

WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS

**Liberal Party
Don Trant**



Does your party plan to introduce a national anti-poverty strategy? If so, what specific targets would it include and what issues would it prioritize? (response limited to 1500 characters - approx. 250 words)

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.

2. Do you support the following proposal: Develop and implement a National Housing Strategy based in human rights, with a focus on reducing homelessness and securing adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians?

3. Do you support the following proposal: Preserve and renew federal investments to sustain and create new affordable housing?

4. Do you support the following proposal: Increase the supply of affordable rental housing?

5. How will you and your party address the affordable housing issue? (response limited to 1000 characters - approximately 200 characters)

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.

6. Do you support the following proposal: Develop and implement a National Food Strategy, as part of a broader anti-poverty plan?

7. Do you support the following proposal: Introduce a Basic Income Guarantee to ensure all Canadians can afford sufficient, safe, healthy and culturally appropriate food?

8. Do you support the following proposal: Increase investments in affordable housing, so that people don't need to decide between paying rent and feeding themselves and their families?

9. How will you and your party address the food insecurity issue? (response limited to 1000 characters - approximately 200 characters)

Access to sufficient, safe, healthy, adequate food is a fundamental human right. A Liberal government will always prioritize protecting the health and safety of Canadians. We will work consultatively with provincial and territorial governments, Aboriginal organizations, community groups, and producers to ensure that Canadians have access to healthy, affordable food.

Liberals also know that there is an inextricable link between food security and issues of poverty and income security. Healthy populations can only be achieved when adequate income, safe and secure food sources, and housing and infrastructure are well established. A Liberal government will make the necessary investments to ensure these outcomes.

Further, a Liberal government will address the growing food security disparity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians that the UN Special Rapporteur Dr. De Schutter identified in his report, Right to Food. A Liberal government will work in partnership with impacted communities to address this food insecurity crisis in the North and remote communities in Canada. The Nutrition North Canada (NNC) food subsidy must be expanded to include the other communities that require it. This long-standing and shocking lack of accountability and oversight must be fixed so that savings are being passed on to Northerners.

10. Do you support the following proposals: Introduce a Basic Income Guarantee?

11. Do you support the following proposal: Enhance the Canada Social Transfer to include an increase in funding to the provinces to support poverty reduction efforts?

12. Do you support the following proposal: Increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement by the amount required to lift the income of all seniors out of poverty?

13. Do you support the following proposal: Reform the Employment Insurance program by easing eligibility requirements, extending benefit?

14. How will you and your party address the income insecurity issue? (response limited to 1000 characters - approximately 200 characters)

The Liberal plan will make the tax system fairer and cut the middle class tax rate from 22% to 20.5%. That means the tax rate on any income you earn between \$44,701 to \$89,401 will drop by seven percent. We will create one bigger, fair, automatic, and tax-free monthly benefit that will help families with the high cost of raising their kids. Nine out of ten families will get more from our plan. And we will also ask the wealthiest Canadians – those in the top one percent of incomes – to pay a little more so the middle class can pay less. We will also undertake a review of escalating home prices in high-priced markets – like Vancouver and Toronto – to determine whether speculation is driving up the cost of housing, and survey the policy tools that could keep home ownership within reach for more Canadians. Liberals have assembled a strong team, and a strong

15. Do you support the following proposal: Set national wage standards to ensure that no fully employed individual lives below the poverty line?

16. Do you support the following proposal: Develop a jobs creation and training strategy to ensure all jobs have all the advantages of secure employment, including equitable access to occupational benefits, labour standard protections & opportunities for post-secondary education & training?

17. Do you support the following proposal: Reduce federal student debt and offer youth facing employment barriers job opportunities with inclusive work settings, supported employment and job retention, and targeted wage subsidies?

18. How will you and your party address the jobs and prosperity issue? (response limited

to 1000 characters - approximately 200 characters)

Small businesses are the backbone of the Canadian economy and Canada's millions of small business owners make immense contributions to our economy, communities, and daily life. That's why Liberals will lower the small business tax rate from 11 percent to 9 percent, which is supported by all parties.

We will also invest \$500 million in the federal-provincial Labour Market Agreements and reduce EI Premiums from \$2.63 to \$2.31 to help ensure small- and medium-sized business owners have access to a well-trained labour force. For ten years, Stephen Harper has been ignoring the people who do most of the heavy lifting in our economy. Liberals are the only party with a real plan to restore fairness and invest in the infrastructure and innovation that will help small businesses grow.

19. Do you support the following proposal: Develop and implement a National Drug Coverage Plan that is public, affordable, and safe, so that everyone in Canada can access the medicine they need?

20. Do you support the following proposal: Support and invest in programs that include oral health promotion and disease prevention strategies?

21. Do you support the following proposal: Implement the National Mental Health Strategy developed by the Mental Health Commissions of Canada?

22. How will you and your party address the health inequities issue? (response limited to 1000 characters - approximately 250 words)

The Liberal Party of Canada believes that every Canadian must have access to timely, publically funded, quality, universal health care, regardless of background, physical needs, geographical location, or the amount of money in their pocket.

A Liberal government will restore the federal government's leadership role on health care. We will call a federal-provincial meeting to reach a long-term agreement on health care funding and reengage in areas where there is direct federal responsibility, including health promotion and First Nations' health. We will work collaboratively with our provincial and territorial partners to address and tackle the critical issues that matter to Canadians – like extensive wait times, the affordability of prescription drugs, community-based care, mental health, and care for our aging population.

Stephen Harper has failed to help Canadians, and Thomas Mulcair's immediate priority is eliminating Harper's deficit, which has already forced him to break his promises on health care, transit, and child care. Justin Trudeau is the only leader with a real plan to invest in our future and give Canadians a better government that reflects their priorities.