



AFN Analysis of Ready for Better the New Democratic Party 2021 Election Platform Document

Overall the NDP has shown a clear commitment to reconciliation with a number of commitments including commitments that the AFN has actively advocated for previously. The New Democrats have shown a strong understanding that reconciliation is a key issue for them and that work needs to be done in partnership with Indigenous communities to see meaningful reconciliation. Rights recognition, reconciliation for past abuses, and pursuing equitable social outcomes are the key themes in the document.

The chapter titled *Reconciliation in Action* led with the acknowledgement that inherent rights and self-determination need to be at the core of the NDP's approach to reconciliation and the nation-to-nation relationship. In their Indigenous chapter of their platform the party committed to:

- Fully implementing UNDRIP and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action
- A National Action Plan for Reconciliation
- Comprehensive support for searching Indian Residential Schools for the remains of children
- A Special Prosecutor to find those who harmed Indigenous children
- Full transfer of Indian Residential School records from governments and the Church
- Full implementation of Jordan's Principle
- Full implementation of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's orders on Indigenous children
- Safe and affordable housing in every indigenous community including addressing the mold crisis and energy efficiency
- Implementing Shannen's Dream for equitable education funding
- Increased support for post-secondary students including remote and distance learning
- Working with provinces to have an Indigenous history education programs
- Indigenous-led water programs and systems
- Supporting emergency management including firefighting
- Closing the health gap
- Implementing Joyce's Principle to address systemic racism in healthcare
- Improving mental health and addictions support
- Homecare and Long Term Care for Elders
- A mercury treatment centre for Grassy Narrows
- The platform document acknowledged First Nations wanting a new fiscal relationship stating that Indigenous communities must be part of the COVID recovery
- Working with Indigenous Entrepreneurs to create opportunity
- Ensuring cell and internet service to indigenous communities
- Implementing the Final Report on MMIWG's Calls for Justice in partnership with Indigenous communities
- Creating a comprehensive plan on violence against women, girls and LGBTQI2S+ peoples
- Creating a First Nations Policing Strategy including First Nations Policing as an Essential Service
- Removing most mandatory minimums and introducing judge training and culturally sensitive bail programs
- Supporting healing and restorative justice
- Including Indigenous knowledge and having Indigenous inclusion at high-level tables on tackling climate change
- Supporting the Indigenous Guardians program
- Support for climate change caused environmental emergencies like flooding and fire

Key Platform Items Impacting First Nations

- Social Support
 - Guaranteed Basic Income
 - \$10-a-day childcare
 - Ending homelessness
 - School nutrition programming
 - **Indigenous Food Sovereignty**
- Healthcare
 - Introducing Universal Pharmacare
 - Creating a plan for universal dental care
 - Increased support for virtual care
 - Ending for-profit long term care
 - Decriminalization and safe-supply for those suffering from opioid addiction
- Post-Secondary
 - Eliminating interest on federal student loans
 - \$20,000 in student loan forgiveness for select students
 - Doubling student grants
- Worker Support
 - \$15 minimum wage
 - Paid Sick Leave
 - 1,000,000 jobs created
 - An EI minimum of \$2000 per month
 - EI for those who leave the workforce to retrain
- Industry
 - **Canadian Food Strategy**
 - **Fully implementing Cohen Commission recommendations**
 - Investing in forestry and value added wood products
 - Protecting Wild Salmon and Fisheries
- Environment
 - **Putting UNDRIP into action on addressing climate change and building reconciliation into the heart of their plan to address the climate crisis**
 - Eliminating fossil fuel subsidies
 - Reducing emissions by 50% by 2030 (based on 2005 levels)
 - Creating a National Crisis Strategy with a Climate Corps
 - Doubling the Community-Building Fund
 - Creating an Inter-City Bus Program
 - Net carbon free electricity by 2030, 100% emission free electricity by 2040
 - **Creating an Office of Environmental Justice to address impacts of climate change on marginalized communities**



AFN Analysis of *Canada's Recovery Plan* the Conservative Party of Canada's 2021 Election Platform Document

Overall the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) has shown an approach to reconciliation that is focused on Indigenous economic prosperity through supporting increased resource development and greater access to active participation in the free market. The platform document's portions dedicated to reconciliation and Canada's northern regions were focused mainly on economic advancement and focused little on the enhancement of rights or the closing of social gaps. The document sought to utilize current systems in place as opposed to the development of new institutions for reconciliation to be realized. While the platform chapter on Indigenous peoples was focused on improving outcomes for Indigenous communities financially, it approached self-sustained economic development as the main path forward:

Canada's natural resource industries have led the way in developing new ways to partner with First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples. Natural resource industries are significant employers of Indigenous peoples. In many regions, these industries provide the best chance for lifting rural, remote, and isolated communities out of poverty.

There appears to be an overreliance on natural resources in partnership with First Nations as the path to closing the gap. Their mention of UNDRIP references "the right to Indigenous communities to pursue economic opportunities and benefit from the development of resources on their traditional territories" as opposed to the importance of First Nations self-determination in a holistic way. Ultimately, there is a great onus on First Nations and Indigenous communities to utilize niche programs and government processes to drive their success. Items pertaining to culture or socio-economic gaps that are not based on the benefit of human capital are lacking.

A Detailed Plan to Secure the Future of Canada's Indigenous Peoples, the portion of the platform dedicated to reconciliation contained the following key commitments:

- **Intro**
 - Developing a plan to implement TRC Calls to Action 71 through 76
 - Funding the search and investigation of Indian Residential Schools for unmarked graves
 - Resources for commemoration and honouring victims
 - Resource to educate Canadians on Indian Residential Schools

- **Prosperity through partnership**
 - Working with Indigenous-led resource development groups and stakeholders to develop projects
 - Creation of a Canadian Indigenous Opportunities Corporation to guarantee loan access
 - Consultation with Indigenous groups before cancelling resource development projects that may impact their communities
 - Implement Article 18 of UNDRIP to develop a process for communities to identify who represents them in consultations if it is to be someone other than elected Chiefs
 - Streamlined environmental review processes for projects with Indigenous partners

- **Levelling the Playing Field**
 - \$4M over 3 years for local regional economic development officers
 - Supporting capacity building and business education through (NACCA and CCAB)
 - Creation of an Indigenous Business Mentorship Program to connect Indigenous business and entrepreneurs with others who have succeeded
 - Modernizing the First Nations Land Management Act
 - \$25M to national police support to reduce incarceration rates of Canada's Indigenous communities
 - Creation of a national working group in public service to have more applicants from Indigenous communities
 - Setting procurement targets for Indigenous business

- **Pursuing Self-Determination**
 - Increasing governance capacity through training young Indigenous leaders through the Institute of Corporate Directors
 - Empower FNFMA to monetize government funding for leverage to build infrastructure
 - Remaining open to new models of funding for services and critical infrastructure
 - Developing a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women and girls
 - Making it easier to escape third-party financial management

- **Drinking Water**
 - End long-term drinking water advisories
 - Targeting high-risk water systems
 - Regional and Coalition-based water governance

- **Mental Health**
 - \$1B over 5 years for mental health and drug treatment programs
 - Land-based treatment and programming in Indigenous languages

- **Introducing Stability to Urban Indigenous Assistance**
 - Long-term funding for urban Indigenous groups

- **A Skilled Indigenous Workforce**
 - Identify opportunities for Indigenous workers and youth to apprenticeship programs
 - Invest in trades training programs

- **Broadband in Rural Indigenous Communities**
 - All communities to have high-speed internet by 2025
 - Streamline application processes for broadband for communities and providing technical support for those applications
 - More flexible funding arrangements

A Detailed Plan to Secure the North, the chapter focused on Northern Canada, contained the following commitments:

- Working with Indigenous communities to increase eco-tourism
- Adding northern Saskatchewan and northern BC to the northern zone for residency reduction
- Culturally appropriate additions treatments
- The Grays Bay Port and Road Project connecting Nunavut to NWT
- Completing the Tuktoyaktuk road and port
- A large-scale project to provide clean power to the Yukon
- A new naval base in Churchill, Manitoba



AFN Analysis of *Forward. For Everyone.* the Liberal Party of Canada's 2021 Election Platform Document

The Liberal Party of Canada, having released their platform on September 1, 2021, has included a number of commitments relating to First Nations and Indigenous issues. The platform itself is heavily focused on ensuring housing affordability for Canadians and also housing assurance for First Nations and Indigenous peoples. The platform also has a number of key planks such as \$10-a-day Childcare and investing heavily in healthcare for things such as doctors, nurses, virtual health, and further COVID-19 vaccines while also attempting to tackle a number of key social issues ranging from a renewed approach to Long-Term Care and ensuring that programs like EI and parental leave include more options for more people. The Liberals included a gender and equity based analysis at the end of each platform chapter to apply an equity-based lens to their commitments and also have costed their platform (with \$78B in new spending) – two things all other parties have failed to do.

The chapter titled *Moving Forward on Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples* had some key commitments that appear promising, many commitments pertain to current mechanisms in place. Using oblique language on some platform issues or on key items like 'appropriate oversight mechanisms to hold the federal government accountable' as opposed to language regarding a National Treaty Commissioner is a minor sticking point on a platform that promises continuation of the strong investments in First Nations and staying committed to the things they have started. The Liberal platform included a strong commitment that we will want to focus on:

Continue to advance the priorities of Indigenous communities to reclaim full jurisdiction in the areas that matter to them such as child and family services, education, health care, policing, tax, and the administration of justice.

Other items in their Indigenous chapter the party committed to:

- Include, in all cabinet ministers' mandate letters, the requirement to implement UNDRIP, and ensure their offices and ministries work alongside Indigenous peoples to advance their rights
- Continuing to support search, burial, and site management of former Indian Residential Schools and expanding this to Day Schools and Indian Hospitals
- The creation of a National monument in Ottawa for residential school survivors and victims
- Appointing a 'Special Interlocutor' to work with communities and local and provincial governments to make recommendations regarding justice for IRS survivors and victims
- \$1.4B for a distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategy
- Funding a permanent building for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and providing sustainable funding for the Centre
- Accelerating the completion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action
- Continuing to implement the *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families*
- Continuing to reform Child and Family Services working with communities and families
- Ensuring that children who have aged out of funding at the age of majority get two years of additional support
- Ensuring fair compensation for those harmed by the First Nations Child and Family Services program
- Investing in building an Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare system including the creation of 3,000 new spaces
- Investing in Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern communities
- Continuing to fully fund Jordan's Principle
- Make any investments necessary to eliminate all remaining water advisories including the resources and training to prevent future ones
- Resolve class action litigation on First Nations safe drinking water
- Continue to support Indigenous-led processes for nation-building with appropriate oversight mechanisms to hold the federal government accountable
- Continue to support the transition away from the Indian Act

- Accelerate the resolution of outstanding land claims
- Further supporting Indigenous law, legal systems, and tradition
- Host a First Ministers meeting on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit priorities
- \$2B in housing supports with \$1B available by next summer build season
- \$300M for urban, rural, and northern housing strategies
- Co-development of and funding of a National Indigenous Housing Centre which Indigenous peoples will oversee
- Continue to support the First Nations Infrastructure Institute
- Fully implementing Joyce's Principle to guide work on distinctions-based health legislation
- Co-development of distinctions-based Indigenous Long-Term and Continuing Care to ensure local access
- Expand the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program with zero-interest loans
- Creating a navigator to connect entrepreneurs with programming to support them
- Continue to implement the *Indigenous Languages Act*
- Continuing to develop a new national benefits-sharing framework for resource development
- Continuing ongoing work with First Nations to redesign federal policies on additions-to-reserves and the Specific Claims process
- Working in partnership on climate change, tracking impacts on traditional lands
- \$2.2B over 5 years beginning in 2021-22 and \$160.9 million ongoing to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people through the implementation of the Federal Pathway and 2021 National Action Plan
- As set out in our permanent bilateral process, commit to meet regularly with the Assembly of First Nations to make progress on First Nations priorities

Key Platform Items Impacting First Nations

- Procuring vaccine boosters and second-generation vaccines
- \$100M for youth sexual and reproductive health
- Repealing some mandatory minimums related to substance abuse
- 10 days of paid sick leave
- \$10-a-day childcare within 5 years
- Expanding EI for seasonal workers
- Supporting the tourism industry with up to 75% subsidies for wages and rent
- Requiring providers who have purchased rights to provide internet or connectivity to a community to build it or lose the rights
- Net-zero by 2050
- \$2B Futures Fund to support workers from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador in resource industries as we move to net-zero including in collaboration with Indigenous peoples
- New Indigenous Guardians programs, new Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, and new Urban National Parks
- Protecting Old Growth in BC in partnership with Indigenous peoples
- Updating the Canada Water Act
- National Action Plan on Combating Hate

We've included the costed portions of the platform directly related to First Nations platform commitments:

New Investments (\$M)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Expand the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program	0	10	10	10	10
Support for Indigenous mental health and trauma support	100	325	325	325	325
National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation	0	60	5	5	5
Revitalization of Indigenous laws, legal systems, and traditions	0	0	25	25	25
Better housing for Indigenous peoples	1200	400	200	200	0
Bolster Indigenous health system navigators	0	5	12	12	12



AFN Analysis of *Be Daring* the Green Party of Canada's 2021 Election Platform Document

The Green Party of Canada, released their platform on September 8, 2021. Their platform is broken into three major parts titled “Green Future”, “Life with Dignity”, and “Just Society” all having their own subsections. While Indigenous Reconciliation has been given their own chapter, focus on Indigenous issues is scattered throughout the document as well including in regards to climate change, housing, fishing rights, tackling issues of racism and discrimination, and others. A lens of reconciliation has been applied throughout.

The chapter titled *Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples* covered many areas including rights, reconciliation, and social services. They have shown a clear understanding of the big issues facing First Nations and their rights and have definitely included people well versed on First Nations issues in the creation of their platform; the document mentions ‘Indigenous’ 147 times. They often refer to common sense approaches to reconciliation that the AFN has called for like the implementation of RCAP recommendations, implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions’ Calls to Action and the Final Report on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls’s Calls for Justice. Other key items in their Indigenous chapter included the following:

- Provide sustainable funding for new and existing Indigenous Healing Centres to address the harms caused by residential schools
- Increase funding to Friendship Centres across Canada
- Honour the original request from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for funding for work on the Missing Children and Unmarked Burials Project
- Call on the Pope to apologize on behalf of the Catholic Church for its involvement in residential schools
- Stop fighting the Canada’s Human Rights Tribunal orders requiring the government to compensate the child and family victims of Canada’s discrimination
- Ensure non-status First Nations’ children living off reserve have access to Jordan’s Principle
- Uphold Canada’s fiduciary responsibility, fulfill Canada’s responsibilities in agreements, honour treaties, and respect all rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their inherent rights of self-government
- In partnership with Indigenous Peoples, work towards the creation of an Indigenous Lands and Treaties Tribunal Act to establish an independent body that will decide on specific claims, ensuring that treaty negotiations are conducted and financed fairly and that treaty negotiations and claims resolutions do not result in the extinguishment of aboriginal and treaty rights
- Ensure that negotiations of treaties and self-government are not based on the extinguishment of Indigenous title and rights, and on assimilation, but on reconciliation of rights and title, and that negotiations recognize the diversity of traditional self-governance
- Formally repudiate the doctrine of terra nullius, the doctrine of discovery, and other doctrines of superiority
- Guided by Indigenous leadership, establish a process to transition out from under the Indian Act
- Implement the recommendations of the 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples
- Affirm the inherent right of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation to determine child and family services
- Work with First Nations, the Métis Nation, and Inuit and their governing institutions on a nation-to-nation basis
- Recognize the rights of non-status and Métis as “Indigenous.”
- Include off-reserve Status, non-Status, Métis and Southern Inuit in the implementation of calls to action in Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & 2SLGBTQQIA+
- Implement all 94 of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Implement all of the Calls for Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- Support self-determination with effective, fully-funded organizations to represent and provide services to communities by expanding Basic Organizational Capacity (BOC) funding for Indigenous representative organizations
- Representation of youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQQIA+, and distinct identities among off-reserve Indigenous people must be adequately funded to ensure those perspectives are included

- Support research and identification of off-reserve Indigenous communities across Canada, with registration and membership systems
- Ensure that every First Nations, Métis and Inuit child has access to quality educational opportunities based on the expressed cultural, political and social priorities of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit governments, following meaningful consultation
- Support the development of Indigenous education curricula that are language and culture-specific.
- Increase access to post-secondary education for Indigenous youth by removing the two per cent funding cap, as well as fully funding the program backlog
- Support and sustain the transmission, proliferation, and regeneration of Indigenous cultural works and languages
- Educate non-Indigenous Canadians on the histories, customs, traditions and cultures of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples of Turtle Island
- Honour the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling to compensate every child and family who was taken from their home on reserve
- Adopt a results framework for the well-being of children, families, and communities, such as the Measuring to Thrive framework proposed in the report.
- Budget for results with a block funding approach that addresses gaps and is linked to the results framework.
- Establish a non-political First Nations policy and practice secretariat to support First Nations and First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) agencies to transition to First Nations governance
- Establish a group of FNCFS agencies and First Nations willing to be early adopters of the new performance and funding approach to model implementation
- Invest in and upgrade critical infrastructure to ensure safe water access and to be able to lift boil water advisories in every community
- Support Indigenous-led processes to implement safe drinking water and wastewater management systems
- Improve food security in northern communities
- Increase access to high-quality health care services
- Support healthcare services that incorporate traditional practices and recognize the role of extended families and elders
- Devote sufficient resources for maternal and infant care, and culturally appropriate reproductive health services that uphold reproductive autonomy
- Increase investments in Indigenous-led mental health (See “Life with Dignity - Expanded and enhanced mental health support”)
- Sustain the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative to continue capacity building in the healthcare profession for Indigenous communities
- Expand access to non-insured health benefits (NIHB) to all Indigenous people, regardless of Status, residency, membership or any other factors
- Ensure that compensation funds are made available to the spouses and families of all Aboriginal veterans

Key Platform Items Impacting First Nations

- A Guaranteed Livable Income
- Universal Post-Secondary Education
- Universal Pharmacare
- Universal Dental Care
- Universal Child Care
- Decriminalization of Drugs and a Safe Supply Program
- Guided by First Nations, Inuit and Metis Nation, develop inclusive and culturally appropriate Urban Indigenous Housing Strategies
- Change the legislation that prevents Indigenous organizations from accessing financing through CMHC to invest in self-determined housing needs.
- Allocate funding towards urban Indigenous housing providers.
- Develop and implement an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.
- Ensure that all housing in Indigenous communities is built following principles laid out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Leverage federal lands and real property for transfer to off-reserve Indigenous organizations to create housing and economic development opportunities.
- Assist urban and rural Indigenous people in identifying emergency accommodations and affordable housing options for youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQIA+, and vulnerable populations.
- Establish a “For Indigenous, By Indigenous” housing support program for all off-reserve and urban Indigenous communities, and include off-reserve Status and non-Status Indigenous Peoples.
- Improving rural connectivity
- Increased support for Indigenous-led, culturally safe, mental health programs and services, rooted in Indigenous healing practices, land-based healing and the principle of self-determination.
- Ensure all programming is guided by the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework.
- Establish permanent program funding for the delivery of land-based, trauma-informed, community addictions care for Indigenous peoples.
- Increase targeted investment in the mental health workforce serving Indigenous communities.
- Double the current budget of the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative.
- Take active steps to implement Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, specifically those related to mental health.
- Support First Nations, Métis and Inuit in (re)building traditional knowledge systems around healing and wellness