

## Conservative Party of Canada – Platform Overview

The full platform for the Conservative Party of Canada is available in [English here](#) and in [French here](#).

---

### General

The Conservative leader Erin O’Toole released the full platform for the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC), within the first few days of this campaign. This early release in the campaign differs from the party’s approach in 2019 when their full platform was released after the leaders’ debate.

The key promises from the Conservative’s include the creation of one million new jobs and to balance the budget in 10 years. The platform also includes a variety of promises for new spending programs such as boosting the annual growth rate of funding distributed through the Canada Health Transfer and a national childcare program that, in contrast to the Liberals’ approach in Budget 2021, would have money flow directly to parents instead. The platform is not yet fully costed but does note that updates will be forthcoming once the Parliamentary Budget Officer has completed their review of the party’s costing estimates.

### Key Highlights for IPAC Canada

#### *Canada Health Transfer*

- A CPC government would meet with the Premiers within the first 100 days of forming government to propose a new health agreement with the provinces and territories that boosts the annual growth rate of the Canada Health Transfer to at least 6%. This will inject nearly \$60 billion into the healthcare system over the next ten years.

#### *Long-Term Care and Seniors*

- A CPC government would invite the provinces to work with the federal government to develop a set of best practices for Long-Term Care homes.
- Devote \$3 billion of infrastructure funding over the next three years to renovate Long-Term Care Homes in all provinces and territories across Canada to improve the care that residents receive. The CPC would encourage partnerships with private non-profits that have historically provided a significant amount of Long-Term Care.
- The CPC would amend the Criminal Code provisions on failing to provide the necessities of life to make clear that the operator of a licensed care facility shall be presumed to have a legal duty to the residents of that facility.

## *Vaccination and Testing*

- Prioritize the signing of contracts for booster shots to ensure that Canadians are protected as quickly as possible against new variants.
- Accelerate homegrown development and production of vaccines by Canadian companies such as Providence Therapeutics, Sanofi, Medicago and others.
- Support the provinces by rapidly making available to them whatever logistical resources they need to deliver vaccines and booster shots to Canadians as quickly as possible.
- Deploy rapid testing at all border entry points and airports to screen new arrivals.
- Accelerate Health Canada approvals for rapid tests approved by the UK, the US, the EU, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, and Taiwan.
- Make at-home rapid tests readily available to all Canadians.
- Immediately provide more rapid tests to provincial governments to allow them to conduct screening, particularly at schools.
- Develop a clear, evidence-based strategy for re-opening our border with clear timelines and metrics.
- Quickly close the border to travellers from hotspots where new variants are detected.
- Implement a “Post-Pandemic Compact for Growth Plan” to leverage investment, innovation and infrastructure around vaccine distribution and long-term health security in the poorest, most disadvantaged regions of the world.

## *Manufacturing*

- Only pursue free trade agreements with free countries that respect workers’ rights and maintain high environmental standards.
- Bring manufacturing of critical equipment like PPE and pharmaceuticals back to Canada by ensuring that government and government-funded procurement of these essential products favours Canadian producers.
- Rebuild our domestic vaccine manufacturing capacity.

## *Implementing a ‘Canada Emergency Preparedness Plan’*

### **Part 1: Making Canada resilient to threats**

- **Vaccine Research, Trials & Manufacturing Capacity:**
  - Ramp up Canadian research and production capacity by making Canada one of the best jurisdictions globally for pharmaceutical research and development and the production of vaccines and medicines.
  - Overhaul Canada’s Pandemic Plan and preparedness to include domestic vaccine research, trials development and manufacturing capacity and readiness - with a focus on novel vaccine platforms, keeping and attracting the best minds in Canada, and ensuring secure access to supply during pandemic scenarios - working with universities, the private

sector, provinces and territories, and international partner countries to build for the future; and

- Review Health Canada's regulatory processes and the balance between Canada's industrial, health, and economic relationships with the global biomanufacturing sector in light of Canada's poor performance in accessing vaccines during COVID-19.
- **Increasing Domestic Production of Critical Supplies:**
  - Partner with pharmaceutical companies to increase production of critical medicines and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients in Canada;
  - Work with the United States to strengthen the North American supply chain for pharmaceuticals to reduce our shared reliance on imports; and use procurements by government and those receiving government funding to enhance domestic production of PPE.
  - Reinstate the tariff on imported PPE to recognize and secure the longevity of Canadian manufacturers of PPE.
- **Stockpiles, Lab Testing & Contact Tracing**
  - Overhaul Canada's National Emergency Stockpile System to ensure supplies are there to rapidly respond to infectious disease, bioterrorism, and similar threats, including ensuring the security of supply for personal protective equipment, diagnostic reagents, and swab supplies, and adopting modern tracking systems to ensure supplies are used before they expire and available when needed.
  - Overhaul federal lab testing processes and the support PHAC provides for provinces and territories to markedly improve consistency and scaling of lab capabilities across Canada, including the development of rapid testing capabilities at our borders, across our cities, in rural and remote communities, and within long term care facilities.
  - Develop evidence-based contact tracing systems for our borders and support public health efforts.
  - Develop a national system for sharing data across jurisdictions on pathogen transmission, immunity levels, and vaccination rates with transparent reporting requirements and coordination among jurisdictions.
- **New High Containment Laboratory Capacity and Infection Control Capacities**
  - Bolster our infectious disease and pandemic science infrastructure, research, and expertise, through the development of new and novel high containment laboratory capabilities, alongside the National Microbiology Laboratory, to rapidly identify the threat to Canadians of novel and emerging infectious disease and bioterrorism agents, including by:
    - Enhancing basic scientific understanding of the transmission of novel pathogens in built environments (notably, long term care facilities, hospitals, and other communal settings) on different

surfaces (e.g., nurse stations, medical equipment, doorknobs, retail, and workplace surfaces) and the importance of infection control measures (e.g., masks, hand washing);

- Supporting the development and testing of new infection control products/biomaterials, safe and high-performance architectural designs, airflow systems, and isolation facilities for the control of infectious diseases during regular times, and ensure Canada has the rapid response capabilities.

## **Part 2: Preventing pandemics**

- **Addressing the Threat Posed by Animal Markets and Trade in Wild Animals**
  - Support and encourage the closure of poorly regulated wildlife markets globally that carry an elevated risk of becoming sources for future pandemics;
  - End the importation of and trade in wild or exotic animals and their products that carry an elevated risk of spreading zoonotic diseases.
- **Prohibiting the export of deadly viruses to jurisdictions that cannot be trusted.**
  - The government will create a list of these countries subject to the export prohibition based on a national security assessment.

## **Part 3: Detecting and assessing threats**

- **Public Health Intelligence**
  - Overhaul Canada's public health intelligence-gathering systems, including restoring the Global Public Health Intelligence Network (GPHIN) shut down by the Liberal government and strengthen the sharing of public health intelligence across the federal government and with the provinces and territories.
  - Establish a threat-level warning system that uses data points and sources from our overhauled public health intelligence-gathering systems to assign risk levels from a scale of 1-5 for Canadians when a new virus is detected.
  - Overhaul the federal government's risk communications infrastructure, including developing trusted mechanisms for communicating the threat to Canadians of novel and emerging pathogens and rapidly changing information.

## **Part 4: Countering the threat**

- **Scientific leadership**
  - Assign ultimate responsibility for the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to a qualified physician - public health expert with field and frontline experience.

- Establish a set of actions corresponding to each level of risk in our new threat-level warning system, including but not limited to when border measures will be implemented, when travel should be restricted, and data-sharing requirements across jurisdictions.
  - Develop a data-driven system of benchmarks for removing bans, restrictions, and quarantines to provide certainty to businesses and their populations.
  - Ensure adequate enforcement of these actions is undertaken and that monitoring both internationally and domestically is consistent and ongoing.
  - Restore the dual leadership role of the National Microbiology Lab in Winnipeg, within the Public Health Agency of Canada, so that infectious disease science and expertise drives our domestic pandemic response and Canada once again is a global pandemic leader.
  - Overhaul Canada's Pandemic Plan and preparedness to include a focus on infectious diseases and bioterrorism threats.
  - Maintain access security and stringent screening protocols for scientists granted access to the Microbiology Lab in Winnipeg.
- **Strengthening Health Canada**
    - Strengthen the department to ensure it can rapidly review crucial innovations like new tests, treatments, and vaccines.
    - Partner with the private sector rather than over-relying on government.
    - Work with the provinces to harmonize ICU training to ensure that ICU credentials are transferable among jurisdictions so that that capacity can be bolstered in emergencies.