

Canadian Political Parties and What They Stand For

Listed below are some of the key positions that Canadian political parties have taken over the last year or so. This is just part of what each party says it stands for. This is just a starting point. I have listed only things that are fairly concrete; ideals are left out, unless they are backed by firm commitments.

Bloc Quebecois

Leader: Daniel Paille

Positions:

Quebec Independence – until then, representing Quebec’s interests in the House of Commons.

Clean energy – focus on renewable. Opposition to Tarsands. Move away from oil dependency.

Act to reduce climate change. Canada should honour international commitments, not move away from them and obstruct new action.

Opposed to Federal Copyright proposals. They feel that it favours corporate interests, rather than interests of creators – writers and performers. They say a new law is needed to take into account new technology.

Favour the gun registry. Feds plan to end it and destroy the data collected. This would mean that Quebec could not use the data if they decided to bring in their own registry.

Only bilingual appointments should be made to the Supreme Court. Harper appointed a unilingual Anglophone.

Favour harmonized GST and Quebec PST. (Like BC’s HST)

End ties to British monarchy. Oppose adding “Royal” again to names of Canadian forces.

Conservative Party of Canada

Leader: Stephen Harper

End the long-gun registry and destroy the data.

Support East Coast Sealing industry.

Increase penalties for crime – bring in longer minimum sentences.

Change old age security – make minimum age of collection higher? Some other way to reduce costs.

Support Alberta’s Tarsands oil. Foster energy exports.

Reduce corporate taxes. Support businesses. Believe that low taxes increases job creation.

New private retirement savings scheme for those without pension plans.

Family tax cuts – allow greater income splitting on personal taxes.

Increased focus on military spending – especially adoption of new F-35 fighter aircraft.

Eliminate the federal deficit by 2014.

Green Party:

Leader: Elizabeth May

Embrace renewable energy and move away from fossil fuels.

Reuse and recycle more.

Encourage green jobs with government investment.

Maintain social spending on unemployment insurance and pensions. Reduce EI and CPP contributions from employers.

Move to “fair trade” practices – encourage “sustainable development.”

Encourage “organic” farming. End “dragging” in fisheries. End export of raw logs and encourage “value added” in Canada.

End corporate subsidies – especially for nuclear and fossil fuel businesses.

No structural deficits.

Lower income taxes. Allow income splitting in families.

Encourage job sharing and flexible hours of work.

Encourage workplace child care.

Change how voting system works.

Eliminate poverty in Canada.

Liberal Party

Leader: Bob Rae (until new leader chosen)

Cancel corporate tax cuts. Limit stock options tax break.

Cancel capital cost allowance for tar sands development.

Cancel new F-35 fighter aircraft purchase.

Family care – financial relief for those staying home to look after family.

Financial help for those paying for post-secondary education (\$1000/year for all - \$1500/year for poor).

Green renovation tax credit.

Invest in clean resources, health and biosciences, and digital technology.

Invest in transportation infrastructure.

Create a youth hiring incentive for small and medium sized businesses to encourage hiring 18-25 year olds.

New Democratic Party

Leader: Nicole Turmel (until new leader chosen)

Eliminate corporate tax cuts – but keeping Canadian federal + Provincial tax rates below US levels. Reduce small business tax rate. Introduce job creation tax credit for businesses.

Improve pensions and retirement security, family and maternity leaves, child care places, increase student grants for post secondary.

More funding for social housing.

More regulation of banking and credit – restrict interest charges on credit cards.

Introduce a federal minimum wage.

Address climate change with green investment and cap-and-trade emission reduction system. Invest in “clean power.” Discourage export of unrefined products.

Change the voting system. Abolish the Senate.

Fringe Parties:

The following parties all currently run candidates in Federal elections. There is not space here to deal with their platforms.

- [Animal Alliance Environment Voters Party of Canada](#)
- [Canadian Action Party](#)
- [Christian Heritage Party of Canada](#)

- Communist Party of Canada
- First Peoples National Party of Canada
- Libertarian Party of Canada
- Marijuana Party
- Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada
- Pirate Party of Canada
- Progressive Canadian Party
- Rhinoceros Party
- United Party of Canada
- Western Block Party

Fringe parties spring up regularly – sometimes standing for single issues, sometimes for ideals not addressed enough by regular parties, sometimes for regional interests, and sometimes just to poke fun at mainstream politics. They are a regular feature of Canadian Federal politics, but they rarely, if ever, elect anyone to the House of Commons.