

**FEDERAL ELECTION 2015**  
**Comparison of the Four Major Political Party Platforms**  
**October 2, 2015**

The following table compares the platform positions of the four major federal political parties with RNAO's key expectations for the next federal government, as set out in RNAO's platform, *Why Health Matters*.<sup>1</sup> Commitments of the parties included in the table are based on the policies available from the parties' campaign websites (August 2, 2015- October 2, 2015), as well as their answers to RNAO's questionnaire<sup>2</sup>. Only those commitments that address aspects of RNAO's own platform are included. This document will continue to be updated as more information from the above sources becomes available.

<u><b>RNAO PLATFORM POSITION</b></u>	<u><b>CONSERVATIVE PARTY COMMITMENTS</b></u>	<u><b>NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY COMMITMENTS</b></u>	<u><b>LIBERAL PARTY COMMITMENTS</b></u>	<u><b>GREEN PARTY COMMITMENTS</b></u>
<b>A. Medicare</b>				
Protect and strengthen Canada's universally accessible, publicly funded and not-for-profit health system				
1. Enforce the principles of the <i>Canada Health Act</i> and negotiate a new Health Accord including increased health transfers	"The Harper Government supports a publicly-funded, universally accessible and sustainable health care system. Since 2006, the Harper government has increased the Canada Health Transfer by 70% while balancing the budget and keeping taxes low. Under a re-elected Harper Government, health transfers will continue to grow on a sustainable and predictable basis. In particular, beginning in 2017–18, health transfers will increase in line with the growth of the economy or at a minimum of 3 per cent annually. As a result, health transfers will rise from \$32.1 billion in 2014–15 to \$40.9 billion in 2019–20 – an increase of nearly \$27 billion over the next five years. This will ensure that the	"New Democrats are strong defenders of our cherished public healthcare system...We will restore the federal leadership role that has been lacking under the Conservatives. New Democrats have committed to reverse Stephen Harper's reckless, unilateral cuts to healthcare funding and work collaboratively with the provinces and territories on developing a new set of health care agreements. We also believe the federal government has an important role to play in upholding the Canada Health Act and in working with the provinces and	"A new Liberal government will re-engage on Canadian health care and negotiate a new Health Accord with provinces and territories, including a long-term agreement on funding." <sup>6</sup>  "A Liberal government's additional priorities for a new Health Accord will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving access and reducing the cost of prescription medications</li> <li>• Pan-Canadian collaboration on health innovation.</li> <li>• Increasing the availability of high-quality mental health services"<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>	"Greens fully support the Canada Health Act (CHA) and all its principles – the five guiding criteria of the CHA are non-negotiable...To facilitate federal leadership in health care and negotiate the principles of increased health transfers, a Council of Canadian Governments – representing the provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous governments – could create a working committee on health care." <sup>10</sup>  "[The Council]... will facilitate this intergovernmental cooperation. The Council would promote collaboration

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	<p>Government's long-term fiscal position is sustainable, while also providing certainty and stability to the provinces and territories."<sup>3</sup></p> <p>"Our government is committed to a publicly-funded, universally accessible and sustainable health care system... as well as consistent, sustainable increases to the Canada Health Transfer."<sup>4</sup></p>	<p>territories to adapt Medicare to the challenges of the 21st century."<sup>5</sup></p>	<p>"Liberals know we need a conversation that goes beyond simply mirroring commitments made in previous decades. We need a federal government committed to innovation, collaboration, and partnering with provinces and territories to achieve a modern, efficient, equitable system of universal health care. We need a partner who understands that our population is aging. We need a partner who understands that to get Canadians the health care they need, we require a serious and substantial response from the federal government."<sup>8</sup></p> <p>"... the federal government has a vital role to play [in health care]. The absence of a federal-provincial partnership, and lack of engagement on the expired federal-provincial Health Accord, was a missed opportunity. A Liberal government will call a federal-provincial meeting to reach a long-term agreement on health care funding. In addition to re-engaging in areas where there is direct federal responsibility – including health promotion, support to caregivers, and First Nations' health – we have</p>	<p>between federal, provincial, and municipal governments."<sup>11</sup></p> <p>"The Green Party believes that Ottawa must provide adequate funding and firm national leadership to guide the effective collaboration needed to strengthen our health care system and to develop national standards for more equitable coverage..."<sup>12</sup></p> <p>"Increase the Canada Health Transfer to account for the age of a province's population, so they can afford to provide health care with a demographic that is weighted with seniors"<sup>13</sup></p>

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			committed to meeting with the Premiers to strengthen our health care. Together, we can make measurable progress on the issues that matter to Canadians..." <sup>9</sup>	
2. Expand our universally accessible, publicly funded, not-for-profit health-care system to include pharmacare		<p>"... invest \$2.6 billion in new federal funding to initiate universal public drug coverage, to be phased in over the next four years and reaching \$1.5 billion annually in 2019/2020. This commitment does not depend on matching funds from the provinces and territories. The NDP will work with provinces, pool our resources and leverage our combined strength so that together we can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiate lower drug prices that are more in line with other developed countries;</li> <li>• Bulk purchase prescription drugs at better prices; and</li> <li>• Streamline the drug review and listing process, reducing duplication and overhead costs for the provincial and federal governments.</li> </ul> <p>To support this partnership, we will dedicate a further \$80 million over four years to improve provincial-federal capacity for drug reviews, listing, joint pricing negotiations and</p>	<p>"We will improve access to necessary prescription medications. We will join provincial and territorial governments to negotiate better prices for prescription medications and to buy them in bulk – reducing the cost governments pay to purchase drugs.... We will continue to ensure timely approvals for new medicines, many of which not only improve patient health, but reduce overall health care costs as well. We will consult with industry and review the rules used by the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board to ensure value for the money governments and individual Canadians spend on brand name drugs."<sup>17</sup> "... we have committed to meeting with the Premiers to strengthen our health care. Together, we can make measurable progress on the issues that matter to Canadians – like wait times, the affordability of prescription drugs..."<sup>18</sup></p>	<p>"Green MPs will call for a universal pharmacare program that ensures all Canadians can access the medication they need....A national pharmacare program will enable Canada to negotiate purchases in bulk and combine administration costs, saving billions. We will establish, in cooperation with the provinces, a new crown corporation to bulk purchase and dispense prescription drugs, based on a rigorous evidence-based model. This program should adopt the four key recommendations of the Pharmacare 2020 Report..."<sup>19</sup></p> <p>"... National Pharmacare would also ensure screening of all drugs for safety and effectiveness by requiring that all provinces participate in the Common Drug Review to address drug safety..."<sup>20</sup></p>

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		<p>improving safety by reducing inappropriate prescribing."<sup>14</sup></p> <p>"New Democrats have for years advocated for the goal of universal drug coverage in the best interest of Canadians... Canadians continue to pay more for prescription drugs than those in other OECD countries with costs varying depending on where you live. New Democrats are committed to re-engaging with provinces and territories to create a new health accord and to working collaboratively on a national plan within our public health system to lower Canadians' costly output on drugs."<sup>15</sup>"NDP Leader...announced ... his plan to work with provinces to make prescription drugs more affordable, by supporting universal prescription drug coverage and controlling drug costs through bulk purchasing..."<sup>16</sup></p>		
3. Expand our universally accessible, publicly funded, not-for-profit health-care system to include home care		<p>"Expand homecare to support 41,000 seniors – freeing up hospital beds and reducing overcrowding in emergency rooms."<sup>21</sup></p> <p>"Home care has been on the NDP's</p>	"...we will invest \$3 billion over the next four years to prioritize additional and improved home care services for all Canadians...We will work with the provinces and territories to ensure all Canadians have access to high-quality	...[expand] the public investment at the primary healthcare level to include home care and long-term care in the community, out patient rehabilitation services, dental and vision care, and services needed to address Autism

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		<p>‘to do’ list as a missing piece of the health care mosaic ever since the Canada Health Act was established. It is an essential part of the health care continuum both on its own merits and, increasingly, as a cost saving option to institutional environments. We look forward to being in a position, as government, to further integrate home care into our national public health system...We will continue to consult with provincial and territorial governments and other stakeholders on this and other options as we move forward on this important file." <sup>22</sup></p>	<p>in-home caregivers, financial supports for family care, and, when necessary, palliative care." <sup>23</sup></p> <p>"Given our aging population...improving homecare will need to be a key issue that is discussed as the federal and provincial governments negotiate a long-term agreement on health care funding." <sup>24</sup></p> <p>“We will work with the provinces and territories to ensure all Canadians have access to high-quality in-home caregivers, financial supports for family care, and, when necessary, palliative care.”<sup>25</sup></p> <p>“Other countries with successful, universal health systems have made the necessary shift from physician-and hospital-based care to an integrated, primary-care system that incorporates community, home, and long-term care. Home care must become an even more important part of our own health care system. We know that many Canadians would choose to receive care at home. A patient-centered approach adapts to Canadians’ lifestyles and needs –</p>	<p>Spectrum Disorder;"<sup>28</sup></p> <p>"...Green MPs will advocate for a National Home Care Policy that improves upon existing eldercare policies and establishes guidelines for the care of seniors who have special needs and require care by geriatric specialists. While we applaud the provinces for taking the lead on continuing care, we are in desperate need of federal leadership to harmonize the provincial plans and give the kind of nation-wide support that only the federal government can provide." <sup>29</sup></p> <p>"We will work through the Council of Canadian Governments to develop a National Seniors Strategy with the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Housing plan, with affordable, predictable home care support;...</li> <li>• An approach that supports “aging in place”<sup>30</sup></li> </ul>

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			<p>enabling them to have independence and dignity. We also know that this helps reduce cost burdens within our health care system, allowing additional resources to be brought to bear to improve quality."<sup>26</sup></p> <p>"... Under Justin Trudeau's leadership, Liberals are committed to investing in middle class families, seniors, and personal support workers – in order to make a real difference in the lives of all Canadians."<sup>27</sup></p>	
4. Reject efforts to privatize and/or commercialize the delivery of health care – including user fees, copayments, means testing, and medical tourism		"Under both the Conservatives and the Liberals that preceded them, New Democrats have been waging a concerted battle to stop the hemorrhaging of our public health services to private, for-profit businesses. In government, we will continue that struggle with renewed vigor." <sup>31</sup>	<p>"Every Canadian deserves access to timely, publicly-funded, quality, universal health care – regardless of background, physical need, where they live, or how much they make."<sup>32</sup></p> <p>"Liberals believe that the quality of our health care system must be improved while maintaining its universality. Attempts to privatize our health care system undermine the principles of universality and the Canada Health Act."<sup>33</sup></p>	"The federal government must reassert its mandate to protect the Canada Health Act. The Green Party proposes to measure and identify the extent of the multi-tiered system in Canada with an eye to completely eliminating all the current scheme's inequalities... Only a single-payer system can provide Canadians with the quality healthcare that we need." <sup>34</sup>
5. Resurrect a commitment made by the First Ministers in		"Inter-professional teams have long been a core part of the New Democrat vision for health care, as evidenced in our support for	"Our commitment is nothing less than ensuring an integrated primary care system in Canada that is multidisciplinary, patient-centered, and	"The Green Party of Canada believes that we should embrace the vision of 'Patient-Centered Primary Care' as developed by the College of Family

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2003 to achieve 24/7 access to primary care delivered by interprofessional teams working to their full scope		<p>community health centres. Working to their full scope, such collaborative teams offer Canadians a thorough and efficient health delivery alternative...New Democrats will initiate new health accord negotiations with the provinces and territories that will encompass such previous goals and commitments with a view to the future."<sup>35</sup></p> <p>"Tom Mulcair will help five million Canadians access a family doctor; hire thousands of doctors, nurses and health professionals; build 200 community health clinics across Canada"<sup>36</sup></p> <p>"As Prime Minister, Tom will... get back to working collaboratively with provinces and territories to improve primary care and expand access to long-term and primary care."<sup>37</sup></p>	committed to managing chronic disease within community, home, and long-term care settings." <sup>38</sup>	Physicians of Canada. The health care team that centres on the patient includes a large number of trained professionals and moves away from a physician-centric model of health care delivery. The Green Party will work to shift our focus from hospital-based care to community-based primary care delivered by teams." <sup>39</sup>
6. Reverse cuts made to the Interim Federal Health Program, which provides limited temporary healthcare benefits to refugee		"...A New Democrat government will not balance its budgets on the backs of refugees and will move as quickly as possible to fully restore refugee health services." <sup>40</sup>	"A Liberal government will fully restore the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP).The Conservative government shamelessly cut basic health care services for the most vulnerable. We agree with the Supreme Court that this attack on basic health care services for	"The Green Party agrees with the Federal Court that these cuts constitute "cruel and unusual treatment" and are unconstitutional. We are turning our backs on Canada's long history of compassionate refugee resettlement policies. Greens will swiftly reverse

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claimants			the most vulnerable is unconstitutional and have been calling on the government to reverse these cuts since the government first announced them. Our party believes that vulnerable people who travel to Canada from abroad in search of opportunity deserve a real and fair chance at success." <sup>41</sup>	these cuts." <sup>42</sup>
7. Reinstate the Health Council of Canada (HCC)		"...A New Democratic government is committed to negotiating a new health accord with the provinces and territories. The Health Council of Canada was a child of the 2004 Health Accord and we would include the resurrection or reformulation of a HCC-style body as part of that new intergovernmental discussion." <sup>43</sup>	"A Liberal government will work with provinces and territories to overcome obstacles to innovation in health care delivery and to disseminate and scale up successful new practices, such as ways to use genomics in precision medicine. This includes supporting initiatives that help health care providers collaborate, across Canada, to ensure the most appropriate and effective treatments and practices for their patients. By using the best available evidence, governments can increasingly work together to support front-line health providers as they deliver high-quality and effective care to Canadians." <sup>44</sup>	"Greens believe that a strong national health care system must be underwritten not just with federal cash, but also with a substantial dose of federal government leadership. To this end, the Health Council of Canada could be reinstated, or a Council of Canadian Governments could create a standing council on health care, as has been done in Australia. Either of these bodies, purposed with the task of renewing the Canada Health Accord, would send a clear message that the federal government has an important role to play in our health care system." <sup>45</sup>

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<b>B. Access to Care</b> Improve access to quality, person-centred care				
1. Earmark funding to increase registered nurse- and nurse practitioner-to-population ratios		"...We will make every effort to ensure that adequate nurse-to-population ratios and the increased use of nurse practitioners are a significant part of this roadmap." <sup>46</sup>  "Tom Mulcair will...hire thousands of doctors, nurses and health professionals" <sup>47</sup>	"Nurses are going to be essential, front-line parts of executing this strategy. The \$3 billion dollar investment in health by a Liberal government will increase the number of nurse and nurse practitioners in Canada." <sup>48</sup>	"Canada needs more nurses but Canada also needs nurses doing more. The Green Party will work to increase the role of nurse practitioners in providing medical care and shift our focus from hospital-based care to community-based primary care delivered by teams." <sup>49</sup>
2. Develop a national palliative care strategy that provides universally accessible services across the country	"In 2006, the Harper government launched the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), an independent, not-for-profit organization which works to reduce cancer cases, minimize cancer deaths and improve patient quality of life...a re-elected Harper government would renew the Partnership for a further five years when its current mandate expires in 2017. The Partnership will focus in the following areas in its renewed mandate: Palliative care and survivorship – to help people and their families touched by cancer..." <sup>50</sup>	"Invest \$1.8 billion over four years to help provinces improve palliative end-of-life care, home care and long-term care. This includes establishing a \$30 million palliative care innovation fund to help provinces improve access to end-of-life resources, services and support." <sup>51</sup>  "A national palliative care strategy has been and continues to be an essential component of the New Democratic Party vision of health care. In government, we will follow-up on actions that we have taken	"Canadians are looking for a real conversation about strengthening end-of-life care and support, including palliative care. It falls on us, as legislators, to act, and that means leading a broad and inclusive discussion with all Canadians. We recognize the need for a respectful and responsible conversation about strengthening end-of-life care and support, including palliative care. We support federal collaboration with provincial and territorial partners to tackle critical needs including end-of-life care,	"The Green Party will establish and fund a special program to provide grants to non-profit societies setting up palliative care hospices and work with the Council of Canadian Governments to ensure we put a strategy in place that guarantees accessibility and affordability of palliative care." <sup>56</sup>

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		<p>while in opposition. These actions included [Bill C-545] on continuing care (palliative, home, and long-term care)...[this bill] would have required the setting up of a special advisory committee to conduct a panCanadian assessment of Canadians' palliative care needs leading to the establishment, within two years, of national standards for delivering continuing care services based on an integrated model of health care delivery with transitions between different types of care and the provision of federal funding to help meet those standards. Also, last year [the NDP called for]... a panCanadian strategy for palliative and end-of-life care...There are currently no minimum or common standards for palliative care services. As government, we will work to address this issue."<sup>52</sup></p>	<p>community-based care and elder care"<sup>53</sup></p> <p>"A Liberal government will make a new, ten-year investment of nearly \$20 billion in social infrastructure ... We will prioritize significant, new investment in seniors' facilities – including long-term care facilities and palliative care facilities"<sup>54</sup></p> <p>"We will also expand access to the Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefit, so that it is available for more than only end-of-life care."<sup>55</sup></p>	

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<p>3. Develop a principled regulatory framework to implement the Supreme Court of Canada's decision on assisted death</p>		<p>"An NDP government under Tom Mulcair will make increased access to palliative care a priority, while taking immediate steps to implement the Supreme Court of Canada's historic and unanimous Carter decision swiftly with balance, respect and sensitivity."<sup>57</sup></p>	<p>"A Liberal government will immediately begin consultations for physician-assisted death, respecting the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling in the Carter v. Canada case and in accordance with the Supreme Court's deadline. We will immediately appoint a special committee to consider the ruling of the Supreme Court, consult with experts and Canadians, and make recommendations for a legislative framework that respects the Constitution, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the priorities of Canadians."<sup>58</sup></p> <p>"Physician -assisted dying is a complex and emotional issue that touches the lives of a great number of Canadians. Canadians expect their elected representatives to take a leadership role on this issue. They also expect a respectful and responsible conversation about strengthening end-of-life care and support, including palliative care."<sup>59</sup></p>	<p>"The Green Party is the only federal party supporting changes to the Criminal Code to allow physician-assisted death. With increased funding for palliative care hospices, "living-will" legislation that guarantees people the right to limit or refuse medical intervention and treatment and investment in educating the public about end-of-life issues we can balance the implementation of this complex change. The unanimous Supreme Court decision was clear: we must act now to protect Canadians' dignity."<sup>60</sup></p>

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<b>C. Social determinants of Health</b>				
<p>1. Support affordable housing programs by increasing federal spending on those programs by \$2 billion annually</p>	<p>"A re-elected Conservative Government will build on its record of supporting affordable, responsible homeownership for families by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding the Home Buyers' Plan from \$25,000 to \$35,000 so first-time home buyers can withdraw savings tax-free to make their down payments and reduce their mortgages and interest payments.</li> <li>• Maintaining the 2015 enhancement to Tax-Free Savings Accounts that allow annual contributions of up to \$10,000...</li> <li>• Establishing a new permanent Home Renovation Tax Credit for home renovation expenses between \$1,000 and \$5,000.</li> <li>• Collecting data on foreign buyer activity in Canada's housing market and taking concrete action to address foreign non-resident real estate speculation in coordination with provinces."<sup>61</sup></li> </ul>	<p>"...An NDP government would make housing more affordable by sustaining investment in Canada's affordable housing agreements and by providing incentives for the construction of 10,000 affordable and market rental housing units. We have already announced significant investments in affordable housing – more than \$2 billion over 4 years for capital repairs, rent-geared-to-income subsidies, and construction of new affordable housing."<sup>62</sup></p> <p>"Invest in affordable housing programs so that women and children fleeing violence can find a new place to call home."<sup>63</sup></p>	<p>"The Liberal Party of Canada believes that every Canadian has the right to safe, adequate and affordable housing. Liberals understand that affordable housing is a possible solution to many of our society's challenges. Child poverty, struggling veterans, high student debt, and the precarious lives of people experiencing mental and addiction issues are all addressed with better housing."<sup>64</sup></p> <p>"A Liberal government will make additional investments to ensure that it is easier for Canadians to find an affordable place to call home."<sup>65</sup></p> <p>"We will invest in a National Housing Strategy that makes direct investments in affordable housing, provides tax incentives to expand affordable rental housing, improves data collection, reviews policies on housing in high-priced markets, and offers more flexibility for new home buyers."<sup>66</sup></p>	<p>"The Green Party will develop a National Housing Strategy through the Council of Canadian Governments. Canada is the only country in the OECD without a housing strategy. Any coherent plan must include concrete funding for a seniors' housing plan, a First Nations plan, a plan for social housing, and for affordable market housing."<sup>73</sup></p> <p>"We will implement a National Housing Strategy based on Housing First principles. Housing First is a proven, recovery-oriented approach that centres on quickly moving people experiencing homelessness into independent, permanent housing, and then providing additional supports and services as needed. This strategy will guarantee dignity and support for Canadians at the margins of our society, and will help address homelessness while at the same time reducing the burden on our emergency and health</p>

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			<p>"...we will prioritize significant new investment in affordable housing and seniors facilities. This investment will renew federal leadership in housing, help build more housing units and refurbish existing ones, renew current co-operative agreements, and provide operational funding support for municipalities, including renewing support for Housing First initiatives that help homeless Canadians find stable housing".<sup>67</sup></p> <p>"...increase the new residential rental property rebate on the GST to 100 percent...This will end the tax penalty on developers interested in building new, modestly priced rental properties, as well as provide \$125 million per year in tax incentives to increase and substantially renovate the supply of rental housing across Canada."<sup>68</sup></p> <p>"...direct the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the new Canada Infrastructure Bank to provide financing to support</p>	<p>services.</p> <p>Our Housing Strategy will address the continuum of needs – from social housing for those in poverty or dealing with mental health and addiction problems, to First Nations, Metis, and Inuit housing crises, to the market failures depriving those with even a decent income of access to the affordable housing they need. We can ensure that all housing needs are met – whether seniors, youth, or the stressed middle class."<sup>74</sup></p>

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			<p>construction by the private sector, social enterprises, co-ops, and the not-for-profit sector of new, affordable rental housing for middle- and low-income Canadians." <sup>69</sup></p> <p>"... conduct an inventory of all available federal lands and buildings that could be repurposed, and make some of these available at low cost for affordable housing in communities where there is a pressing need. This work would be done in partnership with municipalities, provinces, and territories as they develop their urban growth plans." <sup>70</sup></p> <p>"...modernize the existing Home Buyers' Plan so that it helps more Canadians finance the purchase of a home. We will allow Canadians impacted by sudden and significant life changes...to access the program and use money from their RRSP to buy a house without tax penalty." <sup>71</sup></p> <p>"...undertake a review of escalating home prices in high-priced markets – like Vancouver and Toronto – to</p>	

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			determine whether speculation is driving up the cost of housing, and survey the policy tools that could keep home ownership within reach for more Canadians." <sup>72</sup>	
2. Launch a comprehensive national poverty reduction strategy, with targets, timelines and sufficient investments		"The NDP has a long commitment to a federal poverty reduction strategy. We are the only party to have proposed legislation to create such a strategy – legislation that was developed in consultation with low-income Canadians and anti-poverty groups. New Democrats will work with the provinces and territories to set goals and timelines for the strategy. We will make important federal investments to reduce poverty, including an increase in benefits such as the National Child Benefit Supplement and the Working Income Tax Benefit. We will also reform the Employment Insurance program to expand access so that workers don't have to turn to social assistance when they are unemployed, restore the federal minimum wage and progressively raise it to \$15 an hour, and create a national affordable childcare program that ensures parents pay no	<p>"A Liberal government will remain committed to service to Canadians and particularly to helping those who need it most. The persistence of poverty across Canada remains an unmet challenge, robbing individuals of dignity and equal opportunity and sapping productivity from the economy. Canadians deserve a high quality of life where everyone is given a real and fair chance to succeed; Liberals are strongly committed to poverty reduction."<sup>76</sup></p> <p>"To fight poverty, a Liberal government will engage with the provinces and territories, experts, individuals, businesses, and civil society to address the causes of poverty. So far, the Liberal Party of Canada has announced a number of measures to this end, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <i>Canadian Child Benefit</i> (CCB) which will lift 315,000</li> </ul>	"Poverty is perhaps the greatest social determinant of health outcomes. That 1 in 7 Canadian children and a shocking 1 in 2 First Nations children live in poverty is a national scandal. The Green Party will implement a comprehensive plan to eliminate poverty that begins with a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI). A GLI will provide a regular payment to every Canadian, at a level above the poverty line, to meet basic needs while encouraging additional income generation. It does not require needs testing, surveillance, or additional follow up. For higher-income Canadians, the amount of the GLI is merely taxed back in whole. A GLI will ensure no Canadian's income falls below what is necessary for health, life, and dignity." <sup>85</sup>

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		more than \$15 a day." <sup>75</sup>	<p>children out of poverty;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support of expanding Nutrition North to the communities that need it and ensuring that savings are being passed on to Northerners;</li> <li>• A total new investment of \$2.6 billion for core First Nations education over the next four years to improve both education and economic opportunities for First Nations to address the growing disparity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians; and</li> <li>• Reversing the Conservatives' OAS claw back and returning the OAS qualifying age to 65 years, ensuring our lowest income seniors receive close to \$32,000 more than under the Conservatives."<sup>77</sup></li> </ul> <p>"We have also committed to shoring up the social security supports that the Conservative government has undermined over the past decade, such as affordable housing and Employment Insurance."<sup>78</sup></p>	

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			<p>“For newcomers to Canada, a Liberal government will be committed to ensuring inclusivity and will pursue an immigration policy that encourages newcomers to Canada to put down roots and invest in our country by ensuring a pathway to permanent citizenship for those who choose to come to Canada to work.”<sup>79</sup></p> <p>“We know that income security is intimately linked with the quality of life and health in retirement, and middle class Canadians are increasingly feeling insecure about their senior years. That is why we will start working with the provinces to expand the Canada Pension Plan within three months of forming government, and restore the age of OAS/GIS eligibility to 65, putting an average of \$13,000 annually into the pockets of the lowest income Canadians as they become seniors.”<sup>80</sup></p> <p>“We will immediately increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement for single, lower income seniors by ten</p>	

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			<p>percent, providing up to an additional \$920 per year for Canada's lowest income seniors. While current benefits generally ensure that couple families are able to stay out of poverty, more than one in four single seniors live in low-income, as defined by the international after-tax low-income measure. Our Liberal investment will reach \$840 million by 2019 and benefit 1.25 million seniors, including 900,000 single women."<sup>81</sup></p> <p>"Further to this, we will develop a new measure for the cost of living faced by seniors: the Seniors Price Index. OAS and GIS will be indexed to this new, more accurate, and more generous measure, rather than to the Consumer Price Index that reflects the wider population. In periods when the Consumer Price Index grows faster than the Seniors Price Index, the traditional Consumer Price Index will be used."<sup>82</sup></p> <p>"The Liberal Party of Canada also recognizes that the current Employment Insurance system is not</p>	

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			<p>working for those who need it, and we are committed to change that will ensure that the federal governments supports Canadians when they need it most. A Liberal government will be committed to ensuring those who need EI benefits can access them quickly and reliably.”<sup>83</sup></p> <p>“We will reduce the waiting period for Employment Insurance benefits to one week from two and end the higher 910-hour eligibility penalty for new workers and those re-entering the workforce, stopping the discrimination that makes it harder for some of Canada’s most precarious workers—including people who have left the workforce due to illness—from accessing the benefits that help them get back into the workforce.”<sup>84</sup></p>	
<p>3. Adopt the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to address the legacy of residential schools</p>		<p>" The New Democratic Party has stated its intention to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report."<sup>86</sup></p>	<p>"We will support the work of reconciliation and continue the necessary process of truth telling and healing, we will work with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples to</p>	<p>"The Green Party will immediately adopt all recommendations of the TRC Commission of Canada that fall within federal jurisdiction. As Elizabeth May stated upon the</p>

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<p>and advance the process of reconciliation</p>		<p>"Call an Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women within the first 100 days of an NDP government taking office."<sup>87</sup></p>	<p>enact the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, starting with the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples."<sup>88</sup></p> <p>"...develop a Federal Reconciliation Framework, created in full partnership with Indigenous Peoples. Reconciliation starts with recognizing and respecting Aboriginal title and rights, including treaty rights. A Liberal government will do just that. Not only in accordance with Constitutional obligations, but also with those enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ..."<sup>89</sup></p> <p>"A Liberal government will immediately launch a national public inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada. The process by which it is established will be fully inclusive, designed to find justice for the victims and healing for their families. An inquiry would seek to</p>	<p>release of the TRC's report: 'Canada's great shame has been laid before us in harrowing detail. It may be history, but it is not only of the past. The searing pain inflicted by the residential school system is crippling lives today. Let us not stand idle. It is our collective moral responsibility to walk together on a path to truth, justice, love and reconciliation.'<sup>93</sup></p> <p>"The ongoing crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women must be urgently addressed. We will launch a national inquiry and work to ensure that structural violence against indigenous communities is addressed."<sup>94</sup></p>

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			<p>recommend concrete actions that governments, law enforcement, and others can take to solve these crimes and prevent future ones..."<sup>90</sup></p> <p>"In addition, we will ensure all Canadians understand our historical relationship with Indigenous Peoples by working with residential school survivors, First Nations, the Métis Nation, Inuit communities, provinces, territories, and educators to find ways for educational curricula across the country to incorporate teaching about Aboriginal and Treaty rights, residential schools, and the past and present contributions of Indigenous Peoples to Canada."<sup>91</sup></p> <p>"However, Liberals understand that meaningful reconciliation will only come when we live up to our past promises and ensure the equality of opportunity required to create a fair and prosperous shared future. That is why we will also immediately re-engage with Indigenous communities in a renewed, respectful, and</p>	

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			inclusive nation-to-nation process to advance progress on critical issues such as housing, infrastructure, health and mental health care, community safety and policing, child welfare, and education. We will make sure the Kelowna Accord and the spirit of reconciliation that drove it is embraced and that its objectives are met in the context of today's challenges." <sup>92</sup>	

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<b>D. Protect the environment</b>				
1. Implement aggressive national carbon pricing		"A price on carbon is an important part of taking the action on climate change that is necessary for Canada to do its fair share to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. That's why the NDP has promised to make polluters pay for the pollution they create, through a cap and trade system that would help transition to a cleaner energy future. The global	"Liberals know Canada needs to have a price on carbon. The good news is that – due to the efforts of provincial governments - we're already on our way. In spite of Mr. Harper's hostility to the idea, British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec – and soon, Ontario – have all committed, in various forms, to a price on carbon. Combined, those	"The Green Party will take swift and concrete action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and return Canada to a global leadership role in the fight against climate change. Carbon Fee and Dividend will put a clear price on carbon pollution, and every dollar generated by the carbon fee will be returned to Canadians through an equal, per-capita dividend payment."

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		<p>community is going to hammer out a climate deal at the Paris Climate Conference this December, and Canada has to be there with a plan to reduce our emissions— a plan that will be unifying for the whole country. Tom Mulcair will...attend Paris 2015 with national targets for greenhouse gas reductions, and a plan to fight climate change."<sup>95</sup></p>	<p>jurisdictions represent over 85 percent of the Canadian economy."<sup>96</sup></p> <p>“The problem is that the provincial approaches are uncoordinated, and limited by a lack of federal leadership. We know the problems that Canada faces cannot be solved by Ottawa alone. Making progress on the things that matter to us requires real engagement with provincial, territorial, municipal, and Aboriginal governments – and a healthy respect for regional differences.”<sup>97</sup></p> <p>"We will ensure that the provinces and territories have adequate tools to design their own policies to meet these [emission reduction] commitments, including their own carbon pricing policies."<sup>98</sup></p>	<p><sup>99</sup></p>
<p>2. Commit to comprehensive greenhouse gas targets, including reductions to at least 25 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, and at least 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050</p>		<p>"As set out in Jack Layton’s Climate Change Accountability Act, which was reintroduced in this Parliament, the NDP’s target for Canada’s greenhouse gas reductions is 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, and 34% by 2025. We are proud to have the strongest targets of any party, and</p>	<p>“As Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau will attend the December 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, and will invite all Premiers to join him. Within 90 days of the conference, a First Ministers meeting will be held to work together on a framework to</p>	<p>"At COP21 in Paris this December, Canada should commit to cut greenhouse gas emissions of at least 40% below 2005 levels by 2025. To accomplish these reductions, we will establish a revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend system to phase out carbon emissions and promote</p>

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		<p>the NDP has a concrete plan for Canada to meet our international obligation to address Climate Change."<sup>100</sup></p> <p>"... remove incentives for activities that cause pollution, like the \$1.2 billion subsidies for fossil fuels." <sup>101</sup></p>	<p>combat climate change."<sup>102</sup></p> <p>"As part of the comprehensive emissions reduction agreement with provinces and territories, we will provide targeted federal funding to help them achieve these goals."<sup>103</sup></p> <p>"A portfolio of actions appropriate for the diverse economies of each jurisdiction is the only way to significantly reduce Canada's emissions; there is no one-size-fits-all solution. But the cost of inaction is too high and the federal government has a responsibility to lead, create the conditions and provide the support required for Canada to meet its climate targets."<sup>104</sup></p> <p>"We will fulfill Canada's G-20 commitment to phase out subsidies for the fossil fuel industry. The next step will be to allow for the use of the Canadian Exploration Expenses tax deduction only in cases of unsuccessful exploration. The savings will be re-directed to investments in new and clean</p>	<p>renewable energy. Canada can also realize significant emissions reductions by increasing the efficiency of existing housing and building stock. We will unleash an army of carpenters, electricians, and contractors to plug the leaks in Canada's buildings, where energy waste makes up 30 per cent of our national carbon pollution. The Green commitment to infrastructure includes huge investment in energy-savings in public transit and water systems."<sup>109</sup></p> <p>"...cancel the \$1.3 billion dollar annual subsidy to fossil fuel companies."<sup>110</sup></p>

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			<p>technologies.”<sup>105</sup></p> <p>“We will work with the United States and Mexico to develop an ambitious North American clean energy and environment agreement. North America can and should be the world’s most efficient and responsible energy producer. Key goals of this agreement should include the continental coordination of climate mitigation and resilience policies, as well as the appropriate alignment of international negotiation positions.”<sup>106</sup></p> <p>“Further, we will invest in clean technology producers so that they can tackle Canada’s most pressing environmental challenges whether in our air, in our water, or on our land. This means we will invest \$100 million more per year in organizations that have been successful at supporting the emergence of clean technology firms in Canada, including Sustainable Development Technology Canada. We will also work in partnership with the private sector to enhance</p>	

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			<p>the availability of venture capital for new, clean technology.”<sup>107</sup></p> <p>“We will work with provinces, territories, universities, and colleges to put in place a full range of support for emerging clean tech companies. This includes research, commercialization of new products, and training to ensure Canadians are properly skilled for the industries of the future, with the goal of accelerating Canadian innovation and entrepreneurship. We will also create Canada Research Chairs in sustainable technology.”<sup>108</sup></p>	
<p>3. Develop an aggressive program to reduce the emission of toxic substances, and ensure that people are made aware of toxics in their homes, workplaces and the products they consume</p>		<p>"New Democrats will strengthen regulations to prohibit the use and import of potentially harmful chemical substances in consumer items such as food and personal care products. We will expedite the re-assessment and regulation of priority toxins and pollutants to the most stringent international standards. We will adopt a precautionary approach to the future use of any new such substances."<sup>111</sup></p>	<p>“Safeguarding Canadians from the hazards of toxic substances is of utmost importance to the Liberal Party of Canada.”<sup>112</sup></p> <p>"We will work with the provinces to set stronger air quality standards, creating incentives for investments that lead to cleaner air, healthier communities, and better quality of life for all Canadians. This will include new Ambient Air Quality Standards to reduce the pollutants that cause smog, haze, and acid rain</p>	<p>"Greens will make multiple amendments to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act to strengthen protection against toxic chemicals. We will also establish a Toxic Chemical Tax on harmful chemicals to make industry accountable for chemicals in production and to push industry to reduce and eliminate the production of toxic substances registered under CEPA."<sup>114</sup></p>

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			and working with the United States to strengthen the Air Quality Agreement. We will also improve monitoring and reporting of air pollutants emissions." <sup>113</sup>	

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<b>E. Build fiscal capacity</b>				
1. Ensure that all people and corporations pay their fair share of taxes	Proposed tax credits and tax cuts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower taxes on small businesses<sup>115,116</sup></li> <li>Payroll tax cut<sup>117</sup></li> <li>Mining tax credit<sup>118</sup></li> <li>"...service club membership fees can be included under the annual Charitable Donations Tax Credit"<sup>119</sup></li> <li>Single Seniors Tax Credit<sup>120</sup></li> <li>" increasing the value of the Adoption Expense Tax Credit and making it fully refundable"<sup>121</sup></li> <li>"Establishing a new permanent Home</li> </ol>	"After years of fighting...corporate tax cuts and the consequent losses in federal programs and health care innovation opportunities, New Democrats will stop the corporate tax giveaway. We will also actively pursue those who try to dodge their legal tax obligations and apply recovered funds where they are needed most. As an example, the NDP will close a tax loophole currently enjoyed by CEOs on stock options and use the additional federal revenues to increase both the Working Income Tax Benefit and the National Child Benefit Supplement." <sup>125</sup>	A Liberal government will conduct a review of all tax expenditures to target tax loopholes that particularly benefit Canada's top one percent. "We will direct the CRA to immediately begin an analysis and stronger enforcement of tax evasion. As we reduce the small business tax rate to 9 percent from 11 percent, we will ensure that Canadian-Controlled Private Corporation (CCPC) status is not used to reduce personal income tax obligations for high-income earners rather than supporting small businesses." <sup>127</sup>  "In addition, we will introduce a significant overhaul of the Canada	"The Green Party will eliminate personal taxes on incomes below the low-income cut-off of \$20,000. We will also raise corporate taxes over four years from the current level of 15% back to the level set in 2009 (19%) while the small business corporate tax rate must remain low to stimulate growth in SMEs. Corporations are not using their extra cash to create jobs: by 2014, an astonishing \$629 billion was stagnating in corporate accounts - 35 per cent of Canada's GDP. Restoring the corporate tax rate to 19 per cent is a fiscally responsible choice while keeping Canada competitive internationally." <sup>134</sup>

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	<p>Renovation Tax Credit<sup>122</sup></p> <p>8. Increase limit on The Home Buyers' Plan<sup>123</sup></p> <p>"...will pass legislation imposing a "tax lock" that prohibits increases to federal income tax rates and sales tax rates, and new, discretionary payroll taxes. Tax lock legislation will prevent any increase to personal or business income tax rates, the GST, and discretionary payroll tax increases for the next four years."<sup>124</sup></p>	<p>"...reduce the small business tax rate from 11% to 9%. And a small increase in the corporate tax rate, from 15% to 17%, will keep the Canadian rate well below the United States..."<sup>126</sup></p>	<p>Revenue Agency (CRA) operating practices to develop a client relationship rather than that of simply a taxpayer. Elements include: proactively contacting Canadians when they are entitled to, but are not, receiving tax benefits; offering to create returns for clients, particularly lower income Canadians and those on fixed incomes whose situations are unchanged year to year; supporting more Canadians who want to file taxes with no paper forms; ensuring CRA correspondence is user-friendly; combating [sic] international tax evasion; and ending the CRA political harassment of charities, as well as clarifying rules to affirm the important role that charities can and should play in developing and advocating for public policy in Canada."<sup>128</sup></p> <p>"Further, a Liberal government will introduce a new federal tax bracket of 33% on income over \$200,000 in order to cut the middle class tax cut from 22 to 20.5 percent. This will result in a \$3 billion reduction in</p>	

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			<p>taxes for those who need it the most. We will ask the wealthiest one percent to pay a little more so the middle class can pay less."<sup>129</sup></p> <p>"...The Canada Child Benefit, which provides more help to low- and middle-income families, and less for wealthy families. For a typical family earning \$90,000 per year, they will receive \$2,500 more tax-free each year..."<sup>130</sup></p> <p>"A middle class tax cut, which reduces the personal income tax rate on incomes between \$44,701 and \$89,401 per year to 20.5 percent from 22 percent. We are going to give a tax break to over eight million middle class Canadians by asking the top one percent to give a little more."<sup>131</sup></p> <p>"We'll cancel income splitting and other tax breaks and benefits for the wealthy."<sup>132</sup></p> <p>"Liberals... will...grow the middle class by raising taxes on the wealthiest one percent and cutting</p>	

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			taxes for middle class Canadians" <sup>133</sup>	
2. Rely more heavily on green taxes that impose user fees on any activity that damages the environment		"... enforce the polluter-pay principle, including making big emitters pay for the greenhouse gases they emit." <sup>135</sup>		"The Green Party will institute a full range of 'polluter pays' taxes, designed to reduce the use of fossil fuels by sending a market signal to producers..." <sup>136</sup>

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