

HANDOUT 3.1: 'Key Issues' video summaries

A listing of the topics and speakers from the *Key Issues* videos, along with a short summary of the arguments presented by each speaker.

ISSUE AND SPEAKER	SUMMARY OF MAIN ARGUMENTS
Climate change and a green recovery John McNally, Smart Prosperity Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change is and will continue to have major impacts on our environment and way of life. Canada will need to reduce our emissions to meet our climate targets, and climate policy is critical in meeting those goals. Coming out of the COVID-19 economic downturn, Canada can make investments in key areas to ensure a green recovery that also helps to create employment around green technologies and products that will be in demand as the world moves towards net zero emissions.
The care economy and a feminist recovery Anjum Sultana, YWCA Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women have been among the hardest hit during this crisis – job losses, family responsibility, gender based violence – and for us to fully recover there must be a feminist, intersectional approach to post-pandemic public policy. Investments should focus on care and community, such as healthcare, safe schools, childcare, long-term care and community supports – the things that have kept us safe during the pandemic.
Healthcare and pharmacare Matthew Musgrave, Heart and Stroke Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During this recovery stage of the pandemic, we must focus on making the Canadian healthcare system more resilient. Investments must be made to ensure that medication is affordable, and a universal pharmacare plan should be implemented. Losing your job should not mean losing your access to medication.
Post-secondary education and youth Kien Azinwi, Canadian Federation of Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuitions continue to rise and student debt crisis continues to grow. Future graduates will be unable to invest in homes, families and businesses. The federal government can invest in the future of young Canadians by considering the adoption of free and accessible education for all.
Poverty and basic income Chloe Halpenny, Basic Income Canada Youth Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Millions of Canadian live in poverty, which is connected to poor health outcomes, lower levels of education, and social exclusion. Full time employment is harder to find than ever before, particularly among youth. The creation of a permanent national basic income program would reduce poverty and income insecurity, and help in our recovery from the pandemic.

Supporting Indigenous communities Alyssa Luttenberger, Canadian Roots Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous communities face major gaps in mental health supports, community supports and other critical resources, and these issues have only worsened during the pandemic. The Government of Canada must take accountability for these shortcomings, and ensure that diverse opinions and perspectives are included in all decision-making to impact change and improve communities.
Achieving digital equity Erin Knight, OpenMedia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Millions of Canadians do not have access to home internet at a time when many are required to work or attend school at home. Rural internet is often unreliable, and unaffordable. Internet infrastructure must be built across Canada to ensure digital equity at a time when it has never been more important.
Small and independent business Corinne Pohlmann, Canadian Federation of Independent Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small and medium-sized companies have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, and many are in jeopardy of surviving – putting many Canadian jobs at risk. Relief programs for both employers and employees must continue, and investments will be needed to help businesses pivot to post-COVID realities.
Foreign assistance Diana Sarosi, Oxfam Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to prioritize investments to reverse the long-standing inequalities faced by marginalized people around the world, with women disproportionately impacted. Countries with fewer resources are struggling with medical and social resources and supports, and Canada's investment in foreign aid can help those who are struggling. Canada can be a leader in advocating for debt relief globally as a result of the pandemic.
The aging population and provincial transfers Dr. Trevor Tombe, Finances of the Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An aging population over the coming decades will add fairly significantly to health care expenditures. Provinces are unlikely to see revenues increase over the coming years enough to cover the rising health care costs. Reforming and enhancing federal transfers may be necessary to ensure sustainability.