





## Health Care

### Conservative Party of Canada

- Forgive a portion of federal student loans for those who agree to practice in under-served rural or remote areas
- A new Adult Fitness Tax Credit, to cover up to \$500 in registration fees for adults worth up to \$75 for adults.
- Renew the federal-provincial health accord

### Liberal Party of Canada

- Establish "National Food Policy," which includes measures such as: new food labeling regulations; stronger regulation on trans fats and salt; \$40-million over four years for Healthy Start program, providing healthy food to children of low-income families; \$80-million for Buy Local Fund; comprehensive review of Canadian Food Inspection Agency, along with additional funding.
- Public education campaign and additional funding for brain research, particularly into diseases including dementia and Alzheimer's.

### New Democratic Party of Canada

- Hire [1,200 doctors](#) and train thousands of nurses over the next 10 years. Part of this includes establishing a fund to lure 300 Canadian doctors currently working abroad to come home
- An \$80-million investment to upgrade medical schools, support doctors in remote areas and forgive student loans for medical professionals who practice family medicine for at least 10 years
- Provide access to home care for an additional 100,000 families a year, and make home care and long-term care insured services under the Canada Health Act

### Bloc Québécois

- \$250-million over 5 years for a tax credit for caregivers.

### Green Party

- Spend \$300-million annually to set up a national universal pharmacare program
- Provide more money to hire staff to open currently closed beds, fully utilize operating rooms and purchase new diagnostic equipment and transfer funds to provinces to build more long-term care beds
- Train more doctors and nurses, and work with the Canadian Medical Association to fast-track certification of foreign-trained health care professionals
- Provide student loan forgiveness incentives to graduating health care professionals who agree to work in rural facilities
- Provide safe drinking water to Canada's First Nation communities. Part of direction of \$800-million a year to safer drinking water, education and better housing on reserves
- Provide funds to alternative therapies, such as chiropractors, massage therapists and



## The Economy

### Conservative Party of Canada

- No tax raise on families and consumers, and no tax raise for businesses that create jobs for Canadians
- Provide a one-year EI break for 525,000 small businesses
- Aim to complete negotiations on a Canada-EU Free Trade Agreement by 2012 and a Canada-India Free Trade Agreement in 2013
- Extend the 50 per cent straight-line accelerated Capital Cost Allowance rate for manufacturing or processing machinery and equipment by an additional two years

### Liberal Party of Canada

- [Reverse corporate tax cuts](#), saving \$5.2-billion
- Reduce the size of the deficit to about \$18.9-billion by the year 2012 -2013.
- Find \$500-million through a program review reallocation, \$225-million from ending the oil sands tax break and \$263-million from canceling the Public Private Partnerships program.

### New Democratic Party of Canada

- Reward small businesses and companies by [cutting the small business tax rate](#) to 9 per cent from 11 per cent. Meanwhile, the NDP would boost the corporate tax rate to 19.5 per cent from its current 16.5 per cent, though maintain the combined federal/provincial corporate tax rate below the U.S. federal corporate tax rate
- A job creation tax credit for employers of [\\$4,500 for every new hire](#).
- [Limit credit card interest rates](#) to a maximum of 5 percentage points over prime rate
- Reinstate federal minimum wage law

### Bloc Québécois

- Increase [support for the forest industry](#).
- Secure [\\$2.2-billion](#) from Ottawa in compensation to Quebec for harmonizing its sales tax.
- Changes to Employment Insurance which include: Eliminating the two-week waiting period, increasing the benefit rate to 60 per cent of wages earned from 55 per cent, and studying the possibility of extending the program to the self-employed.
- Increase the [Canada Summer Jobs](#) budget to \$123.5 million – indexed to the minimum wage level and rising cost of living.
- Impose a 2 per cent surtax on annual incomes of between \$150,000 and \$250,000 and a 3 per cent surtax on incomes over \$250,000 in order to generate \$4.8-billion in revenue
- Introduce a tax on non-monetary bonuses.
- Eliminate tax shelters for banks and big business.
- More support for small and medium businesses and the return of the [Canadian Textiles Program](#)
- Equalization payment reform

## **Green Party of Canada**

- Cancel scheduled corporate tax rate reductions, rolling rate back to 19 per cent, level of 2009; also close tax haven loopholes for companies on worldwide income
- Establish a minimum wage of \$10 an hour under the Canada Labour Code
- Provide federal funding to local green business start-ups and to locally-raised venture capital
- Create jobs through investment in renewable energy, expansion of passenger and industrial rail infrastructure and building retrofits
- Cancel various corporate tax credits including logging tax credit, mineral exploration tax credit and introduce a toxic tax on dangerous substances to discourage their use
- Eliminate subsidies on fossil fuels, with a first-year reduction of \$1.4-billion
- Cut both employer and employee contributions to EI and CPP by a third, with the federal government making up the difference
- Reduce the size of deficit to \$14.9 billion in 2012-2013 and to \$5.5-billion in 2013-2014, and contributing \$4.1-billion annually to bringing down the deficit in 2013-2014

## **Education**

### **Conservative Party of Canada**

- Beef up the Canada Student Loan Program to increase the income threshold for loans and grants to part-time students; cut interest rates charged in some cases so Canadians can study part time while working
- Extend support for the Canada Youth Business Foundation
- Establish 30 industrial research chairs at colleges and polytechnics, and support research partnerships between college and university researchers and students
- Create 30 industrial research chairs at polytechnics and colleges to allow college students to interact with leading researchers

### **Liberal Party of Canada**

- A 'Canadian Learning Passport,' which would offer \$4,000 in tax-free grants who choose to go to university, college or CEGEP. (More for students from low-income families)
- Early Childhood Learning and Care Fund - to help create social infrastructure - that begins with \$500-million in the first year, rising to annual commitment of \$1-billion by the fourth year
- Veterans' Learning Benefit to pay for post-secondary and technical education for Canadian Forces veterans

### **New Democratic Party of Canada**

- Boost affordability of post-secondary education with a designated \$800 million transfer to the provinces and territories to lower tuition fees
- Increase the Canada Student Grants program by \$200 million a year
- Raise the education tax credit from \$4,800 to \$5,760 per year

### **Bloc Québécois**

- Push the federal government to restore education transfers to the levels seen before the cuts in the mid-nineties.
- Continued support for tax-exempt scholarships for postdoctoral students.

### **Green Party**

- A Youth Community and Environment Service Corps, which would provide federal minimum wage employment for 40,000 young people every year for three years, in exchange for a \$4,000 tuition credit at the end of each year
- Increased workplace childcare spaces
- \$400-million annual increase in funding of post-secondary education needs-based scholarships and bursaries





## **Defence**

### **Conservative Party of Canada**

- Continue with a plan to purchase a fleet of 65 F-35 joint strike fighters. The Harper government says the planes will cost \$9-billion to buy, and another \$6-billion to service. The Parliamentary Budget Officer says the price of the planes will be closer to \$29-billion
- Complete the implementation of the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy
- Establish a new wing at CFB Bagotville and follow through on a commitment to station 550 personnel by 2015
- Give the Coast Guard a law-enforcement mandate, and outfit selected Coast Guard vessels with armed capability

### **Liberal Party of Canada**

- Immediately cancel the F-35 stealth fighter jet deal and hold a competition to determine what planes Canada needs
- Up to \$120-million towards the Veterans Learning Benefit, which would provide full support for the costs of college, university or technical education for veterans after service

### **New Democratic Party of Canada**

- End pension reductions for retired and disabled [veterans](#)
- Restore an income-security insurance plan for former members of the Forces
- Help veterans move to construction and building trades

### **Bloc Québécois**

- Require the federal government to submit military equipment purchases costing more than \$100-million to the standing committee on national defence and veterans affairs for consideration. (From party platform)
- Clarify that the National Defence and Canadian Forces Ombudsman reports to Parliament and not the government.
- A monthly pension for life for disabled military veterans and more government resources for veteran health, including PTSD.

### **Green Party**

- Introduce a Comprehensive Security Plan to coordinate between the RCMP, CSIS, CBSA, the Coast Guard and DFAIT
- Reduce military spending to 2005 levels
- Reorient toward peacekeeping UN missions and home border defence



## Seniors

### Conservative Party of Canada

- Increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement with up to \$600 extra per year for single seniors, and up to \$840 a year for senior couples
- Prohibit federally-regulated employers from setting a mandatory retirement age

### Liberal Party of Canada

- [Increase](#) the Guaranteed Income Supplement - aimed at helping low-income seniors - by \$700-million
- The '[Secure Retirement Option](#),' which would allow Canadians to save an extra five to 10 per cent of their pay in a retirement fund backed by the CPP
- Public education campaign and additional funding for brain research, particularly into diseases including dementia and Alzheimer's.

### New Democratic Party of Canada

- Increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement by [\\$700-million](#)
- Give up to three years of the GIS retroactively to seniors who qualified for the benefit but did not apply for it right when they turned 65 – an increase from the current 11 months. [Double](#) CPP and QPP payouts from 25 per cent to 50 per cent of pre-retirement income, increasing the monthly benefits to a maximum of \$1,817 from \$908
- [Double](#) CPP and QPP payouts from 25 per cent to 50 per cent of pre-retirement income, increasing the monthly benefits to a maximum of \$1,817 from \$908.

### Bloc Québécois

- Raise Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) by a minimum of \$110/month.
- Make people over 65 automatically qualify for GIS.
- Increase family income allowable under GIS.
- Take measures to encourage phased retirement.

### Green Party

- Work to enhance CPP by doubling target income replace rate from 25 per cent to 50 per cent of income received during working years
- Increase guaranteed income supplement for seniors by 25 per cent
- Ensure secure pensions
- Stop elder abuse
- Guarantee the right to draw a 'living will' that allows people to limit or refuse medical intervention if they are nearing the end of their life



## **Families**

### **Conservative Party of Canada**

- Establish income-sharing for couples with dependent children under 18 years of age, giving spouses the choice to share up to \$50,000 of their household income for federal income-tax purposes
- Double the children's fitness tax credit by providing up to \$1,000 to help cover the costs of registration fees for physical activities
- Establish a children's arts tax credit to cover up to \$500 per child in expenses for arts or cultural activities
- Extend the ecoENERGY Retrofit-Homes program, which provides up to \$5,000 per unit to offset energy-efficiency improvements, by one year
- Establish a family caregiver tax credit to provide support to those caring for infirm loved ones at home
- Double the amount Canadians can save in their tax-free savings accounts

### **Liberal Party of Canada**

- A new six-month family care employment insurance benefit similar to the EI parental leave benefit, so that more Canadians can care for gravely ill family members at home without having to quit their jobs
- A new family care tax benefit, modelled on the child tax benefit, to help low-and middle-income family caregivers who provide essential care to a family member at home. The measure will help an estimated 600,000 family caregivers each year at an annual cost of \$750-million. (The website goes on to say that the "Family Care Plan" would be funded by cancelling the Conservatives' \$6-billion corporate tax break.)
- A \$275-million-a-year ["Affordable Housing Framework"](#) that aims to reduce homelessness and build and maintain social housing that would be paid for by scraping the \$1-billion Public Private Partnership Infrastructure Fund

### **New Democratic Party of Canada**

- Increase time people can take off from work to care for a dying family member from six weeks to six months through the Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefit
- Broaden flexibility in Employment Insurance benefits to allow people to take leave from work to care for family members nearing the end of their lives
- Reduce the cost of everyday essentials like home heating Introduce a caregiver benefit of up to \$1,500 per year to assist low and middle-income families to pay for everyday needs while caring for dependant family members

### **Bloc Québécois**

- Continue to support \$184-million per year going to a federal child-care tax credit.
- Gradual investment by the federal government until \$2-billion per year is invested in social housing.

## **Green Party of Canada**

- Modify the Income Tax Act to enable income splitting
- Establish a national affordable housing program, building 20,000 new units a year and renewing 8,000 existing units a year
- Spend up to \$1-billion a year to support existing and new child-care programs, including financial incentives for workplaces to create additional childcare spaces
- Reduce income taxes through revenue-neutral tax shifting made possible through the carbon tax

## **Immigration**

### **Conservative Party of Canada**

- Provide loans to recent immigrants to help pay for skills training and accreditation
- [Party website](#) | [Party platform](#)

### **Liberal Party of Canada**

- Will make the immigration and refugee determination processes a "top priority," including an increase in the number of family class visas and improving credential recognition
- More funding to language skills training for new Canadians

### **New Democratic Party of Canada**

- Streamline recognition of foreign credentials for immigrants to Canada
- Fast-track family sponsorship from disaster areas

### **Bloc Québécois**

- Insertion of a clause explicitly prohibiting the expulsion of an individual to countries where they risk torture
- Expedite family reunification and to begin negotiations with Quebec to transfer responsibility for family reunification
- Accommodate disaster victims quickly and to create a contingency plan that will establish guidelines in the case of a humanitarian disaster

### **Green Party**

- Allocate greater funding for training in official languages through earmarked transfers to the provinces
- Stronger regulations governing the practices of immigration consultants
- Advocate for the inclusion of 'environmental refugees' as a refugee category in Canada





## **Crime**

### **Conservative Party of Canada**

- [Scrap](#) the long gun registry
- Streamline and deport the process for deporting foreign criminals
- Provide enhanced EI benefits to parents of murdered or missing children, and parents of gravely ill children and amend the Criminal Code to double the victim surcharge
- Ensure that federal inmates undergo drug testing at least once a year, and deny parole to those who fail these tests
- End sentence discounts for multiple child sex offences and child pornography offences
- Develop a plan to combat human trafficking
- Strengthen laws against elder abuse
- Re-introduce legislation to clarify self-defence and citizen's arrest
- Bundle together a number of bills related to law-and-order (including Sébastien's Law, cracking down on organized drug crime, and eliminating pardons for serious criminals), and passing them within 100 days

### **Liberal Party of Canada**

- Improving the long-gun registry by decriminalizing first-time infractions, eliminating fees, and simplifying the process
- Establish a civilian oversight board to restore transparency and order with the RCMP

### **New Democratic Party of Canada**

- Increase support to the National Crime Prevention Centre by \$100-million
- Increase the Youth Gang Prevention Fund from \$7.5-million to \$16-million and make that fund permanent
- Invest \$75-million a year in shelters for abused women
- Aim to put 2,500 more police officers on the street every year

### **Bloc Québécois**

- Push for Quebec's own criminal code.
- More money for a national strategy for crime prevention.
- The Bloc platform outlines its opposition to the abolition of the gun registry and would move to create a system with free gun registry.
- Push the federal government to do more to fight arms trafficking.
- More support for victims of crime.

### **Green Party**

- Put greater resources toward prosecuting white-collar crime
- Legalize and tax marijuana. Marijuana tax would generate revenue of up to \$1.5-billion in its third year. At the same time, launch a national campaign to discourage marijuana use



## **Environment**

### **Conservative Party of Canada**

- Provide support to economically-viable clean energy projects that will assist in the replacement of fossil fuel with renewable fuel sources
- Create a hunting and wildlife advisory panel made up of hunters and fishers and conservation groups to offer Ottawa advice on endangered species and wetland protection.
- Provide a loan guarantee for Newfoundland and Labrador's \$6.2-billion Lower Churchill River hydroelectric project

### **Liberal Party of Canada**

- Institute cap-and-trade system, with a long-term goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050.
- Immediately eliminate tax break for oil sands (worth \$225-million).
- Green renovation tax credit (\$400-million) for energy-efficient home renovations.
- Quadruple renewable energy production from 2009 levels by 2017 and bring back Renewable Power Production Incentive program with an investment of \$1-billion, with the goal of making renewable sources worth 10 per cent of total electricity output by 2017.
- Protect more national parks and marine habitats.

### **New Democratic Party of Canada**

- Cut federal subsidies to the fossil fuel industry, amounting to about \$2-billion a year, and redirect that money to renewable energy such as solar, wind, tidal and geothermal sources
- Establish a training fund for jobs in the 'green energy economy'
- Price carbon emissions with a cap-and-trade system with emissions limits for biggest polluters
- Commit Canada to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050
- Increase by one cent the portion of every dollar of gasoline tax given to municipalities to fund public transit

### **Bloc Québécois**

- Calls for federal funding for a high speed rail that would link Quebec City and Montreal that could be extended to Windsor and New York.
- \$750-million in party platform for the development of green energy.
- The Bloc platform proposes financial incentives for implementing alternative energy (geothermal, biogas from landfills, wind, solar etc.).
- Eventual mandatory – but free – energy assessments. (From party platform)
- Amendments to building code standards for thermal efficiency in older homes and require that standard be met before renovation permit issued. (From party platform)
- The Bloc platform calls for serious effort to be made towards widespread use of the electric car.
- Impose absolute targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the short and medium term to match targets set by Kyoto Protocol. (From party platform)
- Plans to develop and protect the St. Lawrence River.

## **Green Party of Canada**

- Phase out the use of all genetically-modified food products, and reduce the use of pesticides, growth hormones, antibiotics and other chemical agents in agriculture
- Amend the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to include the right of future Canadians to breathable air and drinkable water
- Increase EcoEnergy home energy retrofit grants by 50 per cent to \$600-million in 2012-2013, and create new energy retrofit programs for low-income housing, universities, municipal buildings, schools and hospitals
- Levy a carbon charge on companies of \$50 a tonne on CO2 emissions, increasing to \$60 by 2013-2014. Offer carbon tax rebate to low-income Canadians
- Establish a National Parks Completion Budget of \$500-million
- End federal assistance to the commercial seal hunt
- Strengthen the Canadian Environmental Protection Act with regulations to reduce airborne contaminants, substances shown to be a risk to human health, and toxic chemicals
- Create a national solar roof program, spending \$180-million a year
- Add pollution prevention to the mandate of the CEPA
- Work towards a 'zero waste' future, where manufacturers are responsible for the entire lifespan of a product, including recycling at the end of its usefulness
- Create six municipal superfunds that address various environmental issues

## **Food**

### **Conservative Party of Canada**

- Develop a National Farm and Food strategy to guide federal policy
- Revise current approval processes to allow for international equivalencies in certain products
- The creation of an "Agriculture Innovation Initiative, to support local farm-based research and development projects."
- \$100-million over five years to improve capacity in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

### **Liberal Party of Canada**

- Promotion of healthier living with education programs for children; improved food labelling; tough new restrictions on trans fats and sodium.
- \$50-million injection to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to ramp up inspections on imported food; full review of federal agencies responsible for food safety.
- A mass review of Canada's entire agriculture file, from subsidies to research and innovation.
- Rewards for farmers who set aside land for wildlife habitats or carbon sequestering; quadruple clean-energy production.
- Expand export markets for Canadian food and beverage producers.

### **New Democratic Party of Canada**

- Belief that access to and sustained production of healthy food is critical to Canada's future. New labelling laws will help consumers identify healthy foods and genetically modified ingredients.
- Educate students on how to produce and prepare nutritious foods.
- Boost support to Canadian producers and local food networks by supporting farmers' markets, agriculture co-operatives and alternative regulation for small-scale operators.
- Review the impact of trade agreements to assess threats to domestic food security.
- Improve young farmers' access to arable land and training.

### **Bloc Québécois**

- The right of a nation to choose the direction of agricultural policies.
- A more robust federal food inspection system: 1,000 new jobs, traceability laws and public inspection reports.
- Overhaul the troubled farm income support program, which most parties agree is expensive (\$4-billion annually) and ineffective.
- Increase federal funding by \$150-million a year for next 10 years.
- Correct loopholes in food import laws that give foreign producers a competitive advantage over Canadians.

### **Green Party**

- Create fund for farmers to transition to organic farming. Spending of \$75 million in 2011-2012, rising to \$175-million each subsequent year; implement strict monitoring of pesticides.
- Expand domestic food production and procurement with "200-kilometre diet" promotion; expand farmers' markets and culinary tourism, rooftop gardens, urban agriculture and seed banks.

- Stop all federally funded research on genetically modified organisms (GMO). Cut all federal biotech funding to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada and 10 per cent of funding (which goes to GMO biotech) from NSERC and NRC
- Reform agricultural regulations “to challenge corporate concentration;” reform farm income supports; encourage grocery retailers to make shelf space for local foods
- Upgrade water treatment facilities
- Government agriculture research shifts from biotechnology to organic production.
- Establishment of greenhouse gas emission targets in collaboration with industry.