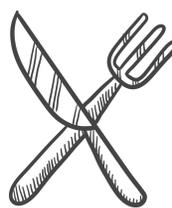


# Guelph

## Candidate Q & A

Federal Election 2021





## QUESTION 1:

Will you and your party commit to the elimination of poverty in Canada? If yes, what actions will your party take to strengthen Canada's poverty reduction strategy?



### **Karen Levenson, Animal Protection Party of Canada**

Phasing out all the subsidies for industries contributing to the climate breakdown, including animal agriculture, fishing, forestry, and fossil fuel industries, which profit from low-wages, insecure employment, lack of diversity, unequal distribution of resources, and unsafe work conditions. Finance workers to transition out of low-paying, unstable jobs in climate breakdown industries. Subsidize the creation of new plant-based and climate restorative technologies, invest in products and jobs developed in worker-owned businesses. Provide free lifelong education and retraining. Invest in biocyclic vegan agriculture, reducing food costs and financing urban families to grow in-season fruits and vegetables in community, rooftop, balcony, and container gardens.



### **Lloyd Longfield, Liberal Party of Canada**

The Liberal government introduced the first ever national poverty reduction strategy-it sets targets for poverty reduction and a sense of security. We created the Canada Child benefit which has lifted 435,000 children out of poverty. We have increased the GIS for seniors, improving their financial security, will increase the CPP Survivor benefit by 25% and provided a one time payment during the pandemic for nearly 1.7 million Canadians with disabilities. Affordable childcare is also key to poverty reduction. I will continue to work together-with government, community organizations, such as the GW Task Force for Poverty Elimination, and individuals-to make a difference in the lives of all Canadians and provide a hopeful future.



### **Michelle Bowman, Green Party of Canada**

A Green government would create a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI), housing affordability and homelessness strategy, expand mental health services, dental care and pharmacare.



### **Tristan Dineen, Communist Party of Canada**

The Communist Party is committed to the full elimination of poverty in this country. Universal social programs must be protected and expanded and a guaranteed annual livable income must be introduced for everyone. The pension age should be reduced to 60 and its benefits expanded to include the guaranteed annual income supplement. All privatization of public services must be reversed. Education must be free at every level and student debt eliminated. Mass public transit must be expanded and affordable access guaranteed. Laws against discrimination in housing, healthcare, employment and education must be enforced.

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## QUESTION 2:

What will you and your party do to ensure decent work for all, including living wages and fair working conditions?



**Animal Protection Party of Canada**

### **Karen Levenson, Animal Protection Party of Canada**

Canada's economic policies are grounded in a post-World War II industrial expansion facilitated by cheap labour; mass produced, disposable goods; and the concentration of wealth into the hands of a small percentage of the population. As robots replace workers in labour-intensive industries, increasing numbers of workers will experience job insecurity, loss, and lapses in employment. The APPC intends to help Canadians meet their basic daily needs by phasing in basic income programs, expanding protections for workers in the private sector, and providing low-cost government financing for smaller businesses and co-operatives.



### **Lloyd Longfield, Liberal Party of Canada**

During the pandemic we supported over 8 Million through the CERB, Canada Recovery Benefit and Canada Recovery Sickness and Caregiver benefits and reduced hours to qualify for Employment insurance. The Canada Recovery Hiring program will support businesses to rehire workers. We are investing in youth and organizations like 2nd Chance to help those facing barriers get training, funded hundreds of local youth through the Canada Summer Jobs program. We have worked to make federal laws more equitable and inclusive, developed a National workplace accessibility stream so those with disabilities gain meaningful employment. Federally we have implemented a federal minimum wage which will rise with inflation. If re-elected we will eliminate the interest on Canada Student and Canada Apprenticeship loans to help young workers investing in their future.



### **Michelle Bowman, Green Party of Canada**

The GLI would give people the option to refuse unfair wages and working conditions, helping to ensure decent work for everyone.



### **Tristan Dineen, Communist Party of Canada**

We must develop and implement a comprehensive full employment strategy based on massive public investments in environmentally sustainable manufacturing. Public infrastructure must be rebuilt and expanded. We must enact and enforce pay and employment equity legislation covering women and racialized workers in every sector of the economy. We must include part-time and contract workers under federal and provincial labour laws, raise the minimum wage to \$23/hour across Canada, and legislate a minimum of 14 employer-paid sick days annually. Union rights must be guaranteed under the constitution and expanded upon.

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## QUESTION 3:

Will you and your party commit to introducing a basic income to ensure everyone can meet their basic needs and live with dignity?



### **Karen Levenson, Animal Protection Party of Canada**

We believe in and fully support providing a basic income for everyone.



### **Lloyd Longfield, Liberal Party of Canada**

Ontario in particular has gone in the opposite direction to the previous Liberal provincial government, which introduced a basic income project. We are looking at ways to work within our jurisdiction (Universal Basic Income fall within provincial jurisdiction, under labour for delivery) and with municipal partners and charities to deliver whatever programs we can that fall within provincial jurisdictions. I have been quite active in setting up collaborations with local partners given the absence of the province as we would need to negotiate with the provinces and territories for a basic income project.



### **Michelle Bowman, Green Party of Canada**

The Greens will create a comprehensive and equitable Guaranteed Livable Income for every person in Canada. The GLI would supplement and complement existing public services - seniors' and children's benefits would remain in place.



### **Tristan Dineen, Communist Party of Canada**

A guaranteed annual livable income should be in place for everyone, providing a solid economic floor against poverty. This must be combined with an expanded Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security and minimum wage. In addition, Employment Insurance should be expanded to include all workers including part-time workers and first-time job seekers - for the full duration of unemployment, at 90% of previous earnings.

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## QUESTION 4:

How will you and your party address the housing crisis, so that everyone has a place to call home?



### **Karen Levenson, Animal Protection Party of Canada**

Support policies that remove the barriers that prevent Canadians from accessing affordable, quality, pet-friendly, rental apartment or reasonably priced homes while balancing the needs of nonhumans to live free from human encroachment. Affordable housing strategies must include protections of wild spaces, including migration routes, foraging areas, and nesting sites, and ensure large areas of forest, meadow, or other habitats remain intact.



### **Lloyd Longfield, Liberal Party of Canada**

Since 2015 we have created Canada's first National Housing Strategy investing over \$72 Billion over 10 years to build supply, make housing affordable and address chronic homelessness. We launched the Rapid Housing initiative creating 9,000 new units, and invested \$39 Million locally in the new Silver Maples Seniors housing development. A re-elected Liberal government will launch a new rent-to-own program, we will double the first-time home buyers tax credit and introduce a tax-free first home savings account. We will introduce a new Multigenerational Home renovation tax credit to help families add secondary units. We will continue to work with our partners to create a National Indigenous Housing Centre and make additional investments in Indigenous communities.



### **Michelle Bowman, Green Party of Canada**

A Green government will declare housing affordability (and homelessness) a national emergency. We advocate for extending the moratorium on evictions until the pandemic is over, establishing rent and vacancy controls and providing retroactive residential arrears assistance. Our platform is also consistent with that of VoteHousing.ca (e.g., supportive, affordable, Indigenous housing).



### **Tristan Dineen, Communist Party of Canada**

Housing is a fundamental human right. One million units of affordable social housing must be constructed and housing must be made a public utility that is guaranteed to all. Rent controls must be put in place to ensure that no one pays more than 20% of their income on housing each month. Tenants must also have the guaranteed right to organize themselves into unions. Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination must be guaranteed; land back!

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## QUESTION 5:

Will you and your party commit to the elimination of homelessness in Canada? If yes, what actions will your party take to support this commitment?



### **Karen Levenson, Animal Protection Party of Canada**

Commitment to eliminate the causes of homelessness with free lifelong education and retraining, universal health care, including free mental health and addiction recovery support, investing in humane education at all levels and funding community based resiliency programs that focus on helping individuals and communities overcome the economic and social barriers that contribute to homelessness, including domestic violence, sexual abuse, discrimination, and lack of inclusion.



### **Lloyd Longfield, Liberal Party of Canada**

We committed to reducing chronic homelessness by 50% and have now upped our commitment and are now focusing on completely eliminating homelessness in Canada. If re-elected we will appoint a new Federal Housing Advocate and move forward with our plan to invest in Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy to support local communities such as Guelph. We will continue to work with local partners to provide supportive housing and advance the work on the many projects identified in Guelph to help eliminate homelessness in our community.



### **Michelle Bowman, Green Party of Canada**

A Green government will declare (housing affordability and) homelessness a national emergency. We will support youth shelters, remove maximum stays, counselling, optional relocation services, and invest in the co-operative housing model. We will also initiate an Indigenous housing strategy.



### **Tristan Dineen, Communist Party of Canada**

Housing is a fundamental human right and any federal housing policy must reflect this. Federal powers must be used to end homelessness immediately through the construction of emergency shelters and transition housing. This will be followed by the construction of one million units of affordable social housing which will ensure that no one is forced to sleep on the street ever again.

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## QUESTION 6:

What actions will you and your party take to respond to the escalating impacts of mental health and addictions in our community?



**Animal Protection  
Party of Canada**

### **Karen Levenson, Animal Protection Party of Canada**

Climate change poses an urgent threat to the mental health of all Canadians. Children may be particularly susceptible to the immediate and lifelong psychological impacts of climate breakdown. We need urgent action to mitigate climate change and help our citizens adapt to its impacts. The APPC supports a universal health care system that includes mental health and addiction treatment and support, worker protection against job discrimination or loss of jobs due to mental health and addiction crisis. Fully-funded preventative mental health programs including community resiliency programs, domestic and work conflict resolution and anti-violence education, and community based domestic and sexual violence interventions.



### **Lloyd Longfield, Liberal Party of Canada**

We know that the pandemic has had a dramatic effect on our mental health. Locally we have invested in Canadian Mental Health Association and Compass Community Services to help with increased staffing needs and support lines. We have provided \$5 billion to the provinces and territories to increase the availability of mental health care, have funded the development of national mental health care standards and introduced the Wellness Together portal which has been accessed by more than 1.2 million. We will also fund a national three-digit mental health crisis and suicide prevention hotline. We have invested millions to address the opioid crisis, including more than \$1 million for the Safer Supply project to prevent and reduce overdoses in Guelph. We have also invested in Guelph projects that help vulnerable seniors with isolation and engagement.



### **Michelle Bowman, Green Party of Canada**

Mental Health services for the homeless community will be expanded as well as supports for people in the community that use drugs. We would decriminalize possession of illicit drugs for personal use, create a safe supply and initiate evidence-based harm reduction programs.



### **Tristan Dineen, Communist Party of Canada**

Mental health must be included under the rubric of Medicare and be made available to everyone free of charge and without discrimination. Safe supply sites must be established to protect against overdose deaths under the rubric of harm reduction.

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## QUESTION 7:

Three million Canadians do not fill their prescriptions for medication because they cannot afford it. How will you and your party ensure that everyone has access to prescription drug coverage, regardless of their income, age, or where they work or live?



### **Karen Levenson, Animal Protection Party of Canada**

The APPC supports a universal health care system that includes medications. We also propose changes to Canada's current health care system, which is a sick care system that requires people to fall ill before they can access health care. Providing Canadians with the best health care requires policies that help prevent sickness. The APPC proposes policies that promote the consumption of a whole-food, plant-based diet (as encouraged by the Canada Food Guide), boost exercise, and reduce environmental pollutants. These policies would increase people's well-being and enjoyment of life while preventing some of the worst health problems from taxing the health care system.



### **Lloyd Longfield, Liberal Party of Canada**

We are focused on working with the provinces through our joint jurisdictions. We have implemented Pharmacare in PEI and we hope to get other agreements in place with the provinces and territories. We have appointed a task force, working with Dr. Hoskins and introduced funding in Budget 2021 to develop strategies for pharmacare with the provinces and territories. If re-elected I will continue to work with our partners locally and levels of government.



### **Michelle Bowman, Green Party of Canada**

Greens would expand the Canada Health Act by fully funding a universal pharmacare program in 2022 for essential medicines and a comprehensive program by 2025.



### **Tristan Dineen, Communist Party of Canada**

Prescription medication must be fully covered by Medicare. The pharmaceutical industry should be nationalized and patent rights should be waived in order to guarantee that everyone has access to the medication they need. The market should not be involved.

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## QUESTION 8:

An estimated 1 in 5 Canadians do not see a dentist because they can't afford it. What actions will you and your party take to ensure dental care for all?



### **Karen Levenson, Animal Protection Party of Canada**

The APPC supports a universal health care system expanded to include dental care. Initiating policies that help Canadians prevent dental disease also must be a priority. A study published in the Journal of Dental Research found that "high dietary saturated fat intake was significantly associated with a greater number of periodontal disease events" in non-smokers. Further research into the dietary causes of dental disease and the dental health benefits of a whole food, plant-based diet are needed to develop effective policies that advance dental health in Canada.



### **Lloyd Longfield, Liberal Party of Canada**

As health care generally falls under provincial jurisdiction, we are focused first on implementing the pharmacare program across the country.



### **Michelle Bowman, Green Party of Canada**

The Greens would expand Medicare to include free dental care for low-income Canadians.



### **Tristan Dineen, Communist Party of Canada**

Dental care must be fully covered by Medicare. No one should be prevented from seeing a dentist due to cost or affordability concerns.

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## QUESTION 9:

Household food insecurity occurs when there is inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints. What actions will your party take to address food insecurity?



### **Karen Levenson, Animal Protection Party of Canada**

Subsidizing farmers to cultivate local, nutrient-rich crops, using nature-like cultivation methods, such as biocyclic vegan agriculture will result in economic, ecological, and public health benefits. Biocyclic vegan agriculture uses land more efficiently, grows crops exclusively for human consumption (not animal feed), improves soil fertility and productivity, and is compatible with urban farming techniques, including community, rooftop, balcony, and container gardens. By empowering individuals and communities to grow in season, nutritious, biocyclic fruits and vegetables (eliminating chemicals, manure, and slaughterhouse waste) we'll help address the food insecurity experienced by many low-income families and individuals.



### **Lloyd Longfield, Liberal Party of Canada**

We know that food security is a determinant of many other indicators of health. Locally we have invested in organizations such as the SEED, the Children's Foundation, HOPE House, 10C, Our Food Future and the Guelph Food Bank to ensure that those experiencing food insecurity are supported. I have worked with many organizations throughout the pandemic to ensure support arrived from the federal government through the United Way and the Guelph Community Foundation. In the Agriculture and Agri-Food Committee for Canada we studied the ongoing effects of food insecurity across Canada and in our northern areas and First Nations communities and have committed funding to the Nutrition North Canada program to work to address food insecurity.



### **Michelle Bowman, Green Party of Canada**

A GLI would, by definition, eliminate household food insecurity. The Greens would also increase domestic food production and promote the new Canada Food Guide for increased national food sovereignty and improved nutrition.



### **Tristan Dineen, Communist Party of Canada**

In addition to policies to combat food insecurity through the elimination of poverty, the Communist Party will ensure Canada's food sovereignty through policies that benefit family farms and fishers, including income supports and supply management. Fresh water must be protected and water exports banned. Heavy fines and jail terms must be imposed on polluters for destructive corporate practices that threaten the quality of food and water. Indigenous Treaty rights to hunting and fishing must be enforced nationwide.

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## QUESTION 10:

What actions will your party take to ensure families have access to quality early learning and childcare regardless of their income?



### **Karen Levenson, Animal Protection Party of Canada**

We believe in providing free, high-quality education from daycare to post-graduate levels and lifelong advanced skills training in non-academic fields is also vital to end poverty, and will help the workforce adapt to rapidly changing economic, technological, and climate conditions in Canada.



### **Lloyd Longfield, Liberal Party of Canada**

We have invested additional funding this year to address the lack of child care and the unique needs coming out of the pandemic. A cornerstone of the Liberal platform, and work over the most recent Parliamentary session, is a national childcare program. Work on this must be negotiated with the provinces and territories (Ontario has not committed to date). We are reducing daycare costs by 50% and will develop \$10 per day childcare over the coming years. We will create a new Federal Secretariat on Early Learning and Child Care to bring to gather governments, experts and stakeholders to collaborate and implement a new child care vision for Canada.



### **Michelle Bowman, Green Party of Canada**

Green would dedicate at least 1% of GDP annually to making universal, affordable, early learning and childcare system a reality, in consultation with provinces/ territories, local communities, Indigenous communities and the child care sector. The program would be grounded in the principles of universality, affordability, quality, inclusivity, accessibility and equity.



### **Tristan Dineen, Communist Party of Canada**

A universal system of public childcare must be put in place across the country that is free to all who use it. Early Childhood Education qualifications should be made mandatory and childcare workers should be unionized. Indigenous peoples must have autonomous control over their own childcare and other social programs.

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