

2019 Federal Party Election Platforms

Liberals:

Forward – A real plan for the middle class

- To help give people the time and money they need to keep their skills relevant and in-demand, we will move forward with the Canada Training Benefit, which gives workers money to help pay for training, provides income support during training, and will also offer job protection so that workers can take the time they need for training, knowing they will have a job to come back to when their training is done.
- To give apprentices more certainty and more opportunities to gain work experience, we will move forward with creating the Canadian Apprenticeship Service, in partnership with provinces, territories, employers, and unions. With this new help, apprentices who enter the Red Seal trades can be more confident about the future, knowing that jobs will be available when they need them. To support this effort, we will work with our partners to create more opportunities, providing up to \$10,000 per apprentice, over four years, for every new position created. This investment will help 12,500 more apprentices finish their training on time.
- invest \$100 million in skills training, to ensure there are enough qualified workers to keep up with energy audits, retrofits, and net-zero home construction.
- For Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP
 - To help family members more easily adjust to their new homes, we will move forward with a national employment and training support service. This service will provide career counselling, job matching, and other employment help tailored to the unique needs of military and policing families. We will also give families a tax-free \$2,500 benefit every time they relocate, to help with retraining, recertification, and other costs of finding new work.
- The Career Insurance Benefit will kick in after Employment Insurance ends, providing an additional 20 per cent of insured earnings in the first year following the layoff, and an extra 10 per cent in the second year. This will give workers up to an additional \$15,900 over two years, providing significant new help at a difficult time. (\$173m/4 years)

August 21, 2019 – announcement – not contained in formal platform document

- We will help Canadians get the training they need to find and keep good jobs.
- In a changing economy, Canadians need more opportunities to improve their skills and upgrade their credentials. We will make it easier for adults to access training programs by increasing investment in skills training.
- To help those receiving Employment Insurance get the training they need to rejoin the workforce, we will invest \$500 million more each year in provincial and territorial Labour Market Development Agreements.
- To help those who do not qualify for Employment Insurance or are not currently employed, we will invest an additional \$200 million in training programs led by the provinces and territories.
- We will also invest \$50 million to renew and expand funding to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy, and provide \$25 million each year for training facilities, delivered in partnership with labour unions.
- We will work with employers and workers to determine an appropriate apprenticeship ratio for all federal infrastructure projects. Our total investment of an additional \$775 million per year for job and skills training will help Canadians get the training they need to find and keep good jobs.

CBC Analysis¹:

- Liberals propose making student loans interest-free for two years after graduation and promise graduates won't have to pay until they earn over \$35,000 annually. The party also proposes allowing parents to pause loan payments with no interest until their youngest kid turns five. It plans to boost the maximum Canada Student Grants for full-time students from \$3,000 to \$4,200.
- Like other parties, Liberals want to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour. The party promises to create federal rules for those employed by ride-sharing and similar apps. It wants to extend Employment Insurance sick benefits from 15 to 26 weeks and ensure reliable benefits for seasonal workers. Liberals also want to create a Canada Training Benefit, to improve employee training.

¹ <https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/elections/federal/2019/party-platforms/>

NDP:

A New Deal for People: New Democrats' commitments to you

- We'll change EI rules to allow workers who quit their job to go to school to qualify for EI benefits, so that families can count on some income support during that period of transition back to school. We'll also expand options for workers in designated sectors and regions to take EI funded training in advance of losing a job while at the same time promoting investment to ensure that regional economies are creating good jobs that support families and communities. Finally, to make sure that businesses are investing in the training that Canadians need, a New Democrat government will require employers to spend at least 1 percent of payroll on training for their employees annually.
- In order to deliver these changes, we'll work closely with the provinces to establish national training priorities, and create a new *Workers Development and Opportunities Fund* to expand training options beyond people who qualify for EI. This fund will be provincially directed, with dedicated support for marginalized workers, those in transitioning sectors and for efforts to improve **literacy and essential skills**.
- Recognizing that a shortage of workers is a major barrier for many small businesses
- operating in rural areas, we'll make important new investments in training Canadians and boost support to traditionally underemployed groups, ensuring that they can access good jobs that pay a fair wage.
- To make it simpler for young people and women to get into agriculture and build a life on the farm, we'll work with the provinces to improve training opportunities across the country, and provide low-cost start-up loans for new farmers.
- By using *Community Benefit Agreements*, we will guarantee that good jobs, training, apprenticeships, and support for local businesses are part of every infrastructure project.
- Wherever possible, we'll encourage provinces to work with social enterprises to make sure that the training and jobs associated with building affordable housing go to those who need opportunities the most.
- We'll work with the provinces to provide training and re-training for the new job market, as well as labour market research to keep Canada on the cutting edge of the evolving work environment.

- Over the long term, this means working with the provinces and territories to cap and reduce tuition fees, and building towards making post-secondary education part of our public education system so kids can go from kindergarten to a career without the barrier of cost. We'll also move away from loans and significantly increase access to non-repayable Canada Student Grants.

CBC Analysis:

- The NDP's goal is to work towards free university and college tuition. To get there, they say they'll work with provinces and territories to put a cap on and reduce tuitions. The party says it will eliminate federal interest rates on student loans and put more money into Canada Student Grants. It also wants to expand the education benefit from veterans and implement a national school nutrition program.
- New Democrats propose raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Their platform pledges to create 300,000 new jobs in the NDP's first term. The party also wants to ban unpaid internships if they don't count for school credit. It would require employers spend one per cent of their payroll on annual employee training.

Conservatives:

Andrew Scheer's Plan for you to get ahead

Build Canadian Technology Skills

To make sure our immigration system attracts the top talent, we will ensure government re-training programs meet the demand for skills required for the jobs of today and tomorrow. The biggest competitive advantage that Canada's technology sector has is highly skilled workers and talent. We also hear that critical skills shortages are hurting our tech industry's ability to grow.

Attract the Best and Brightest

To match prospective immigrants with jobs in Canada and to help Canadian employers fill skills shortages, we will reverse Justin Trudeau's policy decision to reduce the number of points awarded for a job offer under the Express Entry Program. We will restructure the program to better match its original intent, attracting the world's best and brightest to help our industries succeed.

A new Conservative government will also work to keep the best and brightest talent in Canada after they finish university. International students educated in Canada are ideal candidates to help fill gaps in the Canadian job market. We will prepare and implement a plan to match students with jobs, focusing on high-demand skills.

Prepare Canadians Today, for the Jobs of Tomorrow

To make sure that Canadians receive the best advice, skills training, and employment assistance, we will establish success measures for the hundreds of millions of dollars that the Government of Canada currently spends to prepare Canadians for the workforce.

A new Conservative government will work with colleges and universities to make sure courses, programs, and academic curricula reflect the demands of today's labour market so that we are setting our students up for success.

Expand the Red Seal Program

To increase opportunities for Canadians to work anywhere in Canada, we will expand the Red Seal Program to recognize common credentials. We will work with the

provinces and territories to harmonize apprenticeship training and trade certification in their jurisdictions.

CBC Analysis:

- Conservatives have promised a boost to the Registered Education Savings Plans, raising contributions from 20 to 30 per cent for every dollar invested up to \$2,500 a year, to a maximum of \$750 a year. Leader Andrew Scheer backed away from a tax credit for parents who send kids to private and independent schools after critics said it benefited the wealthy.
- The party has railed against many Liberal policies, claiming they threaten jobs. Leader Andrew Scheer has been a fierce advocate for struggling oil workers. Conservatives have promised to end foreign oil imports and get pipelines built, including the Trans Mountain, which they claim will create “tens of thousands” of jobs. It also wants to improve “credential recognition” to make it easier for immigrants to get jobs, if they have equivalent skills.

Green Party:

Honest. Ethical. Caring. Leadership: Election platform 2019

- Transition workers to sustainable employment by:
 - Creating a detailed and publicly available inventory with labour market information pertaining to oil, coal and gas workers, such as skills profiles, demographics, locations, and current and potential employers.
 - Creating a comprehensive funding program for workers staying in the labour market to address their needs across the stages of securing a new job, including income support, education and skills building, re-employment, and mobility.
 - Investing in comprehensive retraining and apprenticeship programs for industrial trades workers for jobs in the transition to a zero-carbon economy, especially the renewable and energy efficiency sectors.
- Establish a Canadian Sustainable Generations Fund to make critical investments in trades, apprenticeships and education required for the transition to a green economy. These investments in skills training will complement targeted national infrastructure investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy production, digital upgrades, clean-tech manufacturing and emerging technologies, tourism, the creative economy and the care economy.
- Establish a National Community Benefit Strategy that leverages public procurement to maximize opportunities for social hiring and procurement, including Indigenous procurement, youth employment and demand-driven skills development programs.
- Enhance the federal Youth Employment and Skills Strategy by creating a Community and Environment Service Corps. This will provide \$1 billion annually to municipalities to hire Canadian youth.
- Make college and university tuition free for all Canadian students. Student debt forgiveness (\$57,499m/ 5 years)
- Training & employment programs for indigenous and northern communities (\$75m/ 5years)

CBC Analysis

- Greens want to get rid of university and college tuition — and forgive any existing federal student debt. The party wants to make sure all Indigenous students have access to post-secondary education while expanding curriculum on Indigenous education overall. It would boost funding for training new immigrants in English and French and supports a national school lunch program.
- The party wants to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour and ban unpaid internships that aren't for school credits. It wants to cancel the Temporary Foreign Worker program and implement a guaranteed livable income. The party has also proposed a robot tax, which would force companies to pay a tax when they replace an employee with a machine.

Bloc Québécois

CBC Analysis

- The Bloc want larger transfer payments to provinces and territories to help pay for education and finance more university research. It is also in favour of building a Francophone university in Ontario, a project the province cancelled late last year but is now pursuing again.
- The Bloc says it would work to keep head offices for large corporations in Quebec — and would offer a remediation agreement to SNC-Lavalin. It opposes the sales any Quebec business to foreign companies. The party is proposing a tax credit for recent graduates or immigrants who move to rural areas for jobs.