



## **RACIAL JUSTICE REPORT CARD**

### **FEDERAL ELECTION 2019**

**A review of party platforms**

**Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change**

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## INTRODUCTION

**Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change (COP-COC)** is a community initiative based in Ontario, Canada, made up of individuals and organizations working to build community-based capacity to address the growing racialization of poverty and the resulting increased levels of social exclusion and marginalization of racialized communities (both Indigenous Peoples and peoples of colour) across Ontario.

**This non-partisan report card** is based on priorities that have the greatest impact on Ontario's ethno-racially diverse communities.

**Methodology** – We evaluated the platforms of four major political parties: the Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, the Green Party and the New Democratic Party - on each party's concrete commitments to address racial discrimination as well as institutional, structural and systemic racialized exclusion and marginalization. Since the Liberal party has been the government for the last four years we evaluated their most recent policy platform where relevant in our analysis. In each of the policy area, the Report Card scores the four parties' positions on their responsiveness to the needs of members of racialized communities.

We last checked the platform on September 30, 2019. The parties may have updated their platform since then.

### Explanation of Scores -

**Responsive:** The party platform responds substantially to the challenges facing racialized communities and contains actions that will address these challenges

**Somewhat Responsive:** The party platform contains some elements that will support the racialized communities but needs more concrete and targeted measures to address their needs

**Minimally Responsive:** The party platform has only a few elements that speak to the needs of racialized communities

**Non-Responsive:** The party platform is not responsive to the needs of racialized communities

**No Response:** The party has no platform on the issue that affects racialized communities

Regardless of which party forms the next government, we encourage them all to tell Canadians what they will do to address the challenges faced by racialized and other marginalized communities, to eliminate systemic racism in Canada.

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>NDP</b>
<b>ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE</b>	No Response	Somewhat Responsive	Somewhat Responsive	Responsive
<b>CLIMATE CRISIS AND ACTION</b>	Minimally Responsive	Responsive	Somewhat Responsive	Responsive
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>	Minimally Responsive	Somewhat Responsive	Somewhat Responsive	Somewhat Responsive
<b>Health and Well-Being</b>	Minimally Responsive	Responsive	Responsive	Responsive
<b>HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS</b>	Minimally Responsive	Somewhat Responsive	Somewhat Responsive	Somewhat Responsive
<b>IMMIGRATION, NEWCOMER SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION</b>	Minimally Responsive	Responsive	Somewhat Responsive	Responsive
<b>NATIONAL ANTI-RACISM STRATEGY</b>	No Response	No Response	Responsive	No Response
<b>POVERTY REDUCTION</b>	Minimally Responsive	Somewhat Responsive	Responsive	Responsive

## **ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Indigenous communities and communities of colour have reported experiencing racial profiling and discrimination in police street checks, traffic stops, investigations, searches, DNA sampling, arrest decisions, and use of force. In its 2016 review of Canada, the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent concluded that “there is clear evidence that racial profiling is endemic in the strategies and practices used by law enforcement (in Canada). Arbitrary use of ‘carding’ or street checks disproportionately affects people of African descent.” A 2016 report by Legal Aid Ontario on the bail system observes that Indigenous Peoples and peoples of colour “...who are subject to over-policing practices and racial profiling are more likely to find themselves in pre-trial detention...” than those from non-racialized backgrounds. In 2014, Indigenous People comprised 13% of persons in remand detention, despite constituting only 2% of Ontario’s population. This racialization of pre-trial detention is exacerbated by the racialization of poverty and mental health issues.

Racial disparities in the court system are reinforced by the serious under-representation of members of Indigenous and non-Indigenous racialized groups in the judiciary. A 2016 study estimated that 1% of the 2,160 judges in the Ontario provincial superior and lower courts are of Indigenous background (though they are roughly 4.3% of the Canadian population), and 3% are people of colour (though they make up around 19% of the total Canadian population); and there are no Indigenous or judges of colour in the Supreme Court of Canada and the Federal Court of Appeal.

The federal prison system is the only segment of Canada’s correctional system that regularly collects and publishes race-based data. These data reveal that Indigenous and Black people are significantly and increasingly over-represented in Canadian prisons. In January 2016, 25% of the total federally incarcerated population – and 35% of federally-sentenced women – were Indigenous, despite accounting for only around 4.3% of the total Canadian population. Between 2005 and 2015, the number of incarcerated Indigenous people increased by more than 50%, while the number of incarcerated Indigenous women almost doubled. Black people comprise 3% of the general Canadian population, but 10% of the federally incarcerated population. The Black prison population has grown by nearly 90% since 2003.

The UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent expressed “extreme concern about the practice and excessive use of solitary confinement or ‘segregation’ in correctional facilities, the absence of appropriate monitoring, and lack of data being kept on inmates’ race, mental health status or gender.” 14% of people in segregation in Ontario jails are Indigenous. In 2016, 70% of people held in segregation in Ontario were in pre-trial detention (while legally presumed to be innocent). Racial discrimination intersects with

discrimination on the basis of mental health in segregation practices: over half of the Indigenous women and men admitted to segregation in 2016 had a suicide risk alert.

The availability of legal aid is essential for low-income Ontarians facing legal issues and who wish to enforce their legal rights. As racialized communities are over-represented among the low income population, access to justice, including access to legal aid and the fair representation of racialized individuals before courts, administrative tribunals and government agencies, is an important concern for these communities.

In April, 2019, the Conservative Government in Ontario cut the provincial contribution to legal aid by \$133 million (or 35% of its total contribution), and is expected to cut another 10% in 2020. This significant cut to legal aid has a devastating impact on racialized and other marginalized communities. The Ontario Government also stopped funding immigration and refugee legal aid, claiming that it falls under the Federal jurisdiction. The gap for immigration and refugee legal aid was temporarily filled by a \$26 million one-time injection in Legal Aid Ontario from the federal government.

Although the NDP, Green and Liberal platforms all contain components that address issues that are critical to racialized groups, the NDP platform directly highlights the issue of carding. NDP also commits to increasing legal aid funding.

<b>Responsive</b>	<b>Somewhat Responsive</b>	<b>Somewhat Responsive</b>	<b>No Response</b>
<p><b>NDP Commitments:</b> Provide the necessary resources for Indigenous policing, while taking steps to end discriminatory policing practices like carding.</p> <p>Work with the provinces, territories, and Indigenous governments to support innovative models of community policing.</p> <p>Restore the independence of the judiciary by reducing</p>	<p><b>Green Commitments:</b> Eliminate mandatory minimum sentences and enable the courts to determine appropriate sentences based on the circumstances of each case.</p> <p>Pass legislation to eliminate solitary confinement that fully coheres with decisions rendered in the courts of British Columbia and Ontario.</p>	<p><b>Liberal Commitments:</b> Provide free legal aid to survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence, to make sure that they have access to quality, affordable legal representation</p> <p>Establish an independent Criminal Case Review Commission, to make it easier and faster for potentially wrongfully convicted people to</p>	<p><b>Conservative Commitments:</b> The Conservative Party has not commented on access to justice and legal aid, or the criminal justice system.</p>

<p>reliance on mandatory minimums and allowing trial judges to have greater discretion in sentencing.</p> <p>Proactively expunge criminal records for Canadians convicted of minor cannabis possession.</p> <p>End the criminalization and stigma of drug addiction.</p> <p>Make sure that communities have access to funding for anti-gang projects that help deter at-risk youth from joining gangs.</p> <p>Address radicalization by focusing on preventing youth from falling prey to violent extremism, including through support for community-led initiatives.</p> <p>Move immediately to ban carding by federal law enforcement, and work with local partners across Canada to end this practice in all jurisdictions across the country.</p>	<p>Re-invest in prisoner rehabilitation and preparation for reintegration in society, especially for Indigenous people and women.</p> <p>Reform the process of record suspensions for simple possession of cannabis to maximize fairness and accessibility for marginalized communities, and review the process of record suspensions as it applies to other offences.</p> <p>Reform the policy, legislation, programming, and funding framework for Canada's superior courts so that civil and family justice services become much more accessible to Canadians, following the precedent set by British Columbia and the United Kingdom.</p>	<p>have their applications reviewed</p> <p>Require that all judges in Canada undertake mandatory training on sexual assault law, including myths and stereotypes about victims and the effects of trauma on victims' memory (the "Ambrose bill")</p> <p>Mandatory training on unconscious bias and cultural competency for all judges in Canada</p> <p>Invest an additional \$11 million over four years to ensure all officials in Canada's enforcement and security agencies have access to training on Bias-Free Framework in National Security</p> <p>Work with the provinces and territories to establish a Community Justice Centres program, which puts courts alongside other critical social services</p>	
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<p>In accordance with Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action 30, 31, and 32, increase the discretion of judges during sentencing, ensure bail programs are culturally appropriate, bolster funding for community justice programs that focus on healing and restorative justice rather than incarceration, and uphold the use of Gladue principles (sentencing judge must pay particular attention to the circumstances of Aboriginal offenders and to consider all available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable in the circumstances) in court proceedings.</p> <p>Increase federal funding for legal aid programs across the country.</p>		<p>Additional support to the provinces and territories, to enable them to hire as many as 425 new Crown prosecutors, and 225 new judges, to help reduce delays</p> <p>Expand successful diversion programs to keep at-risk youth out of the criminal justice system</p>	
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## CLIMATE CRISIS AND ACTION

Across the world climate change is having a disproportionate impact upon racialized communities and Indigenous people. The climate crisis has caused dislocation of millions of people and added to the refugee crisis created by political upheaval.



In Canada, Indigenous peoples have been at the forefront of climate action because their communities are most vulnerable to climate crisis. Indigenous lands have been destroyed and seized upon by governments and corporations to further commercial interests at the expense of Indigenous lives, livelihood and their way of living. Communities of colour in Canada who are over-represented among the poor, also bear the blunt of climate crisis. Governments' lack of commitment to green technology and public infrastructure, and reduce carbon emissions will continue to put lives at risk. Those who have the least capacity to protect themselves, including communities of colour and Indigenous peoples, will face the greatest perils.

Both the Greens and the NDP have a comprehensive plan to address climate crisis with clear targets and timelines. The Green party also commits itself specifically to work with Indigenous communities to solve the climate crisis.

<b>Responsive</b>	<b>Responsive</b>	<b>Somewhat Responsive</b>	<b>Minimally Responsive</b>
<p><b>Green Commitments:</b> Put a price on carbon.</p> <p>Double Canada's emissions reduction target from the Paris agreements to 60 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.</p> <p>Work with Indigenous leadership and other parties to solve the climate crisis. Halt all new fossil fuel development projects.</p> <p>Cancel the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. Have 100 per cent of Canada's electricity come from renewable sources by 2030.</p>	<p><b>NDP Commitments:</b> Boost reforestation efforts to strengthen climate resilience and ensure the sustainability of the forestry sector.</p> <p>Create an independent Climate Accountability Office to do regular audits.</p> <p>Continue carbon pricing. Make energy efficiency and sustainable building practices a core of the national housing strategy.</p> <p>Set a target to power Canada with net carbon-free electricity by 2030, and move to 100% non-emitting electricity by 2050.</p>	<p><b>Liberal Commitments:</b> Achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 by setting legally-binding, five-year milestones, based on the advice of the experts (including economists and scientists) appointed for the purpose, and consultations with Canadians.</p> <p>Exceed Canada's 2030 emissions goal by introducing new carbon reducing measures.</p> <p>Ensure energy workers and communities can shape their own futures by introducing a Just Transition Act, giving workers access to the training,</p>	<p><b>Conservative Commitments:</b> Eliminate the carbon tax and leave it to the provinces to decide if they want to put a price on carbon.</p> <p>Committed to meeting the Paris agreement target.</p> <p>Set emissions standards for major emitters that produce more than 40 kilo tonnes per year of greenhouse gases, requiring them to invest in private-sector research and development of green technology.</p> <p>Establish a green patent credit that will reduce the tax rate to</p>

<p>Regulate microfibres as a toxic substance under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.</p> <p>Expand the National Pesticides Monitoring and Surveillance Network. Finance building retrofits and installation of renewable energy technologies via grants, zero-interest loans and repayment programs based on energy/cost savings.</p> <p>Mandate energy retrofits for all buildings by 2030.</p> <p>Make electric vehicles affordable, expand charging stations, and ban the sale of internal combustion engine passenger vehicles by 2030.</p> <p>Invoke federal powers for peace, order and good government to develop non-commercial aspects of forest management, such as massive tree planting and creating fire breaks.</p>	<p>Establish a new Canadian Climate Bank.</p> <p>Set a target to retrofit all housing stock in Canada by 2050, by providing low-interest loans repayable through energy savings to pay for home upgrades like insulation, windows, heat pumps, and other renewable technologies.</p> <p>Modernize and expand public transit in communities across Canada and ensure that federal transit funding flows with an emphasis on low-carbon transit projects.</p> <p>Ban single-use plastics by 2022 as part of broader waste reduction strategy.</p> <p>Protect at least 30% of our land, freshwater, and oceans by 2030.</p> <p>Reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions to 450 megatons by 2030.</p> <p>Eliminate fossil fuel subsidies immediately.</p>	<p>support, and new opportunities needed to succeed in the clean economy.</p> <p>Offer new incentives to buy electric cars, including up to \$5,000 on new vehicles under \$45,000).</p> <p>Ban "harmful" single-use plastics by as early as 2021.</p> <p>Plant two billion trees over 10 years. This will help create about 3,500 seasonal jobs in tree planting each year, and will be part of a \$3 billion commitment to better conserve and restore forests, grasslands, agricultural lands, wetlands, and coastal areas.</p> <p>Create a low-cost national flood insurance program.</p> <p>Help Canadians better understand the risks they face when they buy a home, by working with provinces and territories to complete all flood maps in Canada.</p>	<p>five per cent on income that is generated from green technology developed and patented in Canada.</p> <p>Incorporate traditional knowledge of First Nations into efforts to address the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Expand Export Development Canada programs to issue more green bonds that provide financing for the development of emissions-reducing technologies.</p> <p>Create a two-year green homes tax credit for homeowners to help pay for energy-saving renovations.</p> <p>Review and update the invasive alien species strategy for Canada, as well as the invasive species action plans.</p> <p>Review and modernize air quality standards and regulations, with a focus on urban airsheds.</p> <p>Re-establish an advisory panel that gave hunting,</p>
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<p>Buy water bombers for forest fire preparedness.</p> <p>Ban all forestry and cosmetic uses of glyphosate-based herbicides.</p> <p>Regulate the CPP Investment Board to require divestment of coal, oil and gas shares.</p>	<p>Create a permanent, direct, allocation-based funding mechanism to modernize and expand public transit in communities across Canada.</p> <p>Provide low-cost financing to local governments in support of the electrification of transit and other municipal fleets by 2030.</p> <p>Move the vehicle fleets of the federal government to electric by 2025.</p> <p>Help homeowners cover the cost of installing a plug-in charger.</p> <p>Expand charging networks for Zero-emission Vehicles (ZEVs) across the country.</p> <p>Build towards ZEVs being 100% of new car sales by 2040.</p> <p>Abandon the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project.</p>	<p>Develop a national action plan to assist homeowners with potential relocation for those at the highest risk of repeat flooding.</p>	<p>angling and conservation groups input on policies and programs on conservation.</p> <p>Negotiate regulatory changes that would increase the energy efficiency of cross-border trucking while encouraging research and development in eco-friendly modes of transportation.</p> <p>Close the gap between conventional and electric vehicles (no timeline provided).</p>
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## EMPLOYMENT

Ontarians of colour are unemployed at a rate of 10.5% compared to 7.5% for white workers – despite having higher labour force participation rates – and these disparities are widening. Discrimination against people of colour is persistent, such as employer discrimination against job applicants with Asian-sounding names, as found in several academic studies.

There are significant racialized wage and employment gaps in Ontario – for both Indigenous Peoples and peoples of colour. Factors that contribute to making the gaps deeper and wider are: the systematic legislated exclusion and marginalization of First Peoples, systemic racism in hiring and promotion; de-skilling of immigrants due to non-recognition of international credentials and experience; and use of police record checks to discriminate against applicants. As a result, racialized people and immigrants are more likely to engage in (and stay in) precarious, low-wage employment.

Racialized people and immigrants are over-represented in part-time and precarious employment characterized by lower wages, absence of benefits, and job insecurity. The average hourly wage of full time workers (\$17.34) was much higher than the average hourly wage for part-time workers (\$13.02).

Wage gaps are higher for Indigenous women, women of colour, and immigrant women with university degrees. Indigenous women with a university degree earn 24% less than Indigenous men with a university degree, and 33% less than non-Indigenous men with a university degree. A 2016 report concludes that “[d]iscriminatory hiring and wage setting practices are undermining the benefits of education for these groups.”

The number of temporary migrant workers in Canada has more than quadrupled since 2000. As of 2014 there were 567,977 temporary status workers in the country. Migrant workers in low-wage streams of temporary migration – disproportionately workers of colour from the global South – are exceptionally susceptible to exploitation and abuse.

While systemic discrimination in the labour market is a key concern for racialized communities, only one party, the NDP, has made reference to reviewing the federal employment equity legislation as part of their platform, and none of the parties specifically links employment equity to any new job created through investment in green economy.

Somewhat Responsive	Somewhat Responsive	Somewhat Responsive	Minimally Responsive
NDP Commitments: Proposals regarding EI:	Liberal Commitments:	Green Commitments:	Conservative Commitments:

<p>A universal qualifying threshold of 360 hours to make sure that many more Canadians can access benefits.</p> <p>Restore Appeal system.</p> <p>Make Extra Five Weeks pilot project permanent for seasonal workers.</p> <p>Bring in a new special leave that allows parents to take shorter parental leave at a higher replacement rate.</p> <p>Allow self-employed workers to opt-into parental benefits at any time before taking the leave, and move to double leave for parents of multiples.</p> <p>Increase the income replacement rate to 60 percent – and create a low income supplement so that no one receiving EI regular or special benefits receives less than \$1,200 a month.</p> <p>Extend sickness benefits to 50 weeks, expand access to re-training, and create a pilot</p>	<p>Make maternity and parental benefits tax-free.</p> <p>Bring in a 15-week leave for adoptive parents, which means an extra \$7,000 for the average family who adopts a child.</p> <p>Introduce a new federal Family Day holiday;</p> <p>Guarantee a federal minimum wage of \$15 per hour, starting in 2020 and rising with inflation, with provisions to ensure that where provincial or territorial minimum wages are higher, that wage will prevail</p> <p>Better support for the mental health of workers, by including mental health as a specific element of occupational health and safety, and requiring employers to take preventative steps to address workplace stress and injury;</p> <p>Greater labour protections for people who work through digital platforms; these are often contract or freelance</p>	<p>Set a \$15/ hour federal minimum wage.</p> <p>Respect unionized employees of the federal public service and the bargaining process by rejecting back-to-work legislation as a bargaining tool.</p> <p>Establish a Canadian Sustainable Generations Fund for investments in trades, apprenticeships and education required to transition to a green economy.</p> <p>Ban unpaid internships in private sector workplaces, with the exception of work-study or experiential learning placements as part of for-credit courses at post-secondary institutions.</p> <p>Fully implement federal pay equity rules.</p> <p>Study the impact of adopting a shorter work week</p> <p>Create a Community and Environment Service Corps as</p>	<p>Make maternity benefits tax-free. Families of all income levels and anyone that pays into employment insurance will be eligible for this new benefit. This tax credit includes an equivalent amount for residents of Quebec who receive benefits under the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP). (Note: An estimated 30 per cent of all new mothers do not qualify for EI.)</p> <p>Introduce the Universal Tax Cut for workers.</p>
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<p>project to allow workers with episodic disabilities to access EI sickness benefits periodically.</p> <p>Protect the EI Operating Account in law.</p> <p>Change EI rules to allow workers who quit their job to go to school to qualify for EI benefits</p> <p><i>Employment opportunities and training</i></p> <p>Create 300,000 good jobs in a first mandate with Power to Change.</p> <p>Modernize the Investment Canada Act to protect Canadian jobs.</p> <p>National industrial strategy to build an advanced low carbon manufacturing economy in Canada to provide good middle-class jobs to Canadian workers.</p> <p>Minimum wage of \$15 at federal level, equal pay for contract, part time workers.</p>	<p>workers</p> <p>New provisions, to be developed with employers and labour groups that give workers the “right to disconnect”.</p> <p>Extend Employment Insurance sickness benefits from 15 weeks to 26 weeks.</p> <p>Introduce a permanent Employment Insurance program for seasonal workers to give these workers more consistent and reliable benefits – making it easier for them to support themselves and their families between work seasons.</p> <p>Work with Statistics Canada to strengthen local labour market data, so that Employment Insurance can better reflect local labour market realities, especially in large and diverse regions.</p> <p>Build on the research, support and employment projects announced earlier this year, and move forward with an</p>	<p>part of the federal Youth Employment and Skills Strategy.</p>	
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<p>Prioritize pay equity to put an end to gender-based wage discrimination.</p> <p>Ban unpaid internships.</p> <p>Require employers to spend at least 1 percent of payroll on training for their employees annually.</p> <p>Create a new Workers Development and Opportunities Fund to expand training options beyond people who qualify for EI. This fund will be provincially directed.</p> <p>Promote domestic violence leave policies in workplaces, improve police training on sexual assault, and require universities to develop plans to end sexual violence on campus.</p> <p>Add sexual orientation, gender identity and expression to the Employment Equity Act,</p> <p>Conduct a comprehensive review of the existing employment equity regime to help close the racialized wage</p>	<p>additional \$9 million investment over three years to help more visible minority newcomer women find and keep a good job,</p> <p>Enhance the Youth Employment Strategy and ensure that the upcoming State of Youth reports take an intersectional approach that includes race to ensure that racialized and Indigenous young people face fewer barriers at the beginning of their working lives.</p>		
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## Health and Well-Being

Health and well-being remain huge issues for racialized communities, who continue to have poorer health outcomes, lack of support for issues of physical and mental health, and who face the disproportionate impact of systemic racism in the health care system. Racialized communities – particularly Indigenous Peoples and those who are immigrants, low-income or in precarious jobs – are acutely impacted by these inequalities in healthcare access and health status. This is mainly due to four reasons:

- 1) Systemic racism that has long informed the nature and quality of care provided to First Peoples;
- 2) Eligibility for publicly funded health insurance program in Ontario (the Ontario Health Insurance Program – OHIP) is unevenly tied to immigration status/categories and strict residency requirements;
- 3) Many healthcare services in Ontario are not funded including dental care, eye-care, out-of-hospital prescription drugs (with some exceptions), and medical devices; and
- 4) Little progress has been made to put a health equity and social determinants of health framework in the healthcare system for routine access.

Studies suggest that a number of factors negatively affect the health of Indigenous People and people of colour in Canada, including: the psychological stress of living in a racist environment; unequal economic opportunities; poor housing; lack of food security; inequitable access to education and other social supports and resources; disproportionate exposure to environmental toxins; employment in dangerous and precarious work; mistrust of the health-care system; and under-utilization of screening programs.

The Liberals, Greens and NDP – include components in their platform that could help address the health care needs of some of the vulnerable populations. These three parties have expressed a commitment to work towards creating a national pharmacare.

<b>Responsive</b>	<b>Responsive</b>	<b>Responsive</b>	<b>Minimally Responsive</b>
<b>NDP Commitments:</b>	<b>Green Commitments:</b> No privatization of healthcare.	<b>Liberal Commitments:</b>	<b>Conservative Commitments:</b> Increase the Canada Health Transfer and the Canada Social Transfer by at



<p>Establish a national suicide prevention action plan.</p> <p>Make dental care free for households making under \$70,000, with a sliding copayment for those who earn between \$70,000 and \$90,000.</p> <p>With annual federal investment of \$10 billion, create a national pharmacare program that provides universal, public, comprehensive coverage to everyone in Canada by 2020.</p> <p>Develop national care standards for home care and long-term care that will be amended into the Canada Health Act.</p> <p>Make the investments required to ensure clean water and lift all drinking water advisories for good by 2021 in indigenous communities.</p>	<p>Boost funding to train doctors and nurses and expand midwifery programs.</p> <p>Expand national healthcare coverage by including basic dental care.</p> <p>Implement <a href="#">Calls to Action 18-24</a> from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.</p> <p>Expand public health care to include pharmacare and Enact pharmacare for all by 2020.</p> <p>Create a bulk drug purchasing agency.</p> <p>Reduce drug patent protection period.</p>	<p>Reform the healthcare system by instituting a universal pharmacare program.</p> <p>Ensure that every Canadian has access to a family doctor or primary health care team, improving the quality of care for the nearly five million Canadians who today lack access</p> <p>Set clear national standards for access to mental health services so Canadians can get the support they need quickly, when they need it most</p> <p>Continue to make home care and palliative care more available across the country</p> <p>Take the critical next steps to implement national universal pharmacare.</p> <p>Additional commitment of \$6 billion over the next four years, tied to outcomes and negotiated with the provinces and territories.</p> <p>Immediately double the Child Disability Benefit. This increased benefit would give families of a child with a disability more than</p>	<p>least three per cent every year and uphold other parts of the health accord.</p> <p>Promise \$1.5 billion to buy more MRI and CT machines.</p> <p>Expand eligibility for the disability tax credit.</p> <p>Focus on filling gaps in extended health coverage, improving bulk purchasing of drugs, and working with provinces to ensure pricing of drugs is affordable for Canadians, rather than providing universal pharmacare.</p>
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<p>Full range of prescription contraceptive and reproductive health care options are provided more easily and at no cost through Medicare and national pharmacare program.</p> <p>Develop and fund a national dementia strategy and elder abuse prevention plan; amount of investment not specified.</p> <p>Mental health care should be available at no cost for people who need it, and everyone should be able to get eye care and hearing care.</p>		<p>\$2,800 in extra help, right away, with up to \$5,664 in total financial support available each year.</p> <p>Work with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to integrate sex and gender-based analyses, as well as diversity analyses, to ensure research takes diversity factors into account to improve women’s health care.</p> <p>Create a National Institute for Women’s Health Research, the first of its kind in Canada. The Institute would bring together experts in women’s health from across the country to tackle persistent gaps in research and care – taking an intersectional approach that includes race, ability, indigeneity and more</p>	
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## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

For many Ontarians, the lack of affordable housing continues to be one of the biggest concerns in their ability to thrive. Homelessness in Ontario is growing, with poverty being a leading cause. Precarious housing and inadequate housing conditions are widespread and persistent. In Canada, racialized communities – both First Peoples and peoples of colour – experience poverty in

disproportionate numbers. Their housing conditions reflect this reality. Research shows that poverty and “minority race” are key factors that can lead to homelessness. Racialized people experience disproportionately higher levels of homelessness and poor housing. Immigrants and refugees in Ontario – disproportionately peoples of colour – are at risk for homelessness due to poverty, discrimination, cuts to social programs, lack of housing services, and lack of information about their rights. Further, being homeless can pose a variety of barriers to pursuing employment.

According to the 2016 census, 15.3% of Ontarians are in core housing need, an increase from 14.5% from the last census in 2006. In addition to the visibly homeless, 450,000 – 900,000 Canadians represent the ‘hidden’ homeless. Hidden homelessness is defined as people who live “temporarily with others but without guarantee of continued residency or immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing.” Those who reported an Indigenous identity were more than twice as likely (18%) to have experienced hidden homelessness as their non-Indigenous counterparts (8%).

Toronto is Canada’s primary destination for immigrants and refugees, and racialized newcomers are strongly over-represented in rental housing, many of which are of poor-quality.

In general, racialized people are disproportionately forced to accept housing that is unsafe, substandard and in neighborhoods that have high crime rates and a low average income. According to a recent review of the tenant duty counsel services completed by the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO), 44% of tenants who utilized those services indicated that they identify with one or more racialized groups.

While the Liberals, Greens and NDP have all presented a detailed housing plan, they do not speak directly to how they will address the challenges specifically facing communities of colour.

Somewhat Responsive	Somewhat Responsive	Somewhat Responsive	Minimally Responsive
<p><b>Liberal Commitments:</b> On June 21, 2019, the <i>National Housing Strategy Act</i> became the law in Canada. In this new <i>Act</i>, the Liberal government made the following commitments:</p>	<p><b>Green Commitments:</b> Legislate housing as a legally protected fundamental human right for all Canadians and permanent residents.  Appoint a Minister of</p>	<p><b>NDP Commitments:</b> Create 500,000 units of quality, affordable housing in the next ten years, with half of that done within five years.  Kick-start the construction of co-ops, social and non-profit</p>	<p><b>Conservative Commitments:</b> Rework mortgage qualification rules that have been tightened in recent years  Review the re-introduction of 30-year amortizations on</p>

<p>Committed to the United Nations that Canada would “recognized the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living... including adequate food, clothing and housing”. Canadian law now recognizes that the right to adequate housing is a fundamental human right. It recognizes that housing is essential to people’s inherent dignity and well-being, and is essential to building sustainable and inclusive communities.</p> <p>Develop and maintain a national housing strategy that takes into account a human rights-based approach to housing, including setting long-term vision for housing, establishing national goals on housing and homelessness, focusing solutions for those in greatest need and including the public in the process.</p> <p>Create the Federal Housing Advocate as part of a National Housing Council, which will give advice to the government, monitor how the government is</p>	<p>Housing to strengthen the National Housing Strategy so it meets the needs of affordable housing in each province.</p> <p>Refocus the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s mandate on supporting the development of affordable, non-market and cooperative housing, as opposed to one of its primary activities of providing mortgage loan insurance.</p> <p>Every year, over the next 10- year period, build 25,000 new affordable units and renovate 15,000 others.</p> <p>Eliminate the first-time home buyer incentive recently implemented by the Liberals.</p> <p>End stress tests on mortgage switches.</p> <p>Restore tax incentives for building purpose-built rental housing and provide tax credits for gifts of lands to</p>	<p>housing, by setting up dedicated fast-start funds to streamline the application process and help communities get the expertise and assistance.</p> <p>Spur the construction of affordable homes by waiving the federal portion of the GST/HST on the construction of new affordable rental units.</p> <p>Double the Home Buyer’s tax credit to \$1,500 for first time buyers.</p> <p>Re-introduce 30-year terms to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) insured mortgages for first time home buyers.</p> <p>Provide resource to facilitate co-housing, such as co-ownership.</p> <p>Put in place a foreign buyer’s tax.</p> <p>Fight money laundering which drives up the housing cost.</p> <p>Work with Indigenous communities to implement co-</p>	<p>insured mortgages</p> <p>Ease regulations to help get new homes built.</p> <p>Implement a green homes tax credit to help pay for energy-saving renovations.</p> <p>Exempt home-heating costs from the GST.</p>
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<p>doing at implementing the housing policy, measure the impact on priority groups, monitor progress in meeting goals and timelines, conduct studies on housing issues, and consult and receive submissions from the public about housing issues.</p> <p>Additional commitments:</p> <p>Expand the First-time Home Buyer Incentive for people in Victoria, Vancouver and Toronto. The value of a qualifying home will go from 500,000 to nearly 800,000.</p> <p>Add a one per cent annual tax on residential properties owned by those who are not Canadians and who do not live in Canada.</p>	<p>community land trusts to provide affordable housing.</p>	<p>developed First Nations, Métis, and Inuit housing strategies.</p>	
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**IMMIGRATION, NEWCOMER SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION**

Immigration to Ontario has been highly racialized for many years. Immigrants of colour, especially those who have arrived in the past ten years, are more likely to be living in poverty despite higher levels of education compared to non-racialized persons. Employment is the single biggest concern for the majority of newcomers. Racialized immigrants are more likely to be unemployed. They are also

more likely to be under-employed and in precarious employment. A growing number of newcomers do not have full resident status in Canada, which can contribute to their poverty.

Access to newcomer settlement and integration services, including employment and language training is an important concern. While the biggest investment for such services comes from the federal government, the provincial government has an important role to play as well.

The number of temporary migrant workers in Canada has more than quadrupled since 2000 – as of 2014, there were 567,977 temporary status workers in the country. Migrant workers in low-wage streams of temporary migration – disproportionately workers of colour from the Global South – are exceptionally susceptible to exploitation and abuse.

Reforms to family class immigration for parents and grandparents by the former Conservative Government included an annual cap of 10,000 and significantly stricter minimum annual income requirements for their sponsors. The Liberal government increased the cap to 20,000 but kept all other requirements unchanged. Most Canadians who seek to sponsor parents and grandparents are those who came here as immigrants. Over the last two decades, the majority of immigrants have come from countries with primarily racialized populations such as China, India and Philippines. A significant number are also low-income, being over-represented in low-paying jobs. Family class immigration restrictions thus have a disproportionate impact on racialized Canadians.

In 2017, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination called on Canada to rescind or suspend the Safe Third Country Agreement with the U.S. due to concerns about the safety of the asylum seekers and their access to a fair refugee determination process. The Liberals responded by creating a two tier system whereby asylum seekers from certain countries are denied access to the refugee protection system and allowing them only a paper review of their claims for protection.

The Greens have the most comprehensive immigration plan that addresses issues facing immigrants, refugees and people with precarious status, including the termination of the Safe Third Country Agreement and a program to provide a pathway to permanent residence for people with precarious status in Canada.

<b>Responsive</b>	<b>Responsive</b>	<b>Somewhat Responsive</b>	<b>Minimally Responsive</b>
<b>Green Commitments:</b> Terminate the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States.	<b>NDP Commitments:</b> Work with the provinces to address gaps in settlement	<b>Liberal Commitments:</b> In late 2018, the Liberal government announced it would boost its immigration	<b>Conservative Commitments:</b> Renegotiate the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States to “close the

<p>End the Temporary Foreign Workers Program.</p> <p>Increase immigration to address labour shortages, but no targets for the number of immigrants to be accepted.</p> <p>Work with employers to establish paths to permanent residency.</p> <p>Improve the pathway for permanent residence and citizenship for international students and foreign workers.</p> <p>Speed up family reunification, especially reuniting children with their parents.</p> <p>Establish a program to process the estimated 200,000 people living in Canada without official status, providing a pathway to permanent residence for those who qualify.</p> <p>Help define the term “environmental refugee” for</p>	<p>services and improve foreign credentials recognition.</p> <p>End cap on applications to sponsor parents and grandparents; tackle the backlogs that delay reunification.</p> <p>Protect newcomers by taking on unscrupulous immigration consultants, ensuring that the industry is regulated by the government.</p> <p>Treat caregivers brought to Canada with respect and dignity, providing them with status and allowing them to reunite with their families without delay.</p> <p>Get rid of refugee backlog, ensure support for resettled refugees</p> <p>Suspend Safe Third Country agreement</p>	<p>intake over the next three years and accept 350,000 immigrants a year by 2021. While that number includes all classes of newcomers, the vast majority will come under economic programs designed to address skills shortages and gaps in the labour market.</p> <p>In Budget 2019, the Liberals pledged \$51.9 million over five years to “improve oversight of immigration consultants and strengthen compliance and enforcement measures.”</p> <p>Budget 2019 pledged \$1.2 billion over five years to help expedite asylum claims processing and deal with the deportations of people whose claims have been denied.</p> <p>The Liberals have also made a number of changes to the Temporary Foreign Workers Program to address vulnerability of workers by issuing open permits and ease pathways to permanent residence to care workers. It</p>	<p>loophole ...that allows some people to skip the line and avoid the queue”</p> <p>Ensure that the system prioritizes people facing genuine persecution.</p> <p>Put an end to irregular border crossings at unofficial points of entry like Roxham Road by changing the Safe Third Country agreement with the U.S.</p> <p>Improve credential recognition and provide low-skilled workers with a path to residency and improve language training.</p> <p>Promote the private sponsorships of refugees.</p>
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<p>inclusion as a refugee category</p> <p>Reintroduce legislation to create a Civilian Complaints and Review Commission for the Canada Border Services Agency</p> <p>Amend the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Public Safety Act to require that, after a reasonable period, formal charges are brought against all those detained</p> <p>Implement the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration to grant permanent resident status immediately to those who have refused or left military service in a war not sanctioned by the United Nations.</p> <p>Ensure the “lost Canadians” quietly being denied citizenship through archaic laws are protected and that their citizenship is restored. Although some significant</p>		<p>also increased the cap on parents and grandparents sponsorship, and created a pilot project to allow for sponsorship of undeclared family members.</p> <p>The Liberals have so far resisted calls to suspend the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States and instead created a two tier system with less procedural and substantive rights to asylum seekers coming through a “safe” third country.</p>	
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<p>progress has been made, some are still “lost.”</p> <p>Regulate the immigration consulting industry and increase penalties for immigration consultants convicted of human smuggling</p> <p>Increase funding of multicultural associations providing immigrant support programs including language programs.</p> <p>Ensure professionals being considered for immigration have <a href="#">licensing requirements</a> for their professions clearly explained before entry</p>			
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## NATIONAL ANTI-RACISM STRATEGY

For the past 10 years, COP-COC has been calling on the Federal Government to relaunch a Canada Anti-Racism Action Plan, to address the persistent and systemic racism facing Indigenous Peoples and Peoples of Colour in Canada. The first Canadian action plan was introduced after the World Conference Against Racism in 2001. However it was not fully implemented, and was not updated or renewed once the initial five-year commitment was over. Many groups across Canada have been calling for a new strategy. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination also reiterated for the need for a new national anti-racism strategy in its 2017 Concluding Remarks about Canada.

Despite the persistent and pervasive reality of systemic racism in Canada, only the Liberals have included a National Anti-Racism Strategy in their platform.

Responsive	No Response	No Response	No Response
<p><b>Liberal Commitments:</b> Strengthen the Anti-Racism Strategy and double its funding</p> <p>Boost funding for community-led initiatives to promote inclusion and combat racism</p> <p>Improve the quality and amount of data collection Statistics Canada does regarding hate crimes in Canada, to help create effective and evidence-based policies to counteract these crimes</p> <p>Support funding to the Social Sciences and Humanities</p>	<p><b>NDP Commitments:</b> The NDP has not offered any comment or policy platform on a national anti-racism strategy or plan.</p>	<p><b>Green Commitments:</b> The Green Party has not offered any comment or policy platform on a national anti-racism strategy or plan.</p>	<p><b>Conservative Commitments:</b> The Conservative Party has not offered any comment or policy platform on a national anti-racism strategy or plan.</p>

<p>Research Council and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research so that they can create academic research grants for studies on race, diversity and gender in Canada</p> <p>In June 2019, the Liberal government announced a new Anti-Racism Strategy for Canada for 2019-2022:</p> <p>Create Anti-Racism Secretariat with a “Whole-of-Government Approach” to drive the strategy, lead institutions to identify, coordinate and develop initiatives, identify gaps and consider the impacts of new and existing policies, services and programs on racialized communities and Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>Publish public reports on the Whole-of-Government outcomes addressing racism and discrimination</p> <p>Implement new Anti-Racism Action Program for local, regional, and national</p>			
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<p>initiatives and outcomes-based activities focused on reducing barriers in Employment, Social Participation (sports, arts, and culture) and Justice</p> <p>Provide additional funding to Community Support, Multiculturalism, Anti-Racism Initiatives (CSMARI) for increased community capacity building projects</p> <p>Develop a National Public Education and Awareness Campaign based on regional and demographic needs to increase public knowledge and awareness of historical roots of racism and its different impacts on Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>Commit to education and creation of awareness of the effects of colonialism and residential school system</p> <p>Provide \$5 million through the Anti-Racism Action Program to support “community-led digital and civic literacy programming to address online disinformation and hate</p>			
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<p>speech” and \$0.9 Million to Public Safety Canada to develop a national framework and guidelines to respond to hate crimes and hate speech</p> <p>Increase reliable, usable and comparable data and evidence regarding racism and discrimination including enhancing collection of disaggregated data</p>			
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## POVERTY REDUCTION

Poverty in Ontario is heavily racialized. People of colour are two to six times more likely to live in poverty compared to white Ontarians. Indigenous peoples are also over-represented among the low income population in this province. Child poverty is highly racialized. Toronto, the child poverty capital of Canada, has more than one in four children living in low-income families, based on the 2016 census. Children from racialized families are more than twice as likely to be living in poverty as those from non-racialized families, or 23.3 per cent compared to 11.4 per cent. About 84 per cent of Indigenous families in Toronto with children are living in poverty. When it comes to newcomer families — many of whom are also racialized — almost half of Toronto region children whose parents arrived in Canada within the past five years live in poverty - almost three times the rate of poverty experienced by children in non-immigrant families.

<b>Responsive</b>	<b>Responsive</b>	<b>Somewhat Responsive</b>	<b>Minimally Responsive</b>
<p><b>Liberal Commitments:</b> Increase Old Age Security by 10% after age 75.</p>	<p><b>NDP Commitments:</b> Launch a full review of income security programs.</p>	<p><b>Green Commitments:</b> Establish a universal Guaranteed Liveable Income program which will replace</p>	<p><b>Conservative Commitments:</b> Support Canada Child Benefit Program introduced by Liberal government</p>

<p>Increase CPP and QPP survivor's benefit by 25% for an increase in the maximum benefits of more than \$2,000 a year.</p> <p>Increase CCB by 15% for children under the age of one.</p> <p>Start building a national system of guaranteed paid family leave.</p> <p>Create up to 250,000 more before and after school spaces for children under the age of 10</p> <p>Lower child care fees by 10% across the country</p> <p>Dedicate a target of 10% of the new spaces to provide more child care options for parents who work overtime, late shifts, or multiple jobs.</p> <p>Double federal support to the provinces and territories through the Early Learning and Child Care Framework, investing at least \$535 million more each year.</p>	<p>Create a Pension Advisory Commission to develop a long-term plan to protect and enhance Old Age Security, boost the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and strengthen the Canada Pension Plan.</p> <p>Strengthen public pensions and improve retirement security for all Canadians.</p> <p>Create a mandatory, industry-financed pension insurance program.</p> <p>Adopt a National Seniors Strategy to work with the provinces, territories and Indigenous governments to make seniors health care a priority, reduce isolation, and tackle seniors' poverty.</p> <p>Put in one-year delay to help seniors at risk of having their GIS benefits suspended for being unable to make the required income statement. Better access to mental health and addictions support.</p> <p>Launch a national basic income pilot project, in addition</p>	<p>various income support programs, such as disability payments, social assistance and income supplements for seniors. Unlike existing income support programs, additional income would not be clawed back. Those earning above a certain total income would pay the GLI back in taxes.</p> <p>Make college and university tuition free for all Canadian students.</p> <p>Forgive the portion of existing student debt that is held by the federal government.</p>	
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<p>Invest at least \$25 million per year to help cover the costs for early childhood educators seeking further training, and lower tuition costs for people getting their early childhood educator degree.</p> <p>Establish a national secretariat to work with the provinces and territories to lay the groundwork for a pan-Canadian child care system.</p> <p>In 2016, the Liberal government created the Poverty Reduction Strategy which made the following commitments:</p> <p>Establish an official measure of poverty: Canada's Official Poverty Line, based on the cost of a basket of goods and services that individuals and families require to meet their basic needs and achieve a modest standard of living in communities across the country.</p> <p>Establish concrete poverty reduction targets: a 20%</p>	<p>to continuing Ontario's program.</p> <p>Develop a national, public, universal child care program.</p> <p>Partner with provinces, territories, municipalities, and Indigenous communities to work towards a national school nutrition program.</p> <p>Support Indigenous food sovereignty, working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities to expand access to healthy food, including traditional foods.</p> <p>Reform the Nutrition North program to improve food security for families in northern Canada.</p> <p>Make the Canada Caregiver Tax Credit refundable.</p> <p>Stop student loan interest.</p> <p>Move away from loans and significantly increase access to non-repayable Canada Student Grants.</p>		
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<p>reduction in poverty by 2020 and a 50% reduction in poverty by 2030.</p> <p>Reduce chronic homelessness by 50%</p> <p>Reduce or eliminate housing need for 530,000 households</p> <p>End all long-term drinking water advisories on public systems on-reserve by March 2021</p> <p>Establish a National Advisory Council on Poverty to advise the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development on poverty reduction and to publicly report, in each year, on the progress that has been made toward poverty reduction.</p> <p>On June 21, 2019, <i>Poverty Reduction Act</i> became law. This Act entrenches into legislation: ambitious and concrete poverty reduction targets; an official measure of poverty: Canada's Official Poverty Line; and an arm's</p>	<p>Ensure that every child is provided a safe place to learn and an opportunity to succeed, whether on or off reserve, by implementing Shannen's Dream of equitable access to education.</p>		
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length National Advisory Council on Poverty.			
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## **APPENDIX**

### **COLOUR OF POVERTY – COLOUR OF CHANGE STEERING COMMITTEE**

- Access Alliance Multicultural Health & Community Services
  - Black Action Legal Centre
  - Canadian Arab Federation
  - Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic
  - Chinese Canadian National Council – Toronto Chapter
  - Council of Agencies Serving South Asians
  - Hispanic Development Council
  - Karuna Community Services
  - La Passerelle – I.D.E.
  - Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto
  - Midaynta Community Services
  - Punjabi Community Health Services
  - OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
  - South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario
  - The Neighbourhood Organization
  - Urban Alliance on Race Relations
- Academic partner
- Professor Grace-Edward Galabuzi, Ryerson University