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MAKE HOUSING FOR WOMEN AND
CHILDREN A PRIORITY IN YOUR VOTE!

ELECTION 2021 GUIDE WITH WOMEN'S HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS IN CANADA

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WHY VOTING MATTERS?

HISTORY OF VOTING FOR WOMEN IN CANADA

Your vote is an act of activism.

Voting in elections play a crucial part in the democratic process of this country. Historically, women were denied the right to vote in provincial and federal elections until 1918, when white women were given the right to vote.

It wasn't until 1947 that right was extended to some minority groups; and **in 1960**, all Canadians were granted the right to vote, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit men and women.

Based on the apparent sporadic disparity in granting this right to vote to women from varying demographics, it is clearer than ever why it is important.

Voting in elections is an important way to have your voice heard on the issues that you care about and ensure that the representatives reflect this in their policies. Every decision within this country will affect women and girls and we want to ensure that women and girls are prioritized.

Voting has always been an intimidating experience for individuals because of how white supremacy, patriarchy and other systems of oppressions have tried to complicate it in order to discourage us.

We hope that through this election 2021 guide, we provide you with adequate resources to educate you on becoming an informed voter, awareness of the state of women's housing in Canada and how to perform this civic duty despite voter suppression tactics.

Casting a ballot isn't just something you do for yourself – it's for our collective future

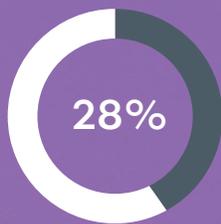
OPRAH WINFREY

THE STATE OF WOMEN'S HOUSING IN CANADA

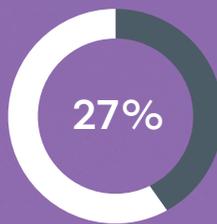
Here are findings on the state of women's housing across Canada. The greatest barriers to safe, sustainable, inclusive and affordable housing lie within the political system women must navigate in order to obtain such housing. This often comes from the federal, provincial and municipal policy levels leading to lack of intersectional approaches to support and protect women and children.

Recent findings have shown that:

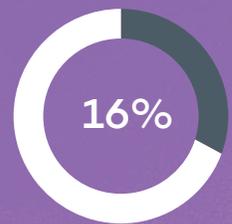
% OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE IN CORE HOUSING NEED (CMHC, 2019)



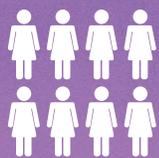
WOMEN-LED



WOMEN-LED, LONE-PARENT



MALE-LED



9078

WOMEN AND GIRLS ENUMERATED AS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN A DAY (ESDC, 2019B)

1000

WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN TURNED AWAY FROM VAW SHELTERS ACROSS CANADA IN A DAY (ESDC, 2019B)



OF FAMILIES USING EMERGENCY SHELTERS ARE HEADED BY SINGLE WOMEN (ESDC, 2019)



WOMEN AND GIRLS LIVING ON RESERVES IN HOUSING THAT NEED MAJOR REPAIRS

Women want **safe and affordable** housing for themselves and their children.

A non-partisan, housing advocacy campaign was formed for the 2021 Federal Election **Vote Housing**. The goal was to center the conversation around housing and its multiple intersections that are affected by the lack of clear and detailed policies to solve the housing crisis. **Read more** on their plan to end homelessness across Canada.

WHERE AND WHEN CAN I VOTE?

There are four different ways you can vote in the federal election. Get to voting!

In-person voting

On **September 20th 2021 - Election Day**, go to your polling station to vote. Bring your voter card (if you have one), proof of identification, and proof of address. Find your polling station by [clicking here](#).

Advance in-person voting

You can vote early at polling stations that are open before election day. They will be held September 10th-13th. Find your advance polling station by [clicking here](#).

Vote at your closest Elections Canada Office

From the day the election is called until 6:00pm Sept 14th, you can vote at any of the over 500 Elections Canada offices across the country. [Click here](#) to find your local office and find out when it's open.

Cast your vote by mail

You will have to complete and mail the [Application for Registration and Special Ballot](#) from Elections Canada. If you choose this option, you have to ensure your application is received at Elections Canada before 6:00pm on the Tuesday before the election (September 14th). Your ballot must be received by Elections Canada by September 20th, 2021 – Election Day. [Click here](#) to find out more information about voting by mail, also known as Special Ballot Voting.

HOW DO I **V O T E** ?

1. Find your riding/constituency to vote for the candidate in your area

<https://www.elections.ca/home.aspx>

2. Make sure you're registered to vote

If you haven't registered yet, **REGISTER HERE**.

You can also register at the polling station, if you don't ahead of time.

3. Make a plan to vote

You can plan to vote by looking intentionally into the different federal candidates' platforms and how it aligns with your values and worldview (see next page).

4. Bring a form of ID to the polling station

Read more here on what identification can work and what to do if you don't have an ID.

5. Vote!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Have you changed your name recently?

Don't worry about that. Contact Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 and they will send you an updated form by mail, e-mail or fax. Complete the form, sign it and return it by mail, along with a copy of your proof of identity and address. You can also update your name during registration at the polling station when you go to vote, whatever method causes the least amount of anxiety.

Can I take off from work to go vote?

Yes, by law, your employer should give you three consecutive hours off to vote on election day. Just be sure to search times that your polling station will be opened until and schedule a time that works within your schedule.

It's against the law to impose a penalty or deduct pay from employees who have been given time off to vote on election day. See more here for more information: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/ask-time-off-work-to-vote-1.6155783>

PLATFORMS AND POLICIES OF ELECTORAL CANDIDATES

What are the five major political parties in this year's elections?

Liberals

<https://liberal.ca/our-plan>

Conservative

<https://www.conservative.ca/plan>

New Democrats

<https://www.ndp.ca/commitments>

Greens

<https://www.greenparty.ca/en/our-vision>

Bloc Quebecois

<https://www.blocquebeois.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/blocqc-Plateforme-2021-planche.pdf>

We have provided a table outlining titles in each leader's party platform on a few major issues that affect women and housing in Canada. This list is not exhaustive so please visit their respective websites to read more.

Issue: Housing

LIBERALS

- First Home Savings Accounts for Canadians under 40 to save up to 40k for first home. Tax-free transactions
- Reduce the price of home insurance
- Add deferred mortgage loan to First Time Home Buyer Incentive
- \$1b in grants/loans to develop rent-to-own projects.
- Double First-Home Buyers tax credit to \$10,000
- Build, reserve, repair 1.4m new homes over 4 years
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: \$33b to provinces, territories, especially rural and northern. Funding can build public transit, arenas, improve roads, etc.
- Halt renovations by deterring unfair rent increases

CONSERVATIVES

- 1m new homes over 3 years, incentivize private sector to give land to affordable housing, 15% of federal real estate to housing
- Remove stress test for switching mortgage lenders
- Impose ban on foreign ownership over next 2 years
- Increase home accessibility tax credit to 10k/ person

NEW DEMOCRATS

- 500,000 affordable housing units in 10 years, 250,000 in 5 years. \$14b cost
- Re-introduce 30-year term on CMHC-insured mortgages for first-time buyers/entry level homes = smaller monthly payments
- End homelessness in a decade
- Fast-start funds to create more co-op and non-profit social housing
- 20% foreign homeowner buyer's tax
- \$5k rent subsidy for families annually
- Public beneficial ownership registry to increase transparency about property ownerships, money laundering, etc.

GREENS

- Apply tax on corporate owners of vacant residents in addition to vacancy tax.
- Minister of Housing appointed
- 300,000 affordable co-op and NPO housing in 10 years

Issue: Women's Issues

LIBERALS

- Work with provinces and territories to support the development of specialized sexual violence courts
- Work with provinces and territories to enact Clare's Law so that domestic partners who fear for their safety can request from police information about their partner's violent history including sexual assault and convictions etc
- No longer provide charity status to anti-abortion organizations (for example, Crisis Pregnancy Centres)

CONSERVATIVES

- For women with children living in women's shelters, expand the Canada Child Benefit by \$500 per month per child for the first year and \$250 per month per child for the second year
- Enact Clare's Law, requiring police to notify a victim of a suspect's relevant criminal history when they investigate a complaint of alleged domestic violence
- Support and fund training for non-provincial police forces in the areas of sexual exploitation, cyber-security and online offences and investigation of sexual offences

NEW DEMOCRATS

- Conduct a review of existing employment equity rules in order to close the radicalized wage gap, strengthening labour laws and ensuring equitable hiring in the federal public service and in federally regulated industries
- Deliver a National Action Plan to end gender-based violence, with funding for shelters services and other programs in all areas of the country, especially those that have been lacking them
- Implement Calls to Justice from National Inquiry of MMIWG and establish comprehensive plan to address violence, access to culturally appropriate programming, emergency shelters and transitional housing

GREENS



Issue: Childcare

LIBERALS

- 50% reduction in fees for early learning and childcare by end of 2022
- Reduce childcare fees to \$10/day on average within 5 years (except for Quebec)
- Invest \$30b make Canada-wide childcare system a reality

CONSERVATIVES

- Replace child-care program with refundable tax credit between \$4500-6000, to cover up to 75% of cost for low-income Canadians

NEW DEMOCRATS

- \$10 a day universal childcare
- More flexibility for parental leave eligibility

GREENS

- Supports national childcare programs.



Issue: LGBTQIA2S Inclusion

LIBERALS

- Provide \$40 million over 4 years starting in 2021-2022 for capacity funding to Canadian LGBTQ2 service organizations
- Re-introduce legislation within the first 100 days in office, to eliminate the practice of conversion therapy for everyone, and extend coverage of the ban to include people over 18 years of age

CONSERVATIVES

- Ban conversion therapy
- Make the Rainbow Refugee Assistance Project permanent (See Immigration & Refugees)

NEW DEMOCRATS

- Ban conversion therapy and work with provinces and territories to eliminate this practice in all regions
- Add sexual orientation, gender identity and expression to the Employment Equity Act to address the disadvantages—particularly for transgender people—in finding work
- Establish a clear and permanent path to resettlement for LGBTQ2S+ refugees

GREENS

- Decriminalize possession of illicit drugs
- Race-based data
- Track outcomes for Black employees and develop systems with accountability against discrimination

Issue: First Nations, Métis and Inuit relations

LIBERALS

- Build housing for First Nations/Métis/Inuit communities > \$2b over 4 years, 50% of funding available for 2022 construction season
- Support access to trauma-informed, First Nations/Métis/Inuit-led mental health/wellness services
- \$6b for infrastructure construction/maintenance
- Access to clean water and services
- Develop First Nations/Métis/Inuit data governance to unmask inequalities and ensure effective programming over 3 years
- Raise tax revenues on FNMI land with negotiation
- Create federal procurement of First Nations/Métis/Inuit and Black businesses

CONSERVATIVES

- Expand creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas and work with FNMI communities
- Fund and implement Truth and Reconciliation calls to action (#71-76) involving missing children
- Create Canadian Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, with \$5b capital supporting FNMI orgs to purchase equity stakes in major projects
- Develop Indigenous Business Mentorship Program
- Modernize the First Nations Land Management Act
- End long-term drinking water advisories, target high-risk water systems and work with FNMI communities to ensure investments are protected.
- Funding for FNMI mental health and drug treatment programs.

NEW DEMOCRATS

- Fully implement UNDRIP and TRC's 94 Calls to Action
- Co-develop national action plan for reconciliation and establish National Council for Reconciliation to provide oversight and accountability of process
- Appoint special prosecutor to pursue harm from IRS and require Catholic churches to hand over all files and records of IRS
- Implement Canadian Human Rights Tribunal orders to equally fund child welfare services on reserves & end government litigation against FNMI children
- Fully implement Jordan's Principle, ending delayed and ensure access to health/education services and to apply to children living off-reserve as well.

GREENS

- Implement every call of MMIWG report, TRC calls to action and UNDRIP
- Honour FNMI sovereignty and rights, ensure every FNMI child has access to quality education
- Invest in upgrading infrastructure to ensure access to clean water, healthcare services and culturally sensitive programming

Issue: Anti-racism and inclusion

LIBERALS

- Provide \$21.5m over five years to Racialized Communities Legal Support Initiative
- \$172 over 5 years to Stats Can to disaggregate data
- Fund migrant worker-centric programs and services

CONSERVATIVES

- Make the Rainbow Refugee Assistance Project a permanent government program
- Replace government-assisted refugee places with private and joint sponsorship places, meaning that all refugees arriving in Canada would do so under private or joint sponsorship programs, except in cases of emergency or specific programs; and broaden the definition of “refugee” to allow sponsorship directly from countries of origin

NEW DEMOCRATS

- Create a national task force to develop a “roadmap” to end the overrepresentation of First Nations, Métis and Inuit and Black Canadians in the federal prison population
- Prioritize the collection of race-based data on health, employment, policing and other areas.
- Ensure that all major cities have dedicated hate crime units in their local police forces and convene a national working group on online hate
- Establish a clear and permanent path to resettlement for LGBTQI2S+ refugees to replace the current patchwork system that deals with emergency cases

GREENS

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- Why the 2021 federal election so important for women and girls?
<https://www.womentransformingcities.org/single-post/why-is-the-2021-federal-election-so-important-for-women-and-girls>
- How can people experiencing homelessness vote in the federal election?
<https://homelesshub.ca/blog/how-can-people-experiencing-homelessness-vote-federal-election>
- 2021 Voting Guide created for Indigenous Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ voters
<https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/NWAC-VOTING-GUIDE-08-20-2021-3.pdf>
- Macleans 2021 Election Platform Guide
<https://www.macleans.ca/rankings/2021-federal-election-platform-guide>
- Up for Debate Mobilization Toolkit
<https://up4debate.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Mobilization-Toolkit.pdf>
- Vote Housing: <https://www.votehousing.ca>
- Frequently Asked Questions for Electors
<https://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=vot&dir=faq&document=index&lang=e>