



NDP Responds

Note: We have yet to release our full platform but here are the answers to date outlining our commitments.

Reconciliation Canada

1. *What steps will your party take to create a deeper understanding of the current realities of the Indian Residential School legacy for all Canadians?*

An NDP government will take action on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, on a priority basis, in consultation with Indigenous communities, starting with a funding contribution of \$8 million over four years to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

2. *What steps will your party take to move forward with reconciliation among Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians?*

Canada's New Democrats feel current *and* previous federal governments have spent far too much time and energy fighting Indigenous people in court rather than seeking to build respectful and meaningful partnerships with them.

We believe it's time to change the relationship the federal government has with Indigenous peoples from an adversarial one to a productive partnership. First and foremost, New Democrats will strengthen Canada's Nation-to-Nation relationship with Indigenous peoples, including First Nations, Inuit and Metis.

For the first time in our history, the NDP is positioned to begin to change the relationship by forming the next federal government. As the next federal government we intend to move forward to help build that new relationship between Indigenous peoples and other Canadians.

To begin moving forward, the NDP commits to:

- Creating a cabinet-level committee chaired by Tom Mulcair, as Prime Minister, to ensure that all government decisions respect treaty rights, inherent rights, and Canada's international obligations, starting with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Calling a national inquiry into the 1,200 missing and murdered Indigenous women in our first 100 days.
- Immediately begin work to fix our country's broken treaty process and deal with unresolved land claims.

3. What steps will your party take to achieve economic parity between Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians?

Despite official apologies, the Harper government's inaction on the issues facing Indigenous communities has earned Canada condemnation from the UN. Previous Liberal governments unilaterally imposed a punitive 2% cap on social transfers, which the Conservatives kept, despite the fact First Nations populations have grown more than 25%.

To work to achieve economic parity between Indigenous peoples and all Canadian an NDP government will:

- Remove the unfair 2% funding cap on social transfers to First Nations and establish a fair fiscal relationship with Indigenous peoples;
- Continue the work inspired by the Shannen's Dream movement by working with Indigenous communities to develop new education policies and laws based on the principle of Indigenous self-government;
- Provide stable, long-term funding for Indigenous K-12 education and supports for post-secondary education for Indigenous students;
- Provide critical infrastructure funding to Indigenous communities for housing, clean water facilities, roads and clean energy projects;
- Ensure local construction jobs, training, apprenticeships and contracts for Indigenous businesses as part of all infrastructure projects;
- Work with First Nations to develop a plan to improve health services on-reserve;
- Invest in a \$100 million Mental Health Innovation Fund for Children and Youth, with an additional \$5 million per year for a suicide prevention strategy to serve at-risk populations, including Indigenous communities.