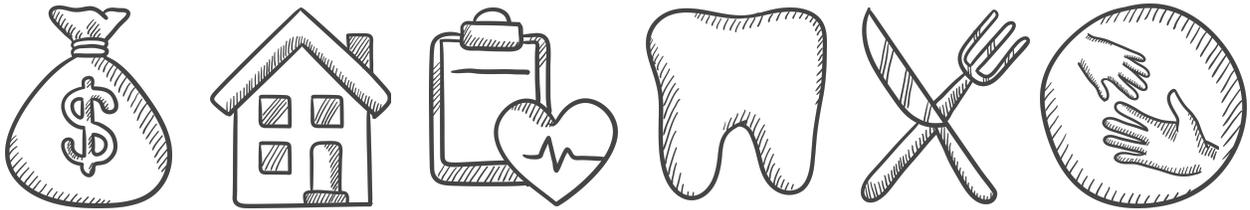


Perth-Wellington Candidate Q & A

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?



John Nater, Conservative Party of Canada

No one should be without the essentials of life. As part of Canada’s Recovery Plan, a Conservative Government will restore jobs, improve housing affordability and accessibility, and improve mental health. A Conservative Government will help those experiencing poverty at risk of poverty, including Indigenous peoples and persons living with a disability. My priority has always been the people I have the honour to serve. Going forward, my commitment remains clear: I will continue to work hard for every person, in every community, in every corner of Perth–Wellington. This includes those living in poverty.



Kevin Kruchkywich, New Democratic Party of Canada

Yes. A core component of our approach is fully implementing the right to housing and work. To help people find an affordable home in the long term, we will support the creation of more social housing and other affordable options. To deliver help to the most vulnerable right away, we’ll also work with the provinces and municipalities to fast-track the purchase, lease and conversion of hotels and motels for emergency housing relief until more permanent, community-based solutions are available. As well, our Universal pharmacare and better access to mental health and addictions support will also form a key part of our approach to tackling poverty. Our green infrastructure plan will provide new, good jobs.



Wayne Baker, People's Party of Canada

When I was just starting my Real Estate Career I remember going into a Mortgage Broker’s office, and on his wall was a nicely framed sign, it read: “I support anti poverty; I work.” That pretty well sums up my views on poverty. Ghandi once penned Seven dangers to Human Virtue, and one of which is: “Wealth without work” translated for me that means taking resources from society without any effort, and I believe that is very destructive (self and societal) behaviour. One last thing: Genesis 3:19(a) says: “By the sweat of your brow will you eat your food...”. There is no such thing as a free ride, and we need to accept that on a personal level. On a governmental level, we need to be able to help with a hand up, but Not a hand out.

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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?



John Nater, Conservative Party of Canada

Every Canadian deserves the dignity of work and the opportunity to meaningfully support themselves and their families. Government can help connect people to jobs that fit their skills and talents. We can build even more inclusive communities and workplaces. Conservatives will help small businesses not only survive but re-hire employees to well-paid positions through initiatives including the Canada Job Surge Plan, the Main Street Business Loan, and the Canada Job Training Fund.



Kevin Kruchkywich, New Democratic Party of Canada

We are the party of the worker. The NDP has existed to help and support labour. We will create more than a million good jobs...jobs that pay fairly (a minimum wage of \$20/hr by end of first mandate), while at the same time addressing the climate crisis, boosting our economic recovery and making life better for all Canadians. These jobs in energy efficiency retrofits, affordable housing, renewable energy, infrastructure, transit, child care and more will lift up every part of the country and give families hope for the future. This job-creation plan will be paired with new access to training and education for the low carbon future.



Wayne Baker, People's Party of Canada

When was the last time you bought some trinket from China? Did you even give one iota of consideration for the poor individual(s) working in substandard conditions just so you can have your trinket? We have really great working conditions comparatively here in Canada. We have a robust legal system that quickly ensures that our workers are protected. I have worked in some pretty tough places doing some pretty tough jobs. Our standard of living dictates that some jobs are tougher than others. Your question with regards to decent work for all, living wages and fair working conditions are awfully ambiguous. Your definition of all of those might be completely different from mine or from the people with the jobs actually doing the work.

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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?



John Nater, Conservative Party of Canada

A Universal Basic Income (UBI) program is not currently part of the Conservative Party of Canada’s Policy Declaration. I am aware of many of the advantages and disadvantages of such a program, and will continue to keep an open mind. Many of those advocating for a UBI are, in fact, Conservatives.



Kevin Kruchkywich, New Democratic Party of Canada

Yes. We will begin immediately by creating guaranteed living incomes for seniors and Canadians living with disabilities, and grow it from there so that eventually every Canadian can count on a basic livable income if and when they need it.



Wayne Baker, People's Party of Canada

At this time with our current state of technology, it is an absolutely horrendous idea. We only need look to Venezuela to realize how horrific the outcome will be. We need to work and be productive. Without productivity, our standard of living will tank. We need only look at the last 18 or so months to realize how much and how fast our standard of living can fall. Again I refer to Ghandi “wealth without work”. Frankly a more appropriate approach would be to help employers willing to train their help top up wages during the training period. The problem is an employee might start with a productive value of \$10.00 per hour, and the employer is topped up by \$5.00 per hour, there is no incentive for the employee to improve or for the employer to train. If we can figure out how to get around that kind of scenario, we could have something that might just work. Again, which level of government is appropriate. Personally I think it should be the responsibility of a lower tier government.

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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?



John Nater, Conservative Party of Canada

Canada has a housing crisis. It is not just a big-city problem; too many young people and families across Perth-Wellington cannot afford a home. Conservatives have a plan to build one million new homes in the next three years. This includes incentivizing development of affordable housing. We would also fix the mortgage stress test to stop discriminating against small business owners, contractors, and other non-permanent employees. To lower the cost of living, the government must stand up for consumers. Policies favouring choice and competition will lead to lower cell phone and internet bills, cheaper banking services, and lower food costs.



Kevin Kruchkywich, New Democratic Party of Canada

As well as what was mentioned above, the NDP will build 500,000 affordable, sustainable units in 10 years (250,000 in the first 5 years). We will also set up dedicated fast-start funds to kick-start the construction of co-ops, social and non-profit housing and break the logjam that has prevented these groups from accessing housing funding. Coupled with a foreign buyers tax of 20%, waiving of federal HST on new affordable builds, and 30 year term mortgages for first time buyers, our aggressive plan will help Canadians afford a safe, comfortable place to call home.



Wayne Baker, People's Party of Canada

Do you realize that we live in one of the most sparsely populated countries on the planet? I find it inexcusable to have a housing crisis in Canada. Having said that, outside of some changes in monetary policy and CMHC insurance policy, there is little more the federal government can and should get involved in with regards to housing. With that in mind, the onus is on the Provincial and Municipal governments to introduce policies that would free up the supply of housing on a local level. Some ideas: using marginal lands that are not suitable for agriculture. Why not make building lots available and assist with financing them in areas that could use a population boost? Offer courses to the lot owners on how to build their own homes, and let them systematically work at building a home they could call their own. The key is not affordable housing, but rather affordable home ownership. Get the "gatekeepers" out of the way.

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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?



John Nater, Conservative Party of Canada

No one should experience homelessness in Canada. Conservatives will re-implement the Housing First approach and help Canadians without a safe place to live including those suffering from mental health and addiction challenges. To help Indigenous Peoples, a Conservative government will work with them through a "For Indigenous, By Indigenous" strategy.



Kevin Kruchkywich, New Democratic Party of Canada

Yes. Because our party's approach is holistic, we believe poverty, homelessness and mental health often go hand in hand. Therefore our approach to eradicating poverty is the same as eradicating homelessness: Creating good, accessible jobs through our green infrastructure plan (with training included), and building affordable, sustainable housing. Universal access to prescription medication, mental health and dental care, as well as capping telecommunication costs will aid in making life more affordable so no one is ever left behind.



Wayne Baker, People's Party of Canada

Again, incredibly ambiguous and mono directed terminology. I think I pretty well covered the answer above. Why are we not encouraging homeowners to board the people with more marginalized jobs. I did that for a number of years early on, and it not only benefitted myself, but it gave a retired widow a boost to her income. I know that when I relocated to an area, I would go to the local college and ask for a housing list. From that I could usually find decent inexpensive accomodation. I don't believe they offer that service any more. Why not? I know a situation happened with some friends a while ago, where they found a homeless man, invited him into their home, and he proceeded to rob from them. He very soon found himself homeless again. Homelessness is a very complicated issue, most of which boils down to the individual and his/her choices. It is not the government's responsibility to accomodate rotten, poor or misguided life choices, that falls squarely on the individual. One thing I haven't emphasized yet is, I acknowledge there are always exceptions and that is why we have created social safety nets but the intended purpose is a temporary stop gap measure, and is not intended as a means of permanent dependency.

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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?



John Nater, Conservative Party of Canada

Mental health and addiction were serious problems long before COVID arrived. A year and a half of lockdowns has made them worse. Conservatives will introduce the Canada Mental Health Action Plan that will work with the provinces to secure stable and predictable funding for mental health treatment. We will incentivize employers to add mental health coverage to their mental health coverage, provide \$150 million over three years in grants to non-profits and charities delivering mental health and wellness programming, and create a nation wide three-digit suicide prevention hotline.



Kevin Kruchkywich, New Democratic Party of Canada

The NDP plan to implement mental health care for uninsured Canadians, this coupled with universal pharmacare will ensure everyone can afford the care they need. We commit to working with all levels of government, health experts and Canadians to end the criminalization and stigma of drug addiction, so that people struggling with addiction can get the help they need without fear of arrest. We will also work with the provinces and health professionals to create a safe supply of medically regulated alternatives to toxic street drugs, support overdose prevention sites and expand access to treatment on demand for people struggling with addiction.



Wayne Baker, People's Party of Canada

Best solution is to end the lockdowns period. We need to open up the dialogue between the overseers of our health care, and the people who actually study and understand the impacts of the Covid 19 virus on our health. We need to stop this single minded narrative that the only way out of this so called crisis, is to be vaccinated. It is not, and we need to get back to work, both individually and as a society. I think that if we started getting busy as a society, meaning would come in our lives, and a lot (not all) of our mental health issues would go away. A lot of what I am saying here is driven provincially, but it can be encouraged federally.

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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?



John Nater, Conservative Party of Canada

Our plan commits to long-term and predictable funding for health care with an increase in transfers to the provinces of a least 6% per year for \$60 billion over the next decade. Conservatives will negotiate constructively with the industry to reduce drug prices while providing long-term regulatory certainty. Our Plan to Secure Health Care and prevent future pandemics will bring manufacturing of PPE and pharmaceuticals back to Canada by ensuring that government and government-funded procurement of these essential products favours Canadian producers. Conservatives will work with pharmaceutical companies to increase production of critical medicines and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients in Canada.



Kevin Kruchkywich, New Democratic Party of Canada

We will introduce universal Pharmacare for all.



Wayne Baker, People's Party of Canada

Every employer I know, wants their employees to be healthy when working for them. A smart employer will have and offer benefits to their employees such as prescription and dental. In our current marketplace with the competition for employees as it is, it only makes sense for a prudent employer to offer benefits. A wise employee/worker will seek out employers who offer suitable benefits. We are talking about micro issues and the Federal Government should primarily deal with macro issues.

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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?



John Nater, Conservative Party of Canada

Dental care is essential for families and seniors across Perth-Wellington. The best way for the federal government to help is to provide stable, predictable health care funding to the provinces, which deliver the services. Conservatives will increase the annual growth rate of the Canada Health Transfer to at least 6 percent. This will inject nearly \$60 billion into our healthcare system over the next ten years. A one-size-fits all approach, on the other hand, will not work. We need to respect the unique needs of communities across the country.



Kevin Kruchkywich, New Democratic Party of Canada

Working in conjunction with the provinces, health professionals and dentists, we will create a roadmap for universal dental care for all. We are the party who created medicare, and we want to be the party that helps make it comprehensive.



Wayne Baker, People's Party of Canada

Every employer I know, wants their employees to be healthy when working for them. A smart employer will have and offer benefits to their employees such as prescription and dental. In our current marketplace with the competition for employees as it is, it only makes sense for a prudent employer to offer benefits. A wise employee/worker will seek out employers who offer suitable benefits. We are talking about micro issues and the Federal Government should primarily deal with macro issues.

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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?



John Nater, Conservative Party of Canada

People need healthy food. Conservatives would help those who need it most by doubling the Canada Workers Benefit and doubling the disability supplement. It would become a quarterly direct deposit rather than a tax refund. We can also lower food prices by increasing the maximum fine for price-fixing from \$24 million to \$100 million and introducing criminal penalties for executives for price-fixing. We will also bring in a tough code of conduct to protect suppliers and to promote grocery competition. Finally, we need a robust agriculture strategy to protect our domestic supply of affordable healthy food.



Kevin Kruchkywich, New Democratic Party of Canada

Aside from all of our initiatives to make life more affordable for Canadians, we know that supporting our local food systems is essential to ensuring that Canadians have access to healthy, affordable food. We'll work to connect Canadians to farmers with initiatives like local food hubs, community supported agriculture, and networks to increase the amount of food that is sold, processed and consumed in local and regional markets. We'll also develop a National Food Policy, making our food systems stronger all across the country



Wayne Baker, People's Party of Canada

Again, your question is implying responsibility should be shifted from where it belongs at the hands of the individual to where it does not belong, at the dictates of the State. Individual responsibility and innovation is what is really required. Why not take courses on long term food storage, food preparation, and food growth. At a community level, why not offer community gardens so people are able to ensure their own food security. There are very few communities where open land is not available to grow vegetables, and homeowners should be encouraged to allow less fortunate individuals to grow a small garden if they have space available. This is all community driven, and should not be addressed at a federal level.

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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?



John Nater, Conservative Party of Canada

Conservatives will help low-income families in greatest need of childcare by converting the Child Care Expense deduction into a refundable tax credit. This would cover up to 75 percent of the cost of childcare for lower income families. For a typical lower-income family, it would mean thousands of dollars per year. Unlike other parties' programs, this is a serious, achievable plan that will make a meaningful difference—not one that is just talked about every election with nothing to show for it.



Kevin Kruchkywich, New Democratic Party of Canada

It's urgent to both protect existing child care spaces, and create more. We will take immediate action to save not-for-profit child care centres that are at risk of closure with a relief fund to re-open spaces that were lost during COVID19. From there, we'll immediately work with the provinces to build a universal, \$10 a day child-care system that's there for all parents, no matter where you live. The NDP will create enough spaces so families don't spend months on wait lists, and ensure that child care workers are paid a fair, living wage.



Wayne Baker, People's Party of Canada

By far the best environment for children is at home with their family. Next best is with extended family, followed by close and trusted friends. Way down on the bottom of the list is Government sponsored child care. Our children are being indoctrinated and irrevocably harmed by a State that wants to replace God, and not enshrine and look to God. Children are our future, and we need to cherish and guide them accordingly. Get the State out of their lives.

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