

A Liberal government will remain committed to service to Canadians and particularly to helping those who need it most. The persistence of poverty across Canada remains an unmet challenge, robbing individuals of dignity and equal opportunity and sapping productivity from the economy. Canadians deserve a high quality of life where everyone is given a real and fair chance to succeed; Liberals are strongly committed to poverty reduction and caring for those who need it most.

To fight poverty, a Liberal government will engage with the provinces and territories, experts, individuals, businesses, and civil society to address the causes of poverty. So far, the Liberal Party of Canada has announced a number of measures to this end, including:

- (a) The Canadian Child Benefit (CCB) which will lift 315,00 children out of poverty;
- (b) Support of expanding Nutrition North to the communities that need it and ensuring that savings are being passed on to Northerners;
- (c) A total new investment of \$2.6 billion for core First Nations education over the next four years to improve both education and economic opportunities for First Nations to address the growing disparity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians; and
- (d) Reversing the Conservatives' OAS claw back and returning the OAS qualifying age to 65 years, ensuring our lowest income seniors receive close to \$32,000 more than under the Conservatives.

**Affordable housing:** A Liberal government will also shore up the social security supports that the Conservative government has undermined over the past decade, such as affordable housing and Employment Insurance.

A Liberal government will boost investment in social infrastructure by nearly \$6 billion over the next four years, and almost \$20 billion over ten years. We will renew federal leadership in affordable housing and provide new, dedicated funding for social infrastructure that prioritizes affordable housing and seniors facilities, helping to: build more housing units, refurbish existing ones, renew existing co-operative agreements, and provide operational funding support for municipalities. We will also fund early learning and child care and cultural or recreational infrastructure.

Affordable housing is a possible solution to many of our society's challenges: child poverty, struggling veterans, high student debt, and the precarious lives of people experiencing mental and addiction issues are all addressed with better housing. We know that access to affordable, safe housing is essential to the health and well-being of all Canadians and we believe the federal government should invest in the development of more affordable housing units to help Canadian families ease their cost of living.

**Indigenous Health:** First Nations, Métis Nation, and Inuit have been systematically sidelined and denied access to the basic necessities that most Canadians take for granted. These are the building blocks for fairness and opportunity. History has shown that a top-down approach gets us nowhere when it comes to closing that gap. What we need is a collaborative approach - similar to the one that resulted in the 2005 Kelowna Accord - that respects the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, and commits the government to working with them in partnership to set priorities and develop solutions to the challenges their communities face every day.

A Liberal government will immediately re-engage in a renewed, respectful, and inclusive nation-to-nation process to advance progress on the issues Indigenous communities have prioritized – issues like housing, infrastructure, health and mental health care, community safety and policing, and child welfare. We will make sure the Kelowna Accord – and the spirit of reconciliation that drove it – is embraced, and that its objectives are met, in line with today’s challenges. We will make up for ten long, lost years.

We have also committed to immediately remove the 2 per cent cap on funding for First Nations programs and establish a new fiscal relationship with First Nations communities that provides them with sufficient, predictable, and sustained funding, based on the actual costs of program delivery.

**Mental Health and Addiction:** A Liberal government will prioritize working with the provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous peoples to prevent mental illness, expand access to care and recovery services and support, and combat the stigma of mental illness. The government’s record on areas in their jurisdiction—including Indigenous people, the military, RCMP, veterans and correctional facilities—have some of the worse mental health outcomes in the country.

Past Liberal governments were leaders on protecting public health and safety on this issue, and will continue to focus on policies for the public good. Our Leader has indicated our strong support for programs such as supervised injection sites because they reduce harm, decrease the risk of death and disease for those living with addiction and mental illness, reduce crime, and protect public health and safety.

**HEMOCARE:** Seniors need timely and increased access to health care across their lifetime. Liberals believe that investing in home and community-based services will be more cost effective and provide better outcomes for patients. This would also free up overcrowded hospitals so that they can better provide the urgent, acute and emergency care. A Liberal government would work with provinces and territories to develop long-term care infrastructure and community-based services.