



## **AFN Analysis of *Ready for Better* the New Democratic Party 2021 Election Platform Document**

This section only includes the Federal Election Party Platforms that have already been *fully released*. Information in this section will be updated as other federal parties finalize their platforms *and they become available*.

Overall the NDP has shown a clear commitment to reconciliation with a number of commitments including commitments that the AFN has actively advocated for previously. The New Democrats have shown a strong understanding that reconciliation is a key issue for them and that work needs to be done in partnership with Indigenous communities to see meaningful reconciliation. Rights recognition, reconciliation for past abuses, and pursuing equitable social outcomes are the key themes in the document.

The chapter titled *Reconciliation in Action* led with the acknowledgement that inherent rights and self-determination need to be at the core of the NDP's approach to reconciliation and the nation-to-nation relationship. In their Indigenous chapter of their platform the party committed to:

- Fully implementing UNDRIP and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action
- A National Action Plan for Reconciliation
- Comprehensive support for searching Indian Residential Schools for the remains of children
- A Special Prosecutor to find those who harmed Indigenous children
- Full transfer of Indian Residential School records from governments and the Church
- Full implementation of Jordan's Principle
- Full implementation of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's orders on Indigenous children
- Safe and affordable housing in every indigenous community including addressing the mold crisis and energy efficiency
- Implementing Shannen's Dream for equitable education funding
- Increased support for post-secondary students including remote and distance learning
- Working with provinces to have an Indigenous history education programs
- Indigenous-led water programs and systems
- Supporting emergency management including firefighting
- Closing the health gap
- Implementing Joyce's Principle to address systemic racism in healthcare
- Improving mental health and addictions support
- Homecare and Long Term Care for Elders
- A mercury treatment centre for Grassy Narrows
- The platform document acknowledged First Nations wanting a new fiscal relationship stating that Indigenous communities must be part of the COVID recovery
- Working with Indigenous Entrepreneurs to create opportunity
- Ensuring cell and internet service to indigenous communities
- Implementing the Final Report on MMIWG's Calls for Justice in partnership with Indigenous communities
- Creating a comprehensive plan on violence against women, girls and LGBTQI2S+ peoples
- Creating a First Nations Policing Strategy including First Nations Policing as an Essential Service
- Removing most mandatory minimums and introducing judge training and culturally sensitive bail programs
- Supporting healing and restorative justice
- Including Indigenous knowledge and having Indigenous inclusion at high-level tables on tackling climate change

- Supporting the Indigenous Guardians program
- Support for climate change caused environmental emergencies like flooding and fire

## Key Platform Items Impacting First Nations

- Social Support
  - Guaranteed Basic Income
  - \$10-a-day childcare
  - Ending homelessness
  - School nutrition programming
  - **Indigenous Food Sovereignty**
- Healthcare
  - Introducing Universal Pharmacare
  - Creating a plan for universal dental care
  - Increased support for virtual care
  - Ending for-profit long term care
  - Decriminalization and safe-supply for those suffering from opioid addiction
- Post-Secondary
  - Eliminating interest on federal student loans
  - \$20,000 in student loan forgiveness for select students
  - Doubling student grants
- Worker Support
  - \$15 minimum wage
  - Paid Sick Leave
  - 1,000,000 jobs created
  - An EI minimum of \$2000 per month
  - EI for those who leave the workforce to retrain
- Industry
  - **Canadian Food Strategy**
  - **Fully implementing Cohen Commission recommendations**
  - Investing in forestry and value added wood products
  - Protecting Wild Salmon and Fisheries
- Environment
  - **Putting UNDRIP into action on addressing climate change and building reconciliation into the heart of their plan to address the climate crisis**
  - Eliminating fossil fuel subsidies
  - Reducing emissions by 50% by 2030 (based on 2005 levels)
  - Creating a National Crisis Strategy with a Climate Corps

- Doubling the Community-Building Fund
- Creating an Inter-City Bus Program
- Net carbon free electricity by 2030, 100% emission free electricity by 2040
- **Creating an Office of Environmental Justice to address impacts of climate change on marginalized communities**



## AFN Analysis of Canada's Recovery Plan the Conservative Party of Canada's 2021 Election Platform Document

Overall the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) has shown an approach to reconciliation that is focused on Indigenous economic prosperity through supporting increased resource development and greater access to active participation in the free market. The platform document's portions dedicated to reconciliation and Canada's northern regions were focused mainly on economic advancement and focused little on the enhancement of rights or the closing of social gaps. The document sought to utilize current systems in place as opposed to the development of new institutions for reconciliation to be realized. While the platform chapter on Indigenous peoples was focused on improving outcomes for Indigenous communities financially, it approached self-sustained economic development as the main path forward:

*Canada's natural resource industries have led the way in developing new ways to partner with First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples. Natural resource industries are significant employers of Indigenous peoples. In many regions, these industries provide the best chance for lifting rural, remote, and isolated communities out of poverty.*

There appears to be an overreliance on natural resources in partnership with First Nations as the path to closing the gap. Their mention of UNDRIP references "the right to Indigenous communities to pursue economic opportunities and benefit from the development of resources on their traditional territories" as opposed to the importance of First Nations self-determination in a holistic way. Ultimately, there is a great onus on First Nations and Indigenous communities to utilize niche programs and government processes to drive their success. Items pertaining to culture or socio-economic gaps that are not based on the benefit of human capital are lacking.

*A Detailed Plan to Secure the Future of Canada's Indigenous Peoples*, the portion of the platform dedicated to reconciliation contained the following key commitments:

- **Intro**
  - Developing a plan to implement TRC Calls to Action 71 through 76
  - Funding the search and investigation of Indian Residential Schools for unmarked graves
  - Resources for commemoration and honouring victims
  - Resource to educate Canadians on Indian Residential Schools
  
- **Prosperity through partnership**
  - Working with Indigenous-led resource development groups and stakeholders to develop projects
  - Creation of a Canadian Indigenous Opportunities Corporation to guarantee loan access
  - Consultation with Indigenous groups before cancelling resource development projects that may impact their communities
  - Implement Article 18 of UNDRIP to develop a process for communities to identify who represents them in consultations if it is to be someone other than elected Chiefs
  - Streamlined environmental review processes for projects with Indigenous partners
  
- **Levelling the Playing Field**
  - \$4M over 3 years for local regional economic development officers
  - Supporting capacity building and business education through (NACCA and CCAB)
  - Creation of an Indigenous Business Mentorship Program to connect Indigenous business and entrepreneurs with others who have succeeded
  - Modernizing the First Nations Land Management Act
  - \$25M to national police support to reduce incarceration rates of Canada's Indigenous communities
  - Creation of a national working group in public service to have more applicants from Indigenous communities
  - Setting procurement targets for Indigenous business

- **Pursuing Self-Determination**
  - Increasing governance capacity through training young Indigenous leaders through the Institute of Corporate Directors
  - Empower FNFMA to monetize government funding for leverage to build infrastructure
  - Remaining open to new models of funding for services and critical infrastructure
  - Developing a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women and girls
  - Making it easier to escape third-party financial management
  
- **Drinking Water**
  - End long-term drinking water advisories
  - Targeting high-risk water systems
  - Regional and Coalition-based water governance
  
- **Mental Health**
  - \$1B over 5 years for mental health and drug treatment programs
  - Land-based treatment and programming in Indigenous languages
  
- **Introducing Stability to Urban Indigenous Assistance**
  - Long-term funding for urban Indigenous groups
  
- **A Skilled Indigenous Workforce**
  - Identify opportunities for Indigenous workers and youth to apprenticeship programs
  - Invest in trades training programs
  
- **Broadband in Rural Indigenous Communities**
  - All communities to have high-speed internet by 2025
  - Streamline application processes for broadband for communities and providing technical support for those applications
  - More flexible funding arrangements

*A Detailed Plan to Secure the North*, the chapter focused on Northern Canada, contained the following commitments:

- Working with Indigenous communities to increase eco-tourism
- Adding northern Saskatchewan and northern BC to the northern zone for residency reduction
- Culturally appropriate additions treatments
- The Grays Bay Port and Road Project connecting Nunavut to NWT
- Completing the Tuktoyaktuk road and port
- A large-scale project to provide clean power to the Yukon
- A new naval base in Churchill, Manitoba