2021 - Provincial Elections FIQ | FIQP







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September 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Questions as to whether there will be an election have been circulating for quite some time, but it's now official: on September 20, citizens will be called to elect the next federal government. While our daily actions target the National Assembly in Québec City more often than the House of Commons in Ottawa, federal politics are still extremely important to healthcare professionals' lives.

Even though the healthcare system falls under provincial jurisdiction, the federal government has the power to influence many social determinants of health that directly impact the work of nurses, licensed practical nurses, respiratory therapists and clinical perfusionists. We need only think of the climate and tax policies and how income redistribution and the environmental crisis directly impact the lives of healthcare professionals. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of the federal government's contribution to supporting workers when there are massive job losses.

Canada, like all countries, is climbing out of a health and economic crisis. Despite the challenges that involves, we must seize this moment as an opportunity to set up an economy that benefits everyone and begin a just recovery that protects the environment and promotes the resilience of our systems and their ability to face unpredictable events, especially our healthcare systems. This electoral campaign is a unique time when the different parties must recognize the shortcomings that exacerbated the pandemic and promote their plan for a society that is better equipped to face crises. It has been shown that women are more vulnerable on the job market following an economic slowdown. This electoral campaign is an opportunity for parties to recognize this problem and present their vision of a true feminist recovery.

A just recovery is one that prioritizes the health and well-being of the population, without leaving anyone out. Since our governments have historically too often forgotten the health of Indigenous communities, we questioned the parties on their vision of health issues specific to First Nations. A just recovery must also solidify a social safety net to reduce inequalities. We focused more attention on sustainable initiatives, creating a diversified economy and adequately redistributing wealth.

When putting this electoral kit together, we questioned the five main federal political parties about their commitments to health care, the economy, environment, and women's rights. The purpose of this kit is to provide a tool that reviews the positions of the different parties based on the issues that concern FIQ and FIQP members the most. We would also like it to be used as a jumping off point for discussions with candidates in all ridings. Remember that the FIQ and FIQP affiliated unions and their thousands of members constitute influential groups in their communities and are likely to attract politicians' attention. Furthermore, since the pandemic revealed just how essential our professions are, the politicians running for election will need to seriously consider our expertise and what we have to say.

In closing, we encourage you to follow the electoral news this fall and to vote on election day.

Wishing you all a great fall!

Nancy Bédard President

Note on content

The summary of each party's promises was written based on information featured on the political parties' websites as of September 1, 2021 (including the 2019 platform for the Green Party of Canada). Radio-Canada Info's plan comparison was also used as a reference. This *Electoral Kit* was produced by the FIQ and FIQP for their members.

01 DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AND WORK

Socioeconomic inequalities are very real for us as healthcare professionals. Every day we see the effects they have on our patients. We can clearly see that being unemployed, having a low income that doesn't cover basic needs and having substandard housing are all factors that impact our patients' health.

Wealth redistribution is central to reducing steadily growing inequality. As progressive organizations, the FIQ and FIQP believe that the federal government should be proactive to stop sheltering the income of the super rich and major corporations from contributing to our collective wealth.

As it stands, huge amounts of money are currently sheltered in tax havens when it should be invested in our public services. Similarly, digital giants should be taxed so that the enormous profits from their intangible industry promote economic equity.

Furthermore, the employment rate has a direct impact on the economy. The support given to workers who lost their





Sample questions to ask candidates in your electoral riding:

- What are the changes your party plans to make to taxation? What are your party's commitments to tax justice?
- What measures does your party plan to implement to combat tax evasion and tax avoidance?
- What measures does your party plan to implement to tackle taxing the tech giants and major corporations?





01

Liberal Party

- Increase taxes by 1% for top earners to give the middle class a break;
- Increase taxes for major financial institutions (banks and insurance companies);
- Extend the Canada Recovery Hiring Program to March 31, 2022;
- Make financing more accessible to small businesses and provide online business development help to facilitate reaching other markets;
- Increase old age security pension by 10%.



Conservative Party

- End temporary financial support measures related to COVID-19 based on the evolution of vaccination campaigns and the economic reopening;
- Ensure that economic stimulus measures be targeted and temporary;
- Subsidize and financially support small businesses;
- One-month GST holiday;
- Create a 25% tax credit to encourage Canadians to start their own small business.



Bloc Québécois

- Put an end to tax avoidance in tax havens for major corporations;
- Introduce an additional special tax on high incomes;
- Force tech giants to charge sales tax (GST) on their services and to pay a 3% fee on their activities to Canada;
- Permanently increase the old age security pension by \$110 per month starting at age 65 and adapt the guaranteed income supplement so that no one is penalized;
- Suspend the Canada Recovery Benefit between the waves of the pandemic;
- Put a limit on the transaction fees credit card companies can charge businesses;
- Broaden the use of the Home Buyer's Plan (HBP), especially in the event of a job loss;
- Set up a one-month GST holiday on Hydro-Québec bills.



New Democratic Party

- Create a 1% tax on wealth that exceeds 20 million dollars;
- Raise corporate taxes by 3%;
- Finance training and increase support for traditionally underemployed groups to counter the labour shortage;
- Introduce a guaranteed minimum income for seniors and disabled people;
- Add a temporary 15% tax on the profits of big businesses that profited from the crisis;
- Increase the tax rate for people who earn more than \$210,000.



Green Party

- Implement a guaranteed minimum income (including for students);
- Introduce an equitable national minimum wage;
- · Abolish tax havens.



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HEALTH Electoral Kit September 2021



As healthcare professionals, and as women and citizens, health is a major focus in our lives. For a very long time, healthcare professionals have known the value of a public health network and they are alarmed by the underfunding and negligence of their own. Our repeated warnings should have been heard sooner, but the pandemic led to a collective awareness. From this day forward, no one can deny that our public health network is essential, that it is the last universal fortification in the face of a public health crisis. The colossal amounts that were invested in parallel to the COVID-19 crisis have been a band-aid that can contain the hemorrhage, but nothing more. It takes more than traditional spending increases to save Canadian provinces' healthcare systems, including Quebec's. This extra push will be needed in the coming years.

Even though the system's administration falls under provincial jurisdiction, the federal government plays an important role, especially in funding. The federal health transfers cover a little under 22% of the provinces and territories' health care expenses and the Quebec government is asking that they be increased to 35%. These last years have shown us just how important it is to properly invest in the public health network. Particularly in training and working conditions for the workforce, which is holding the system together, as well as in the maintenance and quality of infrastructures. There is an urgent need to fully review the calculation of the federal health transfers to ensure equitable cost distribution.

The federal government also committed to implementing a pharmacare plan that respects provincial jurisdiction, but it is slow to start. A public, universal pharmacare plan would simultaneously reduce the enormous costs of drug prices and improve access.

Beyond financial matters, the federal government also shares responsibility for providing health care to Indigenous populations, particularly in some nursing stations and healthcare centres. It is imperative that the government carefully reflect on the extent of its role in guaranteeing Indigenous peoples' equitable access to health care services in a way that respects their culture and takes their wishes into account.



Sample questions to ask candidates in your electoral riding:

- · What is your party's stance on federal health transfers?
- If elected, would your party implement a pharmacare plan reform? If yes, what would the reform entail?
- · What will your party do to improve overall access to health care?
- · What is your party committed to doing to protect the public health system?
- If your political party is elected, what policies, projects and support would you
 create to improve the health care provided to the Indigenous peoples of Canada?



02

Liberal Party

- Invest 6 billion dollars in long-term care centres subject to certain conditions and introduce national standards for long-term care;
- Create a new federal transfer for provinces of 4.5 billion dollars over five years dedicated to mental health. Implement national standards for mental health care and invest an additional 1.4 billion dollars in a mental health and well-being strategy based on distinctions with Indigenous communities;
- Make 3 billion dollars available to provinces to hire 7,500 doctors and nurses and 6 billion dollars to make up for the backlog of medical procedures;
- Set up a national pharmacare plan;
- Invest 1.4 billion dollars over five years in health care for Indigenous communities (care access, medical staff, mental health, drinking water, fight against COVID-19).



Green Party

- Make long-term care a basic service that is insured by the government, accessible and universal, by abolishing private residences and implementing national standards;
- Implement a pharmacare plan and set up a government corporation to purchase prescription drugs in bulk and distribute them;
- Treat drug dependence as a public health problem: decriminalize drug possession, offer more health care and mental health care funding and ensure safe provision for drug users;
- Develop a national suicide prevention plan.



Conservative Party

- Increase health transfers by at least 6% (60 billion over 10 years);
- Prepare and annually update a Canadian emergency plan to face a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Increase financing for provinces for mental health care;
- Invest \$3 billion in infrastructure funding over the next three years to renovate long-term care homes;
- Increase domestic production of critical supplies;
- Prohibit medical assistance in dying for people with mental disorders;
- · Increase palliative care funding;
- Negotiate with pharmaceutical companies to reduce the price of medications.



Bloc Québécois

- Increase the federal health transfers from 22% to 35%, without conditions, and follow this increase with a minimum indexation of 5% per year;
- Once a national pharmacare plan is implemented, fully financially compensate Quebec without any conditions;
- Create a commission of inquiry on the COVID-19 pandemic to evaluate federal preparation;
- Put a five-year plan in place to build 11,000 homes for First Nations peoples;
- Immediately provide drinking water from the tap for all Indigenous nations in Canada;
- Set up a tax credit for home care and for building and adapting multi-generational homes so that seniors can age at home.



New Democratic Party



- Set up a national pharmacare plan and dental insurance for preventive care;
- Develop Canadian standards for home and long-term care that will be enshrined in the Canada Health Act;
- Ensure public healthcare services that will resist privatization and nationalize all institutions that offer long-term care;
- Create a national workforce plan for doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals;
- Invest in suicide prevention in northern communities and in medical clinics for Indigenous communities, including investments in traditional healing methods;
- Guarantee steady, predictable financing over the long-term to heal trauma caused by colonialism and residential schools;
- Set up accessibility and support measures for mental health services;
- Create a government corporation in charge of national vaccine production;
- Offer free mental health services to uninsured people who suffered because of the pandemic;
- End the criminalization of drug addiction.



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WOMEN'S RIGHTS Electoral Kit September 2021

OB WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The health crisis worsened women's living conditions in Canada and across the world. During this electoral campaign, we are concerned about issues such as abortion, violence against women, and the economic recovery.

Even though abortion was decriminalized in Canada in 1988, it is still a current women's health issue. A bill that threatened to reopen the debate on abortion was recently blocked in the House of Commons. Furthermore, abortion services are not easily accessible in some regions, which means women must travel far to get services. For example, the closure of abortion clinics in New Brunswick forced women to travel to Quebec to get access.

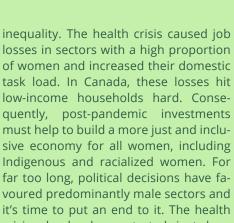
Another collateral effect of the COVID-19 pandemic was the rise in domestic violence. According to the Council on the Status of Women, "violence against women admitted in 2020 were a lot (16%) or a little (36%) worse than usual." (unofficial translation) It is the federal government's responsibility to reverse this trend by injecting funds that will allow provinces to create public safety and prevention programs that address real needs. The increased reports of violence by Indigenous women is equally concerning.

The FIQ and FIQP believe it is crucial that the economic recovery take women's situations into account to reduce gender

of women and increased their domestic must help to build a more just and inclusive economy for all women, including Indigenous and racialized women. For far too long, political decisions have fait's time to put an end to it. The health crisis clearly demonstrated just how

essential predominantly female activity sectors are and this needs to come through in electoral platforms on the economic recovery.

Efforts should also be dedicated to improving gender equality in employment insurance, which is still discriminatory to this day. Since more women work parttime, it is harder for them to accumulate the number of hours that would qualify them for employment insurance.





Sample questions to ask candidates in your electoral riding:

- · What are your party's top orientations for protecting the free choice to have an abortion in Canada?
- What do you propose to better support women who have suffered domestic violence? What do you propose specifically for Indigenous women who are underrepresented in this issue?
- · Post-pandemic, how will your party improve the economic situation of women who have been hard hit by job losses? Do you have a plan specifically for racialized women?

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Liberal **Party**

- Increase the childcare benefit by 15% for families with children under one year of age;
- Implement a 15-week parental leave for adoptive parents;
- Introduce a national system of guaranteed paid days off for families, even if they do not qualify for employment insurance;
- · Increase the employment insurance sickness benefit from 15 to 26 weeks:
- Develop a cross-Canada childcare service and lower fees for regulated spaces to \$10/day on average over the next five years;
- · Create more spaces in schoolage child care and lower the cost by 10%;
- Give new parents a break on student loans;
- Set up a national research institute on women's health:
- Introduce a 100-million-dollar feminist recovery fund.





Conservative Party

- · Implement measures to promote job creation in the sectors the most hard hit by the health and economic crisis, especially in jobs in which women are over-represented;
- Replace the Liberal government's daycare funding program by a tax credit:
- Extend the employment insurance sickness benefit from 15 to 52 weeks for people with a serious illness.



New Democratic Party

- Ensure that abortion services are accessible in all regions in Canada;
- Propose a \$10/day childcare system;
- Reform employment insurance: 360-hour universal eligibility threshold, new special parental leave, 50 weeks for sickness benefits and a supplement for people with low incomes, providing benefits of \$1,200/month;
- Implement an action plan for the calls for justice in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls;
- Ensure that Indigenous women have the same status rights as Indigenous men (e.g., transferring Indigenous status);
- Strengthen legislation on pay equity;
- Develop an action plan to end gender-based violence;
- · Increase the tax credit for caregivers.



Bloc Québécois

- Reiterate and defend women's inalienable right to decide what to do with their bodies. Provinces are responsible for ensuring access to medical services;
- Require the government to ensure that women's aid groups are able accommodate women in need through its own programs (including Indigenous women and girls) and through social program transfers;
- · Review the employmentinsurance program, including all the basic principles (insurable hours, definition of a work week, eliminate worker categories, etc.); make sure that pregnant women who lost their job during their maternity leave have access to employment insurance; extend special sickness benefits to 50 weeks.



Green **Party**

- Protect women's abortion rights;
- · Strengthen the rights and protection of workers in all workplaces regulated by the federal government;
- Replace social programs like employment insurance by a guaranteed livable income (GLI).

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ENVIRONMENT Electoral Kit September 2021



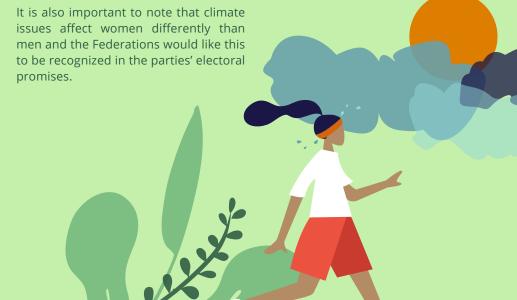
ENVIRONMENT

The environment is a major determinant of health since the water we drink and the air we breathe have a direct impact on our immune systems. It is well-documented that the environment we live in has real impacts on our health. The World Health Organization deems air pollution to be the greatest current threat to public health. In Quebec alone, there are 2,000 deaths a year linked to air pollution.

The climate crisis is exacerbating environmental impacts on public health and putting increasing pressure on healthcare institutions. Climate changes have a domino effect causing health risks to accumulate. Not only does climate change increase air and water pollution, it also causes more frequent extreme climate events and heat waves. For example, there was a record-breaking heatwave in British Columbia this June with the temperature reaching 47.9°C, causing over 34 deaths in one day.

Due to the nature of their work, healthcare professionals are in a position to see the link between environment and health and how environmental degradation exacerbates many chronic illnesses, and requires additional protocols, such as cooling off vulnerable people during extreme heat waves. This makes healthcare professionals' workload even heavier. It is important to make changes to protect the capacity of our health network. In a perspective of environmental health and prevention, the FIQ and FIQP recognize the need to preserve the environment and fight against climate change. The Federations believe this need for action is important for individuals, organizations, companies and the government. It is the government's responsibility to set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, begin a real energy transition, and to create legislation to counter climate change.

Since environmental responsibility is shared between the federal, provincial and municipal government, these questions focus on federal responsibilities around international air pollution, regulation of toxic substances and greenhouse gas emissions. It is Canada that signs international agreements such as The Paris Agreement, which sets out to limit global warming by well below 1.5 degrees Celsius as compared to the pre-industrial period.





Sample questions to ask candidates in your electoral riding:

- What measures will your party implement to end our dependence on fossil fuels and begin a true energy transition that respects workers?
- What measures does your party plan to implement to limit global warming? What is the planned timeline?
- · How does your party plan to address climate issues specific to women?

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Liberal **Party**

- Reach the net-zero emission target by 2050;
- Plant two billion trees over the next ten years;
- · Conserve and protect 25% of land and oceans (30% goal by 2030);
- · Create a program with loans of up to \$40,000/household for energyefficient renovations;
- · Grants for the purchase of a netzero emission house;
- Train and reorient workers affected by the energy transition;
- · Create an employment-insurance benefit in the event of extreme climate events;
- 50% tax deduction for companies developing net-zero emission technologies.



Conservative

- Reduce industry carbon emissions and reach The Paris Agreement objectives by aligning with the United States and European Union;
- Defend workers and companies with carbon border tariffs, obliging big polluters like China to do their part, while protecting Canada's economic growth;
- · Eliminate the carbon tariff and create a tax on fuel. The money collected will be deposited in a personal savings account and could be used to buy public transit tickets, electric vehicles, or any other energy-efficient good or service;
- · Prioritize pipeline projects that transport Canadian oil to export markets;
- Protect 25% of the Canadian territory.



Bloc **Ouébécois**

- Stop investing in fossil fuels to the detriment of the energy transition;
- Eliminate the tax deduction given to oil, gas and coal companies;
- Adopt a framework law on climate to oblige the federal government to reach its greenhouse-gas emission reduction targets and follow through on Canada's commitments to The Paris Agreement;
- Adopt a zero-emission law to make enough electrical vehicles available and make all federal government vehicles electric;
- Explicitly subject all future trade agreements to international environmental agreements;
- · Apply green equalization: set a carbon tax for provinces that emit more greenhouse gases than average, which will have to be paid to provinces that pollute less than average;
- Put an end to the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline and transfer the remaining funds to renewable energy projects that create jobs.

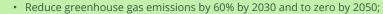


New Democratic Partv

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% of the 2005 level by 2030;
- Enshrine the 1.5°C reduction target for the global temperature in a climate law and include the fundamental right to a healthy environment in the law;
- · Maintain and reinforce the carbon
- Set up a training and conversion program for green jobs;
- Reach Canada's net-zero emission energy supply target by 2040;
- Create a Canadian bank for the climate to stimulate investments in renewable energies;
- · Prohibit single-use plastic and make companies responsible for the entire life cycle of the packaging they use;
- · Conserve and protect 30% of land and fresh water;
- Set an energy-efficient retrofit objective for all residences by 2050;
- Create a plan for facing extreme climate events with input from Indigenous communities.



Green Party



- · Invest in national infrastructure for renewable and efficient energy production, digital upgrades, clean-tech manufacturing and retrofits;
- Invest in a Canadian strategy for an electric network that produces 100% renewable electricity across Canada and put an end to fossil fuel investments starting at the federal level;
- · Cancel all new pipeline projects and prohibit hydraulic fracturing;
- Create a national transportation plan: invest in public transportation, in the train network, buy electric buses;
- Defend and conserve fresh water.



MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES Electoral Kit September 2021



Main political parties

The Federal Parliament has 338 members, 78 of which are in Quebec.



Liberal Party

The Liberal Party of Canada formed a minority government and had 155 members at the end of the parliamentary session. They say their vision is one of a "prosperous, socially just, united and environmentally healthy Canada for all Canadians." Justin Trudeau is the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada.

liberal.ca/our-plan



Conservative Party

The Conservative Party of Canada was started in December 2003 and emerged from a fusion of the Canadian Alliance and the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada. Erin O'Toole is the leader. The CPC had 119 members and formed the official opposition. They say they are a party that values "national unity; free enterprise and individual achievement."

conservative.ca/plan



Bloc Québécois

The Bloc Québécois was founded in 1991. It is based in Quebec and aims to set up the conditions necessary to achieve sovereignty in Quebec. It aims to defend the interests of Quebeckers in the federal government while promoting independence. At the time elections started, there were 32 Bloc Québécois MPs in the Ottawa House of Commons. Yves-François Blanchet is the party's leader.

blocquebecois.org/plateforme



New Democratic Party

The New Democratic Party was formed in 1961 by the Social Democratic Party and the Canadian Labour Congress. It was the official opposition from 2011 to 2015. The NDP has 24 members in parliament and its leader is Jagmeet Singh. They say they are "progressives who dedicate all of their energy to fighting inequality."

npd.ca/vision



Green Party

The Green Party of Canada was founded in 1983 and its first member was elected in 2011. At the end of the parliamentary session, there were two Green Party MPs in the House of Commons. The party's leader is Annamie Paul. The Green Party says its priorities are to "build a more just and resilient society."

greenparty.ca/en

The full pre-electoral overview for the House of Commons also includes five independent members. Please note that one Ontario riding is vacant.

The FIQ and FIQP:

- · are democratic and accessible;
- seek to improve working conditions;
- · are focused on health care;
- promote women's rights;
- are committed to protecting the environment;
- · build solidarity.

These values were guideposts for creating this electoral kit. The Federations encourage you to get out and vote.