

# Deciding Who to Vote For

2021

## Resource Guide

ADVANCED  
VOTING

**Sept 10-13**  
9:00 am to 9:00 pm  
LOCAL TIME

ELECTION DAY

**Monday  
Sept 20**



Voting hours at polling stations for  
each time zone across Canada

# Save the Date



## Deciding Who to Vote For

Deciding who to vote for can be a difficult decision.

What is the difference between the parties and candidates? How do I know who has the best policies?

To help, we've compiled a list of resources from trusted sources. These resources can help you think through what issues are important to you, to your family, and to your broader community. They will help you understand the positions of the parties on the issues that are important to you.

They will also help you learn about the people who are running for office. Because knowing about them can help you understand what kind of leaders they will be.

## Party Platform Analysis

When deciding who to vote for, a good place to start is the parties' platforms. A party's platform lists what the party believes in and stands for, and what policies it promises to enact should it form government. While some parties release their platform as a single document at the beginning of the campaign, other parties make individual promises throughout the campaign that eventually add up to its platform.

## **CBC’s “HOW DO THE MAIN PARTIES COMPARE ON THESE ISSUES?”**

This interactive tool lets you compare the party’s platform promises across 16 different areas, from gun control, to affordable housing, to proof of vaccine requirements. CBC News also provides some context for each of the issue areas, and describes the different parties’ track records on them.

[READ HERE](#)

## **CTV NEWS’ “FEDERAL ELECTION 2021 PLATFORM GUIDE”**

CTV News has put together a summary of the promises and platforms the Conservative Party, the Bloc Québécois, the Green Party, the Liberal Party, and the New Democratic Party have made. They provide a summary, and some background information, regarding the promises parties have made across 14 different issue areas, ranging from healthcare, to economic recovery and jobs, to LGBTQ2S and reproductive rights.

[READ HERE](#)

## **MACLEAN’S “2021 ELECTION PLATFORM GUIDE”**

Since the end of July, Maclean’s magazine has been tracking the promises made by the Conservative Party, the Green Party, the Liberal Party, and the New Democratic Party. They’ve broken down these promises into 27 issue areas, ranging from taxes, to pandemic response, to arts and culture.

[READ HERE](#)

## **CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS’ “VOTE GUIDE”**

The Canadian Federation of Students has created a voter guide that compares parties’ platforms across issues they believe matter to students: free education, climate justice, Indigenous leaders, and international students.

[READ HERE](#)

## **VOTEMATE**

VoteMate allows you to compare party platforms and learn more about candidates. It breaks down the parties’ positions on a number of issue areas. It also shows you which candidates are running in your riding, and what their backgrounds are. Finally, you can use VoteMate to reach out to candidates in your riding directly, to ask for more information.

[READ HERE](#)





# Vote Compass

In addition to reading about the parties' platforms and promises, you can use this interactive quiz to see to you see which party's promises most closely align with your values and positions.

Vote Compass run by CBC. It asks you a series of questions about your positions on various policy issues, and then shows you how closely you align to the parties' positions. It also asks you to consider how much you trust the leader's of the different parties, and how competent you think they are.

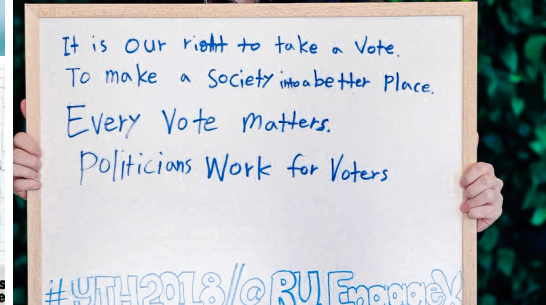
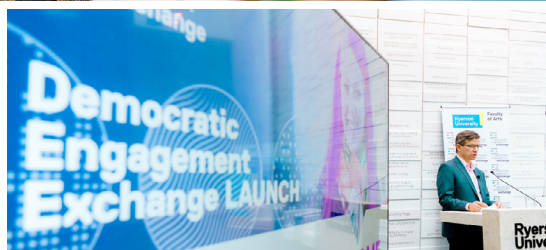
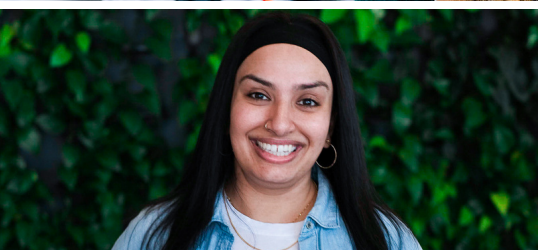
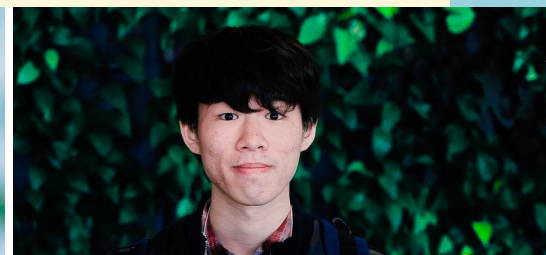
[▶ HERE](#)

# The Party Leaders

When deciding who to vote for, a good place to start is the parties' platforms. A party's platform lists what the party believes in and stands for, and what policies it promises to enact should it form government. While some parties release their platform as a single document at the beginning of the campaign, other parties make individual promises throughout the campaign that eventually add up to its platform.

## GET TO KNOW THE PARTY LEADERS

This article from the Toronto Star profiles the leaders of the Conservative Party, the Green Party, the Liberal Party, and the New Democratic Party. It includes descriptions of the leaders' personalities, how they are approaching the campaign, and what to look for from them this election. The article also links to other sources that give a more in-depth profiles of each leader. Those articles are behind a paywall, but you likely have access to them through your local public library account.



# Candidates in Your Riding

In Canada, we elect individual members of Parliament from each riding. In deciding who to vote for, you might want to look into who is running in your riding. What is their personal and professional background? What statements have they made, and what positions do they support?

## HOW TO FIND THE LIST OF CANDIDATES RUNNING IN YOUR RIDING

Elections Canada has made it easy to find out who's running in your riding. Just enter your postal code in this website, and it will show you what riding you live in. You can then click on the list of candidates for your riding, and see who's running for what party.

## Issues

What issues matter to you this election? What issues are parties, leaders, and candidates focusing on? What promises are they making and what do the experts say about whether these promises will work? Here, we've tried to provide resources for you to answer these questions.

## ISSUES TO WATCH

In every election, there are big issues that end up dominating the parties' platforms, campaign speeches, and debates. These are issues that Canadians care about, and that parties offer different promises to address. This year, different news organizations, experts, and individuals have put forward the issues they believe will define the election.

**The Toronto Star argues that climate change, affordability, the pandemic recovery, and racial justice and reconciliation are the four issues dominating the election.** They give a brief overview of each issue and where each party stands on it. They also link to articles that provide background information on each topic.

**The Conversation argues that keeping Canadians safe during the ongoing pandemic, climate change, and affordable child care are the major issues to watch out for.** In this article, they give an overview of each issue, why it's important, and broadly where the parties stand.

[READ HERE](#)



## HEALTH CARE

Our health care system is often a major issue in elections, and, in an election during a pandemic, this is especially true.

This article by **CTV** lays out the state of the debate over our health care system. Currently, parties are debating how much of our system should be provided publicly versus privately.

This article by **Global News** breaks down every promise each of the parties has made regarding health care. However this article does not analyze the cost or efficacy of the promises made.

READ HERE

## CLIMATE CHANGE

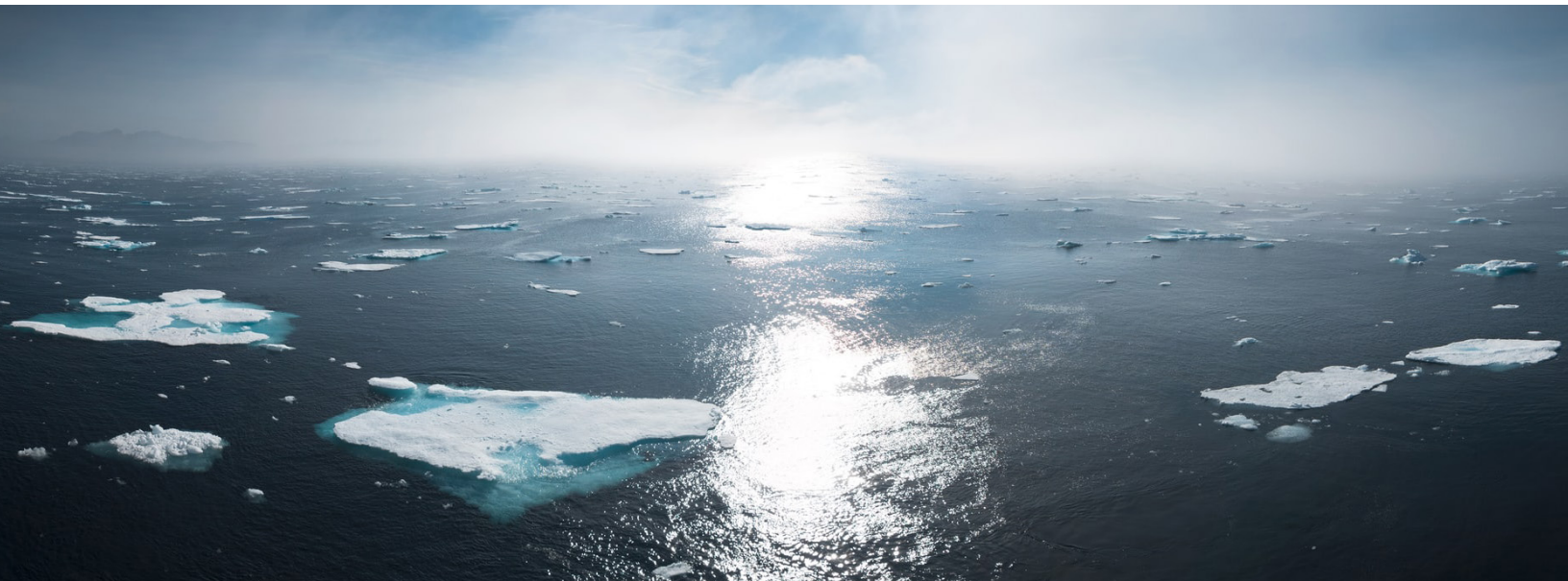
With wildfires raging across the country, the effects of climate change are currently being felt by millions of Canadians. This year, every major party has put forward plans on how they would address the issue.

This article from **the National Observer** provides an in-depth look at each promise the four major federal parties have made regarding addressing climate change. It also provides a “reality check” to each party’s platform, with expert opinions about what might not work, or how different parties have not lived up to their promises in the past.

READ HERE

This article from **CTV** lays out why climate change is such an important issue this year. It then dives into the promises the four major federal parties have made on how to address the issue.

READ HERE





## INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION & RACIAL JUSTICE

This summer, thousands of unmarked graves of Indigenous children at former residential schools were discovered. This has renewed the discussion of what Canada needs to do to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

This article by the **Toronto Star** looks at how the different parties plan on advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, tackling systemic racism, and protecting the rights of LGBTQ2S folks. It also provides some context as to what the parties have done in the past on these issues, and various bills that have been proposed.



[READ HERE](#)

This article by **Global News** breaks down every promise each of the parties has made regarding Indigenous reconciliation.

[READ HERE](#)

## HOUSING

Each of the main federal parties have made promises they say will help make housing more affordable across Canada, and address the needs of those who are most vulnerable.

This article from **CBC** breaks down the different parties' promises, and provides some context from experts in this area.

[READ HERE](#)

This article from **CTV** breaks down the different parties' promises, and includes arguments from each party about why their plan works better than their opponents'.

[READ HERE](#)

This article by **Global News** breaks down every promise each of the parties has made regarding housing and affordability.

[READ HERE](#)





## SENIORS

Each of the main federal parties have made promises they claim will help make life more affordable for seniors, and address some of the challenges of long-term care homes.

This article from **CBC** breaks down each parties' promises, and asks experts and seniors themselves what they think.

[READ HERE](#)

## PANDEMIC RESPONSE

As the pandemic enters its fourth wave in Canada, each of the major federal parties have offered their plan on how they will continue to try to manage cases and hospitalizations, and also what future they want for the country once we get out of this.

This article from **CTV** looks at where each of the major parties stand on the issue of whether vaccines should be mandatory to access certain spaces and services.

[READ HERE](#)

This article from **CBC** examines how the different parties plan on preparing for future pandemics, by investing in vaccine research and development in Canada, and working with global partners.

[READ HERE](#)



## IMMIGRATION

While immigration might not be dominating the election debate right now, each of the major parties have put forward policies relating to how they would take in refugees and streamline the immigration process in Canada.

**CIC News examines the different policies the parties have put forward in regards to immigration.** They look at how different parties plan on dealing with immigration policy issues ranging from the current refugee crisis in Afghanistan, to changing aspects of how visas are awarded.

[READ HERE](#)



## EDUCATION

While education is largely run by the provinces in Canada, federal parties have released promises on how they would make higher education more affordable for students.

This article by **CTV** examines the different positions of the parties on student loans and job training programs for students.

[READ HERE](#)



## ECONOMY

While issues related to the economy are also tied up in things like the pandemic response, education, and housing, **Bloomberg News** has put forward a comparison of the parties' platforms on "major issues affecting the economy, business and your money."

[READ HERE](#)





# Party Platforms

If you want to read the full platforms of the parties, you can find them here. Note that not all parties have released their platforms yet.

## CONSERVATIVE PARTY PLATFORM



## LIBERAL PARTY PLATFORM



## NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM



**For information on where, when and ways to vote visit Elections Canada**  
[www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

