



1. ***One of the threats to our public health care system are [shortages of health care workers](#) in many health professions. Do you support the development of a national healthcare plan to address challenges in our health care system, including shortages of healthcare workers?***

Yes, absolutely. Too many jobs in our health and care sectors are underpaid, understaffed, underappreciated and face growing privatization - it's time for a change. That's why our plan for [Canada's Health and Care Economy](#) directly addresses this issue, by calling for a number of initiatives that would boost health care staffing and improve outcomes for patients.

We'll attract more workers to the field by making healthcare work a stable, valued and well-compensated career in Canada. We will train and attract more healthcare workers by increasing wages and benefits with national standards and expanded public and non-profit sector roles; streamlining recognition of foreign credentials; and following the lead of many European countries by making post-secondary education tuition-free.

2. ***Years of underfunding by both federal and provincial governments has led to [post-secondary institutions becoming overly-reliant on student fees](#), particularly from international students. There were always issues with this approach, but with the recent cut in the number of student visas, it has exposed the seriousness of the problem. Given the current urgency for students, workers, and communities, do you support emergency funding to public colleges and universities to prevent cuts?***

I fully support this. Over the years, government funding for post-secondary institutions has steadily eroded, to the point where in 2022, tuition fees and private sources exceeded government grants for the first time. This has resulted in skyrocketing tuition fees, and a reliance on differential fees charged to international students. The federal government's sudden cutbacks on international student enrolment, combined with years of austerity, has created a fiscal crisis for many post-secondary institutions.

It's time for the federal government to get serious once again about funding post-secondary education. In years past, the federal government was committed to providing 50% of the operating funding to the provinces, a number that has eroded considerably. To rectify this problem, we need a Post Secondary Education Act, modelled on the





Canada Health Act, to restore federal public funding and tie it to national standards on affordability, quality, respect for post-secondary workers and accessibility.

3. ***Under current federal rules, [firefighters who fight wildfires](#) are not eligible for the same benefits and protections as other firefighters, even though their jobs are becoming more dangerous because of climate change. Do you support ensuring wildland firefighters are recognized as the firefighters and public safety officers that they are by the federal government?***

Yes. Forest and wildland firefighters are on the front lines defending communities from the ravages of the climate crisis. We saw this last summer, when firefighters held the line for more than four weeks, saving Flin Flon, Manitoba, from destruction. They deserve the same protections as all other firefighters. I'm proud of the work done by former NDP MPs Alistair McGregor and Peter Julian in the last parliament, who worked alongside NUPGE to urge the federal government to classify wildfire fighters as firefighters under the National Occupation Classification, so that every firefighter gets the support they need.

In addition, our [Canadian Green New Deal](#) calls for the creation of a National Wildfire Response and Prevention Plan. This would cover everything from wildfire surveillance, monitoring and national emergency coordination; new firefighting equipment; boosting firefighter pay; and the recruiting and training of new firefighters, with a special focus on Indigenous communities and fire guardians.

4. ***A combination of loopholes, unfair tax cuts and weak enforcement mean that the wealthy and large corporations are not paying their share of taxes. The resulting revenue shortfall is being used to justify cuts that harm low- and middle-income Canadians. What measures do you support to change this?***

We live in a country awash in wealth, but it's not trickling down to working people, it's stuck at the top. At the same time that governments, [including the Carney federal government](#), are embracing austerity, the six biggest banks made \$70 billion in profits last year. It's time for a government with the courage to go after the wealth that the ultrarich and corporations are hoarding, and use it to invest in the services that benefit all Canadians.





That's why our campaign has put forward a [tax plan for the 99%](#), a bold vision to reduce inequality and generate the revenue we need to make people's lives better. Some of the specific measures in the plan include: a wealth tax of 1% on the top 1%, rising to 3% on the largest fortunes; a one-time windfall profits tax and an ongoing excess profits tax on the biggest corporations; and adequately funding the Canada Revenue Agency, hiring hundreds of new auditors and technical advisors to go after tax cheats.

5. *Some provincial governments have been [using the notwithstanding clause to attack the human rights of union members and people who are transgender](#). What action would you take to prevent the notwithstanding clause being used to attack the rights of workers and equity-deserving communities?*

When the 1982 Constitution was drafted, the inclusion of the Notwithstanding Clause was meant as a "last-resort" measure for provincial governments and the federal government to override Charter rights to address concerns of judicial supremacy. Today, we are witnessing gross abuses of this measure in ways that not only threaten our hard fought rights but also the integrity of our Constitution.

[The Canadian Civil Liberties Association has called on the government to start a public consultation on the use of the Notwithstanding Clause](#), which is something we agree with. We also support Wab Kinew's [legislation to establish guardrails](#) on the use of the clause. We cannot continue to let conservative governments roll back constitutional rights, including workers' rights and the rights of trans people, with little pushback from the Federal government. In the case of Alberta's recent anti-trans legislation, all options should be on the table, including the use of disallowance if required, to stop this legislation and protect trans youth. It's time we have a government that stands up for all our rights and freedoms without exception.

