



NDP Responds

Note: We have yet to release our full platform but here are the answers to date outlining our commitments.

Canadian Interfaith Conversation

If your party is elected on October 19 to form the Government of Canada, what do you plan to do in relation to the following six issues?

Eradication of poverty in Canada and globally, notably child poverty

NDP Response: An NDP government will introduce the NDP's *Poverty Elimination Act*, which requires a national anti-poverty strategy, including targets and timelines, to be developed in consultation with provinces, territories, municipalities, Indigenous governments and communities, low income Canadians, and civil society. In addition to setting an overarching set of goals, the strategy will also target specific vulnerable populations, including Indigenous peoples, persons living with disabilities, seniors, racialized Canadians and newcomers.

The strategy will include measures to address income security, including wages from employment and government income support programs, to increase access to affordable housing and affordable childcare, and to combat social exclusion.

By law, the strategy will be required to confirm to Canada's obligations under international law, including internationally recognized human rights.

Our anti-poverty strategy will be supported by immediate measures we will undertake to improve income security and expand access to affordable housing. This includes boosting the level of the Working Income Tax Benefit, the National Child Benefit Supplement, and the Guaranteed Income Supplement, lifting thousands of families and seniors out of poverty. We will also restore the federal minimum wage and progressively raise it to \$15 an hour, to ensure that work pays a living wage for more Canadians. Finally, we will invest more than \$2.7 billion over 4 years in affordable housing and homelessness programs to ensure that more Canadians have an affordable, secure, and adequate place to call home.

An NDP government will also increase Canada's foreign aid assistance to help eradicate poverty globally.

Global climate change

NDP Response: On climate change, the NDP will act on our moral obligation to address climate change by reintroducing the Climate Change Accountability Act, the only federal legislation that requires government to set emissions reductions targets, and holds government accountable. We will begin work to reduce Canada's reliance on fossil fuels by supporting renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation. We'll end fossil fuel subsidies, and implement a cap-and-trade system that puts a price on carbon. An NDP government will also introduce Green Bonds and a Green Municipalities Fund to help our communities adopt new, greener energy and infrastructure.

We'll restore Canada's international reputation on the environment. Only Tom Mulcair and the NDP have committed to showing up at the climate meeting in Paris this November with climate change targets and a real plan.

Reconciliation with the indigenous peoples of Canada

NDP Response: The NDP believes it is time for a new era in our relationship with Indigenous peoples, a true nation-to-nation relationship, built on respect and meaningful progress when it comes to bringing about change. An NDP government will create cabinet-level committee chaired by Prime Minister Tom Mulcair to ensure that all government decisions respect treaty rights, inherent rights, and Canada's international obligations. We will implement the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and we will take action on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations. We will also remove the punitive 2% funding cap on social transfers to Indigenous communities imposed by the previous Liberal and Conservative governments and establish a fair fiscal relationship to close the gap between Indigenous communities and Canadians. This will begin with major investments in First Nations education and critical infrastructure, including housing.

Religious freedom for people of all faiths in Canada and globally

NDP Response: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms is very clear that all Canadians enjoy the freedom of conscience and religion. The NDP believes that governments should not interfere with this basic right and that tolerance and respect for the religious beliefs of others are fundamental Canadian values.

New Democrats also believe that encouraging religious tolerance and promoting religious freedoms around the world is an important Canadian value. Action on this is valuable – but must not come at the expense of, or to the exclusion of, developing other important democratic rights.

Global refugee crises

NDP Response: In response to the worst humanitarian crisis since the Second World War, the Conservatives failed to step up on the world stage and to do our share in resettling refugees in Canada, even though government officials were advising the government that they had the fiscal capacity to do much more.

An NDP government will move quickly to bring in 10,000 Syrian refugees by the end of this year, and 9,000 Syrian refugees every year for the next four years. In order to accomplish these targets, we will appoint a Special Coordinator to oversee the process, who will be authorized to draw on the resources of multiple government departments. We will also send officials to the region to speed up processing and we'll increase the resources devoted to processing private sponsorships.

An NDP government will make sure that Canada is doing its fair share in accepting refugees from around the world. Our Syrian refugee commitments will be on top of Canada's existing refugee commitments. We will also provide more resources to speed up processing for privately sponsored refugees, so that sponsors are not waiting for up to five years to welcome refugees to Canada. We will remove the bureaucratic obstacles from private sponsorships, and repeal the Conservatives' discriminatory changes to refugee determination, ensuring that every refugee claimant has access to a fair hearing based solely on the merits of their individual case. Finally, we will abide by the ruling of the Federal Court and fully restore the Interim Federal Health Program, in addition to repealing the legislation which allows provinces to withdraw social assistance from refugees if they so choose.

Access to high-quality palliative care in all parts of Canada

NDP Response: Access to high-quality, palliative care across the country was an issue raised by the all-party Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care. Following the committee's report, the House of Commons voted to adopt NDP MP Charlie Angus's motion on palliative and end-of-life care, calling on the government to create a strategy to provide high-quality, home-based and hospice palliative care and to provide more support to caregivers.

The NDP recognizes that access to palliative care is a priority, especially in light of the Supreme Court's recent decision regarding assisted suicide. And that is why we will invest \$30 million to create a palliative care innovation fund to help provinces improve access to end-of-life resources, services and support. We will also provide funding for provinces to expand comprehensive home care services to 41,000 more seniors, including palliative care.