

NDP Response

National Union of General and Public employees (NUPGE)

Brother Bert,

Thank you for your letter. Let me say how much New Democrats value the essential work being done by members of NUPGE's component unions - from keeping Canadian cities and towns safe when facing fires due to the climate crisis, to caring for people when they need it.

While Mark Carney's plan to balance Canada's operating budget in 3 years would mean over \$43 billion in cuts, New Democrats believe firmly that public services are a bedrock of our country, and it is unconscionable to think about firing people as we face the chaos of a Trump-induced trade war.

Q1 & 4

We believe more than ever that we need strong public services. When Canadians sent 25 New Democrats to Ottawa four years ago, we were able to deliver historic new services like public dental care and national pharmacare, and important legislation like federal anti-scab. We can continue this work. Only New Democrats have a plan to hire doctors, nurses and healthcare workers with a healthcare workforce strategy so every Canadian can access primary care. We will add increases on top of the CHT elevator to accomplish this.

Q2

New Democrats will defend Canadian jobs and fight to create good new jobs across our country, but we recognize that even the threat of Trump tariffs have caused Canadians to lose their jobs. We are on Team Canada, and we will fight to remove these tariffs, but in the meantime we will ensure Employment Insurance is there for them. The NDP's [Workers for Canada](#) plan proposes a series of reforms including to:

- Remove barriers to accessing EI by reducing the threshold for qualifying to a universal 360-hour standard. And like during the pandemic, benefits are needed to cover at-risk contractors and the self-employed who lose their work and income.
- Extend the duration of benefits to 50 weeks. We are entering this period with

NDP Response

an already weak job market and over half a million workers receiving EI, including many in auto manufacturing and other trade exposed industries.

- Increase the benefit level to two-thirds of insurable earnings with a minimum weekly benefit of \$450 — keeping money in the hands of workers will help keep our economy going.
- Eliminate the one-week waiting period.
- Expand EI work-share program that allows top-ups for workers who have fewer hours of work. Work-share programs also spread hours evenly among workers. This will help keep people employed and keep industries operating.

Q3

Wildland firefighters are firefighters. Their work will only become more essential in our climate crisis. It is essential that they have the same standards of protection, benefits, and fairness measures as other firefighters.

Q5

We will protect services like education and child-care while Mark Carney and Pierre Poilievre's plans will mean deep cuts to public services. While Pierre Poilievre is upfront and clear that a Conservative government will cut services, Mark Carney's plan to balance Canada's operating budget in three years while cutting taxes for the richest people, will mean deep cuts.

In respect of public universities and colleges, our plan to build millions of rent controlled homes will take pressure off of students, their parents, and workers in the sector. We are committed to stability in the sector. We will have a particular focus on ensuring more indigenous students can succeed in post-secondary education, and we will continue to grow schools like the Northern Ontario School of Medicine to ensure northerner have access to healthcare without needing to travel.

Q6

Unlike both the Liberals and Conservatives who plan to cut capital gains taxes for millionaires, New Democrats will increase tax fairness through restoring Budget 2024 changes to capital gains. We have also released a plan to crack down on tax

NDP Response

havens, tax avoidance and tax cheats in stark contrast to Mark Carney whose former company avoided taxes by registering businesses in tax havens like Bermuda and in some cases paid no Canadian taxes.

NUPGE component members work in every province and territory. You know Canada works best when one party doesn't have all the power. With just 25 MPs, New Democrats were able to create the largest expansion in public services in a generation making life easier and more fair for millions of Canadians. By sending more NDP MPs to Ottawa, your members can vote for better public services and a more fair Canada. We did not just promise change. We proved it is possible.

A vote for the NDP is how your members can protect what matters most—and how we build a future that works for everyone.

Sincerely,

The NDP Team