

Ready *for* Better

The New Democrat Action Plan for Jobs,
Opportunity & Fair Recovery for All



 **NDP**

These are tough times for many people. Today, millions of Canadians are struggling to get by. In every corner of the country, families are worried about jobs, the health of our loved ones, and the public services that everyone counts on.

We all want to go back to some sort of 'normal'. But for too many Canadians, life before the pandemic was already tough. People were already struggling, and for the last six years Justin Trudeau hasn't done much to make life any easier. Canadians are dealing with high out of pocket health care costs, struggling to find an affordable place to live, and working for lower wages. And going back to that isn't good enough.

New Democrats know that when we build back after Covid-19, we need to fight for better. It's time to make sure that you benefit from the recovery – and those who made a lot of money during the crisis pay for it.

We need to invest in better public health care, good-paying jobs, and real action against the climate crisis. We need to build a fairer economy for working Canadians and stronger public services for everyone. And we need to tackle the deep roots of injustice and inequality.

We need action to build a brighter future.

The past year has shown us that Canadians can confront any challenge – when we have to, when we choose to, and when we come together. It's also shown us that thanks to the decisions of Liberal and Conservative governments, many of the supports that we rely on just aren't there when we need them. From the neglect of seniors in for-profit long-term care, to the lack of affordable childcare for working families, we see that decades of Liberal and Conservative cuts and privatization have left us all vulnerable. Meanwhile, those at the top have done very well – profiting during the pandemic while ordinary Canadians struggled.

It's time to do better.

We've all seen that Justin Trudeau won't help everyday people. He's proven that, left alone, he won't fix the problems that working people face. He will protect wealthy friends and insiders, every time. And while the Conservatives say they're on your side, their record proves they're not. They will cut and privatize the services we count on, just like they always do.

Worst of all, those parties joined together to vote against taxing the pandemic profits of the super-rich. Even in a crisis, their priority is to protect millionaires and billionaires, instead of helping struggling Canadians.

Justin Trudeau hasn't delivered the help you need. He sounds like he cares, but he hasn't taken action to make life easier for you or your family. Despite his promises, life just keeps getting harder for people like you.

The NDP is different. During this pandemic, Jagmeet Singh and the NDP are standing up for working people. We are focused on getting results for Canadians. We are fighting for the support that people need now. And we are winning results – getting more help to more people, faster.

You can count on us to keep delivering for people and fighting for a better future for all Canadians.

This is our action plan to fight for better for you and your family – we hope you'll join us.

1. Health care that puts you first

One of the things Canadians are most proud of is our universal public health care. And in this pandemic, we've seen the value of public health care like never before.

Unfortunately, decades of Liberal and Conservative cuts have pushed our health care system to the brink. And this pandemic has exposed the gaps.

Too many people cannot afford to fill their medications or access the dental care or mental health care that they need.

It's time to invest and expand public health care – to improve it for all Canadians.

Last campaign, Justin Trudeau told Canadians that pharmacare was his priority. And then he voted against it.

New Democrats will fight to make sure that all Canadians can get the medications you need with your health card, not your credit card. **National Pharmacare** for everyone will make life more affordable – and allow millions of Canadians to get the treatment they need without worrying about how to pay for it.

But we won't stop there. New Democrats will deliver a dental care plan that means every Canadian can access preventative care like cleanings and restorative care like fixing cavities – and that will help families get the care they need, when they need it, without worrying about bills.

Canadians also need to know that when they reach out for help with mental health struggles, cost won't be a barrier to getting the support they need. That's why New Democrats will fight to make mental health therapy and counselling an insured service under Medicare. When we all get the support we need, we can thrive.

2. Good jobs and help when you need it

After the Covid-19 pandemic, Justin Trudeau has been clear: he wants a return to the status quo. But New Democrats know that we can't go back to the way things were when they didn't work for so many people.

During the pandemic, Justin Trudeau wanted to leave millions of Canadians behind. Jagmeet Singh and the New Democrat team forced them to do better, and delivered a doubled and extended CERB for Canadians, sickness benefits, and crucial supports for seniors and students.

It's time for change. New Democrats believe that everyone deserves a well-paying job with safe working conditions, and support to build a good life – and that's what we'll deliver. We have a plan to make work better and safer for all Canadians.

Our first priority is to protect workers and keep people healthy. Too many workers still face the prospect of losing their job or losing their wages if they get sick.

Regardless of where or how you work, no one should ever need to go to work sick – especially during a pandemic. That's why New Democrats are committed to delivering permanent, seamless and fully-paid sick leave for all workers. Pharmacare and dental coverage will save on costs that so many workers now have to pay out of pocket – or provide needed care they just don't get. We'll also fix the Employment Insurance system so that people who are sick have access to 50 weeks of sickness benefits, to take as needed, and to make the program work for gig workers and the self-employed.

We also know that there's so much more that's possible to make life better for young people, workers and families. We'll start by lifting the debt burden off of young people by **forgiving up to \$20,000 in student debt** so that graduates can focus on building their lives, careers and families.

New Democrats are fighting for a future where families feel more secure and more hopeful in their lives – and where your government protects and creates good jobs in a clean energy economy, in every community all across the country.

We'll help build up key Canadian industries and support made-in-Canada manufacturing. From agriculture to the arts, fisheries to clean technology, we'll fight for good jobs and foster innovation as we strengthen labour laws to protect workers and boost wages.

3. Making your life more affordable

After decades of Liberal and Conservative governments who work for their friends, it's time for a government that's on your side.

New Democrats are committed to making your life easier and more affordable, and reducing the stress of monthly bills.

We'll start by making sure that every Canadian, in every region, has access to **affordable high-speed internet and cell phone service**, so that education and economic opportunity are available everywhere. We'll stand up to the big telecom companies and put in place a price cap to drive down costs and keep bills affordable.

Every Canadian deserves a safe and affordable place to call home, but under Justin Trudeau the housing crisis has spiraled out of control. New Democrats will fight for good homes that you can afford in your community, and take on the speculation from foreign buyers that's driving up housing prices. And we'll continue working to protect families and renters in this crisis and beyond.

Unlike Justin Trudeau, who has let childcare costs rise dramatically, New Democrats are committed to investing in affordable and universal childcare. The lack of affordable childcare in Canada is hurting families, women, and our economy. We'll give families the support they need to get affordable childcare. And we'll help ensure that women can continue their careers today, not years from now.

4. Helping communities thrive in a net-zero future

From coast to coast to coast, the communities we call home are going to need help to recover from the pandemic and confront the climate crisis. New Democrats are ready to fight for the support our communities need to thrive and succeed.

Small businesses are vital to our communities, but when Covid-19 hit, Justin Trudeau was more concerned with big banks than small business. Jagmeet Singh and the New Democrat team stepped up and fought for real help for small businesses, and won assistance to keep workers employed, rental assistance and emergency sick leave.

As we move from crisis to recovery, we will make sure that small businesses get all the support they need to recover from this pandemic. New Democrats will fight for a full **small business recovery package** that includes extending the wage and rent subsidy programs until the recovery is complete and introducing a hiring bonus to pay the employer portions of Employment Insurance and the Canadian Pension Plan for new or rehired staff.

Beyond the pandemic, the climate crisis is a massive challenge that presents an immediate threat to our communities and our future. But the Covid-19 crisis has shown us that when there's a collective will, we can tackle big problems and make big

changes – fast. Justin Trudeau’s talk is not enough – especially when it’s undermined by billions in handouts for oil and gas companies. We need urgent action to fight climate change like we want to win now.

New Democrats will immediately bring in tough new science-based emissions targets to keep warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius – and actually meet them. We’ll end Justin Trudeau’s special treatment for the biggest polluters, ban federal oil and gas subsidies, and make sure that energy workers aren’t left behind in the coming transition. We’ll make bold new investments to create good, family-sustaining new jobs all across Canada with retraining, home and building retrofits, clean transportation, renewable energy and more. And we’ll work with communities to build the infrastructure we need to protect Canadians from the dangerous impacts of the climate crisis like wildfires and extreme weather.

5. Tackling longstanding inequalities

Building back after Covid-19 is our time to take on injustices and inequalities that have been hurting people and holding Canada back.

Over the course of the pandemic, Canadians have seen first-hand the neglect of the elderly and people with disabilities that happens too often in long-term care homes – usually because making a profit is more important than taking care of people. We have witnessed the devastating cost of systemic racism and poverty, with racialized communities shouldering the burden of skyrocketing infection rates, just as Indigenous communities grapple with the effects of ongoing under-funding and colonialism.

These inequities have persisted for generations, in part because successive Liberal and Conservative governments have been content to leave too many Canadians behind – and that has to end.

When it comes to caring for seniors, New Democrats believe that profit should never be the bottom line. Care should always come first. Justin Trudeau has had years to fix the broken long-term care system, but he chose to look the other way while big corporations cut corners and made money off the neglect of seniors and people with disabilities. Tragically, far too many seniors have paid the ultimate price.

New Democrats are committed to protecting seniors, improving care, and supporting frontline workers who have been sounding the alarm for years. We will **end for-profit long-term care**. And we will fight to establish national standards to ensure safety, comfort, and high-quality care for all long-term care residents, as well as improving working conditions for front-line staff.

This is a critical moment to strengthen public services and to improve income supports so that all Canadians can live in dignity. New Democrats will start by lifting every senior and person living with disability out of poverty, and build from there until every Canadian can count on a basic livable income when they need it.

New Democrats are committed to confronting the discrimination and hate faced by racialized and Indigenous people in Canada. Unlike Justin Trudeau, we believe that this has to be more than just pretty words and empty promises. We will work side by side with Indigenous peoples towards true reconciliation in full respect of Indigenous rights, and ensure that all Indigenous communities have clean water and safe homes now – not in 2026. And we will ensure accountability for the crimes committed in residential schools by appointing a special prosecutor to go after those responsible for the deaths and abuse of children.

We’ll also confront the racism that’s hurting people in communities across the country. During the pandemic, racialized people doing low-wage front-line work experienced some of the highest rates of Covid-19 infection – and had the least access to paid sick days. We’ll protect front-line workers by boosting the federal minimum wage, bringing in paid sick leave, pharmacare, dental care and revamping Employment Insurance to work for them.

New Democrats will also take tough action against white supremacist groups and put an end to online hate, while tackling systemic racism in policing and addressing the racialized wage gap.

Finally, just as COVID-19 is a pandemic, so is the growing wave of deaths across our nation caused by opioid overdoses. It's time to end the criminalization of people who use drugs, and replace toxic illicit drugs with medically-regulated alternatives. We can save lives when addiction is treated as a health issue, not a criminal one.

With leadership and the courage to do what's right, we can make our country stronger than ever.

6. Make the super-rich pay their fair share

While millions of families and small businesses have been pushed to the brink during the pandemic, the super-rich are doing better than ever. Canadian billionaires are \$78 billion richer since the first lockdown in 2020 – and counting. They're making big money while people suffer.

For too long, Liberals and Conservatives have protected their rich friends at every turn. Justin Trudeau has refused to make the very wealthiest pay more, even when the pandemic has sent corporate profits sky-high. He gave out billions of pandemic aid to the wealthiest corporations with no strings attached – and he let those corporations use the money to pad shareholder pockets and pay CEO bonuses. Justin Trudeau has given the richest a free ride, just when we need public investment more than ever.

New Democrats are different. We believe that those who have profited off the pandemic should be the ones to pay for the recovery – not families who are struggling to make ends meet. It's time to demand that the wealthiest pay their share, so we can build a better future for everyone.

That's why New Democrats will bring in a new **wealth tax on multi-millionaires, and an excess profit tax** on big corporations that have profiteered from the pandemic.

Unlike the Justin Trudeau, we'll actually go after big corporations that are avoiding taxes, and make sure that internet giants like Facebook, Amazon and Netflix pay their fair share of corporate taxes.

The billions of dollars raised by these new revenue sources will be re-invested to help fuel a just recovery, make life better for all Canadians and build the low carbon economy of the future.

Recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic won't be easy – but Canadians know how to pull together through tough times. It's who we are.

Together, we can make changes that will make life easier for ordinary people, fight injustice, and build a brighter future for our children.

It's past time that we had a government that cares for us as much as we've cared for each other through this crisis. A government that fights for better – and wins.

New Democrats are ready – to lead us forward together, get results for Canadians, and rebuild better than ever.