

Liberal Party of Canada Platform Overview

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

General

The Liberal Party of Canada released their full platform on September 1. The Liberals are the third major party to release their full platform, following the NDP's release days before the election was called and the Conservative Party of Canada's release within the first few days of the campaign but the first party to release a platform that is fully costed. Overall, the Liberals' platform includes \$13 billion in promised new spending this fiscal year and a total of more than \$78 billion over the next five years.

The platform is divided into six key categories that echo the main messages Trudeau has been focusing on in his daily election announcements since the kick off of the campaign. These six categories include the pandemic, housing, health care, the economy, climate change, and reconciliation.

Key Highlights for IPAC Canada

LONG-TERM CARE

- Improve the quality and availability of long-term care homes and beds.
- Implement strict infection prevention and control measures, including through more provincial and territorial facility inspections for long-term care homes.
- Develop a Safe Long-Term Care Act collaboratively to ensure that seniors are guaranteed the care they deserve, no matter where they live.

VIRTUAL CARE

- Provide \$400 million over 4 years to build on the growing demand for virtual care that arose during the pandemic. These dollars will help to cover digital infrastructure, and other system improvements, to support more virtual care so that Canadians can access things like virtual medical consultations with doctors and nurses or remote monitoring.

ADDRESSING BACKLOGS IN HEALTHCARE

- Immediately invest \$6 billion—on top of \$4 billion already committed—to support the elimination of health system waitlists.

- Negotiate agreements with every province and territory to ensure that Canadians who are waiting for care get the treatment they need as quickly as possible, and that the primary care system is positioned for the future and able to deliver the care outcomes that Canadians need.

RESEARCH

- Invest \$100 million to study the long-term health impacts of COVID-19, including the effects of “long-COVID” on different groups, including vulnerable populations and children.
- Drawing on Canada’s contribution to mRNA science and vaccines, introduce a new \$100 million a year fund to pursue moonshot research into high-impact illnesses where a vaccine may be possible.
- Add 1,000 Canada Research Chairs to help attract and retain top talent at Canadian universities and support graduate research, with a focus on improving gender and racial equity among Canadian faculty, promoting inter-disciplinary research, and reinforcing Canada’s world leading capabilities in life sciences and bio-medical research
- Establish a \$75 million a year fund for colleges and universities to help commercialize leading research, including identifying and securing patent rights for research done within their institutions and connecting researchers with people and businesses to help put these innovations into action and grow our economy.
- Strengthen equity targets for federally funded scientific research delivered through the granting councils to include a specific target for the representation of Black Canadians.

RURAL HEALTHCARE

- Expand the number of family doctors and primary health teams in rural communities, by increasing by 50% (from \$40,000 up to \$60,000 over 5 years), the maximum debt relief that family doctors, residents in family medicine, nurse practitioners, or nurses are eligible for the under Canada Student Loans forgiveness program.
 - Expand the list of professionals eligible for forgiveness to include dentists, pharmacists, dental hygienists, midwives, social workers, psychologists, teachers, and early childhood educators so that rural communities have greater access to the full suite of health and social service providers they need.
- Offer health care professionals, who are just starting out in their careers, a one-time income tax deduction of up to \$15,000 over their first 3 years of practice to help with the costs of setting up a practice.
- Work to give rural communities greater access to a full suite of health and social services professionals, including dentists, pharmacists, dental hygienists, midwives, social workers, psychologists, teachers, and early childhood educators.

INDIGENOUS ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- Fully implement Joyce's Principle and ensure it guides the work in co-developing distinctions-based Indigenous Health legislation to foster health systems free from racism and discrimination where Indigenous peoples are respected and safe.
- Co-develop a distinctions-based, community-led, Indigenous Long-term and Continuing Care Framework that prioritizes ensuring Indigenous peoples can receive long-term and continuing care services in or near their own communities and culturally appropriate care and programming, whether they are in urban, rural, and northern areas.
- Bolster Indigenous health system navigators so they can provide dedicated support to Indigenous people and their families to specifically help them navigate services related to long-term and continuing care.

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE CHANGES – *Canada Health Act and Canada Labour Code*

- Strengthen federal powers under the Canada Health Act and the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act to deduct health transfers from provinces who enable extra billing for publicly insured services, in order to protect the integrity of our universal public health care system.
- Introduce amendments to the Canada Labour Code to provide 10 days of paid sick leave for all federally regulated workers so that no one has to choose between going to work sick or paying their bills

VACCINATION PROOF

- Launch a \$1 billion COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Fund to support provinces and territories who implement a requirement for proof of vaccine credentials in their jurisdiction for non-essential businesses and public spaces
- Table legislation to ensure that every business and organization that decides to require a proof of vaccination from employees and customers can do so without fear of a legal challenge.
- Ensure vaccination across the federal public service.
- Work with employers in Crown corporations and federally regulated workplaces to ensure vaccination is prioritized for workers in these sectors.

COVAX

- Donate at least 200 million vaccine doses to vulnerable populations around the world through COVAX by the end of 2022 and provide additional funding to support enhanced testing and production capacity in developing countries.