

HANDOUT 3.4: Opposition Party Proposals

Review some of the policy proposals made by the opposition parties during the 2019 federal election. Additional research can be conducted by using the party websites or *Pollenize Canada 2019*.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA	
Tax-Free Home Energy	The Conservative Party wants the GST paid on home heating and energy bills removed.
The Universal Tax Cut	The Conservatives proposed the “Universal Tax Cut,” which would reduce the tax rate paid in the lowest income bracket (taxable income up to \$47,630) from 15% to 13.75%.
The Children’s Fitness Tax Credit and The Children’s Arts and Learning Tax Credit	The Conservatives proposed reinstating the children’s fitness and arts tax credit which would give parents a tax deduction of \$150 for enrolling kids in sports classes and \$75 for arts or learning programs.
The Registered Education Savings Plan	The Conservative Party wants to boost the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) to help families save for postsecondary education. Under the plan, the government’s contribution would increase from 20 percent to 30 percent for every dollar invested, up to \$2,500 per year.

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP)	
Building 500,000 New Affordable Homes	The NDP wants to invest \$5 billion over the next 18 months to provide affordable housing and build 500,000 affordable units over 10 years.
Pharmacare	The NDP proposed investing \$10 billion each year to fund prescription drugs for all Canadians.
Clean Drinking Water and Ending Boil Water Advisories (Capital and Operating funding)	The NDP wants to invest whatever is required to lift all drinking water advisories in Indigenous communities by 2021, and to immediately support Indigenous-led water management training programs and water system operations.
Dental Coverage	The NDP wants to add dental care under the <i>Canada Health Act</i> to provide free dental care services to over six million Canadians who can’t afford it.
Return Capital Gains Rate to Year 2000 Levels	The NDP proposed increasing the capital gains inclusion rate to 75 percent (currently set at 50%). The inclusion rate is the amount of the profit made on sale of a secondary property or investments that are eligible to be taxed. The change would not apply to profit made on the sale of a primary residence, tax-free savings accounts or registered retirement plans.

GREEN PARTY OF CANADA	
Eliminate all fossil fuel subsidies	The Greens want to cancel all subsidies to fossil fuel industries and redirect these funds towards the renewable energy transition.
Net Wealth Tax	The Greens proposed introducing a 1% tax on net (family) wealth above \$20 million.
Corporate tax rate from 15-21%	The Greens proposed increasing corporate tax rates (except the small business tax rate) to 21% (the current rate is 15%).
Free post-secondary tuition	The Greens proposed working towards abolishing tuition and allocating \$10 billion towards post-secondary and trade school supports.

BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS	
Tech Giant Taxation	The Bloc Québécois proposed that Canada impose a 3% tax on the activity of web entertainment giants (such as Netflix and Spotify) on Canadian territory.
Green equalization	The Bloc proposed “green equalization,” a tax reform that would reshape the carbon tax to shift some of the income tax towards green taxation. The reform would mean that the equalization formula includes incentives for the provinces to fight climate change much more actively.
Affordable housing	The Bloc wants the federal government to reinvest up to 1% of annual federal revenues, or \$ 3 billion, in affordable housing. The Bloc would like to see this investment as unconditional money transfers, so that the operation of Quebec programs would not be negatively affected.
Political Party Financing	The Bloc would like to see private donations to all political parties capped at \$500 and public funding dependent on the number of votes each party receives.