reverse species loss and curb the import and domestic trade of wild animals.
  - Protect 30 per cent of the country's land, freshwater and oceans by 2030.
  - Create a Civilian Climate Corps with jobs for young people performing conservation work such as restoring wetlands and planting billions of trees.
- Green Party:
  - Nothing

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## **ECONOMIC ISSUES**

- **Karen Monnon Dempsey, VP Economics and Employment**

### ***Basic Income Guarantee:***

- A priority is a liveable income for all, and the way to do this is to implement a basic income guarantee (BIG).
- A BIG would have mitigated the fallout from this pandemic and negated the need for temporary financial assistance.
- A BIG would help to insulate us from any future economic disaster.
- A basic income would address income inequality and decrease poverty.

In 2016 NCWC implemented policy on a Basic Income Guarantee, for which we have vigorously advocated these past five years and for which this pandemic has acutely illustrated need. The International Monetary Fund has stated that a universal basic income could reduce income inequality and protect workers affected by globalization and technological change. (**Scott Sentens, Vocal Swamp, November 14/19**).

The precariously employed run the gamut from low-income store clerks and fast-food workers to variable income university lecturers and contract workers. Colleges/universities often hire lecturers on a course-by-course, semester-by-semester basis as a cost-saving measure. Industries hire consultants for particular jobs and while they may command a good salary, it is still a precarious existence, with that salary needed to stretch between contracts. There is no job security, no pension when you retire, no sick leave; again, all the benefits accrue to the employer.

Employment and Social Development Canada has posted on their website a "Backgrounder: Gig workers and digital platform workers." They acknowledge that a growing share of this country's workforce are 'gig workers,' including consultants and other freelancers, such as professional writers. They also state that much of this growth is a result of new technologies, people who find work through online platforms and crowdsourcing marketplaces, such as Uber,

Lyft, Upwork, Guru, etc. Drawbacks are that most of them are not classed as employees; therefore, they do not have benefits such as the right to unionize, health and safety protections, sick leave, minimum wage, employment insurance, etc.

*“The parliamentary budget officer says a basic income program similar to one previously studied in Ontario could cut poverty rates nationally by almost half in 2022. The reductions are not even across provinces, but budget officer Yves Giroux estimates that poverty rates could fall as much as 61.9 per cent in Manitoba or as little as 13.5 per cent in Newfoundland and Labrador if the federal government instituted the program. At its core a basic or guaranteed income provides a no-strings-attached government benefit to citizens to provide each with a minimum amount of earnings. Four years ago, Ontario began studying the effects of providing people with enough money to be about three-quarters of the way to the poverty line, and rolling back payments for every dollar of earnings. Giroux’s report today says a federal program modelled on that experiment would see workers nationally reduce their hours worked by 1.3 per cent. The budget officer’s report says the overall cost of a basic-income program would be an estimated \$85 billion if implemented this fiscal year, rising to over \$93 billion by 2026.”*

*(The Canadian Press, April 7, 2021)*

Implementing a basic income guarantee in Canada is doable, affordable, and would definitely go a long way in addressing income inequality. The 1970s are not coming back. Precarious jobs mean precarious lives. More and more people will lose their jobs to technology and automation and join those who are already unemployed, under-employed and/or underpaid. We have serious growing income inequality with all of the fallout that engenders. **NCWC believes that instead of addressing the symptoms, we need to implement a policy change. We need a basic income guarantee.**

### **Housing:**

- Those who are homeless or leaving abusive relationships should be assured of supportive services such as emergency shelters, transition houses, and second-stage housing, and then moved into stable affordable housing.
- There needs to be an adequate supply of affordable housing across Canada for all: those who are forced to spend more than half their income on housing, the disabled who have special needs, Indigenous persons, and single, low-income, and/or senior persons.

The National Council of Women of Canada established its first housing policy in 1944, followed by more in 1947, 1948, 1949, 1972, 1982, 1988, 1992, 1999, 2002, 2010 and 2012. We have continually advocated for the needs of those most vulnerable in our society, including women, Indigenous persons, and others most precariously housed. We also urged the Government to develop a National Housing Strategy, using cooperative government-community partnerships, to address the lack of adequate and affordable housing.

In 2017 we were pleased that the federal government committed to a National Housing Strategy (NHS), something for which we had long advocated. A strong housing policy needs to ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing across Canada, taking into consideration those who have to spend more than half their income on housing, and all who are most vulnerable and/or precariously housed.

Over the years NCWC policies have recommended that:

- The Co-op Housing Program be reinstated.
- Non-profit housing growth reflect the number of Canadians seeking this support.
- A part of the selling price from surplus government lands be designated to provide infrastructure for affordable housing development, i.e., sewers, transportation services, water lines, waste disposal, etc.
- Smaller house lots (25-30 feet) be approved by provincial governments and that the approvals process for zoning changes be speeded up.
- Municipal governments cooperate with the federal and provincial governments to facilitate the conversion of suitable buildings into hostels and shelters.
- Inclusion of space for day care/child care centres be permitted in housing developments, including university buildings.

Poverty is the main driver of homelessness; women are more likely to live in poverty, and women often have more difficulty in accessing affordable housing. Gender-based analysis should be applied to ensure that their needs are adequately assessed. It is also vital that 'first voice' persons are heard. Elishera Passarello in her blog: From Homelessness to Affordable Housing Advocate (Huffington Post Canada, 10/17/2016) says: "*The biggest problem is that women like me go unheard. It feels like our lived experiences of homelessness and escaping violence had no weight. Our stories should be used to mobilize change. Lived experience has real life details that should drive strategies like the federal government's national housing strategy.*"

\*Note: The Liberals recently released an update to their election platform which includes \$78 billion in new spending over the next five years. They also say they will bring in \$25.5 billion in new revenue during this time frame.

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## **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- **Daniela Chivu, VP Justice, Citizenship, and Immigration; Liaison to the UN**

### **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the Indian Act**

In 2015 the NCWC recognized the tragedy of many Indigenous women and girls declared either missing and/or murdered. Since that time, we have urged the Government of Canada to ensure all cases of this nature be investigated immediately and effectively. Further, we've urged them to immediately adopt the 231 recommendations contained in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA Persons. We have dedicated our Common Program to this topic from 2019- 2023.

In 1974 the NCWC advocated for the Government to ensure an Indigenous woman be granted the same status and rights as an Indigenous man. Some status rights for Indigenous women were granted in 1985 and in 2010 through amendments to the Indian Act, but the right of a grandmother to pass her Indian status on to a grandchild, as a grandfather can, was not given. Bill S-3 calls for the amendment to correct sex-based inequalities in the Indian Act. The National Council of Women of Canada adopted as policy that all gender-based inequalities be eliminated from the Indian Act.

Here's where the parties stand:

Liberals:

- Invest an additional \$2.2 billion over five years to build a safer and more inclusive society, in response to the national tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, including \$275 million to support Indigenous peoples' reclamation of Indigenous languages and \$126.7 million to promote health systems free of racism and discrimination.

Conservatives:

- Fund and implement Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action 71 to 76 involving missing children

NDP:

- Implement the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including establishing a comprehensive plan to address violence and ensure that anyone fleeing it has access to culturally appropriate programming, emergency shelters and transitional housing.

Green Party:

- Implement the calls for justice from the National Inquiry in Missing and Murdered Woman and Girls

## **Reproductive Rights**

Since 1971, the NCWC has advocated for abortion services to be considered a medically necessary health service. There are significant variances between rural and urban access to abortion services as most services are only available in urban centres although 40% of the population lives in rural areas. This is a time sensitive matter that must be dealt with, with some urgency and should not penalize those women who live in rural areas. Here's where the parties stand:

Liberals:

- Enact regulations that all Canadians have access to sexual and reproductive services; deny charity status to anti-abortion organizations "that provide dishonest counselling to women."
- "Provide free tampons and pads in federally regulated workplaces."

Conservatives:

- Protect "the conscience rights of healthcare professionals.

NDP:

- Enforce the Canada Health Act to require all provinces to make medical and surgical abortion available in all areas of the country.

## **Gun Control**

In 1991 the NCWC passed a resolution calling on the Government of Canada to ban the private ownership of semi-automatic weapons, provide for national Firearms safety training on a user-pay basis, require a 28-day waiting period between application for and the issue of a permit for a gun, and provide for the mandatory testing of gun owners. We also urged it to ensure the legislation was applied equally across Canada. Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns



joined us in this advocacy as their research showed Canada ranks 5<sup>th</sup> of 23 peer OECD countries for age adjusted gun mortality. It also showed that our firearm mortality rate is 8 times that of the UK and Japan, and about 3 times that of Australia and the Netherlands. It seems we have gone two steps forward and then one step back over the intervening 30 years.

Here's where the parties stand on this issue:

Liberals:

- Tighten weapons laws by limiting long gun magazines to five rounds; providing at least \$1 billion to jurisdictions who ban handguns; requiring owners to sell banned assault weapons to the government or render them inoperable.

Conservatives:

- Amend the Firearms Act to clarify what activities require a firearms business license; and amend the Criminal Code to add aggravating factors to sentencing decisions for crimes involving the smuggling of firearms or their use for a dangerous purpose.
- Amend firearms laws to ensure that administrative expiries do not lead to criminal charges or seizures, but only prevent expired licence holders from obtaining new firearms or ammunition.

## **Racialized Communities and Justice**

The NCWC has advocated tirelessly on behalf of those whose treatment by governments and society is based on such societal conditions such as gender, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, sexual orientation, differing mental or physical conditions, age, and socio-economic background.

Here are some of the parties' platforms related to this topic:

Liberals:

- Provide \$21.5 million over five years for the Racialized Communities Legal Support Initiative.
- Add \$216.4 million over five years to the Youth Justice Services Funding Program to support diversion programs and help the overrepresentation of Indigenous, Black and other racialized groups.
- Combat harmful online content, including hate speech, with legislation introduced within the first 100 days; draft a plan for combating hate, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, by 2022.

Conservatives:

- Ban conversion therapy and "clarify that the ban does not criminalize non-coercive conversations."

NDP:

- Prioritize the collection of race-based data on health, employment, policing, and other areas with the goal of improving outcomes, working with the provinces to improve data collection and develop reporting and accountability measures.
- Ban carding by the RCMP and work with local partners to end this practice in all jurisdictions in the country.

- Create a national task force to develop a roadmap to end the overrepresentation of indigenous and Black Canadians in the federal prison population.
- Conduct a review of existing employment equity rules in order to close the radicalized wage gap, strengthening labour laws and ensuring equitable hiring in the federal public service in federally regulated industries.
- Create a national action plan to deal with white supremacist and neo-Nazi organizations and dismantle far-right extremist groups, including establishing national standards for identifying and recording hate incidents and their movement through the justice system.

## **Gender Based Violence**

Gender based violence is a serious violation of human rights and a life-threatening health and protection issue. It is estimated that 1 in 3 persons will experience sexual or physical violence in their lifetimes. The NCWC has always been an advocate for the protection of people faced with this, and it has become an even more important issue as the pandemic has exacerbated the number of assaults on persons because of their gender or sexual orientation. Here's where the parties stand on this:

### **Liberals:**

- Continue to move forward on the development of a 10-year National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and begin negotiations with the provinces and territories within a year.
- Accelerate the establishment of the Secretariat announced in Budget 2021 and put in place an accountability framework to ensure anyone facing gender-based violence has reliable and timely access to services, no matter where they live.
- Work with community-based anti-violence experts to track progress of the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence.
- Work with provinces and territories to enact Clare's Law so that domestic partners who fear for their safety can request from police information about their partner's violent history, whether that includes sexual assault, domestic violence, convictions, arrests, or restraining orders.
- Work with provinces and territories to support the development of specialized sexual violence courts.

### **Conservatives:**

- Enact Clare's Law, requiring police to notify a victim of a suspect's relevant criminal history when they investigate a complaint of alleged domestic violence.
- For women with children living in women's shelters, expand the Canada Child Benefit by \$500 per month per child for the first year and \$250 per month per child for the second year for women with children living in women's shelters, expand the Canada Child Benefit by \$500 per month per child for the first year and \$250 per month per child for the second year.

Note: O'Toole recently stated that a Conservative government would provide \$10 million a year to train judges and prosecutors on the links between violence against animals and violence against people. He also said his government would add animal cruelty as an aggravating factor in domestic violence prosecutions.

## **Foreign Affairs: United Nations Commission Status of Women and The importance of international development and humanitarian aid for women – No One left Behind**

For the past fourteen years, the NCWC has had consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and representation on the Commission Status of Women (CSW). For the past eight years, we have had membership representation in the Regional Caucus North America and Europe under the UN NGO-Committee Status of Women. The NCWC, while fully committed to see the full implementation of the Beijing Platform Action, has focused its particular attention on the rights of Indigenous Women and Girls, SRHR (abortion, the right to choose, the right to health and sexual reproductive rights), accessible and affordable healthcare, in particular for women, women's rights to serve in political office, violence against women and humanitarian assistance as part of women peace and security agenda, Security Council Res/1325, to which Canada is a signatory state.

Furthermore, one of the pillars of the Security Council res/1325 is recovery, enjoyment, and the development of women and girls in communities impacted by past conflicts. The ongoing crisis in Afghanistan takes immediate precedence to ensure that women and girls' rights are upheld and protected. As such, the eminent need of international funding for humanitarian aid and development must remain a priority. Taking the above into account, Canada's relations with nations with which we are in discord, and within the UN context and on the international stage, it should remain open and respectful. As a middle power, Canada has the capacity to mitigate conflict and lead the progress of rights for women and girls, humanitarian aid, and international development which is particularly essential in the post COVID-19 economic crisis. The rights of women and girls in the international arena. Canada must have an open and respectful diplomatic approach and engage in a constructive manner with all states. Canada's foreign policy must show political will to lead in matters of achieving human rights, social and economic justice, gender equality, along with the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls. These goals can only be achieved through sustainable peace enhancement and promoted through constructive and positive engagement with all state actors.

Here's where the parties stand:

Liberals:

- Provide funds for Canada's international COVID-19 response (See Public Health and Pandemic Preparedness).
- Allocate another \$165 million for humanitarian assistance, as well as \$288 million over three years for the Rohingya crisis.
- Accelerate and complete the purchase of shares of the African Development Bank by five years to help with the impact of the pandemic.

Conservatives:

- Recognize as a genocide the measures being carried out by the People's Republic of China against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims; and "stand up" to the Chinese Communist Party.
- Ban Chinese imports produced with forced Uyghur labour.
- List Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organization.
- Maintain international development funding but improve accountability. Enact laws that allow the government to impose sanctions on foreign states and foreign nationals that take Canadians hostage and allow the Minister of Foreign Affairs to offer monetary rewards or asylum to foreign nationals who provide information leading to the release and repatriation of a Canadian hostage.

- Aim to join the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, an informal strategic alliance between the United States, Japan, Australia, and India.
- Create an Office of Religious Freedom and Conscience to provide advice to the ministry; engage in diplomacy to religious communities; and inform international development programs.
- Provide documentation to those seeking asylum from Hong Kong and waive records of arrest, charges or convictions related to pro-democracy protests when processing visas; grant asylum to mainland Chinese proponents of freedom and persecuted minorities including Tibetans and Falun Gong practitioners.
- Withdraw from the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- Ban Huawei from Canada's 5G infrastructure; investigate the company's role in providing surveillance capabilities used against persecuted minorities in China.
- Ban senior public office holders from employment or contracts with China or entities controlled by China's government, including through consulting or law firms, for a period of five years.
- Use Magnitsky law to impose sanctions on human rights abusers in China, Iran and Russia.
- Recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the Canadian embassy to Jerusalem.
- Maintain current international development spending and legislate a \$250 million allocation from the annual assistance envelope to "build resilience in fragile democracies."

**NDP:**

- Boost Canada's international aid contributions to 0.7 per cent of gross national income
- Stand up to China with a strong and coherent strategy to defend Canadian interests, working with allies to craft a robust and coordinated international response, stand with Hong Kong pro-democracy asylum seekers and provide coordinated support for those facing threats by Chinese entities in Canada.
- Contribute more to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and support health care systems in developing countries.
- Support nuclear disarmament, recommit to peacekeeping and ensure Canadian-made weapons are not fuelling conflict and human rights abuses in other countries.
- Work toward a "just and lasting" two-state solution between Israel and Palestine that respects human rights and upholds international law.
- Take on a leadership role in helping low-income countries deal with the effects of climate change.

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## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SENIORS' ISSUES**

- **Sheila Pepper, VP Social Development and Seniors' Issues**

### **Housing & Homelessness**

We have addressed these issues for many years and will continue. 2012 Resolution: Housing Strategy for Canadians (we've written and addressed housing and homelessness on numerous occasions: provincially & municipally, and I'll be doing so again for a National Resolution). 2010 Resolution: Urgent Safe & Secure Housing for Aboriginal Peoples.

## **Public and Personal Safety**

We have focused on the vulnerability of seniors with regard to home and personal safety as residents, pedestrians, drivers, bus/taxi patrons, etc. Predatory/scam telephone and internet contacts to seniors can be most distressing, particularly if they live alone and have few family members or friends to advise them.

## **Food Security**

Reference NCWC policies: 2010: Food Safety-micro-organisms, 2011: National Food Security Policy, Ensuring the Safety of Canada's Food Supply. 2013: Nutritional Food Choices, National Accountability for Food Safety and Security, 2015: Regulation of sugar content in processed foods, drinks, sodas, lower sodium consumption.

## **Housing**

Resolutions: 2010: Asbestos Registry and Ban on Mining & Exports of Asbestos, 2015: Asbestos Exposure Hazard.

## **Transportation**

Seniors more often take private and public transportation of various kinds and must consider which type will accommodate their accessibility needs. Our 2011 Resolution focused on improving efficient and effective public transportation system in Canada.

## **Retirement Homes/Long Term Care/Home Care Help for Caregivers**

A push toward public ownership of some or all retirement homes has been a recent issue in some provinces, but there is pushback from various sources. NCWC policies advocate maintaining and strengthening public healthcare and pension plans dropout for family and friend caregivers.

## **Indigenous/ Aboriginal/ First Nations Peoples**

Several of our Councils have Study Groups to learn more about these important Issues and what so many of us have not done, over so many decades, to improve their situation country-wide. Reference NCWC policies: 2016: Right to Potable Water on First Nations Reserves, 2018: Reconciling with Canada's Aboriginal People.

## **Refugees & Immigrants**

This is so much more important an issue than two decades and earlier due to more wars, take-overs of other peoples' countries' lands, and dangerous border crossings. Reference NCWC 2017: Holding Conditions for Immigration Detainees, 2011: Health Care for Refugees, 2018: Citizenship for Immigrants and Refugees/ Permanent Residents.

## **Pensions**

Many seniors are still living below the poverty line with pensions not covering their basic needs. Reference NCWC policies: 2016 Policy: Support for Basic Income Guarantee, and our 2011 Policy: Reform of Canada Pension Plan Retirement Income System for Canadians with Employment History.

## **Veterans' Affairs**

There is still great need to help veterans-- older and younger-- to obtain the necessities of life and maintain good mental health. Reference NCWC 2013 Policy: Mental Health Strategy for Canadians and others.

## **Older Canadians and Employment**

Many seniors have returned to work by necessity and problems they might encounter are addressed in our 2012 NCWC policy addressing the issue of “Older Women and Discriminatory Employment Policies and Practices.”

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## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, AND YOUTH CONCERNS**

- **Carol Hiscock, VP Social Development, Children and Youth**

### **Childcare**

The NCWC has relentlessly pursued universal, affordable, accessible, high quality, publicly funded childcare for the past 51 years, ever since the Royal Commission on the Status of Women released its report with that as one of its major recommendations. We have made progress, as you will note that all parties have addressed this in their platforms. While we leave it to you to make your own decision as to which party's platform you support, please note that there are 3.7 million families with children in Canada. Under the Liberal and NDP platforms, all families would see their costs cut by half in 2022 or have savings of up to \$10,000. Under the Conservative plan, only 6,600 families out of the 3.7 million would receive the full \$6,000 tax credit with families in the lowest decile seeing an average income gain of \$1,540 and middle-income families would gain an additional \$500 - \$1000. Here's where the parties stand:

Liberals:

- Commit up to \$30 Billion over five years to build an affordable quality childcare and early system, aiming for a 50 percent cut in average fees by 2022 and to \$10/day in 5 years (outside of Quebec).

Conservatives:

- Change the Child Care Expense deduction into a refundable tax credit, worth up to 75 per cent of childcare costs for lower income families; families with incomes of up to \$150,000 can claim some benefits.

NDP:

- Work with the provinces to build a universal \$10 per day childcare system.

### **Autism**

In 2013 the NCWC urged the Government of Canada to provide funding for the early assessment and diagnosis of all infants for autism spectrum disorder, and to provide early intervention programs for those infants/toddlers not meeting the developmental milestones. This affects 1 out of every 66 children in Canada, and we must work together to accelerate a spectrum of solutions and advancing research into causes and better interventions

The Liberals are the only party whose platform supports the creation of a national autism strategy with funding of \$15.4 million over two years.

The NDP would develop and implement a national Autism strategy to coordinate support for research, provide access to needs-based service, promote employment and expand housing options.

## **Mental Health**

In 2013 the NCWC reiterated its original stance from 2009 that the Government of Canada use the 2012 report “Changing Directions Changing Lives: The Mental Health Strategy for Canada” to guide its work with the provinces and territories to improve the mental health of all Canadians, and working with the provinces and territories to:

- a. increase the proportion of health spending that is devoted to mental health from seven to nine per cent over ten years and,
- b. increase the proportion of social spending that is devoted to mental health by two percentage points from current levels in light of the many years of inadequate resources in this area of health.

Here’s where the parties stand:

Liberals:

- Create a Canada Mental Health Transfer to provinces and territories to deliver “accessible and free” mental health services.
- Support Indigenous-led mental health and wellness services with \$597.6 million over three years.
- Include mental health as an element of occupational health and safety under the Canada Labour Code and requiring federally regulated employers to prevent workplace stress and injury.
- Establish regulations under the Canada Health Act governing accessibility for sexual and reproductive health services, and remove charitable status from anti-abortion organizations who provide “dishonest counselling” to women.

Conservatives:

- Offer employers a tax credit of 25 per cent of the cost of additional mental health coverage for the first three years after adding it to employee benefit plans.
- Provide \$1 billion over five years for Indigenous mental health programs.
- Create a pilot program to provide \$150 million over three years in grants to non-profits and charities that deliver mental health and wellness programs.

NDP:

- Establish mental health care for uninsured Canadians.
- Establish a national perinatal mental health strategy to support families before and after the birth of a child

Green Party;

- Develop a national mental health strategy.

## **Women and Health**

In 2020, the NCWC urged the Federal and Provincial governments of Canada to establish a continuing mandate for the Ministries of Health to promote and finance programs within the Canadian health system to increase knowledge of and improve treatments for heart disease in women, and that medical schools in Canada be urged to introduce curriculum about the crucial

differences in symptoms of heart disease in men and women and the emerging tools to help diagnose and treat heart disease in women.

The Liberals are the only party that promise to establish a National Institute for Women's Health Research with \$20 million over five years.

### **End of Life/Palliative Care**

In 2015 the NCWC adopted a policy that medically assisted dying comprised of voluntary euthanasia and doctor-assisted death, with safeguards, be legal and the person must be a consenting adult having reached the age of majority and set up safeguards through an Act permitting medically assisted death. Here's where the parties stand:

Liberals:

- Provide better palliative and end-of-life care with \$29.8 million over six years, and ensure the medical-assistance-in-dying framework is implemented consistently with \$13.2 million over five years

Conservatives:

- Reinstate the 10-day waiting period for medical assistance in dying, restore the requirement for two independent witnesses to be present and repeal the provision of Bill C-7 that allows medical assistance in dying for patients with mental health challenges.
- Double direct federal investments in palliative care

### **Equality in Health Care Services**

Since 1991 the NCWC has urged the Government of Canada to commit to continued and adequate budgeting support for Medicare to ensure equality of services in health care for Canadians in all provinces and territories.

Here's where the parties stand:

Liberals:

- Provide \$4 billion to help provinces and territories clear health-care system backlogs and wait lists caused by the pandemic.
- Help hire at least 7,500 nurses, nurse practitioners and family doctors.
- Work with provinces and territories to expand virtual health services.

Conservatives:

- Within 100 days of forming the government, meet with provinces to propose a new agreement that would boost the annual growth rate of the Canada Health Transfer to at least six per cent, adding nearly \$60 billion to the system over 10 years

### **Improving Care for Indigenous Populations**

Since 2017 the NCWC has urged the Government of Canada to review and revise inequitable laws, rules and regulation and access to resources in the health system that contribute to adverse health effects on Indigenous people. Further, we urged them to develop and maintain respectful processes and relationships in health care environments, so all people feel safe, respected, and valued, when seeking care.



Here's where the parties stand:

Liberals:

- Support access to trauma-informed, Indigenous-led mental health and wellness services, for \$2 billion over five years.
- Increase the hiring of nurses and other medical professionals in isolated First Nations communities, at a cost of \$354 million over five years.
- Invest an additional \$2.2 billion over five years to build a safer and more inclusive society, in response to the national tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, including \$275 million to support Indigenous peoples' reclamation of Indigenous languages and \$126.7 million to promote health systems free of racism and discrimination.
- Develop an Indigenous data governance strategy so as to unmask inequalities and ensure effective program deliveries with \$81.5 million over three years.

Conservatives:

- Provide \$1 billion over five years to boost funding for Indigenous mental health and drug treatment programs

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## **ChART: Children's Action and Rights Toolkit: Charting our way forward in the 2021 Federal Election**

- **Penny Rankin, Convenor for Children and Youth**

Please share the following **Child Action and Rights Toolkit (ChART)** with council members, your communities, friends, and family. The toolkit offers suggestions on how citizens can engage with Federal candidates on topics related to children and youth, particularly those grounded in established NCWC policies.

### **CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER: WHY THIS POLICY IS SO IMPORTANT**

It was in 2001 that the National Council of Women of Canada first urged the Government of Canada to appoint a non-partisan Commissioner for Canada's Children, mandated by statute and established as an independent Officer of Parliament responsible for protecting and promoting the rights and wellbeing of Canadian children and youth (0-18). That call, and those voiced by Canadians of all political affiliations, including Parliamentarians, have remained unanswered. Despite the frequency at which future generations are invoked by politicians, the actual future welfare, security, and prosperity of Canada's almost 8 million children are often ignored as legislation is crafted by a myriad of departments without the rights and wellbeing of Canada's children deliberately considered. The negative consequences brought on by the absence of a Children's Commissioner is evident to advocates who witness the slow progress towards even critical areas of concern being addressed - issues such as poverty reduction, housing, and food security.

In a 2015 pre-election press release, issued by then MP Marc Garneau, (now Minister Garneau) he states that it is "high time the country had a commissioner for children who would ensure the federal government takes into account the rights and interests of young people when crafting legislation."

**The 2017 UNICEF Report: Oh Canada! Our kids deserve better**, makes clear that there is work to be done especially as it relates to issues on bullying and suicide, adolescent mental health stats and child homicide coupled with the exponentially growing issue of cyber-bullying and cyber-exploitation and abuse of children and youth. Canadian children today, and society moving forward, will benefit from the establishment of a Children's Commissioner-who will be able to both protect children and youth as well as ensuring their ability to thrive. It is imperative that governments act to address all issues that contribute to **Canada ranking 25th out of the 41 richest nations in overall child and youth well-being**, and **30<sup>th</sup> out of 38 countries**.

- Hospitalization due to self-harm has increased 90% between 2009-2014.
- 50% of First Nations children living on-reserve live in poverty.
- 1 in 4 children with disabilities live in poverty
- 1/3 of young Canadians do not enjoy a safe and healthy childhood.

**We need action and this toolkit can help us ChART the way!**



## ChART Moving Forward

### PROTECTING CHILDREN ONLINE:

Going into the election, the NCWC encourages members to identify and raise awareness and challenge candidates on topics that are meaningful to members and their communities. That said, there are several NCWC policy positions we hope will be focused on, including protecting children and youth from online harms, exploitation and cyberbullying, as well as exposure to pornography.

NCWC has advocated for actions to put a stop to the circulation of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) on the internet and other harms that put children and youth at risk. In 2020 the NCWC passed a resolution calling for online age verification safety measures to be implemented to protect children from exposure to harms. These efforts are in keeping with Canada's inherent obligations, having ratified both the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** and the **Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography** .

Articles 19 and 34 of the CRC that declares respectfully that:

"States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child."

## **NEWS FROM NATIONAL NEWS FROM NATIONAL NEWS FROM NATIONAL NEWS FROM NATIONAL**

State Parties are to “undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity.
- (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices.
- (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

An addendum to the CRC of significance is **Comment 25** that calls for **robust age verification measures** -mirroring our own NCWC 2020. A NCWC resolution is now being forwarded to the ICW and it is our hope that Canada and nations across the globe join in this effort to protect children from online harms. *(For further information refer to point #114 of the CRC COMMENT 25).*

There are 2 important avenues that those advocating on behalf of children and youth citizens can pursue:

- Engaging with candidates directly at town hall/public events, or online by email and social media. Phone, write or visit constituency and campaign offices and connect with local media!
- Participating in a consultation process that is not impacted by the calling of the election.

### **ENGAGING and ASKING QUESTIONS:**

- Do you support the call for a Children's Commissioner?
- The Ethics committee recently tabled their recommendations for platforms like Pornhub. What will you do to stop sites from hosting illegal content like Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), sex trafficking, non-consensually shared images, etc.?
- Youth are being harmed from exposure to violent pornography. Canada and other countries are considering measures to protect youth, such as age verification. Do you support this?
- The government launched a public consultation on their proposal to reduce online harms. What are your views on this matter? How will you be involved in this work?

### **YOUR VOICE COUNTS:**

#### **Consultation Process: Submit feedback on the proposed Online Harms Bill**

Individual citizens and organizations now have the opportunity (even given the election) to influence the adoption of future legislation that targets five categories of harmful content currently

- terrorist content
- content that incites violence
- hate speech
- non-consensual sharing of intimate images
- child sexual exploitation content

By participating in this online consultation, you will directly inform those who will be assuming control of the government post the election. This consultation is critical; however, your input and response need not be complicated.

We encourage you to consult the excellent recommendations outlined by the Ethics Committee June 2021 Report: "Ensuring the Protection of Privacy and Reputation on Platforms such as Pornhub" that was passed unanimously by MPs from all Federal parties representing citizens from across Canada. Such consensus is both rare and powerful. (We suggest you read the Summary and List of Recommendations on pages 1-6. To simplify your response, you may choose to simply call on the government to enact and respect the recommendations made in this report.) To learn more about the proposed legislation and make your submissions here: ***Have your say: The Government's proposed approach to address harmful content online - Canada.ca***

***For more information*** beyond the links imbedded in this toolkit - please refer to the following: Election Toolkit - Child Care Now (timeforchildcare.ca) excellent resource on childcare and Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children

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## **INDIGENOUS CONCERNS ELECTION 2021**

- Randi Gage, Convenor Culture and Heritage

### **Indigenous Affairs**

#### **Liberal Platform**

- Invest an additional \$2.2 billion over five years to build a safer and more inclusive society, in response to the national tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, including \$275 million to support Indigenous peoples' reclamation of Indigenous languages and \$126.7 million to promote health systems free of racism and discrimination. (*source*)

*\$1,798,300,000. Divided by 5 = 359,660,00 per year investment in safer communities. Who are these Communities and how much is going to the Aboriginal/Indigenous/Metis Communities?*

- Provide \$12.4 million over five years to Canadian Heritage to honour the survivors of residential schools and commemorate their legacy. (*source*)

*\$240,000 per year into the Legacy Grants for across Canada*

- Develop an Indigenous data governance strategy so as to unmask inequalities and ensure effective program deliveries with \$81.5 million over three years. (*source*)

*Already exists just needs upgrading and proper guideline development and enforcement.*

- Negotiate agreements with interested Indigenous governments to enable them to raise tax revenues on their lands. (*source*)

## Indigenous Affairs

### Conservative Platform

- Expand the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (See Climate Change and Environment). (*source*)
- Fund and implement Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action 71 to 76 involving missing children. (*source*)
- Work with Indigenous communities including by expanding the creation of Indigenous protected and conserved areas managed and stewarded by Indigenous guardians. (*source*)
- Create a Canadian Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, with an initial \$5 billion of capital, that would support First Nations and Inuit organizations seeking to purchase equity stakes in major projects. (*source*)
- Provide \$4 million over three years in targeted funding for the hiring and training of local and regional economic development officers, to encourage Indigenous business success; modernize the First Nations Land Management Act; and develop an Indigenous Business Mentorship Program. (*source*)
- Spend \$25 million on a national police support and community training program to reduce incarceration rates of Indigenous people. (*source*)
- Recognize safe drinking water as a fundamental human right and end long-term drinking water advisories; target high-risk water systems; work with Indigenous communities to ensure water systems investments are protected. (*source*)
- Provide \$1 billion over five years to boost funding for Indigenous mental health and drug treatment programs. (*source*)

## Indigenous Affairs

### NDP Platform

- Fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. (*source*)
- Work with Indigenous peoples to co-develop a National Action Plan for Reconciliation to ensure that the country's laws, policies and practices follow human rights commitments, including cultural and land rights and rights to self-determination and self-government, and establish through legislation a National Council for Reconciliation to provide oversight and accountability for this process. (*source*)
- Provide funds to communities to commemorate a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. (*source*)
- Fully fund the search for gravesites at former residential schools, along with the maintenance, commemoration, reburial and protection of residential school cemeteries and establishing memorials to those who died. (*source*)
- Appoint a special prosecutor to pursue those who enacted harm in residential schools, and require churches and governments hand over all records that may assist in identifying children in unmarked graves or identifying those who were involved in their deaths. (*source*)
- Implement the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal orders that require the government to equally fund child welfare services on reserves, work to implement the Spirit Bear Plan and immediately end government litigation against Indigenous children. (*source*)
- Fully implement Jordan's Principle, working with provinces to end delays and ensure access to health and educational services, end the court challenge and ensure Jordan's Principle applies to children living off-reserve as well. (*source*)
- Work with Indigenous communities to implement a co-developed and fully-funded Indigenous National Housing Strategy within the first 100 days in office.

- Expand financial assistance for post-secondary education for Indigenous children who grew up in care. ([source](#))
- Work with the provinces to establish Indigenous history education programs based on the TRC's Calls to Action, and ensure the development and implementation of these programs is led by Indigenous people. ([source](#))
- Build a treatment centre for residents affected by long-term mercury exposure, and compensate families affected by mercury poisoning in Grassy Narrows. ([source](#))
- Create a Northern Infrastructure Fund to fast-track investment to improve infrastructure such as roads and broadband internet. ([source](#))
- Implement the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including establishing a comprehensive plan to address violence and ensure that anyone fleeing it has access to culturally appropriate programming, emergency shelters and transitional housing. ([source](#))
- Ensure full gender equality for First Nations status so that Indigenous women can pass on the ability to qualify for Indian status registration to their children. ([source](#))

## Indigenous Affairs

### Green Platform

- Ramp up renewable energy development in First Nations communities and on Indigenous lands, through partnerships with Indigenous people, and UNDRIP principles of self-determination ([source](#)).
- Implement the calls for justice from the National Inquiry in Missing and Murdered Woman and Girls. ([source](#))
- Implement immediately all the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission into residential schools. ([source](#))
- Provide sustainable funding for new and existing Indigenous healing centres to address the harms caused by residential schools. ([source](#))

*Has existed for years, they just keep removing the funds they say they are ear marking and use them for other things. Very lax accountability.*

- Stop government's fight against Canadian Human Rights Tribunal rulings on Indigenous children in care. ([source](#))

## ADDITIONAL Canada Election: Promises Made on Indigenous Réconciliation

### Conservative Promises

<https://cpcassets.conservative.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/16102359/f8279981721e07a.pdf>

**Aug. 30:** O'Toole said he supports building the cancelled Northern Gateway oil pipeline largely because it would provide Indigenous communities in favour of the project with economic opportunities.

- Some First Nations along the pipeline route have inked agreements for a 33 per cent ownership stake in the pipeline, though many other communities have fought the project in court.

**Aug 23:** Erin O'Toole has pledged a plan to implement all truth and reconciliation calls to action. **However, the Conservative party's platform only commits to a plan to implement six specific items that deal with the deaths of children in residential schools and the sites where they were buried.**

## Liberal Promises

<https://liberal.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/292/2021/09/Platform-Forward-For-Everyone.pdf>

**Sept. 1:** The Liberals have promised to increase spending on a distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategy, guided by communities, survivors and their families: \$100 million this year, and \$325 million annually after that.

- The Liberals also promised to provide any support necessary for further searches of unmarked burial sites, and to create a permanent home for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation: \$60 million next year and \$5 million a year after that.

**Aug. 30:** The party unveiled a plan to spend \$2 billion over four years on housing for First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities — with more than half flowing in time for the 2022 summer construction season.

- The plan would see another \$300 million allocated to co-developing a housing strategy for Indigenous urban, rural and northern communities, in partnership with Indigenous organizations.
- The Liberals also promised an additional \$1.4 billion over five years for a mental health and wellness strategy to be developed with First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Nation. The sum would be on top of previously announced funding of more than \$597 million, they said.

## NDP Promises

<https://xfer.ndp.ca/2021/Commitments/Ready%20for%20Better%20-%20NDP%202021%20commitments.pdf>

- Aug. 20: Jagmeet Singh announced that, if elected prime minister, he would appoint a special prosecutor on residential schools and demand all residential school records from institutions such as governments and churches be released.
- Singh said a NDP government would also work to fully implement all outstanding recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

NOTHING ADDITIONAL FROM THE **Green Party or the Bloc Québécois**

## Race Relations & Justice

- Establish an entities list for criminal gangs. (source)

## Race Relations

### NDP Platform

- Prioritize the collection of **race-based data** on health, employment, policing and other areas with the goal of improving outcomes, working with the province to improve data collection and develop reporting and accountability measures. (source)

Very un-easy about this item. What is this information going to be used for? Will it impact on services to communities? Will this be a form of Racial Profiling?

- Establish a First Nations justice and policing strategy and make policing an essential service with long-term, sufficient and equitable funding, while also allowing Inuit to independently oversee policing in Nunavut. (*source*)

*Already exists just needs upgrading and proper guideline development and enforcement for the area.*

- Conduct a review of existing employment equity rules in order to close the radicalized wage gap, strengthening labour laws and ensuring equitable hiring in the federal public service and in federally regulated industries. (*source*)
- Implement a federal use-of-force standard with a zero-tolerance policy for inappropriate use of force by police. (*source*)
- Create a national action plan to deal with white supremacist and neo-Nazi organizations and dismantle far-right extremist groups, including establishing national standards for identifying and recording hate incidents and their movement through the justice system. (*source*)
- Proactively expunge criminal records for people convicted of minor cannabis possession. (*source*)
- Ban conversion therapy and work with provinces and territories to eliminate this practice in all regions. (*source*)

*Why is question located here, shouldn't it be a Mental Health issue?*

#### **NEWS FROM NATIONAL NEWS FROM NATIONAL NEWS FROM NATIONAL NEWS FROM NATIONAL**

- Add sexual orientation, gender identity and expression to the Employment Equity Act to address the disadvantages—particularly for transgender people—in finding work. (*source*)

### **Immigration & Refugees**

*Falls under Culture but will be addressed by other portfolios*

### **Democracy & Governance**

*This area has many language statements; none recognize or strengthen the Aboriginal/Indigenous languages.*

### **National Defence**

#### **Randi Gage Canadian Forces Sexual Misconduct Project Observer**

#### **Liberal Platform**

- Address sexual misconduct and gender-based violence in the Canadian Armed Forces with \$236.2 million over five years, including free independent legal advice to victims. (*source*)

*Do you believe females are capable of Sexual misconduct?*

*Do you think it is Only high ranking members of the Canadian Forces who are guilty of Sexual Misconduct?*



### **Conservative Platform**

- Ensure future sexual misconduct complaints are made to an external independent body outside the chain of command. (*source*)

### **Public Safety & National Security**

*Nothing specific to the Culture and Heritage Portfolio*

### **Infrastructure**

*Nothing specific to the Culture and Heritage Portfolio*

### **Retirement & Seniors**

*Nothing specific to the Culture and Heritage Portfolio*

### **Youth**

*Falls under Culture but will be addressed by other portfolios*

### **Child Care**

*Nothing for on-reserve, Métis or rural child care*

### **Liberal Platform**

- Invest in Indigenous early learning and child care (See Indigenous affairs.) (*source*)

*Has existed for years, they just keep removing the funds they say they are ear marking and use them for other things.*

### **Education Aboriginal/Indigenous content is missing in all areas and platforms.**

*Nothing for on-reserve, Métis or rural initiatives*

### **Veterans**

*Veterans Reconciliation and reparation for Aboriginal/Indigenous Veterans missing, Female Veterans Issues not addressed*

### **Arts & Culture**

#### **LIBERAL PLATFORM**

- To extend the Canada Recovery Hiring Program that covers up to half the wages of rehired workers;
- To provide the country's tourism industry with temporary wage and rent support of up to 75 percent of their expenses to help them get through the winter months;
- To match ticket sales for performances to compensate for pandemic restrictions on venue capacity.

#### **CONSERVATIVE PLATFORM**

- The Conservatives have pledged: to create the "Canada Job Surge Plan", which would pay up to 50 per cent of the salary of new employees for six months; business loans of up to \$200,000 for small businesses in the hospitality, retail and tourism sectors; to give Radio-Canada a separate and distinct legal and administrative structure to reflect its

distinct mandate of promoting francophone language and culture; create a new Canadian Heritage

- Preservation Fund to provide a total of \$75 million in grants to municipal governments over the next five years for the repair and restoration of historical monuments, statues, and heritage buildings;
- To require large digital streaming services like Netflix, Disney+ and Amazon Prime Video to reinvest a significant portion of their Canadian gross revenue into producing original Canadian programming, of which mandated proportion must be French language programming;

*No mention of any Mandating Aboriginal/Indigenous Languages for reinvestment by Netflix, Disney+ and Amazon Prime Video in their Canadian productions*

- To recognize and correct the adverse economic impact for creators and publishers from the uncompensated use of their works in a manner consistent with the unanimous recommendations of the Heritage Committee of the House of Commons Report in 2019;
- To conduct a review of federal book publishing policy to enhance the commercial viability of Canada's independent publishing sector.

#### **NDP PLATFORM**

- To create a dedicated re-building package for the performing arts, theatre, festivals and other arts that have been most severely impacted by the pandemic;
- To make sure that Canadian talent can thrive on both digital and traditional platforms;
- To make web giants like Netflix and Google pay corporate taxes, support Canadian content in both official languages, and take responsibility for what appears on their platforms;

*No mention of any Mandating Aboriginal/Indigenous Languages for reinvestment by Netflix, Disney+ and Amazon Prime Video in their Canadian productions*

- To modernize the Broadcasting Act fairly in order to create a level playing field between Canadian broadcasters and foreign streaming services;
- To extend support to Canadian media to assist them in making the digital transition;

*Will this include Aboriginal/Indigenous Media?*

- To provide financial support for Indigenous theatre at the National Arts Centre; and to put in place income tax averaging for artists and cultural workers.

#### **GREEN PLATFORM**

The Greens have not yet released their arts and culture pledges or full platform.

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