

Understanding Party Platforms

Positions of Interest to the Mi'kmaq Nation

**IT IS IMPORTANT FOR EVERY CANADIAN TO VOTE.
 YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD.
ON ELECTION DAY, EVERY VOTE MATTERS!**

The Mi'kmaq Nation should be looking at each party's platform to see how they are addressing the needs of Aboriginal peoples in Canada and if the Party is willing to work on issues that are important to First Nations. Here is a highlighted overview of each party's platform:

Parties (alphabetically)	Aboriginal Issues	Economy	Environment	Social Policy	Infrastructure
Bloc Québécois	<p>A. Committed to working in the direction of self-government in education, in the areas of justice and culture of Indigenous communities - along the lines of the Paix des Braves (the 2002 Agreement Respecting a New Relationship Between the Cree Nation and the Government of Quebec) which provides for revenue sharing in mining, hydroelectric development and forestry carried out on Cree traditional lands.</p> <p>B. The federal government must follow TRC Report recommendations, including investing in education, health, and an investigation into the murdered and missing women.</p>	<p>A. The "Wood Charter" to promote wood construction for federal buildings, etc. The Charter will also include a research and development component and updating of the National Building Code of Canada.</p> <p>B. Invest \$40b in green technologies. [Also under Environment]</p> <p>C. Help the forestry sector, including funds for companies undergoing a second and third restructuring.</p> <p>D. Ask for an investigation on fluctuating gas prices.</p> <p>E. Increase costs for trains carrying dangerous goods to ensure greater security during railroad transport. [Also included in Environment and Infrastructure]</p>	<p>A. Invest \$40 billion in green technologies. [Also under Economy.]</p> <p>B. Repeal Bill C-51 (Anti-terrorism Act)</p> <p>C. Increase costs for trains carrying dangerous goods to ensure greater security during railroad transport. [See also Economy and Infrastructure]</p>	<p>A. Keep employment insurance fund for people out of work and not use it for other projects.</p>	<p>A. Increase costs for trains carrying dangerous goods to ensure greater security during railroad transport. [See also Economy and Environment]</p>

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Conservative	<p>A. 2015 federal budget included \$200m over 5 years to improve First Nations.</p> <p>B. Budget allocated \$215m over 5 years to provide skills and development training for Aboriginal peoples.</p> <p>C. Budget allocated \$34m over 5 years to help the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency support consultations with Indigenous peoples over natural resources projects.</p> <p>D. Committed \$500m over 7 years to on-reserve school infrastructure.</p>	<p>A. Cut EI premiums from \$1.88 per \$100 of insurable earnings to \$1.49 in 2017.</p> <p>B. Set a job creation goal of 1.3 million net new jobs by 2020.</p> <p>C. Provide tax relief for mining exploration.</p> <p>D. Lower taxes on small businesses that hire apprentices and skilled trade workers.</p> <p>E. Partner with the Lobster Council of Canada to provide \$15m over 3 years to promote Canadian lobster, at home and abroad.</p> <p>F. Provide \$5m over 3 years to support lobster research to help inform decisions about fishing seasons, licenses, and harvesting.</p> <p>G. Provide \$9m over 3 years to Destination Canada to promote angling, hunting, and snowmobiling tourism in Canada.</p>	<p>A. Enact new migratory bird regulations to establish a family hunting permit.</p> <p>B. Create a Wildlife Conservation and Enhancement Program that improves habitat for species harvested by hunters and trappers.</p>	<p>A. Establish a Home Renovation Tax Credit for home renovation expenses between \$1,000 and \$5,000.</p> <p>B. Enhance the Canada Education Savings Grants with matching contribution to Registered Education Savings Plans for low and middle income families.</p> <p>C. Introduce an endowment incentive fund with matching federal dollars to help support local museums. The government will match every dollar raised by a local museum from individual donors.</p>	<p>A. Finance economic infrastructure, such as marine ports and internet broadband in rural communities.</p> <p>B. Will invest a further \$200m over 7 years, starting in 2017-18, to help finance high-capacity backbone infrastructure in rural and remote communities, where it does not exist currently.</p>

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Green Party	<p>A. Work together to negotiate comprehensive Indigenous self-governance arrangements, and bury the <i>Indian Act</i>.</p> <p>B. Engage First Nations, Métis and Inuit leadership as full partners in inter-governmental decision making and not solely on Indigenous issues.</p> <p>C. Remove the 2% annual cap on increased post-secondary education funding and by 2020 abolish tuition fees for <u>all</u> post-secondary education and skills training (in consultation & collaboration with provincial & territorial governments)</p> <p>D. Develop a Housing Strategy which will address the Aboriginal housing crisis.</p> <p>E. Implement the findings of the TRC.</p> <p>F. Ensure access to quality public services for Aboriginal Canadian, including adequate funding for housing, education, and health care on and off-reserve.</p> <p>G. Launch a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women.</p> <p>H. New federal funding for “culturally appropriate education in traditional languages.”</p>	<p>A. Establish a Canadian Sustainable Generations Fund to invest in skills-training, education, energy efficiency, renewables, and emerging technologies.</p> <p>B. Reintroduce and expand the home renovation tax credit, to create incentives for individuals and companies to make their homes and businesses more efficient. [See also Environment]</p> <p>C. Establish a Community and Environment Service Corps, which will provide \$1 billion per year to municipalities to hire Canadian youth to do work that needs to be done.</p>	<p>A. Reintroduce and expand the home renovation tax credit, to create incentives for individuals and companies to make their homes and businesses more efficient. [See also Economy]</p> <p>B. Rebuild public scientific capacity by providing \$75m annually to add critical science capacity to Environment Canada, Health Canada, Parks Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans.</p> <p>C. Repeal Bill C-51 (Anti-terrorism Act).</p> <p>D. Amend the Constitution to enshrine a right to a healthy environment.</p>	<p>A. Develop a Housing Strategy to address need for social housing, Aboriginal housing crisis, affordable housing.</p> <p>B. Repeal the changes in the <i>Election Act</i> which make it more difficult for some Canadians to vote.</p> <p>C. Expand our public health care coverage to include dental coverage for low-income Canadians under the age of eighteen.</p> <p>D. Establish a Guaranteed Livable Income to ensure no Canadian lives in poverty.</p>	<p>A. Re-invest in national rail systems, build more train cars in Canada, increase train speeds, phase in high-speed rail where feasible, and create green transportation and energy infrastructure corridors in key regions.</p> <p>B. Develop a National Transportation Strategy.</p>

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Liberal	<p>A. \$2.6b in new funding for First Nations education over the next 4 years.</p> <p>B. Invest \$500m over the next 3 years in First Nations education infrastructure.</p> <p>C. Invest \$50m in additional annual support for the Post-Secondary Student Support programme.</p> <p>D. New funding to support the ability of Indigenous communities to promote, preserve and enhance their languages and cultures.</p> <p>E. Lift the 2% cap on funding for First Nations programmes.</p> <p>F. Embrace the Kelowna Accord and re-engage in Nation-to-Nation processes with First Nations, Métis and Inuit to address priorities like housing, infrastructure, health care, community safety, child welfare, education.</p> <p>G. Work with First Nations, Métis and Inuit to enact TRC recommendations, including implementation of the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p>	<p>A. Create 40,000 youth jobs each year for the next three years through a new, annual investment of \$300m into the renewed Youth Employment Strategy.</p> <p>B. Restore Youth Service Program and provide \$25m per year for young Canadians to gain work and life experience while travelling the country, participating in community building projects.</p> <p>C. Increase investment in skills training, through a \$750m annual increase in funding for training programs delivered in partnership with the provinces and territories.</p> <p>D. Renew and expand funding by \$50m to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). [See also Aboriginal Issues]</p>	<p>A. Meet commitments under Aichi Biodiversity Targets by increasing protected marine and coastal areas from 1.3% to 5% by 2017 and to 10% by 2020.</p> <p>B. Reinstate the \$40m cut from the federal government's ocean science and monitoring programs.</p> <p>C. Restore thorough environmental assessments of projects that could impact areas under federal jurisdiction, including oceans and freshwater.</p> <p>D. Review amendments to the <i>Fisheries Act</i>, elimination of the <i>Navigable Waters Act</i> and other legislative changes, and incorporate modern safeguards to protect oceans and freshwater fish habitat.</p> <p>E. Co-manage oceans more effectively, working with the provinces, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders. Give coastal communities more say in managing the resources around them.</p>	<p>A. Restore Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement eligibility to 65.</p> <p>B. Increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement for single, lower income seniors by 10%.</p> <p>C. Create the Seniors Price Index. OAS and GIS will be indexed to this Index.</p> <p>D. Introduce an Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefit so that 6 months of benefits are available to those who are providing care to a seriously ill family member.</p> <p>E. Create the Canada Child Benefit, a single, fair tax-free, automatic monthly child benefit.</p>	<p>A. Work with residential school survivors, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities, provinces, territories, and educators to find ways for educational curricula across the country to incorporate Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, residential schools, and the contributions of Indigenous Peoples to Canada.</p>

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Liberal	<p>H. Create a Federal Reconciliation Framework in full partnership with Aboriginal Peoples. Conduct a full review of the legislation unilaterally imposed on Indigenous Peoples by the Harper government, through the lens of section 35 of the Constitution and if they are in conflict with Aboriginal Rights, inconsistent with the principles of good governance, or if they simply make no public policy sense, they will rescind them.</p> <p>I. Immediately launch a national public inquiry into murdered and missing Aboriginal women.</p> <p>J. Ensure all First Nations receive equitable funding for child and family services on-reserve.</p> <p>K. Renew and expand funding by \$50m to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). [See also Economy]</p> <p>L. Ensure that the Crown is fully executing its constitutional duty to consult and respect Aboriginal Peoples on project reviews and assessments. [See also Environment]</p>		<p>F. Replace the present environmental assessments with a new, comprehensive, timely, and fair process that ensures decisions are evidence-based and allows the public to meaningfully participate.</p> <p>G. Ensure that the Crown is fully executing its constitutional duty to consult and respect Aboriginal Peoples on project reviews and assessments. [See also Aboriginal Issues]</p>		

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NDP	<p>A. Create a cabinet-level committee to ensure that all government decisions respect Treaty Rights, inherent Rights and Canada's international obligations.</p> <p>B. Within first 100 days in office call a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women.</p> <p>C. Deal with unresolved land claims and fix the Treaty process.</p> <p>D. Implement the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>E. Take action on the TRC recommendations on a priority basis established in consultation with Indigenous communities.</p> <p>F. Improve essential physical infrastructure such as housing, roads and drinking water facilities.</p>	<p>A. Create 40,000 jobs for young Canadians in NGOs and private sector training partnerships.</p> <p>B. Create 54,000 in construction, manufacturing and transit.</p>	<p>A. Kickstart renewable energy production.</p> <p>B. Strengthen protection for Canadian lakes and rivers.</p> <p>C. Repeal Bill C-51 (Anti-terrorism Act).</p>	<p>A. Create 1 million childcare spaces capped at \$15/day.</p> <p>B. Build 10,000 affordable housing units.</p> <p>C. Return eligibility for Old Age Security to 65.</p> <p>D. Provide new funding for the Guaranteed Income Settlement.</p> <p>E. Hire 7,000 family doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals and open 200 new community health clinics across Canada.</p>	<p>A. Invest \$1.3b per year for the next 20 years</p> <p>B. Build and repair roads and bridges with \$1.5b per year to municipalities</p>