

This Voter's Guide compares the platforms and actions of political parties that earned at least three per cent of the popular vote in the last federal election (except Bloc Québécois). For a full list of federal party commitments, visit parties' websites.

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY TO VOTE:

### 1 Register online

In order to vote, you need to be on the voter's list. Visit [elections.ca](http://elections.ca) to check, update or complete your registration online. You can also register in person on election day by filling out a form at your polling station, but it's much easier to do it in advance. If you are a student, you might call more than one place home – your parents' house, your student residence, your sublet apartment. You can choose which one to use as your address when voting, even if that's not where you will be on election day. The address you use determines which riding you'll vote in. Your choice might be influenced by which riding is likely to have the closest race, or you may want to pick based on what ID you have.

### 2 Get the right ID

Even when you're on the voter's list you still need to prove who you are and where you live.

You have three choices:

**A. Show one piece of government-issued ID** with your photo, name and address, like a driver's licence.

**B. Show two pieces of ID, one with your name and one with your name and address.** You could use your health card and your bank statement, or your debit card and your phone bill. Get all your bills online? Print a copy or display it on your phone.

**C. Show two pieces of ID with your name and bring someone else who will attest to your address.** If you don't have any ID with your address on it, another member of your household or a neighbour can swear that you live where you say you live. That person has to have ID as described in A or B, has to be registered, and has to live in the same polling division as you (check the poll number on the back of your voter information cards to make sure they're the same). They can only attest to the address of one person.

### 3 Find out where to vote

If you are a registered voter who is 18 years-old or older, you will receive a voter information card in the mail telling you where and when you can vote. You can also find this information online at [elections.ca](http://elections.ca).

Your polling station will usually be a short distance from where you live.

If you're not going to be near your polling station on election day, that's all right. You can vote at advance polls, at any Elections Canada office or by mail.

### 4 Vote!

The most common way to vote is to go to your polling station during the designated hours on election day. Did you know that by law you're entitled to three consecutive hours away from work to vote? If you're working on election day, your employer might have to give you time off.

Voting is one of the truest acts of democracy – by putting pencil to paper you will join people across Canada to vote for the candidate and the political party you think will best lead our country. This is a critical time in our history when the world's leading scientists say climate change must be urgently addressed.



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# Who decides? YOU DO

## COUNCIL OF CANADIANS VOTER'S GUIDE 2019

**On October 21, Canadians will go to the polls to elect a government that represents our shared values. The urgency of climate change makes this federal election even more critical to the future not only of our country, but our planet.**

**When you cast your ballot you will be joining with people across the country to choose the political party you think will lead us to a better future.**



The federal election takes place at a time when people across the world are demanding answers to fundamental questions. How can society address the climate crisis? How can we overcome the growth of income inequality and insecurity? How can we pressure governments to defend the public good instead of bowing to corporate pressures? How do we counter the growth of intolerance and the politics of division? As Canadians, we must also ask about reconciliation with the first peoples of our land.

Elections are an essential part of our democracy – every single seat in Parliament matters. We have seen the disturbing record of provincial governments in recent months decimating programs to tackle climate change, reversing gains in labour rights, and undermining social justice. We cannot afford to have a federal government that aligns with that direction. Nor can we ignore the need to hold governments to account for their promises.

Everyone should consider how they can help shape the outcome of this election. Reaching out to those who are unsure about choices, helping our friends and neighbours make informed decisions, and encouraging young people to exercise their right to vote – there is a role for every one of us. We hope this guide helps you engage in this vital part of democracy.

Founded in 1985, the Council of Canadians is Canada's largest grassroots social action organization with more than 100,000 supporters and a network of more than 50 community-based chapters across the country.

The Council of Canadians is an independent, non-partisan, public interest organization and does not endorse any specific party or individual candidate.

For a full list of federal party commitments visit [conservative.ca](http://conservative.ca), [ndp.ca](http://ndp.ca), [liberal.ca](http://liberal.ca) and [greenparty.ca](http://greenparty.ca). Information on parties not listed in this guide is available at [elections.ca](http://elections.ca).



	Conservative Party	Green Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party
<b>Climate crisis</b>	<p>Will repeal federal carbon tax plan.</p> <p>Supports further expansion of climate-polluting tar sands.</p> <p>Offering tax rebates to people who “green” their homes.</p> <p>Will dump laws regulating large industry projects like pipelines.</p>	<p>Will slash greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent by 2030 and to zero by 2050.</p> <p>Will end all fossil fuel industry subsidies.</p> <p>Wants to lead a movement to divest from fossil fuels, starting with the federal government.</p> <p>Will implement a bold Canadian climate and energy strategy to build and sustain the green economy through a just transition.</p>	<p>Will let polluters pay with a federal carbon tax.</p> <p>Approved the Trans Mountain pipeline which will lead to tar sands expansion - twice. They also bought the pipeline.</p> <p>Declared a climate emergency.</p> <p>Will invest money earned from Trans Mountain pipeline in renewable energies.</p>	<p>Will set science-based targets that will help stabilize the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C.</p> <p>Make public and energy efficient transportation more affordable.</p> <p>Will cut Big Oil and Gas subsidies.</p>
<b>Democracy and civil liberties</b>	<p>Federal Court determined Conservative Party voters’ list most likely source of misleading phone calls to voters in 2015 election.</p> <p>Harper government passed the “Fair” Elections Act that would have made it difficult for some people to vote.</p> <p>Will put new restrictions on immigration.</p>	<p>Will end first-past-the-post and establish proportional representation.</p> <p>Believes in participatory democracy.</p>	<p>In 2015 election promised proportional representation, but then abandoned it.</p> <p>Found to have interfered in democratic process in SNC Lavelin affair.</p> <p>Restored voter protections taken away by Conservative’s “Fair” Elections Act.</p>	<p>Will stand up to racism, homophobia and transphobia.</p> <p>Committed to reproductive rights and ending gender-based violence.</p>
<b>Jobs and the economy</b>	<p>Wants to create an energy corridor and build pipelines to create jobs.</p> <p>Will make Canada “energy independent” by 2030.</p>	<p>Will reform the tax system to make corporations and the wealthiest pay more.</p> <p>Promising to transition fossil fuel workers to jobs in renewable energies.</p> <p>Will balance budget and reduce national debt.</p>	<p>Reduced unemployment to record-low levels.</p> <p>Created Canada Child Benefit to assist families.</p> <p>Promising fossil fuel jobs with the Trans Mountain pipeline.</p>	<p>Will make corporations pay more.</p> <p>Will tax investment profits at a higher rate.</p> <p>Create 300,000 new low-carbon jobs, increase protections for workers, and tackle inequality with a “super-wealth tax.”</p>
<b>Water and the environment</b>	<p>Slashed laws that protected water, making it easier for industrial projects to pollute.</p> <p>Changed environmental assessment laws making it easier for big industry to win approval.</p>	<p>Will preserve and protect water from industrial pollution and wasteful use.</p> <p>Opposes large-scale exports of Canada’s fresh water.</p> <p>Pledges secure, safe water supplies, especially in First Nations dealing with unsafe water.</p>	<p>Considering ban on single-use plastics by 2021.</p> <p>Has reversed some legislation implemented by the Harper government that gutted Canada’s water laws.</p> <p>Working to end drinking water advisories in First Nations, but not there yet.</p>	<p>Will enshrine right to healthy environment in the Bill of Rights.</p> <p>Will implement a National Freshwater Strategy and restore protections of all navigable waters.</p> <p>Committed to lifting all drinking water advisories by 2021, prioritizing Indigenous-led water management and operations.</p>
<b>Health care</b>	<p>Supports cutting health care spending.</p> <p>Does not support national pharmacare.</p> <p>Conservative governments consistently favour private health care.</p>	<p>Will establish a Crown Corporation to bulk purchase medicines for a national pharmacare program.</p> <p>Will include basic dental care in medicare.</p> <p>Will fund community-based support for substance abuse prevention and treat it as public health issue.</p>	<p>Promised to negotiate a new Health Care Accord with stable increased funding, but didn’t.</p> <p>Asked panel to review idea of national pharmacare plan – expected to commit to implementing it.</p> <p>Supports public health care.</p>	<p>Will declare a public health emergency in opioid crisis.</p> <p>Supports national pharmacare and will expand health care to include mental health and dental care.</p> <p>Promises access to safe, affordable housing as part of better health.</p>
<b>Trade</b>	<p>Championed and initiated free trade agreements that roll back public power and threaten the environment.</p> <p>Initiated the Canada-European Union deal (CETA) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).</p> <p>Hurt small scale farmers by allowing imports of milk and supply managed products from other countries.</p>	<p>Opposed CETA from the beginning when no other federal party did.</p> <p>Opposed the TPP and the CPTPP.</p> <p>In the new NAFTA, supports the elimination of pharmaceutical protections for biologics which would make drug prices higher.</p> <p>Would give six months notice to cancel NAFTA and renegotiate another agreement.</p>	<p>Signed the new NAFTA with Mexico and U.S. Preident Donald Trump.</p> <p>Championed trade agreements such as CETA and the CPTPP that reduce government’s ability to protect the environment and public policy.</p> <p>Supported the investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms that allow corporations to sue governments.</p> <p>Refuses to reopen the new NAFTA to eliminate drug protection provisions that would make drugs more expensive.</p>	<p>Promises a fair and transparent process for trade deals that includes consultation before agreements are signed.</p> <p>Says trade deals will be consistent with UNDRIP.</p> <p>Actively opposed the TPP and the CPTPP in Parliament.</p> <p>Worked against energy proportionality provisions in NAFTA that require Canada to export a percentage of its energy.</p>
<b>Indigenous rights</b>	<p>Does not think level of violence directed at Indigenous women and girls should be labelled as genocide.</p>	<p>Affirms Indigenous peoples’ right to self-determination.</p> <p>Will ensure Indigenous peoples have a “seat at the table as equal partners with colonial government structure.”</p> <p>Will respect the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p>	<p>Promised to review the MMIWG inquiry findings and implement reforms.</p> <p>Continues to ignore Indigenous people’s right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.</p>	<p>Developed with Indigenous peoples a National Action Plan for Reconciliation.</p> <p>Will implement UNDRIP and Truth and Reconciliation Comission’s 94 calls to action.</p> <p>Will implement the MMIWG Inquiry’s calls for justice.</p>