

As Catholics, we believe that every single person is a child of God, whom God is calling lovingly. Human life is sacred. All of us are born in the image of God, with inherent dignity. This dignity—and respect for it—must be the moral bedrock of our politics. First in the list of human rights acknowledged by the Church “is the right to life, from conception to its natural end, which is the condition for the exercise of all other rights and, in particular, implies the illicitness of every form of procured abortion and of euthanasia.”



Read more at Section 155 of the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church by scanning the QR code or at <https://catholicconscience.org/22301>

**Here are just two political issues in which human dignity must be considered:
palliative care versus socially assisted death, and abortion.**

Palliative Care versus Socially Assisted Death

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party proposes a multibillion-dollar investment to build a new, state-of-the-art Mississauga hospital and expand the Queensway Health Centre, both of which are part of Trillium Health Partners. The new Mississauga Hospital is anticipated to add up to 26 new operating rooms and over 350 new hospital beds to become one of the largest emergency departments in Ontario. Redevelopment plans for the Queensway Health Centre include a new inpatient care tower, adding 150 new hospital beds and expanding rehabilitation and palliative care services, to improve health care for patients and families in Peel Region, Etobicoke and the surrounding communities.

NDP POLICY: The party has committed to expanding Ontario’s network of hospices. The party has committed that every Ontarian who seeks access to medical assistance in dying receives it. The party has committed that terminally ill children and their families are provided with accessible and supportive end of life care by passing NDP MPP Sandy Shaw’s bill to develop and implement a paediatric hospice palliative care strategy for Ontario.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party has committed to helping 400,000 more seniors get home care by 2026, by increasing the annual budget for home and community care by over \$2 billion through 10% annual increases year with a focus on front-line non-profit care. The party has committed to building a dementia care network by investing in existing memory clinics and expanding the number of clinics. The party will support more palliative care by fully funding the clinical costs for hospices.



Read the Progressive Conservative government’s pre-election budget by scanning the QR code or at <https://catholicconscience.org/22101>



Read the full NDP platform by scanning the QR code or at <https://catholicconscience.org/22102>



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Abortion

Abortion: Since the 1984 decision in Regina v. Morgenthaler, Canada has been one of the few countries to impose no limits on abortion.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party has released no official statement of its policies on abortion or alternatives.

NDP POLICY: The party has committed to making contraception free in Ontario.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party advocates protecting and maintaining the publicly funded abortion services and reproductive health care programs currently available in Ontario.

Romans 12:4-18 reminds us that “we, though many, are one body in Christ,” and calls us to “love one another with mutual affection... be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.” As Catholics, we are called to live in beloved community, loving one another as Christ loves all of us, working together for the good of all—recognizing that despite our surface differences we are, fundamentally, members of one human family. This means that each of us must vote with the good of all in mind, and in hopes of building a society with greater capacity to grow in community, together. As the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church puts it, “Certain sins... constitute by their very object a direct assault on one’s neighbour... Social sin is every sin committed against the justice due in relations between individuals, between the individual and the community, and also between the community and the individual. Social too is every sin against the rights of the human person... and every sin against the dignity and honour of one’s neighbour.”



Read more at Section 118 of the Compendium by scanning the QR code or at <https://catholicconscience.org/22302>

Here are just two political issues in which family, community and the common good must be considered: development of the family and support for the elderly.

Catholic social teaching states clearly, “The priority of the family over society and over the State must be affirmed... society and the State exist for the family. Every social model that intends to serve the good of man must not overlook the centrality and social responsibility of the family.” Catholic social teaching also tells us, “Love is also expressed in the generous attention shown to the elderly who live in families... If the elderly are in situations where they experience suffering and dependence, not only do they need health care services and appropriate assistance, but—and above all—they need to be treated with love.”

Development of the Family

Support for the Elderly

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party has proposed the Childcare Access and Relief from Expenses (CARE) tax credit to provide families with the flexibility they need to choose the child care options that work best for them.. In government, the party announced an agreement for a new Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care System towards achieving an average of \$10-a-day child care by September 2025.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party proposes investing an additional \$5.5 million in 2022–23 to extend the Ontario Community Support Program, which delivers meals, medicine and other essential items to low-income seniors and people with disabilities. The party has proposed a Seniors’ Home Safety Tax Credit to help seniors make their homes safer and more accessible and help low- to moderate-income senior families with eligible medical expenses.

NDP POLICY: The party has committed to help 311,000 households pay the rent through a portable housing benefit, to assist tenants who can’t afford their rent in addition to basic necessities for themselves and their families. The party has committed to ensuring that all children, whether they have a disability, are racialized, or are a member of a northern, rural, or Indigenous community, are provided with high-quality inclusive child care options that fit their circumstances.

NDP POLICY: The party proposes immediately beginning to build 50,000 new and modern long-term care beds. The party has committed to ensuring our elders and seniors have access to care that is personal and familiar, with staff and practices that reflect their distinct cultures and languages by creating culturally appropriate resources and training for home and community care programs.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party has committed to universal childcare for every family in Ontario, including universal \$10-a-day licensed childcare in Ontario; and enhancing the 18-month parental leave program to ensure new moms and dads have the option to stay at home longer with their infants without their EI benefits being reduced by the end of next year, while working with the federal government to fill gaps for those who don’t qualify for EI.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party would add up to \$1,000 more per year to the amount received by existing pensioners through Ontario’s Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS). The party has committed to ending for-profit long-term care as quickly as possible with a target of 2028. To make sure closing for-profit homes doesn’t lead to longer wait times for seniors, the party has committed to building 30,000 new long-term care spaces by 2028 and redevelop 28,000 existing spaces to modern standards.



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Pope Francis said it best in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*: “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.” And he doesn’t mince words about the need for action: “We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet’s capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now.” As children of God, we are stewards of God’s creation—and must consider how our actions protect, or harm, this glorious gift God has given us.



Read more in Chapter 10 of the *Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching* by scanning the QR code or at <https://catholicconscience.org/22303>

**Here are just two political issues in which stewardship of creation must be considered:
climate change & a sustainable economy.**

Climate change is a characteristically international challenge and Canada has a role to play in fighting it, alongside and with all the nations of the world. One way we address climate change is by acting to make our economy and way of life more sustainable—not just for the sake of the planet, but for the sake of our own health and the prosperity of the global poor.

Climate Change

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party has committed to a Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF), to double its annual investment to nearly \$2 billion over five years, beginning in 2021–22, to help 424 small, rural and Northern communities construct and rehabilitate roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure, in part to help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

NDP POLICY: The party has committed to reducing Ontario’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 50 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. This plan includes carbon pricing through a proposed cap-and-trade system that makes big corporate polluters pay for their emissions.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party has committed to planting 800 million new trees over the next 8 years, and all Ontario families will have access to trees to plant at home. The party has committed to creating five new provincial parks and expand Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park. Read more Liberal policy proposals by clicking here.



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Sustainability

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party has proposed \$61.6 billion over 10 years for public transit. The party proposes to invest \$24 million for the planning and construction of the Holland Marsh Phosphorus Recycling Facility in York Region.

NDP POLICY: The party has committed to creating Ontario’s first comprehensive Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEVs) Strategy, with the goal of ramping up electric vehicle sales to 100 per cent of all new provincial auto sales by 2035. To help Ontarians make the switch to a ZEV, the party has committed to building out a network of charging stations across Ontario, and offer strong incentives of up to \$10,000 to Ontarians who purchase ZEVs, excluding luxury vehicles, with a particular focus on those made in Ontario.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party will give families an incentive of \$8,000 on the purchase or lease of eligible electric vehicles and \$1,500 on charging equipment. The party will also help rapidly expand the availability of vehicle charging stations in apartment buildings, workplaces, parking lots, city streets and all OnRoute and GO stations across the province.

We are all children of God, imbued with inherent dignity. As a result, we all have inherent rights—but with those rights come responsibilities to our family, our neighbours, and our communities. Everyone has social responsibilities that must be fulfilled, says the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church. “The conscience is called... to recognize and fulfil the obligations of justice and charity in society... This social doctrine implies responsibilities as well regarding the building, organization and functioning of society, that is to say, political, economic and administrative obligations — obligations of a secular nature — which belong to the lay faithful, not to priests or religious... By fulfilling these responsibilities, the lay faithful put the Church’s social teaching into action and thus fulfil the Church’s secular mission.”



Read more in Chapter 2, Part 2e in the Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching by scanning the QR code or at <https://catholicconscience.org/22304>

Here are just two political issues in which rights and responsibilities must be considered: conscience rights and economic justice.

Conscience Rights

In an era when socially-assisted death and abortion have become permissible in a secular context, it is critical that healthcare providers whose deepest moral convictions—religious or otherwise—tell them that such procedures are wrong, not be forced to participate in them. This is an unjustifiable infringement of their dignity and rights.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party has no known official policy proposal or position on conscience rights for Ontario healthcare workers.

NDP POLICY: The party has no known official policy proposal or position on conscience rights for Ontario healthcare workers.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party has no known official policy proposal or position on conscience rights for Ontario healthcare workers.



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Economic Justice

The Second Vatican Council stated, “The right to have a share of earthly goods sufficient for oneself and one’s family belongs to everyone.” This principle describes what Catholic social teaching calls distributive justice. We have a responsibility to ensure that the basic material needs of everyone in our community is met. The Church has affirmed its support for the free market as the most efficient instrument for utilizing resources and responding to needs, with the strict qualification that the market must be regulated by appropriate legal norms so that it remains always at the service of human freedom and development. The Church affirms that every individual is called to work in accordance with her or his ability, and that work is necessary as an essential expression of human dignity.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party proposes relaunching the Second Career program as Better Jobs Ontario, which will support a larger, more diverse range of Ontario workers, with \$5 million in new funding in 2022–23 in addition to the nearly \$200 million invested over the last three years. To support students, the party proposes expanding college degree granting to help build a pipeline of job-ready graduates in applied fields and allow students to gain the education, experience and skills to enter the workforce faster.

NDP POLICY: The party will promote the value of trades in schools and work with tradespeople, employers, and educational institutions to create new opportunities for education and apprenticeships – including working with school boards to expand opportunities for hands-on learning and shop classes. The party has also committed to creating thousands of new, paid co-op and internship opportunities for young people.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party has committed to modernizing Ontario employment laws to classify gig workers as employees and give them the same rights and protections all workers have, like access to sick days, workplace insurance, holiday and severance pay and more. The party will provide 10 paid, job-protected sick days for all workers. The party has committed to piloting a four-day work week.

The Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching reads, “The poor, the marginalized and in all cases those whose living conditions interfere with their proper growth should be the focus of particular concern... The poor remain entrusted to us and it is this responsibility upon which we shall be judged at the end of time.” We must have special concern for the poor among us, “the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without health care and, above all, those without hope of a better future.” We remember Jesus’ own words: what we do to the least among us, we do to him



Read more in Chapter 4, Part 3c in the Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching by scanning the QR code or at <https://catholicconscience.org/22305>

Here are just two political issues in which the preferential option for the poor must be considered: poverty reduction, and support for the marginalized and vulnerable.

Poverty Reduction

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: To ensure low-income seniors, people with disabilities and other vulnerable people have access to the essential items they need, the party proposes investing an additional \$5.5 million in the Ontario Community Support Program, which has made approximately 1.6 million deliveries of meals, medicine and other essential items to more than 70,000 low-income seniors and people with disabilities. The party notes a joint federal-provincial investment of \$632 million to support access to safe and reliable transportation for people when they need it and provide housing and homelessness supports for the most vulnerable populations in communities across Ontario.

NDP POLICY: The party has committed to an immediate increase to Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates by 20% and legislate that raises must, at minimum, be indexed to inflation. The party has committed to updating the ODSP Act to ensure people living with disabilities are not subjected to a different set of standards than those without disabilities.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party has committed \$100 million for increasing subsidies for at least 100,000 low-income families and children with special needs to access summer camps and programming. The party has committed to providing low-income earners with dollar-for-dollar pension matching up to \$1,000 a year to help savings.



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Support for the Marginalized and Vulnerable

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party proposes investing an additional \$204 million to build on investments to date, and to continue moving forward with expanding existing services, implementing innovative solutions and improving access to mental health and addiction services. This investment would build on the 2020 Roadmap to Wellness, a provincial strategy to address long-standing mental health and addictions needs, with an investment of \$3.8 billion over 10 years.

NDP POLICY: The party has committed to making the Ontario Autism program fully needs-based, with no caps, basing care on a person's needs rather than their age, with care following individuals as they get older. The party has committed to expanding access to counselling and therapy services across the province by bringing therapy services into OHIP. The party will create Mental Health Ontario, a new coordinating organization that will create a basket of services, and making sure that mental health and addiction programs are delivered comprehensively across Ontario.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party has committed to ending “streaming” in Grades 9 and 10 in public schools as the practice perpetuates anti-Black racism and further segregates students from marginalized backgrounds. They have published a Plan to Combat Racism which among other things will create a new fund to hire and incent more diverse and underrepresented police officers and ensure regular police training for de-escalation, anti-racism, cultural sensitivity and mental health. The party will require all employer health benefit plans to cover mental health services, and include mental health coverage in their proposed portable benefits plan.

If the purpose of life is for each individual to find his or her way back to God, then it is necessary that each individual be ensured adequate freedom to do that. Each time government restricts an aspect of freedom, or takes it upon itself something the individual, or groups of individuals, could do for themselves, the individual and the group are to a greater or lesser extent restricted in their freedom, and potentially in their efforts to find their way back to God. The same is true each time a higher level of government imposes restrictions or takes on work that can responsibly be left to lower levels of government. Thus freedom, “the highest sign in man of his being made in the divine image,” is one of the four fundamental values of Catholic social teaching. Its corollary, “subsidiarity,” is one of the four permanent principles: “Just as it is gravely wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also it is an injustice and at the same time a grave evil and disturbance of right order to assign to a greater and higher association what lesser and subordinate organizations can do.” To Catholics, civil society, local government, and the freedom to participate are essential to human flourishing. Each of us is called to participate in civil society, as we all have something original and creative to offer the community.



Read more in Chapter 4, Part 4 of the Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching by scanning the QR code or at <https://catholicconscience.org/22306>

Here are just two federal political issues in which subsidiarity and participation must be considered: education, and encouragement of the not-for-profit and charitable sectors.

Education

Catholic teaching describes education as a human right, and that all true education “is directed towards the formation of the human person in view of his final end and the good of that society to which he belongs and in the duties of which he will, as an adult, have a share. This integrality is ensured when children – with the witness of life and in words – are educated in dialogue, encounter, sociality, legality, solidarity and peace, through the cultivation of the fundamental virtues of justice and charity.”

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party proposes almost \$6 billion of investment in the Postsecondary Education sector, including over \$2 billion in capital grants over the next 10 years, to help colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes modernize classrooms by upgrading technology, carrying out critical repairs and improving environmental sustainability. The party proposes expanding college degree granting to help build a pipeline of job-ready graduates in applied fields and allow students to gain the education, experience and skills to enter the workforce faster.

NDP POLICY: The party has committed to hiring 20,000 Teachers and Education Workers and invest in in-school remedial learning programs to help students recover after two years of learning disruptions. The party has committed to capping classes for Grades 4 through 8 at 24.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party is calling for class size caps of 20 across the board to ensure students have the one-on-one attention they need to recover, for at least the next three years. The party would cancel the Highway 413 project and reinvest the \$8 billion in savings into building and repairing schools, so that children can learn in state of the art facilities measured by publicly-reported standards. The party has published an Education Recovery Plan.



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Encouragement of the Not-for-Profits / Charities

Subsidiarity requires “the encouragement of private initiative so that every social entity remains at the service of the common good.” Ensuring civil society organizations thrive is essential to the common good, as they are a space where we can bring our unique gifts and talents from God to the service of the community. Catholic social teaching notes, “The political community and civil society, although mutually connected and interdependent, are not equal in the hierarchy of ends. The political community is essentially at the service of civil society...”

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party notes that since it has served in government, nine regulatory modernization packages, including eight bills, have been brought forward with a focus on reducing costs, which has enabled \$449 million in net annual savings for businesses, not-for-profits, municipalities, universities and colleges, school boards and hospitals in regulatory compliance costs as of December 31, 2021.

NDP POLICY: To support their recovery and protect the sector, the party has committed to providing financial support to non-profits and charities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, so they can reinvest in their mission and their workforce. The party will also work with the sector to develop a provincial volunteer recovery strategy, helping organizations bring back personnel and execute their mission.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party will provide \$5 million to Black historical sites and community centres.

Catholic social teaching has a great deal to say about the importance of work to human fulfillment, and the consequent rights and dignity that is owed to workers in the economy— “the right to a just wage; the right to rest; the right ‘to a working environment and to manufacturing processes which are not harmful to the workers’ physical health or to their moral integrity’; the right that one’s personality in the workplace should be safeguarded ‘without suffering any affront to one’s conscience or personal dignity’; the right to appropriate subsidies that are necessary for the subsistence of unemployed workers and their families; the right to a pension and to insurance for old age, sickness, and in case of work-related accidents; the right to social security connected with maternity; the right to assemble and form associations.” Even as our economy changes, the human dignity of workers must be prioritized.



Read more in Chapter 6, Part 3 of the *Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching* by scanning the QR code or at <https://catholicconscience.org/22307>

**Here are just two political issues in which they must be considered:
dignified employment for a living wage and thriving, local small businesses.**

Dignified Employment for a Living Wage

Catholic social teaching says that work is an essential expression of personhood. “The human person is the measure of the dignity of work... In fact, there is no doubt that human work has an ethical value of its own, which clearly and directly remains linked to the fact that the one who carries it out is a person.” Yet many aspects of the contemporary economy undermine, rather than support, dignified employment. Living wages are needed for all work for the sake not just of individual dignity, but to ensure work can always support the family.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party proposes increasing the general minimum wage to \$15.50 per hour on October 1, 2022, while guaranteeing digital platform workers the general minimum wage. Through the Community Jobs Initiative, the party proposes working to bring jobs at provincial agencies to communities across Ontario to help spur economic growth.

NDP POLICY: The party has committed to restarting the basic income pilot. The party has committed to raising the minimum wage to \$20 in 2026, with stable, predictable \$1-an-hour increases annually. To help small businesses achieve this, the party has committed to bringing in targeted supports for those that need help increasing wages as our economy is rebuilt. The party has committed to creating Ontario Benefits to cover all workers including those in part-time, casual, app-based, or contract jobs, to provide to all workers a basket of benefits - including dental care and vision coverage - that meet a standard of quality coverage.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party has committed to increasing the minimum wage to \$16 an hour effective January 1, 2023. The party has committed to consulting broadly and developing a living wage structure that factors different wage rates in different regions of the province - recognizing that some areas are more expensive to meet basic needs in than others.



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Thriving, Local Small Businesses

Catholic social teaching says that “Work in small and medium-sized businesses, the work of artisans and independent work can represent an occasion to make the actual work experience more human, both in terms of the possibility of establishing positive personal relationships in smaller-sized communities and in terms of the opportunities for greater initiative and industriousness.”

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party proposes creating an Entrepreneurship Council to focus on a range of key themes that will support the development of a dedicated Entrepreneurship Strategy. The strategy would be supported by key initiatives, including recruiting 100 international entrepreneurs to start or grow businesses in regions outside of the Greater Toronto Area through the entrepreneurs team of the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program and expanding access to startup and growth capital through the proposed Venture Ontario.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party has committed to eliminating incorporation fees for new business start-ups. The party has committed to suspending corporate income tax for small businesses most impacted by COVID-19 for 2022 and 2023 - with relief scaled to losses in revenues and eliminated entirely for businesses that lost more than 50% of revenues as a result of the pandemic.

NDP POLICY: The party has committed to engaging in strategic government procurement from small and medium-sized businesses and non-profits, using taxpayer dollars to invest in good jobs in Ontario. The party will work with the federal government to allow small business owners to form employee ownership trusts and put in place incentives for the creation of trusts and employee-owned co-operatives.

Catholic social teaching says that “Solidarity is an authentic moral virtue, not a ‘feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good. That is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all’... It is a virtue directed par excellence to the common good, and is found in ‘a commitment to the good of one’s neighbour with the readiness, in the Gospel sense, to ‘lose oneself’ for the sake of the other instead of exploiting him, and to ‘serve him’ instead of oppressing him for one’s own advantage.” The Compendium cautions that caring for one another, in accordance with the principle of solidarity, must be balanced with the requirement that all be free and responsible for their own actions, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. “Solidarity without subsidiarity,” the Compendium warns, “can easily degenerate into a ‘Welfare State’, while subsidiarity without solidarity runs the risk of encouraging forms of self-centred localism. In order to respect both of these fundamental principles, the State’s intervention in the economic environment must be neither invasive nor absent, but commensurate with society’s real needs.”



Read more in Chapter 4, Part 6 of the *Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching* by scanning the QR code or at <https://catholicconscience.org/22308>

Here are just two political issues in which solidarity must be considered: healthcare, and Indigenous reconciliation.

Healthcare

The Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching states that “The demands of the common good are dependent on the social conditions of each historical period and are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights.” “Basic health care” is described as one of these demands of the common good. The Compendium goes on to note that “Among the causes that greatly contribute to underdevelopment and poverty, mention must be made of illiteracy, lack of food security, the absence of structures and services, inadequate measures for guaranteeing basic healthcare, and the lack of safe drinking water and sanitation.”

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party proposes over \$40 billion in capital over 10 years for hospitals and other health infrastructure, \$764 million over two years to provide nurses with up to \$5,000 retention bonus, and \$42.5 million over two years to support expansion of medical education and training.

NDP POLICY: The party has committed to working with the federal government to strengthen and accelerate the expansion of dental care. The party has committed to eliminating the surgical backlog by identifying and publicizing the number of delayed procedures and publishing regular progress reports.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party has committed to raising PSW base pay to at least \$25/ hour and increase wages for health care workers. The party has also committed to increasing wages for health workers across home and community care, long-term care and hospitals.



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Indigenous Reconciliation

The Canadian Catholic Church supported the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. An injustice done to one Canadian is an injustice done to all Canadians, and the injustice done against Indigenous Peoples throughout our history—and to this day—are grave, sinful, and a violation of human dignity. As Catholics, we are called to participate in the reconciliation process and to consider how our vote will help to heal our communities. As well, we must consider how the parties we are voting for intend to support thriving Indigenous communities in Ontario, rooted in their unique cultures and traditions, and human dignity for all Indigenous citizens.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party proposes investing \$9 million over three years to support the nine Indigenous governed and operated Indigenous Institutes. This includes funding for the Indigenous Institutes operating grant to expand postsecondary program offerings including new, independently delivered programs to train more Indigenous learners. The party proposes investing \$25 million over three years to support Indigenous communities, including providing Indigenous-owned businesses and entrepreneurs with working capital to ensure continued business operations.

NDP POLICY: The party has committed to implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ensure Indigenous Peoples in Ontario are treated equitably under the law. The party has committed to immediately ending boil water advisories in Ontario, and working with the federal government to fund needed water infrastructure in First Nations communities.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party has no known policy proposal related to Indigenous Reconciliation.

Catholic social teaching places special responsibilities and moral duties on those who wield political authority, particularly our elected representatives. As Catholics, we must hold our representatives to these moral standards. “Those with political responsibilities must not forget or underestimate the moral dimension of political representation, which consists in the commitment to share fully in the destiny of the people and to seek solutions to social problems. In this perspective, responsible authority also means authority exercised with those virtues that make it possible to put power into practice as service (patience, modesty, moderation, charity, efforts to share), an authority exercised by persons who are able to accept the common good, and not prestige or the gaining of personal advantages, as the true goal of their work.”



Read more in Chapter 8, Part 4c of the *Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching* by scanning the QR code or at <https://catholicconscience.org/22309>

Here are just two federal political issues in which solidarity must be considered: stewardship of public funds and responsible, ethical government.

“Being at the service of its citizens, the State is the steward of the people’s resources, which it must administer with a view to the common good’. Excessive bureaucratization is contrary to this vision and arises when ‘institutions become complex in their organization and pretend to manage every area at hand.” To properly steward the people’s resources and aim them at the common good, our elected representatives must responsibly manage public funds and govern with the highest sense of responsibility and ethics.

Stewardship of Public Funds

Responsible, Ethical Government

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party proposes increasing government spending by an annual average of over five per cent over the next three years, with investments in health care, infrastructure and other critical public services. The party states that it will eliminate Ontario’s deficit two years earlier than projected in the 2021 Budget.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY: The party has no known official policy statement on responsible, ethical government.

NDP POLICY: The party states that a pandemic recovery will require sizeable investments. The party proposes working towards an ever-decreasing debt-to-GDP ratio through a mixture of responsible fiscal management, economic growth, and ensuring that the wealthiest among us pay their fair share.

NDP POLICY: The party proposes ensuring that police oversight bodies are effective, responsive, and truly independent and transparent, including the SIU, so that the system is accountable to communities. The party proposes Metrolinx proactively shares its progress and decision-making, including contracts, financing, and consultant studies. Board meetings should be made open to the public, deputations should be permitted, and the public and experts should be meaningfully and regularly engaged at all stages of key decisions.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party has no known official policy statement on stewardship of public funds.

LIBERAL POLICY: The party has no known official policy statement on responsible, ethical government.



Read the *Progressive Conservative government's pre-election budget* by scanning the QR code or at <https://catholicconscience.org/22101>



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