



# The Presbyterian Church in Canada

## **Justice and Hope for All: A 2025 Federal Election Resource**

Canada's next federal election is scheduled for April 28. Democratic institutions rely on informed citizens' engagement. This resource contains questions about issues that The Presbyterian Church in Canada has spoken on. Grounded in our understanding that the church's role in society is to pursue love and justice for all of God's creation, this resource is intended to support personal reflection, conversation within congregations and advocacy with candidates.

While this resource focuses on issues that are national in scope, local issues also have a place in our advocacy with candidates and elected officials. If there is a topic not included in this resource that you would like to learn more about, you may be able to find out more about it on the Social Action Hub: [presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/](https://presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/).

### **Affordable Housing**

Safe, affordable housing is vital for stability and wellbeing. Adequate housing meets individuals' and families' needs by providing access to services such as clean water, sanitation, health care and schools. The church supports strategies to reduce systemic barriers to affordable housing (such as racism, other discrimination or insufficient income supports) and encourages support for seniors' and public housing initiatives.

1. How will your party work to reduce chronic homelessness across Canada?
2. What is your party's plan to work with provinces and municipalities to increase the supply of affordable housing and meet the unique needs of communities across the country?
3. How will your party work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis leaders to meet their nations' specific needs for safe and adequate housing, including access to clean water?

### **Climate Change**

Global warming drives climate-related disasters such as floods, droughts, wildfires, heat warnings and severe storms. These effects are worldwide, but the worst impacts fall disproportionately on people in countries in the global South that have fewer resources to

cope with a problem they did not cause. The church advocates for fair and just ways to respond to the causes and impacts of the climate crisis nationally and globally.

1. How will your party address the need to drastically reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030?
2. What steps will your party take to support workers and communities impacted by the need to transition to a more sustainable and low-carbon economy?
3. What funding will your party invest in response to global loss and damage due to climate change?

## **Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation**

The PCC has sought a path of reconciliation and learning for over 30 years. The church has apologized for its role in colonization and operating 12 residential schools, repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery—which sought to legitimize colonization—and committed to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) 94 Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). Reconciliation with Indigenous people remains at the heart of work the church is called to today.

1. How is your party supporting Indigenous sovereignty and well-being, including through the implementation of UNDRIP?
2. What steps is your party taking to implement the 42 Obligations released in the final report of the Office of the Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites Associated with Indian Residential Schools?
3. What are some concrete steps your party has taken recently to respond to the TRC's 94 Calls to Action and to further reconciliation?

## **International Aid**

Our work to end hunger and poverty is rooted in the knowledge that it is God's desire for no person to go hungry, and that we are called to act with compassion for the most marginalized in the world. God has provided enough for all. PWS&D has been working to eradicate poverty globally for over 75 years. Recent funding cuts for international aid around the world are raising significant concerns and creating setbacks in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

1. Given worsening global hunger and poverty, what will your party do to increase the insufficient budgets for humanitarian and development aid?

2. Canadian civil society organizations have a demonstrated history of delivering effective aid. Will your party ensure sufficient budgets are made accessible for them?
3. Working together with other countries is essential to address global issues. Will your party commit to sustain funding of key multilateral organizations such as the World Health Organization, the World Food Program and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees?

## **International Relations**

The PCC affirms that Christians should work to end conflict and address its root causes. Canada has an important role to play internationally through actions such as advocating for a just peace in places like Ukraine and Palestine, an end to isolation for Cuba and Taiwan, and speaking against economic or physical violence between nations and peoples. We are called to love our neighbours and speak up for justice both here and around the world.

1. What are some specific ways your party will promote and protect human rights around the world, especially for people in places like Palestine and Ukraine?
2. What steps will your party take to mitigate Taiwan's continued vulnerability and isolation, and increase food and medical aid to Cuba?
3. In your party's support of Canadian sovereignty, how will it also support other nations whose sovereignty is threatened, and uphold Indigenous sovereignty here in Canada?

## **Poverty Reduction Strategies**

Poverty—its alleviation and ultimate elimination—has long been a focus of the church. When speaking about poverty, the PCC advocates for social and economic policies that address the injustices of poverty, wealth inequality and human rights. Over the years, the church has advocated for a guaranteed livable income, improved social supports and a national poverty reduction strategy.

1. What steps has your party taken to reduce or eliminate poverty in Canada?
2. What will your party do to address the urgent needs of people facing food insecurity in Canada and what will you do in the long term to address the underlying causes of food insecurity?
3. Does your party support a guaranteed livable income as part of its poverty reduction or elimination strategy?

## **Refugee Sponsorship and Immigration**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has a long history of advocating for the rights and dignity of refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants and migrant workers. The church's actions stem from the biblical call to love and protect the "alien," "foreigner" and "stranger." The PCC is concerned about increasing language in public and government spheres that appears to scapegoat immigrants and refugees for issues such as the housing shortage in Canada.

1. What is your party's position on recently announced cuts to refugee resettlement numbers and immigration targets?
2. How will your party work to address the large backlog of refugee resettlement applications?

## **Rights for 2SLGBTQI+ People**

The PCC affirms that all people, whatever their sexual orientation or gender identity, are equally beloved by God. In recent years, there has been an increase in anti-2SLGBTQI+ rhetoric, legislation and violence globally. The PCC confesses that homophobia and transphobia in the church contributes to hatred and neglect of 2SLGBTQI+ people, making them targets for violence. The church is called to work for a future where no person experiences violence or persecution because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

1. What is your position on safeguarding Canadian human rights protections based on gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation?
2. What steps will you take to implement the Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan and improve social, economic and health outcomes for Two-Spirit and LGBTQI+ people in Canada?
3. What actions will your party take to support LGBTQI+ people's safety and human rights internationally? How will you support LGBTQI+ people seeking refugee status in Canada due to persecution in their home countries?