



FEDERAL ELECTION 2021

The Partys' Indigenous Platforms



LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA

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Key Actions to Support Indigenous Peoples Since 2015

- Made historic investments to support Indigenous Peoples from coast to coast to coast.
- Worked across the federal government, and with our partners, so that 80% of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action involving the Government of Canada are now completed or well underway.
- Working with residential school survivors, Indigenous Peoples, provinces, territories, and educators to incorporate aboriginal and treaty rights, the history of residential schools and Indigenous contributions into the school curricula.
- Introduced Bill C-15 to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which received Royal Assent on June 21, 2021, National Indigenous Peoples Day.
- Passed the Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families, which affirms the inherent right of First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services.
- Built and refurbished almost 200 schools so that tens of thousands of Indigenous kids have a better education.
- Continued to invest in Child and Family Services including an additional \$3 billion to support communities in providing child and family services.
- Launched the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Released Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People this June, which outlines concrete actions we will take to end systemic racism, sexism, and economic inequality that has perpetuated violence against Indigenous women and girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
- Invested in Violence Prevention to provide shelter and support for Indigenous women, children and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People facing gender-based violence.
- Accelerated the government's 10-year commitment to close the infrastructure gap in Indigenous communities.
- Invested over \$4 billion in 535 water infrastructure projects, including 99 new plants and 436 upgrades.
- Lifted 109 long-term water advisories, including reaching the milestone of lifting 105 water advisories this past April, matching the number in place when Liberals committed to eliminating all long-term drinking water advisories on public systems on reserves, a testament to five and a half years of real progress.
- Prevented 188 short-term drinking water advisories from becoming long-term.
- Invested to help Indigenous women and girls participate in sports.
- Made sure First Nations, Inuit, and Métis were prioritized for vaccination in all jurisdictions and supported engagement and vaccination campaigns.
- Announced \$5.4 billion of targeted COVID-19 support for Indigenous and Northern communities and organizations since March 2020.

- Committed to making high-quality health care designed to meet the unique needs of Indigenous communities a reality.

Moving Forward on Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed fundamental gaps in our society. Challenges that existed before the pandemic remain and others have been exacerbated. These are especially felt by Indigenous peoples who face overcrowded housing, lack of access to health services, and systemic discrimination. Recent events have shone a light on the tragic legacy of colonialism. We must work to address these difficult issues and move forward on the path of reconciliation, together.

Addressing the Legacy of Colonialism and Residential Schools

The legacy of residential schools is a dark chapter in Canada's history. Thousands of children were sent to these schools, ripped from their homes and communities, deprived of their cultures and robbed of their languages. Tragically, many of these children never came home.

While we cannot bring back those who were lost, we can—and we will—tell the truth of these injustices, support communities and survivors, and forever honour their memory.

We have and we will continue to support and provide funding to Indigenous communities: in their work to uncover burial grounds; for commemoration ceremonies, honouring memorials, and re-burial in their home communities; and to manage the buildings of former residential schools, such as demolition, rehabilitation, or construction of new facilities.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Continue work to build a national monument in Ottawa to honour residential school survivors and all the children who were taken from their families and communities.
- Move forward on work with Indigenous partners to appoint a Special Interlocutor who will work with Indigenous communities, provincial and territorial governments, to develop the necessary legal and regulatory framework to advance justice regarding unmarked graves and make recommendations relating to federal laws, regulations, policies, and practices surrounding unmarked and undocumented graves and burial sites at residential schools.

Support for Mental Health

A critical component of our continued support will be expanding the availability of culturally appropriate, trauma-informed mental health support and services.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Commit an additional \$1.4 billion for a distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategy with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation, expanding on our recent commitment of \$597.6 million, for a total investment of \$2 billion over five years.

We understand that this work will take time and will need to be guided by communities, survivors, and their families.

Uncovering Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites at Other Federally Run Institutions

Residential schools were not the only federal institutions Indigenous peoples were forced to attend. Institutions such as Day Schools and Indian Hospitals also furthered colonial and racist policies of assimilation. These sites should also be explored to uncover remains of ancestors and loved ones.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Provide the necessary supports for communities who wish to continue to undertake the work of burial searches at the former sites of these institutions.

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation was established in response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The Centre is a critical hub for research, teaching, and healing, particularly in light of the recent findings of unmarked graves at sites of former residential schools.

To support the continued work of the Centre, a re-elected Liberal government will:

- Provide funding towards the construction of a permanent home for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Provide sustained financial support for the Centre for core operations in fulfilling the mandate issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with dedicated support for the work on Missing Children and Unmarked Graves.

We will also continue to accelerate implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Protecting the Wellbeing of Indigenous Children

Protecting the well-being of Indigenous children has always been a top priority for us. For far too long, Indigenous children have been overrepresented in the child welfare system—part of the troubling legacy of colonialism. All children in Canada deserve to grow up in their communities, immersed in their cultures, and surrounded by loved ones

Supporting Indigenous Children and Families

Over the last six years, we worked to reduce the number of Indigenous children in care and make sure Indigenous communities have the support they need to keep families together.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Continue to fully implement the Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families and continue to support communities looking to lift up jurisdiction over child and family services.
- Continue to reform child and family services in Indigenous communities.
- Continue to work with Indigenous communities to help children and families stay together.
- Permanently ensure that First Nations youth who reach the age of majority receive the supports they need for up to two additional years and implement the orders of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

As Liberals, we agree that First Nations children who suffered harms under the First Nations Child and Family Services program deserve fair and just compensation.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Continue to work with Indigenous partners to ensure fair and equitable compensation for those harmed by the First Nations Child and Family Services program.

Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care

In 2018, we co-developed Canada's Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework because we believe that programs for Indigenous communities are developed by Indigenous communities, especially when it comes to children. Every child in Canada should have the best possible start in life. But there is still progress to be made.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Move forward on building an Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care system that meets the needs of Indigenous families, wherever they live.
- Ensure more Indigenous families have access to high-quality programming.
- Create 3,300 new spaces.
- Invest in Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern communities.
- Continue to support before and after school care for First Nations children on reserve.

Making Sure Indigenous Children Get the Care They Need

First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children deserve the same access to health care, social services, and education as every other child in Canada.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Continue to fully fund Jordan's Principle.
- Continue to fully fund Inuit Child First Initiative.
- Continue to work with the Métis Nation to fund the unique needs of Métis children.

Clean Water

Decades of neglect led to the unacceptable reality of the people who live on First Nations' reserves not having access to safe, clean, and reliable drinking water.

We have taken strong action and invested over \$4 billion in 535 water infrastructure projects, including 99 new water plants and 436 plant upgrades. As a result, Indigenous communities have been able to lift 109 long-term water advisories, which includes lifting all advisories in British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada; prevent 188 short-term advisories from becoming long term ones; provide communities with funding to cover up to 100% of the costs of maintaining their water infrastructure and ensure clean water for their communities. In every community with a long-term drinking water advisory, there is a project team and action plan in place to resolve it.

We cannot, and will not, abandon our obligation to ensure First Nations peoples on reserve have safe and clean drinking water.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Make any investments necessary to eliminate all remaining advisories.
- Make sure that resources and training are in place to prevent future ones.
- Continue to move forward on our agreement in principle to resolve national class action litigation related to safe drinking water in First Nations communities.
- Maintain our commitment to invest \$6 billion to ensure sustainable access to clean water for First Nations.

Continuing Progress on Reconciliation and Self-Determination

Since day one, we have been committed to working with Indigenous peoples to build a nation-to-nation, Inuit-Crown, government-to-government relationship that is based on respect, partnership, and the affirmation and recognition of rights. We have made good progress with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation. But this work must continue.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Continue to support Indigenous-led processes for rebuilding and reconstituting nations, advancing self-determination and work in partnership on implementation of treaties, land claim and self-government agreements with appropriate oversight mechanisms to hold the federal government accountable.
- Continue to support First Nations-led processes to transition away from the Indian Act.
- Accelerate resolution of outstanding land claims.
- Continue to advance the priorities of Indigenous communities to reclaim full jurisdiction in the areas that matter to them such as child and family services, education, health care, policing, tax, and the administration of justice.
- Further support and fund the revitalization of Indigenous laws, legal systems, and traditions.
- Host a First Ministers Meeting on First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation priorities.

Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, or UNDRIP, provides a road map to advance lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. That's why we made sure to pass legislation to implement the Declaration here in Canada. But full implementation of the Declaration requires a whole-of-government approach.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Include, in all cabinet ministers' mandate letters, the requirement to implement UNDRIP, and ensure their offices and ministries work alongside Indigenous peoples to advance their rights.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People

The violence endured by generations of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is a national tragedy. We understand that addressing this tragedy requires a new approach that recognizes the full breadth of the problem and addresses root causes. This year, we released the federal portion of the 2021 National Action Plan, the Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People, and have made significant investments to support its implementation.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Accelerate the implementation of the Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People with Indigenous partners.
- Accelerate our work with all partners in our collective and shared priorities in the 2021 National Action Plan.
- Create a standing Federal-Provincial-Territorial table on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People to facilitate and coordinate this work.

Better Housing for Indigenous Peoples

COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed the acute need for safe and affordable housing in Indigenous communities that were already facing housing shortages, overcrowding, and a critical need for repairs.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Invest a further \$2 billion in Indigenous housing for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation, with over half of the funding available by the upcoming summer construction period.
- Co-develop a new Indigenous Urban, Rural, and Northern Housing Strategy with Indigenous partners and organizations that will be a stand-alone companion to the National Housing Strategy, supported by a \$300 million initial investment.
- Co-develop and fund Canada's first-ever National Indigenous Housing Centre, through which Indigenous people will fully oversee federal Indigenous housing programs once fully realized.

- Continue to support the establishment of Indigenous-led institutions in housing and infrastructure, such as the First Nations Infrastructure Institute, that assists First Nations with their infrastructure needs.

Fair Access to Health Care

Joyce's Principle aims to guarantee to all Indigenous peoples the right of equitable access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services, as well as the right to enjoy the best possible physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Fully implement Joyce's Principle and ensure it guides our work in co-developing distinctions-based Indigenous Health legislation to foster health systems free from racism and discrimination where Indigenous peoples are respected and safe.

A New Framework for Indigenous Long-term Care

The pandemic has widened existing health gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and highlighted the lack of long-term care services in or near Indigenous communities. In addition, COVID-19 made it even more difficult for Indigenous peoples to access culturally appropriate programming and services. Furthermore, the complexity of various health systems can further impede Indigenous peoples' ability to access the care they deserve. But we know more work is necessary to close the gap.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Co-develop a distinctions-based, community-led, Indigenous Long-term and Continuing Care Framework that prioritizes ensuring Indigenous peoples can receive long-term and continuing care services in or near their own communities and culturally appropriate care and programming, whether they are in urban, rural, and northern areas.
- Bolster Indigenous health system navigators so they can provide dedicated support to Indigenous people and their families to specifically help them navigate services related to long-term and continuing care.

Helping Indigenous Businesses Grow

We are committed to renewing and strengthening Canada's economic relationship with Indigenous communities including by mandating that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis businesses and entrepreneurs hold at least 5% of the total value of federal procurement contracts.

But often Indigenous businesses face barriers.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Expand the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program to enable businesses to access a new, zero-interest loan when a 10% advance is not possible.

- Create a navigator position to help Indigenous entrepreneurs find programs that apply to their situation.
- Work with all government departments to analyze and, as appropriate, adjust eligibility criteria to ensure that programs are as inclusive as possible.

Supporting First Nations Priorities

Co-developing and continuing to invest in a distinction-based Mental Health and Wellness Strategy that meets the deep and unique needs of all First Nations to address the ongoing impacts of colonization and residential schools. A co-developed mental health and wellness strategy could also respond to the prevalent opioid crisis, include culturally appropriate wraparound services for addictions and trauma, suicide and life promotion, and the building of treatment centres based on the priorities of First Nation communities.

Working with First Nations to ensure that the Indigenous Languages Act continues to be fully implemented, in order to preserve, promote, and revitalize Indigenous languages in Canada, supported with long-term, predictable, and sufficient funding.

Working with First Nations to continue to fully implement An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families with long-term, predictable, and sufficient funding to support its full implementation.

Continuing – in close collaboration with First Nations– to deliver distinctions-based support in response to COVID- 19.

Continuing to develop a new national benefits-sharing framework to ensure that First Nations communities directly benefit from major resource projects in their territories.

We will continue to work in partnership with First Nations through the economic recovery to support the growth of First Nation economies.

Continuing ongoing work with First Nations to redesign federal policies on additions-to-reserves, and the Specific Claims process to provide just and timely resolution.

Fully implementing An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and co- developing the Action Plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.

Continuing to work in partnership with First Nations on addressing climate change, specifically in tracking the impacts of climate change on their traditional lands and waters and charting collaborative strategies forward.

Working with First Nations to implement \$2.2 billion over 5 years beginning in 2021-22, and \$160.9 million ongoing, to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people through implementation of the Federal Pathway and the 2021 National Action Plan.

As set out in our permanent bilateral process, we commit to meet regularly with the Assembly of First Nations to make progress on First Nations priorities.

Supporting Inuit Priorities

Work with Inuit to finalize a co-developed Inuit Nunangat Policy and accelerate its implementation.

Co-developing and continuing to invest in a distinction-based Mental Health and Wellness Strategy that meets the deep and unique needs of all Inuit to address the ongoing impacts of colonization and residential schools. A co-developed mental health and wellness strategy could also respond to the prevalent opioid crisis, include culturally appropriate wraparound services for addictions and trauma, suicide, and life promotion, and the building of treatment centres based on the priorities of Inuit communities.

Continuing—in close collaboration with Inuit—to deliver distinctions-based support in response to COVID-19.

Work to establish a new national benefits-sharing framework to ensure that Inuit communities directly benefit from major resource projects in Inuit Nunangat.

We will continue to work in partnership with Inuit through the economic recovery to support the growth of Inuit economies.

Continuing work to fully implement Inuit land claims agreements.

Fully implementing An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and co-developing the Action Plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.

Working with Inuit to implement \$2.2 billion over 5 years beginning in 2021-22, and \$160.9 million ongoing, to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people through implementation of the Federal Pathway and the 2021 National Action Plan.

Continuing to support Inuit-specific approaches on the elimination of tuberculosis in Inuit Nunangat.

Continuing to fully implement the Indigenous Languages Act, in order to preserve, promote, and revitalize Indigenous languages in Canada, supported with long-term, predictable, and sufficient funding.

Working with Inuit to continue to fully implement An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families with long-term, predictable, and sufficient funding to support its full implementation.

Continuing to work in partnership with Inuit on addressing climate change, specifically in tracking the impacts of climate change on their traditional lands and waters and charting collaborative strategies forward.

Continuing to work with Inuit to improve food security in Inuit Nunangat, including through the Harvester Support Grant, and amending the Nutrition North Canada program to make the program more transparent and responsive to Inuit needs.

As set out in our permanent bilateral process, we commit to meet regularly through the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee to make progress on Inuit priorities.

Supporting Métis Nation Priorities

Continuing to move forward on self-government with Métis Nation partners to implement their visions of self-determination by:

Continue working with the Manitoba Métis Federation to move forward on their Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement.

Continue working with the Métis Nation of Alberta to move forward on their Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement.

Continue working with the Métis Nation of Ontario to move forward on their Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government.

Continue working with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan to move forward on their Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government.

Moving forward on the Self-Government Framework Agreement with the Northwest Territory Métis Nation.

Co-developing and continuing to invest in a distinction-based Mental Health and Wellness Strategy that meets the deep and unique needs of all Métis Nation to address the ongoing impacts of colonization and residential schools. A co-developed mental health and wellness strategy could also respond to the prevalent opioid crisis, include culturally appropriate wraparound services for addictions and trauma, suicide, and life promotion, and the building of treatment centres based on the priorities of Métis Nation communities.

Working with Métis Nation to ensure that the Indigenous Languages Act continues to be fully implemented, in order to preserve, promote, and revitalize Indigenous languages in Canada, supported with long-term, predictable, and sufficient funding.

Working with Métis Nation to continue to fully implement An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families with long-term, predictable, and sufficient funding to support its full implementation.

Continuing—in close collaboration with Métis Nation—to deliver distinction-based support in response to COVID-19.

Continuing to develop a new national benefits-sharing framework to ensure that Métis Nation communities directly benefit from major resource projects in their territories.

We will continue to work in partnership with Métis Nation through the economic recovery and to support the growth of Métis Nation economies.

Fully implementing An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and co-developing the Action Plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.

Working with Métis Nation to implement \$2.2 billion over 5 years beginning in 2021-22, and \$160.9 million ongoing, to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and

2SLGBTQQA+ people through implementation of the Federal Pathway and the 2021 National Action Plan.

Continuing to work in partnership with Métis Nation on addressing climate change, specifically in tracking the impacts of climate change on their traditional lands and waters and charting collaborative strategies forward.

As set out in our permanent bilateral process, we commit to meet regularly with Métis Nation partners to make progress on Métis priorities.

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CANADA

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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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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

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".

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Indigenous peoples and all Canadians should expect their government to recognize Indigenous and treaty rights and to work together with Indigenous peoples as nation-to-nation partners to resolve long-standing challenges. Recent events have illustrated the scale of the obstacles that Indigenous peoples have faced throughout Canada's history, and Canadians are more determined to move forward with reconciliation than ever before. At this singular moment in Canada's history, it is crucial that our efforts are focused on durable solutions that make a real and meaningful impact on the quality of life of Indigenous peoples.

Recent reports, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, have identified significant gaps in opportunity and outcome between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. All levels of government need to engage with Indigenous peoples to make meaningful progress in closing these gaps.

Canada's Conservatives believe in building a true partnership to ensure a just and secure place for thriving, self-determining Indigenous nations within the fabric of Canada. That starts with making the recognition of Indigenous rights a top priority and that is the lens through which we will approach all Indigenous issues. It also begins with making serious efforts to listen, learn, understand, and demonstrate our enduring commitment through our actions.

Making Amends for Past Injustices

Canadians' consciences were shocked at the revelation of unmarked graves at the sites of former residential schools. These discoveries were a heartbreaking reminder of the pain Indigenous children, their families, and their communities were subjected to. While the path of reconciliation is long and difficult, we must act now to make amends for past injustices perpetrated by and on behalf of the Government of Canada.

Canada's Conservatives will:

- Develop a comprehensive plan to implement TRC Calls to Action 71 through 76.
- Fund the investigation at all former residential schools in Canada where unmarked graves may exist, including the sites where children have already been discovered.
- Ensure that proper resources are allocated for communities to reinter, commemorate, and honour any individuals discovered through the investigation, according to the wishes of their next of kin.
- Develop a detailed and thorough set of resources to educate Canadians of all ages on the tragic history of residential schools in Canada.
- Build a national monument in Ottawa that honours residential school survivors and all the children who were lost

Prosperity through partnership

Recognition of Indigenous rights has been hard-won after decades of struggle by First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people, both in the courts and through treaty negotiations. It has been a long and challenging journey as Canadians have sought to understand and give life to these rights. This journey is far from over.

Indigenous people want a say in what happens on their traditional territories. They want to be true partners in the responsible development of those lands, including through equity opportunities and timely access to capital to support their involvement. The Liberal government has paid lip service to this partnership, but they have repeatedly failed to consult with First Nations and Territorial governments before cancelling projects and shutting down opportunities that would have directly benefited Indigenous communities.

Canada's natural resource industries have led the way in developing new ways to partner with First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples. Natural resource industries are significant employers of Indigenous peoples. In many regions, these industries provide the best chance for lifting rural, remote, and isolated communities out of poverty. Many First Nations and other Indigenous rights holders have pioneered world-leading benefit agreements and equity partnerships with private companies that have led to better projects and increased opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities alike.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) has affirmed the right of Indigenous communities to pursue economic opportunities and benefit from the development of resources on their traditional territories.

A Conservative government will respect and uphold these rights by:

- Working with Indigenous-led organizations, such as the First Nations Major Project Coalition, the Indigenous Resource Network, the Indian Resource Council, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers, the National Coalition of Chiefs, and First Nations LNG Alliance, to support communities that wish to become partners in good projects that meet high environmental standards.
- Creating the Canadian Indigenous Opportunities Corporation that will support First Nations and Inuit organizations seeking to purchase an equity stake in major projects.
 - Based on the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, it will apply rigorous market analysis to guarantee loans to Indigenous groups so they can invest in natural resource and infrastructure projects.
 - We will provide an initial \$5 billion of capital for investment in projects across the country.
- Requiring future governments to consult with Indigenous Communities before cancelling approved projects when they have signed or are negotiating benefit agreements or partnerships.
- Implementing Article 18 of UNDRIP by working with First Nations to develop a transparent process that communities can use to identify who represents them in consultations if it is to be someone other than elected Chiefs.
- Working with First Nations and other Indigenous rights holders to develop a consultation process that allows for more meaningful dialogue.

- Creating a streamlined environmental review process for major projects that partner with First Nations during the environmental assessment phase.
 - This will encourage early partnerships, allow the incorporation of traditional knowledge, and build confidence in the assessment process.
 - For clarity, such agreements will not be prejudicial to First Nations consultation.
- Supporting Indigenous Protected Areas that safeguard culturally significant areas without alienating future benefits that may accrue to the impacted Indigenous community if used in a way that maintains those safeguards.
 - Support an Indigenous Guardians program that will support communities in developing and maintaining protected areas, among other things.

Levelling the playing field

The success of Indigenous businesses is vital to the success of Canada. Indigenous businesses in Canada can thrive and support healthy communities but face many barriers that are unique to Indigenous peoples, such as paternalistic legislation like the Indian Act, isolated communities, a lack of infrastructure, fewer networking opportunities, and the need for capacity building and community supports.

To level the playing field and encourage Indigenous business success in Canada, Canada's Conservatives will:

- Provide \$4 million over three years in targeted funding for the hiring and training of local and regional economic development officers.
- In collaboration with municipal and First Nations organizations, promote mechanisms that foster relationships between municipalities and neighbouring First Nations.
- Utilizing the existing infrastructure of Indigenous national organizations (NACCA & CCAB), provide capacity building and business education to enhance and promote Indigenous business success and success stories.
- Develop an Indigenous Business Mentorship Program where Indigenous communities and entrepreneurs can connect with and receive guidance from others who have succeeded.
- Modernize the First Nations Land Management Act to bring it more in line with the Framework Agreement.
- Commit \$25 million to a national police support and community training program to reduce the incarceration rates of Canada's Indigenous communities.
- Working with Indigenous community groups, establish a national working group in the Canadian public service to encourage applications from Canada's Indigenous communities.
- Improve opportunities for Indigenous businesses to receive government contracts by:
 - Setting active targets and accountability mechanisms for departmental procurement officers.
 - Ensuring procurement rules don't unnecessarily exclude legitimate Indigenous businesses.
 - Providing constructive feedback to unsuccessful bidders.

- Working with ISED, investigating new measures (or enhancing previous measures) through the Industrial and Technological Benefits policy to increase Indigenous business involvement in the defence and security industries.

Pursuing Self-Determination

Canada's Conservatives believe that service delivery on First Nation reserves is ultimately best managed by First Nations themselves. Many successful models show that devolving control of service delivery to First Nations can work well. We have seen it work with education, health, and child and family services.

We will:

- Increase Indigenous governance capacity by training young Indigenous leaders including through the Institute of Corporate Directors.
- Empower the First Nations Finance Authority to monetize government funding, leveraging the market to supercharge First Nations infrastructure.
- Remain open to exploring innovative new models to fund and deliver social services and critical infrastructure.
- Develop, in collaboration with Indigenous groups, a National Action Plan that addresses violence against Indigenous women and girls.
- Consult with First Nations on overhauling the current funding models, with the goal of making it easier for First Nations to escape Third-Party Management, reducing red tape, and providing a clearer path with better incentives for moving towards block funding.

Drinking Water

The fact that many Indigenous communities still lack safe drinking water is a national shame. Clean water is essential to human health and well-being and making meaningful progress must be a priority for any government.

Canada's Conservatives will:

- 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 find new approaches, such as regional or coalition-based governance, that will help ensure water systems investments are protected and continue providing clean drinking water in the long term.

Mental Health

Tragically, Indigenous people die by suicide at much higher rates than non-Indigenous people. Driven by a combination of intergenerational trauma, poverty and many other factors, this ongoing crisis in mental health has only been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing poverty and infrastructure gaps will help improve risk factors for mental health in the medium to long term, but there is no question that help is needed now.

Canada's Conservatives will:

- Provide \$1 billion over five years to boost funding for Indigenous mental health and drug treatment programs.
- Support innovative approaches to address the crises of mental health and addiction, such as land-based treatment programs and programs delivered in Indigenous languages.
- Support the development of mental health and drug treatment programs by Indigenous people to develop capacity at the community level and allow for the delivery of culturally appropriate programs delivered in the appropriate Indigenous language.

Introducing Stability to Urban Indigenous Assistance

Canada's Conservatives will negotiate longer-term funding contracts with urban indigenous organizations to provide stability and better planning opportunities.

A Skilled Indigenous Workforce

Indigenous economic development will mean increased opportunity for Indigenous people in the skilled trades. Unfortunately, there are several barriers that have led to an underrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in these jobs.

Canada's Conservatives will:

- Work with Indigenous groups, provinces, territories, and trade organizations to identify opportunities to increase access for Indigenous workers and youth to apprenticeship programs.
- As part of our investment in jobs training, invest in trades training programs designed in partnership with the private sector, Indigenous organizations, and provincial/territorial governments to maximize opportunities for employment.

Broadband in Rural Indigenous Communities

Indigenous peoples living in rural and remote regions of Canada face a significant connectivity gap, even compared to other Canadians living in rural and remote areas. Only 24% of households in Indigenous communities have access to high-speed internet compared to 37% for rural households and 97% for urban ones. Because of this, Indigenous peoples will be significant beneficiaries of our plan to connect all Canadians to high-speed internet by 2025.

However, Indigenous communities face additional challenges when it comes to navigating existing broadband programs. For example, complex application processes pose a barrier to

small, isolated communities. It can be more difficult for Indigenous communities to access the funding they need.

To deal with these issues, Canada's Conservatives will:

- Streamline application processes for Indigenous communities.
- Provide more support and develop more flexible funding arrangements.
- Provide technical support during the application process.

Justin Trudeau has turned his back on Northern Canada. He has no northerners in his cabinet. He makes unilateral decisions impacting northerners' land, sea, and well-being without giving the territories a say and without any meaningful consultation with Indigenous peoples and other northerners.

Canada's Conservatives believe in empowering and supporting northerners while building the infrastructure needed to truly realize the potential of the Canadian north.

Respect for Northerners

Canada's Conservatives will:

- Complete devolution, beginning by allowing the territories to set their borrowing limits instead of Ottawa arbitrarily setting limits.
- Ensure that decisions about development in the north will be made by northerners, not by Ottawa.
 - This will include allowing northerners to decide on the level of development and the opportunities they want, such as responsibly unlocking Canadian oil and natural gas for export to European and Indo-Pacific markets.

Building the Northern Economy

Canada's Conservatives will:

- Give each of the territories their fair share of federal training funds and revive mine training in Nunavut, in partnership with mining companies, to increase employment of Inuit in mining.
- Work with the territories, local Indigenous communities, and Parks Canada to find opportunities to build the eco-tourism economy at our Northern parks.
- Work with governments and communities in Nunatsiavut, Nunavut, Nunavik, and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region to develop community-based marine fisheries, which will help create employment and fight local and regional food insecurity.
 - For communities across Inuit Nunangat, oceans are an essential lifeline and source of food.

Supporting Life in the North

Canada's Conservatives will:

- Double the residency deduction, which has not increased since 2016, to recognize the rising cost of living in the north, boost the basic amount in the intermediate zone to match the northern zone, and add the Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland, new parts of northern Saskatchewan, and new parts of north-western B.C. to this zone.
- Implement a Northern Housing Strategy built on:
 - Providing the territories with their fair shares of federal housing funding;
 - Ensuring that funding is stable and predictable; and
 - Working with Indigenous groups including the Inuit, and with resource companies investing in the north to ensure that housing gets built.
- Support innovative approaches to address the crises of mental health and addiction, such as land-based treatment programs developed and managed by Indigenous communities as part of a plan to enhance the delivery of culturally appropriate addictions treatment and prevention services in First Nations communities with high needs.
- Improve Nutrition North so that it achieves the goal of ensuring that northerners have access to affordable healthy food.

Canada's Conservatives recognize that work doesn't mean a 9 - 5 office job for many people in the north. That's one of the reasons why our child care plan emphasizes flexibility for parents, in contrast to the Liberal one size fits all approach that will shut out anyone who doesn't fit their model.

Our Vision for Northern Infrastructure

Canada's Conservatives have a vision for a Canadian north that is connected to the rest of our country and the world. Realizing the potential of our north - and the jobs and opportunity for northerners that will come with it - requires a generational investment in infrastructure.

We will ensure that the territories receive their fair share of infrastructure funding by reserving a funding envelope for them that accounts for the high construction cost in the north. We will address the Northern infrastructure gap in housing, telecommunications, transportation, energy, and climate change preparedness.

Our plan for northern infrastructure includes:

- The Grays Bay Port and Road Project, connecting Nunavut and NWT, via
 - a 230 km all-weather trunk road connecting a Port at Grays Bay to an existing ice road from Yellowknife via the Northwest Territories diamond mines; and
 - The only deep-water port on the Northwest Passage to (seasonally) connect to the national highway system.
- The Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Line, an Inuit-led project that will deliver renewable energy and broadband service to underserved remote communities while enabling the region's mining sector to flourish.
- Completing the Tuktoyaktuk road and port and pursuing an Arctic Gateway policy across the Canadian North.
- A large-scale project to provide clean power to the Yukon, developed in partnership with the Government of the Yukon.

Defending the Canadian North

Canada's Conservatives will not forsake our northern peoples or cede an inch of our Arctic sovereignty. Over the past years, Russia has refurbished and built over 30 Arctic bases, 14 operational airfields, 16 deep-water ports, and over 50 new military icebreakers. The Chinese government has also increased interest in the Arctic. All while the Liberal government has marginalized Canada's Northern communities from accessing opportunities toward their development.

To protect our Arctic sovereignty, we will:

- Expand the Canadian Rangers in number and mandate while making investments in their preparedness, equipment, and training.
- Refurbish and expand our RCAF Forward Operation Locations (FOL) and allow civil airport authorities to co-locate and utilize runways.
- Complete the Nanisivik Arctic naval facility on Baffin Island and develop a new Arctic naval base at Churchill, Manitoba that will make the Arctic more accessible to the RCN year-round and provide joint operation of these ports with local communities.
- Deploy new autonomous vehicles for Arctic surveillance operations in the air and at sea as part of a new Canadian sovereignty, deterrence, and detection strategy, with Bagotville as the main site to host the Government of Canada's Unmanned Aircraft Systems
- Expand the RadarSat constellation and launch more low earth orbit (LEO) satellites for both telecommunications and defence in the Arctic.

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RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Canada has a profound legal and moral obligation to reconcile and provide restitution for the colonial relations – marked by violent expropriation, displacement, and forced assimilation – that have undermined the cultural, governance and economic foundations of the Indigenous Peoples of this land.

The Green Party of Canada recognizes the ongoing leadership, resistance and resilience of Indigenous Peoples in the face of systemic oppression and intergenerational trauma. A Green government will support all Indigenous Peoples' efforts to emerge from the positions of disadvantage in which Canada has placed them, including support for cultural revitalization and healing.

The Green Party of Canada reaffirms its support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Greens are committed to implementing UNDRIP for those First Nations who support it. The Green Party believes that every nation has a right to decide who will speak on its behalf, and the government of Canada must be led by Indigenous Peoples with respect to designing any UNDRIP legislation. We heard from several First Nations who told us that they had not been consulted on Bill C-15.

A Green government will ensure that all First Nations are thoroughly involved in the development and design of UNDRIP implementation legislation. Greens would also ensure that any Nations who do not support UNDRIP would not have it imposed upon them.

The Green Party of Canada is committed to Reconciliation, Nation-to-Nation engagement and self-determination for Indigenous Peoples, and believes that any meaningful path towards reconciliation in Canada must ensure that First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation leaders are leading the decisions about the future of their people, their lands and their territories.

A Green government will:

- Provide sustainable funding for new and existing Indigenous Healing Centres to address the harms caused by residential schools;
- Increase funding to Friendship Centres across Canada providing critical social services off-reserve;
- Honour the original request from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for funding for work on the Missing Children and Unmarked Burials Project;
- Call on the Pope to apologise on behalf of the Catholic Church for its involvement in residential schools;

- Recognize that Indigenous children in residential schools have been replaced by Indigenous children in foster care; Indigenous children account for 7.7 per cent of children in Canada, but 52.2 percent of children in care;
- Stop fighting the Canada's Human Rights Tribunal orders requiring the government to compensate the child and family victims of Canada's discrimination; and ensure non-status First Nations' children living off reserve have access to Jordan's Principle.

A Green government will respect Indigenous sovereignty over self-defined and self-governed lands – whether First Nations, Métis Nation or Inuit – and respect all rights that their title to land entails, including the right to stewardship. We respect Inuit sovereignty over Inuit Nunangat.

We support the full implementation of treaties and other self-government agreements between Canada and Indigenous governments. A Green government will welcome a genuine nation-to-nation engagement with Indigenous Peoples in Canada that is truly grounded in the UNDRIP doctrine of free, prior and informed consent.

Treaties and Land Claims

1. Uphold fiduciary responsibilities, honour treaties, and respect all rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - Uphold Canada's fiduciary responsibility, fulfill Canada's responsibilities in agreements, honour treaties, and respect all rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their inherent rights of self-government.
2. Work towards the creation of an Indigenous Lands and Treaties Tribunal Act.
 - In partnership with Indigenous Peoples, work towards the creation of an Indigenous Lands and Treaties Tribunal Act to establish an independent body that will decide on specific claims, ensuring that treaty negotiations are conducted and financed fairly and that treaty negotiations and claims resolutions do not result in the extinguishment of aboriginal and treaty rights.
3. Immediately implement the land claims agreements already negotiated and languishing for lack of funding, particularly for First Nations in the territories.
 - Ensure that negotiations of treaties and self-government are not based on the extinguishment of Indigenous title and rights, and on assimilation, but on reconciliation of rights and title, and that negotiations recognize the diversity of traditional self-governance.

Respecting Indigenous Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and Nation-to-Nation relationships

1. Formally repudiate the doctrine of terra nullius, the doctrine of discovery, and other doctrines of superiority.

2. Guided by Indigenous leadership, establish a process to transition out from under the Indian Act.
 - With Indigenous leaders at the helm, establish processes for self-governing Indigenous Peoples and nations to transition out from under the Indian Act, grounding this in the doctrine of free, prior, and informed consent.
3. Implement the recommendations of the 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.
4. Affirm the inherent right of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation to determine child and family services.
 - Support kinship ties and ensure sufficient funding and resources so that families are kept together.
5. Work with First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit and their governing institutions on a nation-to-nation basis.
 - Advance and implement agreements, and work in collaboration with nations to co-develop and co-design policy and programs that will benefit First Nations, Métis Nation, and Inuit.
6. Recognize the rights of non-status and Métis as “Indigenous.”
 - Accept CAP-Daniels recognition of non-Status and Métis as “Indigenous”
 - Accept UNDRIP recognition of the rights that Indigenous people possess, applying equally to all Indigenous people regardless of distinction, residence or status.
 - Work towards the settlement of community land and resource rights for Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) communities
 - Respect and act on 2018 CAP-Canada Political Accord
 - Include off-reserve Status, non-Status, Métis and Southern Inuit in the implementation of calls to action in Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & 2SLGBTQQIA+.

Cultural Revitalization and Healing

1. Implement all 94 of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
2. Implement all of the Calls for Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
3. Build community capacity to support exercising self-determination.
 - Support self-determination with effective, fully-funded organizations to represent and provide services to communities by expanding Basic Organizational Capacity (BOC) funding for Indigenous representative organizations.
 - Representation of youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQQIA+, and distinct identities among off-reserve Indigenous people must be adequately funded to ensure those perspectives are included.
 - Support research and identification of off-reserve Indigenous communities across Canada, with registration and membership systems.
 - Support the application of trusted research and data on urban Indigenous populations to acknowledge under-counting.
4. Ensure access to quality education for every First Nations, Métis Nation, and Inuit child.

- Ensure that every First Nations, Métis and Inuit child has access to quality educational opportunities based on the expressed cultural, political and social priorities of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit governments, following meaningful consultation.
 - Support the development of Indigenous education curricula that are language and culture-specific.
 - Increase access to post-secondary education for Indigenous youth by removing the two per cent funding cap, as well as fully funding the program backlog.
 - Support and sustain the transmission, proliferation, and regeneration of Indigenous cultural works and languages.
 - Educate non-Indigenous Canadians on the histories, customs, traditions and cultures of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples of Turtle Island.
5. Honour the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling to compensate every child and family who was taken from their home on reserve.
 6. Adopt recommendations on funding for First Nations Child and Family Services from the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracy's 2020 report.
 - Adopt a results framework for the well-being of children, families, and communities, such as the Measuring to Thrive framework proposed in the report.
 - Budget for results with a block funding approach that addresses gaps and is linked to the results framework.
 - Undertake a full assessment of current capital stock.
 - Establish a non-political First Nations policy and practice secretariat to support First Nations and First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) agencies to transition to First Nations governance.
 - Establish a group of FNCFS agencies and First Nations willing to be early adopters of the new performance and funding approach to model implementation.

Health and Wellness

1. End all drinking water and boil water advisories.
 - Invest in and upgrade critical infrastructure to ensure safe water access and to be able to lift boil water advisories in every community.
 - Support Indigenous-led processes to implement safe drinking water and wastewater management systems
2. Ensure access to high-quality safe and affordable housing.
 - See "Life with Dignity - Ensure access to housing for Indigenous Peoples" [See below]
3. Improve food security in northern communities.
 - Consulting with residents on Arctic farming, working with non-profit groups to build greenhouses or hydroponic towers and funding education programs in nutrition and horticulture.
4. Increase access to high-quality health care services.

- Support healthcare services that incorporate traditional practices and recognize the role of extended families and elders.
- Devote sufficient resources for maternal and infant care, and culturally appropriate reproductive health services that uphold reproductive autonomy.
- Increase investments in Indigenous-led mental health (See “Life with Dignity - Expanded and enhanced mental health support” [See below])
- Sustain the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative to continue capacity building in the healthcare profession for Indigenous communities.
- Expand access to non-insured health benefits (NIHB) to all Indigenous people, regardless of Status, residency, membership or any other factors.
- Ensure that compensation funds are made available to the spouses and families of all Aboriginal veterans.
- Allocate dedicated funding to support communities providing culturally appropriate home and community care for seniors, ensuring that Elders remain connected to their communities and culture.

DISMANTLING SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

There is no singular catch-all solution to ending the systematic oppression that Black people, Indigenous Peoples, people of colour, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and members of other equity-seeking groups face. There are, however, steps that the federal government can and must take to address these long-standing injustices.

The Green Party of Canada is deeply committed to immediate as well as long-term actions that will truly address systemic racism in our public institutions, and will continue to propose bold, just, and necessary solutions.

A Green government will:

Take action on recommendations, calls to action, and calls for justice.

1. Implement recommendations to begin dismantling systemic racism in Canadian institutions.
 - Implement all of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
 - Implement all of the Calls for Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
 - Implement the recommendations of the Report of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its Mission to Canada

Ensure access to housing for Indigenous Peoples

1. Guided by First Nations, Inuit and Metis Nation, develop inclusive and culturally appropriate Urban Indigenous Housing Strategies - for Indigenous Peoples and

by Indigenous Peoples - as proposed by the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association's Indigenous Caucus.

2. Reinvest in housing for Indigenous communities
 - Change the legislation that prevents Indigenous organizations from accessing financing through CMHC to invest in self-determined housing needs.
 - Allocate funding towards urban Indigenous housing providers.
 - Develop and implement an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.
 - Ensure that all housing in Indigenous communities is built following principles laid out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
 - Leverage federal lands and real property for transfer to off-reserve Indigenous organizations to create housing and economic development opportunities.
 - Assist urban and rural Indigenous people in identifying emergency accommodations and affordable housing options for youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQIA+, and vulnerable populations.
 - Establish a "For Indigenous, By Indigenous" housing support program for all off-reserve and urban Indigenous communities, and include off-reserve Status and non-Status Indigenous Peoples.

EXPANDED AND ENHANCED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Every year, 1 in 5 Canadians will experience a mental health issue or illness. Societal stigma, regional disparities, and a lack of affordability present great barriers to accessing mental health services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated mental health problems, with youth, racialized communities and LGBTQ+ individuals reporting highest rates of poor mental health.

Canada's youth suicide rate is the third highest in the industrialized world. Suicide among Indigenous communities is a crisis, with suicide being the leading cause of death for First Nations under the age of 44, and the suicide rates for Inuit youth being 11 times the national average.

Along with a reduced quality of life, the economic cost of mental health is \$50 billion per year.

Stakeholders report long wait times, lack of affordability for private care, lack of access to ongoing support, lack of access for folks living outside of urban settings, and lack of integration between mental health and substance use supports.

The decriminalization of simple possession of illicit drugs paired with the creation of a national safe government supply of drugs of choice and the creation of more affordable supportive housing will help to address the connection between substance use and mental health. High-quality and accessible services must be provided equitably to everyone in Canada, with an understanding of the impact of mental health on youth, Indigenous Peoples, racialized communities, and the LGBTQ+ community.

The Green Party of Canada believes that we must establish a National Mental Health Strategy. An evidence-based and culturally appropriate suicide prevention strategy must be adopted to address the alarming rates of suicide, particularly in Indigenous communities.

A Green government will:

1. Establish a national mental health strategy and a suicide prevention strategy
 - Negotiate the Canada Health Accord to prioritize expansion of mental health and rehabilitation services, and call for the inclusion of mental health services as medically necessary.
 - Allocate increased direct federal investment in community-based mental health care.
 - Establish robust accountability mechanisms to ensure the delivery of mental health care on par with physical health.
2. Increase investments in Indigenous-led mental health
 - Increased support for Indigenous-led, culturally safe, mental health programs and services, rooted in Indigenous healing practices, land-based healing and the principle of self-determination.
 - Ensure all programming is guided by the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework.
 - Establish permanent program funding for the delivery of land-based, trauma-informed, community addictions care for Indigenous peoples.
 - Increase targeted investment in the mental health workforce serving Indigenous communities.
 - Double the current budget of the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative.
 - Take active steps to implement Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, specifically those related to mental health.
3. Support First Nations, Métis and Inuit in (re)building traditional knowledge systems around healing and wellness
 - Incorporate the formal inclusion of traditional healing within mental wellness and home and community care programs.
 - Ensure this process is led by First Nations, Métis Nation and Inuit organizations.
4. Invest in youth mental health.
 - Provide specific funding for early mental health interventions, including social and emotional learning programs, quality and accessible early childhood education, access to community-based mental health services for parents and caregivers, youth peer support programs, mobile youth mental health clinics, etc.
 - Launch a targeted strategy aimed at ensuring timely access to mental health services for young people and children
 - Provide funding for prevention, treatment, and research related to youth mental health, to address the growing crisis of mental health issues among young people.
 - Call for a national study on the impact of phones and social media on mental health in adolescents.

5. Invest in community supportive housing
 - Creating housing stock alone will not necessarily meet the needs of those with severe and/or chronic mental health issues. Supportive housing combines access to affordable units with intensive coordinated services. It would include rental supplements/allowances, case management, counselling, assistance with medication, and life skills training