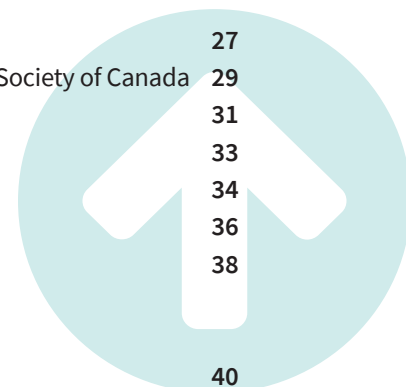


The Philanthropist

**Policy
Matters
2019**



POLICY FOCUS	NAME	ORGANIZATION	
Accessibility	Kat Clarke	CNIB Foundation	1
Anti-Discrimination	Janet Butler-McPhee	Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network	2
	Alexander Dirksen	Community Knowledge Exchange	5
	Ladan Egeh	SisterCode	7
	Amira Elghawaby	Canadian Anti-Hate Network	9
	Oumalker Idil Kalif	Femmes Noires Musalmanes au Québec	11
	Helen Kennedy	Egale Canada	14
Arts and Culture	Kate Cornell	Canadian Arts Coalition, Canadian Dance Assembly	15
	Robin Sokolski	MASS Culture and Playwrights Guild of Canada	16
Charitable and Non-Profit Sector	Alexa Briggs	Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations	17
	Lisa Davey	Association of Fundraising Professionals Canada	19
	Lisa Lalande	Mowat NFP	21
	Karen Link	Volunteer Alberta, Alberta Nonprofit Network	23
	Laurence Therrien	Imagine Canada	25
Children and Youth	Robyn Blackadar	PolicyWise for Children & Families	27
	Cindy Blackstock	First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada	29
	Dylan Cohen	Fostering Change	31
	Rachel Gouin	Child Welfare League of Canada	33
	Tesfai Mengesha	Success Beyond Limits	34
	Saeed Selvam	Laidlaw Foundation	36
	Lisa Wolff	UNICEF Canada	38
Climate Action	Stella Bowles	Youth Environmental Advocate	40
	Tim Gray	Environmental Defence	42
	Daimen Hardie	Community Forests International	43
	Sidney Ribaux	Équiterre	45



Gender Equity

Anjum Sultana	YWCA Canada	46
Pamela Uppal	Ontario Nonprofit Network	48

Housing and Poverty

Geordie Dent	Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations	50
Sara Middleton	United Way Elgin Middlesex	52
Martha Powell	London Community Foundation	54
Melanie Redman	A Way Home Canada	55
Nick Saul	Community Food Centres Canada	57

International Aid

Paul Hagerman	Canadian Foodgrains Bank	58
---------------	--------------------------	----

Mental Health

Adelle Stewart	Do More Agriculture Foundation	59
----------------	--------------------------------	----

Northern Communities

Navarana Beveridge	Qikiqtani Inuit Association	60
--------------------	-----------------------------	----

Official Languages

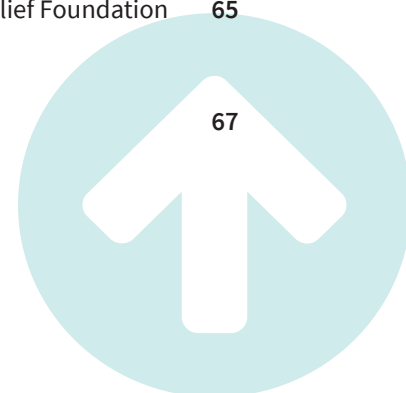
Daniel Boucher	Société de la francophonie manitobaine	62
----------------	--	----

Settlement

Nabil Ali	International Development and Relief Foundation	65
-----------	---	----

Sport

Samantha Rogers	Relate Social Capital	67
-----------------	-----------------------	----



Many non-profit organizations, networks, and coalitions see elections as a critical opportunity to raise relevant public policy issues. Over the past several years, the rules for charities engaging in public policy have become a prominent source of debate and discussion in government and the sector. As we counted down to the 43rd federal election in 2019, *The Philanthropist* asked non-profit leaders about their top of mind public policy issues.

This is a collection of some of their responses.

The Philanthropist Editorial Team,
Agora Foundation

August 2019



KAT CLARKE

CNIB Foundation

What current election issues might impact your work?

Federal parties often focus on the economy and job creation: more jobs, better jobs. A job is so much more than just a paycheck: it's a means to self-reliance, a source of identity and pride, and a gateway to a brighter future. At CNIB, we are committed to accessible jobs. Canadians who are blind or partially sighted have a full-time employment rate of 28% – one of the most underemployed groups in the country. To boost participation in the world of work, Canadians with sight loss must have access to assistive technology. We're also campaigning for more inclusive work spaces.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

Technology can level the playing field for Canadians who are blind or partially sighted – especially in the workplace – but only when it's accessible, available, and affordable. CNIB wants to ensure Canadians with sight loss have access to affordable data plans, reliable broadband internet and assistive technology. Through our Re-Vision ADP (Assistive Devices Program) campaign in Ontario, we're advocating for a modernized program (it hasn't been updated in 20 years). CNIB's Phone It Forward program is putting smartphones in the hands of Canadians with sight loss, but it's not enough. The government must play a stronger role in providing assistive technology.

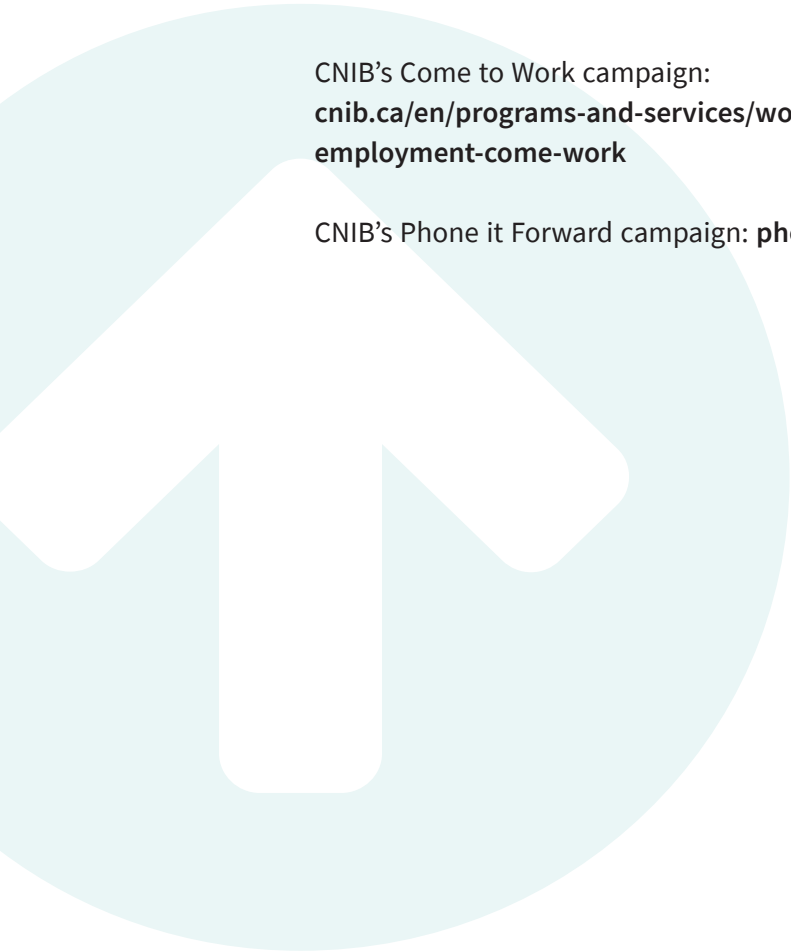
Where can we learn more about these issues?

CNIB's advocacy campaigns:
cnib.ca/en/support-us/advocate



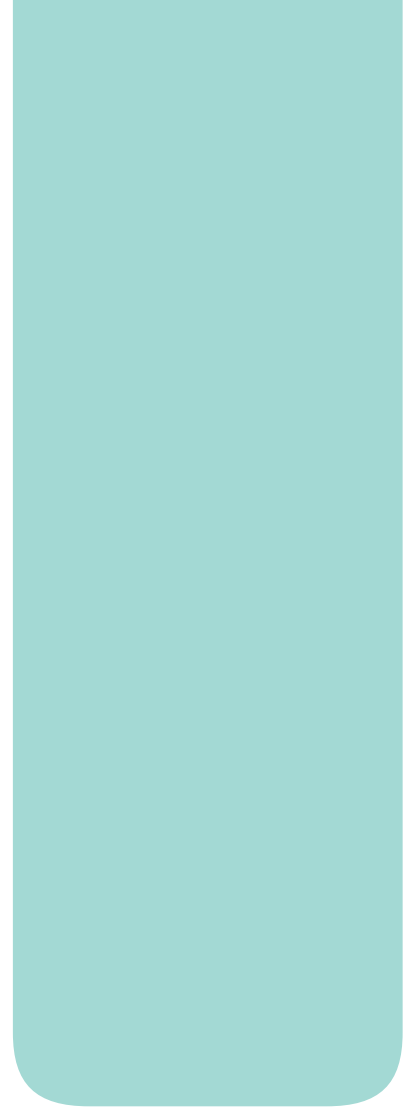
POLICY FOCUS:
Accessibility





CNIB's Come to Work campaign:
cnib.ca/en/programs-and-services/work/im-looking-employment-come-work

CNIB's Phone it Forward campaign: phoneitforward.ca



JANET BUTLER-MCPHEE

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

What current election issues might impact your work?

I am deeply concerned about the human rights of people who use drugs and their access to supervised consumption services, as well as to safer drug supply. Currently, Canada is in the midst of an unprecedented overdose crisis fuelled by a fentanyl-contaminated supply. People are needlessly dying at alarming rates, and the numbers are staggering. We need to talk openly about decriminalization and the health benefits of removing the criminal law from the lives of people who use drugs. This is not about perceived morality; it's about human rights and equitable access to health care for all people in Canada.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

At the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, we work to promote the human rights of people living with, at risk of, or affected by HIV or AIDS, in Canada and around the world.

I have always worked from a rights-based, feminist perspective, and would like to see more attention given to the issues of people whose voices are typically excluded. In an election context, it's to address the vocal majority's concerns, but that's not how our democracy will truly advance. We should listen to sex workers who require safer working conditions, prisoners who need access to health care, people living with HIV who are being unjustly criminalized, and others — including Indigenous and other racialized people — whose human rights are being trampled. We must also adequately fund the organizations that are already doing this critical work.



POLICY FOCUS:
Anti-Discrimination



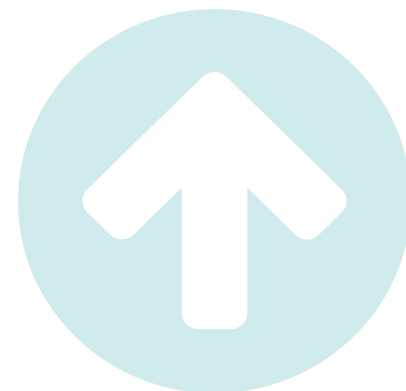
Where can we learn more about these issues?

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network: aidslaw.ca

Prison Health Now: prisonhealthnow.ca

Canadian Coalition to Reform HIV Criminalization
(CCRHC): hivcriminalization.ca

Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform:
sexworklawreform.com



ALEXANDER DIRKSEN

Community Knowledge Exchange (CKX)

What current election issues might impact your work?

CKX is committed to a growing movement of people and communities recentring and amplifying voices marginalized by the current power structures rooted in colonization, capitalism, white supremacy, patriarchy, and all the toxic “-isms” that seek to divide us as peoples.

The rise of nationalist populist rhetoric seeks to slow the momentum of this movement — whether it be the Islamophobic Bill 21 in Quebec, the dismissal of Indigenous sovereignty as it relates to pipeline development, or xenophobic statements from across the political spectrum on asylum law and policy. Meaningful progress on issues of social and environmental justice that has been made over the past decade is being challenged, tested, and clawed back on a number of fronts.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

As a country, we remain far too complacent around the ways in which our politics and our political discourse is just as susceptible to the toxic forces of misogyny, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia as anywhere else. As the election nears, we need to be actively aware and vigilant in resisting efforts by politicians to divide, “other,” or marginalize us from our friends and neighbours. And as we engage with candidates, we need to be critical of “solutions” to policy challenges (e.g. changing economic conditions, increasing energy needs) that come at the expense of/on the backs of historically marginalized voices and the next generations.



POLICY FOCUS:
Anti-Discrimination



Where can we learn more about these issues?

Diversifying your news sources (what you read and who you follow) will provide a more nuanced perspective on policy issues in advance of the election. I would also recommend the following toolkits (and supporting the organizations that created them!):

Rivers of Hope Toolkit: riversofhopetoolkit.ca

Indigenous Ally Toolkit (Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network): reseaumtlnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Ally_March.pdf



LADAN EGEH

SisterCode

What current election issues might impact your work?

In many of my group discussions with the talented women with whom I work, we discuss what change would look like. It is not just the education system that is working against racialized youth but the health, criminal justice, and immigration systems, among other things that marginalize many Canadians. On the local level there has been great work in trying to address the root causes of this systemic racism. City Council passed the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism in 2017. It has 22 recommendations and 80 action items that include education. I would be interested in seeing how the federal government delivers on its anti-racism strategy after the election.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

Moving forward into this election, we need leaders who understand and are intentional about wanting to alleviate struggle. Education remains out of federal jurisdiction, however, the issues I have discussed include change beyond policy shifts to education. In this election, we should be interested in a leader whose platform is understanding of the deep-rooted causes of hate, oppression, and bigotry, someone with a multi-layered and comprehensive approach to implementing change.

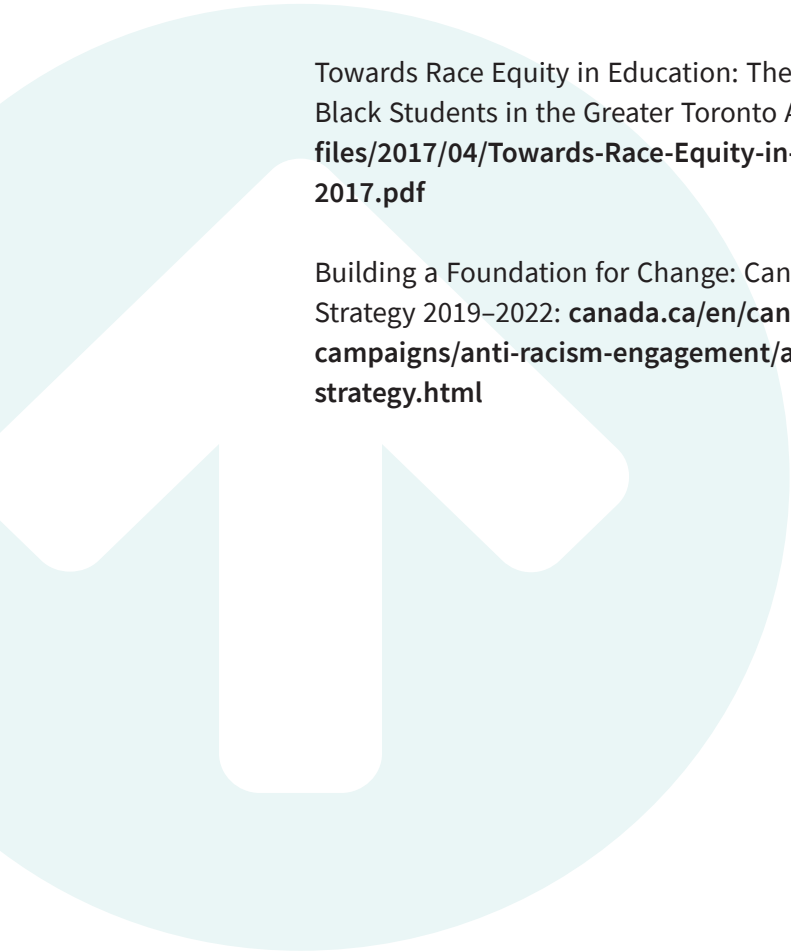
Where can we learn more about these issues?

Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism:
toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2017/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-109127.pdf



POLICY FOCUS:
Anti-Discrimination





Towards Race Equity in Education: The Schooling of Black Students in the Greater Toronto Area: edu.yorku.ca/files/2017/04/Towards-Race-Equity-in-Education-April-2017.pdf

Building a Foundation for Change: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2019–2022: canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/anti-racism-engagement/anti-racism-strategy.html



AMIRA ELGHAWABY

Canadian Anti-Hate Network

What current election issues might impact your work?

We're very concerned about the rise of far-right, white supremacist hate groups in Canada right now. We are worried that the federal election campaign will become divisive around issues of immigration and multiculturalism.

This will ultimately impact minority communities because it is they who often face the backlash whenever debates about belonging, and inclusion occur – as we saw in the federal election in 2015.

We know that online hate can spread quickly and that hate groups are trying to mobilize on various platforms. Foreign interference may also play a role; the CBC has already confirmed that foreign actors have weaponized immigration and pipelines as issues to stoke division in Canada. We hope that the election will not lead to a rise in far-right activity, but it most certainly could.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

Indigenous communities have welcomed immigrants to this land for generations. Canada has thrived because of the contributions of people from all around the world. It is of the utmost importance that elected officials, and those vying for public office, be absolutely clear that Canada's diversity must be cherished, nurtured, and protected. Our values of compassion, humanity, acceptance are threatened by right-wing populist movements deliberately spreading fear and mistrust of various communities, including of newly-arrived immigrants and refugees. Every party should be clear on how it will combat rising hate and how it will stand up for values that promote social cohesion.



POLICY FOCUS:
Anti-Discrimination



Where can we learn more about these issues?

Learn about the work of the Canadian Anti-Hate Network here: antihate.ca

For analysis of a range of related issues, read this collection of commentaries: amiraelghawaby.net/news-1

The Canadian Human Rights Commission is mandated to promote and uphold human rights across Canada: chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/eng

Visit the Institute for Canadian Citizenship to read more about supporting newcomers: icc-icc.ca



OUMALKER IDIL KALIF

Femmes Noires Musulmanes au Québec

What current election issues might impact your work?

Given the current political climate in Quebec, a greater and more pragmatic understanding of the realities related to racism and Islamophobia is more crucial than ever. Bill 21, for example, now a law, is being challenged in the courts, pitting the provincial government against the civil society it is supposed to represent. Quebec is showing, in no un-certain terms, how the violation of Canadians' fundamental rights can further tear the social fabric that is meant to hold society together. How can we foster stronger social cohesion when political strategies of this nature are being advanced by our leaders? How can Canada and Quebec be models of democracy if the very premise of the initiatives that are being put forward and endorsed by those in power is designed to systematically target communities that are already socially disenfranchised and economically impoverished?

Quels enjeux électoraux actuels pourraient avoir un impact sur votre travail?

Le climat politique du Québec invite à plus de compréhension pragmatique concernant les réalités liées au racisme et à l'islamophobie. Le projet de loi 21, par exemple, est un projet maintenant greffé à une poursuite judiciaire impliquant le gouvernement et sa société civile. À lui seul, le Québec démontre concrètement comment la violation des droits fondamentaux des Canadien(ne)s peut continuer à déchirer le tissu social d'une société. Comment en arriver à une cohésion sociale plus stable avec de tels projets politiques embrassés par des dirigeant(e)s ? En quoi le Canada et le Québec sont-ils des modèles de démocratie si la prémisse des initiatives



POLICY FOCUS:
Anti-Discrimination



proposées et endossées a pour but de systématiquement violenter davantage des populations déjà profondément marginalisées et appauvries ?

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

A genuine respect for the fundamental rights of all our citizens is what should inherently be guiding politics (and politicians) at all times and in all government departments. Femmes Noires Musulmanes au Québec advocates for black Muslim women in Quebec. We are one of many groups looking to find better ways to address the social inequality that undermines various segments of the population, many of them women, who are all too often overlooked when it comes time to engage in a conversation about ethical public policy. When will real corrective action be taken to ensure we respect the lessons that history has taught us? And how can we keep working together to strengthen our communities and our families?

Quels enjeux aimeriez-vous davantage mettre en valeur lors des élections?

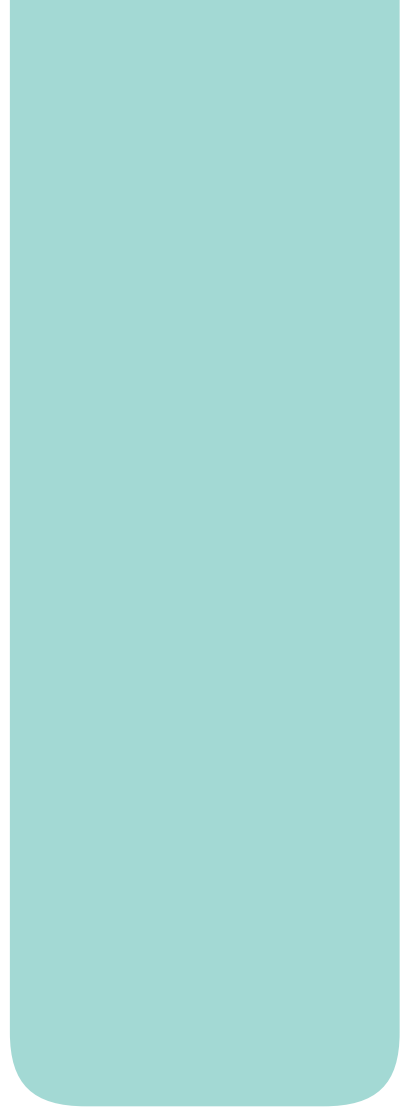
Le réel respect des droits fondamentaux des citoyen(ne)s est ce qui devrait intrinsèquement animer la politique (et le politique), à tout moment et dans tous les ministères. Le Collectif Femmes noires musulmanes au Québec, comme plusieurs autres groupes, cherche à mieux agir sur les inégalités sociales qui touchent surtout des femmes trop souvent oubliées lorsqu'il s'agit de réfléchir des politiques publiques intègres. À quand le devoir de mémoire incarné en réels dédommagements ? Comment allons-nous continuer à cheminer ensemble afin de renforcer nos communautés et nos familles ?

Where can we learn more about these issues? / Où pourrions-nous obtenir plus d'information au sujet de ces enjeux?

Why Black Muslim Women Are Organizing In Quebec: muslimlink.ca/news/why-black-muslim-women-are-launching-their-own-organization-in-quebec



Black Muslim women empowering each other to break stereotypes — within their own communities:
[cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/black-muslim-women-empowering-each-other-to-break-stereotypes-within-their-own-communities-1.5096136](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/black-muslim-women-empowering-each-other-to-break-stereotypes-within-their-own-communities-1.5096136)



HELEN KENNEDY

Egale Canada

What current election issues might impact your work?

With any election there are always going to be changes. In the past we have seen funding cut, re-allocated or just non-existent, we have seen discrimination increase or decrease based on a party's values. We have been on an upwards trajectory in recent years when it comes to LGBTQI2S rights in Canada with several laws passed, the apology, and more. We need to keep that momentum going. There is so much more that needs to be done to advance LGBTQI2S rights in Canada and beyond and we have seen with our counterparts in the US just how easy it can be to slide backwards.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

In addition to issues of mental health and homelessness and housing for LGBTQI2S youth and seniors, and on-going concerns related to the blood ban, intersex rights (the 'I' in LGBTQI2S) continue to be a pressing issue in Canada. Despite ongoing advocacy, intersex people in Canada continue to face horrifying human rights violations. Surgeries on intersex children have been condemned by the United Nations, yet continue to take place across the country. Canada has been urged to adhere to the UN Convention Against Torture by prohibiting non-consensual medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex children. It is our goal at Egale to create more awareness about the struggles faced by the intersex community in Canada and to continue to strive for policies and legislation that protect LGBTQI2S people through research, education, and community engagement.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Egale Canada website: egale.ca



POLICY FOCUS:
Anti-Discrimination



KATE CORNELL

Canadian Arts Coalition and Canadian Dance Assembly

What current election issues might impact your work?

Climate change is sure to affect everyone's work dramatically in the next 11 years. Climate change and how to respond is very likely to be the central issue in this upcoming federal election. In the performing arts, reaching Canadian audiences is challenging and expensive, and touring leaves a significant carbon footprint. Currently, not many Canadian artists or arts organizations are thinking about the carbon footprint of their work because of the scarcity mindset. One leader in this area is Kendra Fry (Creative Collisions) and her work to revitalize faith-based spaces for arts organizations as cultural hubs.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

The Canadian Arts Coalition developed a comprehensive list of election issues important to the arts sector, such as training and space. The Coalition has reached out to the major federal parties to encourage them to include the arts in their platforms. For me, the most important recommendation from the Coalition is for a broad-based horizontal approach to Indigenous artists within multiple departments with federal support for language development, training, hubs and spaces, and presentation. Canada has historically under-served Indigenous peoples and it is time to recognize and fully support Indigenous artists.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Canadian Arts Coalition Federal Election Platform 2019:
canadianartscoalition.com/canadian-arts-coalitions-federal-election-platform-2019



POLICY FOCUS:
Arts and Culture



ROBIN SOKOLOSKI

Mass Culture and Playwrights Guild of Canada

What current election issues might impact your work?

The Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage recently presented a list of recommendations in its *Shifting Paradigms* report. This report recognizes the very real impact of unintended consequences following 2012 changes to the Copyright Act. If adopted, these recommendations will foster positive, sustainable conditions for Canada's writers, artists and publishers, and benefit students and educators at every level by encouraging continued investment in high-quality Canadian content.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

Discovering innovative ways of supporting our artistic content – our nation's stories. There is a direct correlation between spectrum auctions and artistic content. A percentage of the dollars raised through spectrum auctions should be allocated towards supporting artists (both in the creative industries and non-profits) and the development of their work.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Shifting Paradigms, 2019 Report of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage: ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/CHPC/Reports/RP10481650/chpcrp19/chpcrp19-e.pdf

I Value Canadian Stories campaign: ivaluecanadianstories.ca

Here's what Jim Flaherty should do with those billions from the spectrum auction, *Globe and Mail*, 2014: theglobeandmail.com/arts/heres-what-jim-flaherty-should-do-with-those-billions-from-the-spectrum-auction/article17071868



POLICY FOCUS:
Arts and Culture



thephilanthropist.ca

ALEXA BRIGGS

Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations

What current election issues might impact your work?

CCVO often takes cues on important issues for the sector, by hearing from the sector. More than 500 non-profits across Alberta recently responded to CCVO's Annual Nonprofit Survey and here's a sneak peek into the top-of-mind federal election issues:

1. Recognition from the federal government of the social and economic value of the non-profit sector.
2. Better support from the federal government on:
 - Professional development and training;
 - Technology improvements; and
 - Canada Revenue Agency regulations.
3. Support for financial stability through:
 - Sustainable, flexible, and non-programmatic funding;
 - Social innovation; and
 - Tax incentives that encourage philanthropy.

CCVO will prepare a brief that highlights these major themes.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

We'd like to draw attention to the influence and the importance of the non-profit sector by encouraging non-profits to get out the vote with CCVO's #nonprofitsvote campaign. There are more than 26,000 non-profit organizations in Alberta alone – made up of committed staff, volunteers, board members and people who access services. Non-profits contribute to Canada's economic engine, and the social and cultural fabric of our



POLICY FOCUS:

Charitable and Non-Profit Sector



communities. They strengthen civic and democratic engagement by amplifying the voices of those who might not otherwise be heard. If we use our collective voice to encourage #nonprofitsvote, we can make a difference.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

CCVO's Nonprofit Federal Vote Kit: #nonprofitsvote:
calgarycvo.org/federal-vote-kit

Highlights of the Alberta provincial #nonprofitsvote campaign: calgarycvo.org/ccvo-blog/thank-you-nonprofitsvote



LISA DAVEY

Association of Fundraising Professionals Canada

What current election issues might impact your work?

Donations are essential to the charitable and non-profit sector's ability to facilitate social change. Although Canadians give generously, the number of those who give is on the decline. If this trend continues, it has the potential to jeopardize our sector's ability to address the gap between the rising need for services and the ability of society to pay for them. Incentivizing donations is one important way to help reduce this trend. Maintaining current tax incentives for donations and considering new incentives is an important issue for the more than 3,500 members of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) in Canada. Eliminating the capital gains tax on charitable gifts of private company shares and real estate, as recommended by the Special Senate Committee on the Charitable Sector in its report on our sector, would make an important contribution to the continued well-being of Canadians.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

Mobilizing caring Canadians today is more important than ever before, and the government has an important role to play in creating policies that enable charities and non-profits to address critical issues facing our country. Most Canadians are not aware of the sector's size and scope. Representing 8.5% of gross domestic product in our country, the charitable and non-profit sector employs 2.4 million Canadians. A significant part of our country's economy is governed by a number of different departments and agencies depending on the particular issue. The Special Senate Committee on the Charitable Sector recognized the importance of the sector through its 42



POLICY FOCUS:
Charitable and Non-Profit Sector



recommendations to strengthen it. Incentivizing donations and volunteering, raising awareness and greater collaboration with the government will enable this sector to impact the challenges faced by communities across our country.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Special Senate Committee on the Charitable Sector report: *Catalyst for Change: A Roadmap to a Stronger Charitable Sector*: sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/421/CSSB/Reports/CSSB_Report_Final_e.pdf

Statistics Canada Non-profit institutions and volunteering: Economic contribution, 2007 to 2017: www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/190305/dq190305a-eng.htm

30 years of giving in Canada: the giving behaviour of Canadians: who gives, how, and why?: rhf-frh.ca/our-initiatives/giving/thirty-years-of-giving-in-canada

Association of Fundraising Professionals Canada: afpglobal.org/afp-canada



LISA LALANDE

Mowat NFP

What current election issues might impact your work?

The decisions made by policymakers can have a profound and lasting impact on people's lives and the communities they live in. It is critical that social policy decisions are consistently and effectively guided by the best possible evidence. This means supporting the generation of evidence, as well as the process of putting this evidence in the hands of policymakers and practitioners. Especially given the current erosion of evidence in the public discourse, government has an important role to play in funding these critical activities. This will ensure that the knowledge generated and transmitted represents a breadth of non-partisan perspectives.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

The sector is facing significant funding pressures. Charitable giving is declining and funding cuts from government are becoming the new norm. We need better data on how the sector – and the communities they serve – are impacted by these trends. Without it, policymakers risk proposing policy reforms that are outdated or ineffective.

The government should also explore strategies to incentivize giving and unlock new sources of revenue. For example, it can introduce regulations that would release funds from dormant bank accounts (in the UK, £400M was invested in community initiatives from dormant accounts).

These are examples of how the government can create an enabling environment for the sector. Following through with the Senate's recent study will ensure the best outcomes for Canadians.



POLICY FOCUS:

Charitable and Non-Profit Sector



Where can we learn more about these issues?

On building the evidence infrastructure, see Mowat NFP's Committing to Action: Next Step's for Canada's Evidence Ecosystem: mowatcentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/publications/188_line_committing_to_action.pdf

On enabling the charitable sector in Canada, see Mowat NFP's Breaking the Inertia paper: mowatcentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/publications/181_EE_breaking_the_inertia.pdf

On dormant bank accounts, see MaRS' Investing Unclaimed Assets For Social Impact: impactinvesting.marsdd.com/unclaimed-assets/

On sector data needs, see CCVO's (Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations) submission to the Special Senate Committee on the Charitable Sector: static1.square-space.com/static/5aef5b46cef3728571e6c46c/t/5c0fe41f758d469566c55ca8/1544545313682/CCVO+Submission+to+the+Special+Senate+Committee+on+the+Charitable+Sector.pdf



KAREN LINK

Volunteer Alberta and Alberta Nonprofit Network

What current election issues might impact your work?

ABNN has identified a set of strategic issues of key importance to the sector as a whole. These priority issues are:

- Sector workforce development;
- Strengthening sector value and impact;
- Establishing a data strategy to support and inform responsive programs; and
- Improving government relations to bring sector voices to policy development and decision-making. Any federal policies, programs, funding, or reviews that will support or detract from these issues will impact our work. We need a cohesive policy agenda that includes reviewing and modernizing laws, policies, and funding models to help realize the public benefits of non-profits and voluntary organizations.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

To increase the impact of the non-profit sector, we require coordination and action on these issues:

- Supporting the non-profit sector's workforce through progressive initiatives related to pension plans, wages, training, recruitment, and retention;
- Demonstrating the value and impact of the non-profit sector to recognize it as indispensable for resilient communities and to leverage the sector to shape the future of society;
- Developing a non-profit data strategy that leverages technology and expertise to enhance data management/sharing, while also increasing capacity to collabo-



POLICY FOCUS:

Charitable and Non-Profit Sector



rate, communicate, impact, and use evidence to inform programs; and

- Enhancing policy and program-focused collaboration with all levels of government.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Alberta Nonprofit Network – ABNN Public Policy Agenda

Work: albertanonprofits.ca/Alberta-election-resources



LAURENCE THERRIEN

Imagine Canada

What current election issues might impact your work?

The sector is a critical part of the Canadian economy. Newly released statistics show a sector employing some 2.4 million people, comprising 8.5% of GDP and involving approximately 13 million volunteers every year.

The traditional financial underpinnings of this sector are undergoing a dramatic change. Our Chief Economist Brian Emmett has coined the term “social deficit” to describe the gap between the demand for services from charities and non-profits and the ability of society, primarily government, to pay for them. By 2026, Emmett predicts that the social deficit could be as large as \$23 billion — and will result in longer wait times, a strained labour force, and a decreased ability of charities and non-profits to serve their mission.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

As we prepare for the 2019 federal election, it is time for local, provincial, and national organizations to come together and ensure that issues affecting this sector are part of the national dialogue. We must ensure that elected leaders include and engage with charities, non-profits, social enterprises and other forms of social purpose organizations when they articulate their vision of Canada.

Imagine Canada is proposing a simple, three-part framework for inclusion in each of the party platforms for 2019:

A “home” in government, where a federal department, minister, agency, or secretariat is charged with promoting the sector as a whole, and where the unique impacts of federal policies on charities and non-profits are considered before decisions are finalized.



POLICY FOCUS:
Charitable and Non-Profit Sector



Enabling policies that will benefit both government and the sector, such as: better employment and economic data about charities and non-profits, social procurement, and community benefit agreement policies, and better access for charities and non-profits to existing government programs that support social enterprise, tech, and innovation.

Financial sustainability for organizations, which could include working with us to find ways to revitalize philanthropy, to ensure that organizations can take on social finance, and improve the way grants and contributions are administered.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Imagine Canada Election Hub:
live-imagine-canada.pantheonsite.io/election-hub



ROBYN BLACKADAR

PolicyWise for Children & Families

What current election issues might impact your work?

Child, youth, and family well-being is essential for a prosperous country. Canada is ranked 25th among the world's richest countries on issues of child health, survival, and protection. Our ability to generate evidence to support new policy development or measure the impact of existing policy on child, youth, and family well-being is dependent on government commitment. We advocate for an increase in the current level of federal funding and interest to conduct research, evaluation, and data analysis on social and health issues. National indicators of well-being should be adopted and tracked, and mandated action plans put in place to ensure measurable improvement.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

The over-representation of Indigenous children in the child welfare system. The implementation of Bill C-92 must be based on knowledge of distinctive needs of Indigenous communities. Using wellness and resiliency frameworks is critical for ensuring a focus on prevention and early intervention.

Canada's family justice system must be modernized to consider the best interests of the child, address family violence, help reduce child poverty, and become more accessible and efficient.

The impact on society of addictions and mental health issues must be addressed through increased support for mental health promotion and evidence-informed policy development.



POLICY FOCUS:
Children and Youth



Where can we learn more about these issues?

PolicyWise website: policywise.com

Canadian Child and Youth Wellbeing Index:
oneyouth.unicef.ca/en/child-and-youth-well-being-index

PolicyWise's Wellbeing and Resiliency: Evaluation Framework: policywise.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/well-being-resiliency-fmwk-evaluation-march2019.pdf

PolicyWise Mental Health Dashboard:
visualization.policywise.com/P2dashboard/?data=MentalHealth&year=2010-11



CINDY BLACKSTOCK

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society

What current election issues might impact your work?

The Caring Society is deeply concerned about the ongoing gaps and inequities in services for First Nations children and families. Candidates need to commit to providing equitable access to basics like clean water, safe housing, and properly-funded schools so that First Nations kids have a fair chance to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and feel proud of who they are.

In November, the federal government announced a new piece of Indigenous child welfare legislation. We need to make sure the legislation affirms First Nations jurisdiction, is properly resourced, responds to distinct community needs, and builds on the longstanding community efforts to promote healthy families so they can safely care for their children.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found Canada to be racially discriminating against more than 163,000 First Nations children in its provision of child and family services and its implementation of Jordan's Principle. Canada has yet to fully comply with the Tribunal's orders.

In response, the Caring Society's "Spirit Bear Plan to End Inequalities in Public Services for First Nations Children, Youth and Families" calls on the federal government to: fully comply with Tribunal rulings; have the Parliamentary Budget Officer publicly cost out shortfalls in federally-funded services provided to First Nations; evaluate government departments to identify discriminatory policies and practices; and offer mandatory training for all public servants.



POLICY FOCUS:
Children and Youth



Where can we learn more about these issues?

The Spirit Bear Plan is available online at fncaringsociety.com/SpiritBear

Read the ruling from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and learn more about the case at fnwitness.ca.

Learn more about equity for First Nations children and families through our Indigenous Knowledge Portal at fncaringsociety.com.



DYLAN COHEN

Fostering Change

What current election issues might impact your work?

Youth from care, systemically removed from their natural relationships and ejected from child welfare authorities at 18 or 19 years old, are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness and housing instability. Youth often navigate independence and face precarious housing in vulnerable circumstances. New data stemming from youth-specific point-in-time homeless counts and service providers demonstrates growing knowledge about the specific needs for services targeting homeless youth. We expect a federal commitment to action that addresses youth homelessness.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

Youth who are currently in the system are being overshadowed by conversation surrounding new federal child welfare legislation, Bill C-92. While the bill may be a significant step forward in reconciliation and improving Indigenous child welfare services, we are concerned that an emphasis on prevention brings youth who are currently in the system out of focus. Consequently, off-reserve and already apprehended youth are missed in this policy conversation, along with adequate supports for this population. Well-equipped youth could age into community successfully – rather than age out of care – when presented with an array of support services and programming complemented by government funding. Federal child welfare legislation must reflect an outcomes-driven system that is geared to youth success instead of eligibility criteria and funding.



POLICY FOCUS:
Children and Youth



Where can we learn more about these issues?

Indigenous Services Canada’s Federal legislation as an important step toward reducing the number of Indigenous children in foster care: canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2018/11/federal-legislation-as-an-important-step-toward-reducing-the-number-of-indigenous-children-in-foster-care.html

Cindy Blackstock’s article in *The Globe and Mail*: “For Indigenous kids’ welfare, our government knows better: it just needs to do better”: theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-for-indigenous-kids-welfare-our-government-knows-better-they-just

Judith Sayers article in The Tyee: “Good Intentions on Indigenous Child Welfare — and Many Questions”: theyee.ca/Opinion/2018/12/03/Indigenous-Child-Welfare-Good-Intentions-Questions



RACHEL GOUIN

Child Welfare League of Canada

What current election issues might impact your work?

The Child Welfare League of Canada aspires for all children to thrive, to know that they are loved and that they belong. We want more children to grow up with family and kin and be connected to their community, culture, and language. In this coming federal election, we want to see parties address the factors that are making families and children vulnerable: inequalities in housing, poverty, lack of supports for mental health and substance misuse, domestic violence, and the underfunding of Indigenous child and family services.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

Youth are now the biggest cohort of voters. We're excited to see how parties listen to young voters and what policies they'll propose to meet their needs. But let's remember that well-being in young adults begins with a great start in life. In this election, we want to bring attention to the needs of children and families, especially those who are facing the greatest challenges. Only by addressing the underlying causes of precarity and trauma will we reduce the number of children in care and the number of young people caught up in the justice system.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Child Welfare League of Canada: cwlc.ca

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society:
fncaringsociety.com

A Way Home Canada: awayhome.ca

Campaign 2000: campaign2000.ca



POLICY FOCUS:
Children and Youth



TESFAI MENGESHA

Success Beyond Limits

What current election issues might impact your work?

At Success Beyond Limits we aim to address the complex and interconnected systemic issues which coalesce to produce an opportunity gap in education for youth. The opportunity gap is the disparities in educational access, attainment, achievement and outcomes between groups of students, particularly for racialized and marginalized young people. Over the last decade, our work has demonstrated that access to adequate and affordable housing, meaningful and decent employment, accessible transportation, and a disproportionately punitive criminal justice system are all connected to success in education.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

Often policy interventions designed to address disparities in educational achievement and outcomes focus solely on the classroom and school, rather than root causes. These longstanding disparities in education persist as a result of policy decisions which largely do not account for the interconnected nature of the opportunity gap. Any effective effort to address these inequities require a coordinated and dedicated responses across ministries and levels of government. For example, recently in Ontario a Special Advisor to the Premier was appointed to work across ministries on the implementation of Community Hubs, which looked at repurposing schools as holistic sites of integrated service delivery. An intervention of this type scaled to the national level is one example of what a coordinated and interconnected intervention might look like, which can get us thinking of more multifaceted solutions that might have the potential to address structural root causes.



POLICY FOCUS:
Children and Youth



Where can we learn more about these issues?

Inequality Explained: The hidden gaps in Canada's education system: opencanada.org/features/inequality-explained-hidden-gaps-canadas-education-system

CITY – An Integrated System of Care: An Introduction: youtube.com/watch?v=0kcEnPQt5IM&feature=youtu.be

Success Beyond Limits: successbl.com



SAEED SELVAM

Laidlaw Foundation.

What current election issues might impact your work?

The National Youth Policy is an important step forward but like any progressive piece of legislation, it's all about how and when it gets implemented. Execution of any piece of policy is an art, it requires intentional urgency, deadlines, and top-down directives. Unfortunately, issues that young people face are rarely prioritized by governments unless a crisis strikes. This is due to the perceived and sometimes factual notion that youth don't turn out to vote in comparison to older voters. The global shift to populist rhetoric without facts or planning not only threatens youth development work but the work of many others in the social policy realm.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

Ongoing cuts to critical social services in Ontario are presenting growing challenges to the work and well-being of young people. The federal government has recently made some excellent investments in youth-led organizations which they deserve credit for. What is still lacking however is access to race-based data and data-tracking. We can't be afraid to have critical conversations on race and equity as they play key roles in furthering divisions which have broader economic impacts.

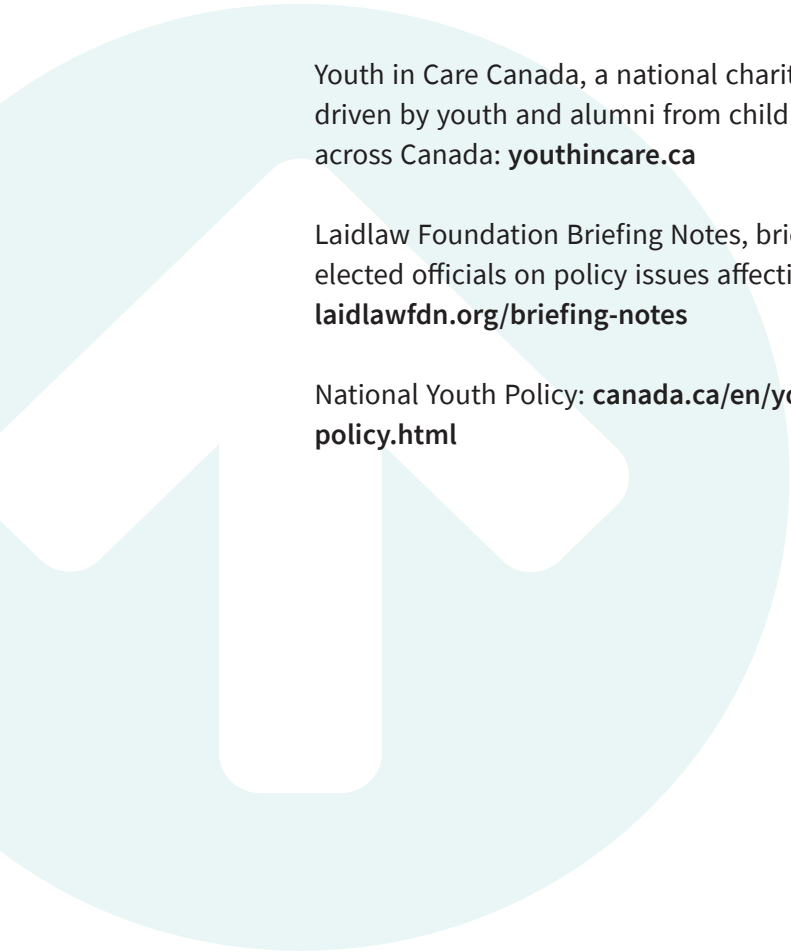
Where can we learn more about these issues?

Nikki Knows, a Toronto-based grassroots initiative elevating knowledge and understanding of issues affecting and affected by the Canadian Justice System (CJS): nikkiknows.org/about



POLICY FOCUS:
Children and Youth





Youth in Care Canada, a national charitable organization driven by youth and alumni from child welfare authorities across Canada: youthincare.ca

Laidlaw Foundation Briefing Notes, briefing notes for elected officials on policy issues affecting youth: laidlawfdn.org/briefing-notes

National Youth Policy: canada.ca/en/youth/programs/policy.html



LISA WOLFF

UNICEF Canada

What current election issues might impact your work?

Canada's eight million kids can't vote, but this election will directly affect them. Canada ranks 25th among the world's 41 richest countries in overall child and youth well-being. Wider income inequality has been having far-reaching impacts on Canada's children, affecting their health and safety, their happiness, and their aspirations. Climate change matters to this generation, and how Indigenous and newcomer children are included in equitable opportunities will shape the future of Canada. As federal parties and candidates roll out their promises, the extent to which they focus on family incomes, early child education and care, climate change, and equitable services for Indigenous children will determine if Canada will be among the best places to grow up.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

Federal parties that put forward policy commitments that will curb the impacts of wider income inequality and the anxiety and insecurity felt by Canada's families and children will take Canada to the top of international league tables of child and youth well-being. At UNICEF Canada we want the next federal government to add an income supplement to the Canada Child Benefit for the lowest income families with children to help reduce the rate of child poverty by 60%. We need to invest earlier in children's lives by dedicating 6% of the federal budget for children in Canada younger than six years old to ensure every child can access high quality early learning and care. Fairness for Indigenous children would end funding shortfalls in public services, including clean water, health care, education and protection, by implementing the Spirit Bear Plan.



POLICY FOCUS:
Children and Youth



Where can we learn more about these issues?

You can learn more about these issues by going to oneyouthcanada.ca and following us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook: @oneyouthcanada



STELLA BOWLES

youth environmental advocate and collaborator with Coastal Action and others.

What current election issues might impact your work?

Climate change and the health of our world is what every politician should be talking about as a priority.

One of the reasons I received attention for my river testing project is because I actually caused positive environmental change for my river, involving three levels of government. I have learned that positive outcomes for the environment don't happen very often.

The environment needs to be the priority for every decision in government moving forward. This should include a complete overhaul of the mindset that dumping substances into our waterways is a solution. It is not.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

There is a lot of talk about climate change, clean energy, cleaning the oceans, etc., but there doesn't seem to be enough action. As Greta Thunberg said, "We have to treat it like our house is on fire and we are running for a fire extinguisher!" I do not see this panic from many politicians in Canada and now we have oil expansion off the Atlantic coast! Expansion of oil and threat of spills to our oceans is not moving in the right direction.

There needs to be a fast and progressive move toward green jobs for future generations. The time to act is now. It's our last chance.

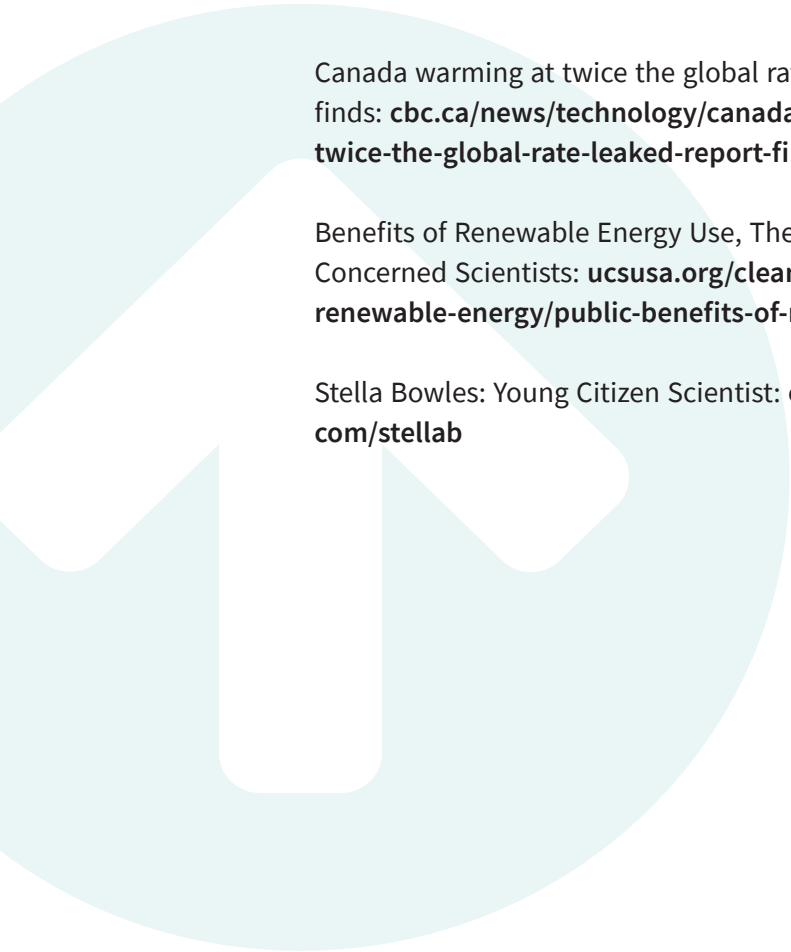
Where can we learn more about these issues?

Greta Thunberg's TED talk: The Disarming Case to Act Right Now on Climate: [ted.com/talks/greta_thunberg_the_disarming_case_to_act_right_now_on_climate](https://www.ted.com/talks/greta_thunberg_the_disarming_case_to_act_right_now_on_climate)



POLICY FOCUS:
Climate Action





Canada warming at twice the global rate, leaked report finds: [cbc.ca/news/technology/canada-warming-at-twice-the-global-rate-leaked-report-finds-1.5079765](https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/canada-warming-at-twice-the-global-rate-leaked-report-finds-1.5079765)

Benefits of Renewable Energy Use, The Union of Concerned Scientists: [ucsusa.org/clean-energy/renewable-energy/public-benefits-of-renewable-power](https://www.ucsusa.org/clean-energy/renewable-energy/public-benefits-of-renewable-power)

Stella Bowles: Young Citizen Scientist: earlgrey5.wixsite.com/stellab



TIM GRAY

Environmental Defence

What current election issues might impact your work?

The Canadian public is confused and discouraged by the incessant arguing between the federal and some provincial governments over carbon pricing, and all indications are that this will continue through the writ period. These arguments are baseless. All expert economic information available indicates that putting a price on carbon will reduce emissions and do so cost effectively.

The arguing and name-calling is a distraction from the more urgent, interesting, and hopeful conversation we should be having, about whether we are doing enough to actually move our society toward one that produces less pollution and uses cleaner energy.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

It is critical that there be deeper understanding in the public about how Canada can move to a cleaner energy system, how we can pay for it and what the economic and social benefits would be. This knowledge would set the stage for a more thoughtful conversation about meaningful climate action among politicians. The election will likely be almost a year exactly after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change started the 12-year countdown clock - our political conversation should be about the best approaches to drastically reduce emissions. We'd like to see conversations about climate solutions, so we can build a fair transition for workers and communities.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Environmental Defence: environmentaldefence.ca



POLICY FOCUS:
Climate Action



DAIMEN HARDIE

Community Forests International

What current election issues might impact your work?

Climate change is immediately and in various ways impacting communities and landscapes across Canada, which is increasingly visible in extreme weather events. The country urgently needs inclusive climate strategies that transition the country to a low-carbon economy and help our communities adapt to climate change.

Smart climate policy can drive economic growth that is inclusive. Community Forests International sees a huge opportunity for rural communities to participate in this transition, particularly by optimizing their natural assets for climate security. Rewarding rural communities for restoring, protecting, and managing the country's forests for carbon drawdown and storage is a leading example.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

In 2019, federal scientists announced that climate change is warming Canada twice as fast as the rest of the world. Extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change are costing Canadians, as seen in recent flooding events across the country.

Natural climate solutions are said to be among the most significant and cost-effective solutions to addressing the climate crisis. By investing in our natural ecosystems and valuing the services they provide us, we can help our communities become more resilient locally while curbing the severity of climate change globally. We need to bring our natural solutions like forests and the people most directly connected to these landscapes into the centre of our conversations on climate action.



POLICY FOCUS:
Climate Action



Where can we learn more about these issues?

Canada's Changing Climate Report: changingclimate.ca/CCCR2019/

Combatting Canada's Rising Flood Costs (Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation): intactcentreclimateadaptation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/IBC_Wetlands-Report-2018_FINAL.pdf

"Forests Are a Low-Tech but High-Impact Way to Fight Climate Change" by Han de Groot: scientificamerican.com/article/forests-are-a-low-tech-but-high-impact-way-to-fight-climate-change/

"Cashing in on carbon credit: An experiment in sustainable tree harvesting", CBC: cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/carbon-credits-community-forests-international-penobsquis-forestry-harvesting-1.3927786



SIDNEY RIBAUX

co-founder and former executive director of Equiterre

What current election issues might impact your work?

The current and most urgent election issue is climate change. What the parties and candidates will do and say regarding this will impact our work here at Equiterre during the election and after.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

We would like the parties to discuss and commit to climate solutions including, but also beyond, putting a price on carbon, which is taking up too much of the public debate. In light of the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on greenhouse gases guidelines, the focus of the election should be on reducing Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions using a variety of public policy tools. For instance, we would like candidates to commit to reducing emissions related to transportation (the second largest source of GHG emissions) through regulations that will increase the sale of Zero Emission Vehicles in Canada. The discussion during the election should also be about phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and building a greener economy using a Just Transition approach, that will minimize the impact on workers and communities, in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Information on renewable energy: aqper.com

Fossil fuel subsidies: equiterre.org/en/news/february-action-of-the-month-seeing-clearly-in-troubled-oily-water-understand-fossil-fuel-subsidi

Plug N' Drive: electric vehicle resources: plugndrive.ca



POLICY FOCUS:
Climate Action



ANJUM SULTANA

YWCA Canada

What current election issues might impact your work?

This election, YWCA Canada is concerned with the lack of dedicated discussion on the needs of women, trans, and non-binary people. We are alarmed with the scapegoating of migrants, the rising unaffordability of housing and child-care, and the climate crisis, which is magnifying existing gender inequities in Canada and globally. At YWCA Canada, our 32 member associations work across nine provinces and two territories in distinct geographies and with diverse equity-seeking communities. Through our work, we see what gets missed and who falls through the cracks when you don't apply an intersectional gender-based analysis (GBA+) to programs, policies, and practices.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

Women and non-binary people are not projects and gender equity cannot be achieved through piecemeal funding. The only way to address the gender gap is by working upstream to break apart systems of patriarchy and sexism, one policy at a time. Our work across Canada highlights the policy gaps we need to tackle to ensure everyone is able to achieve their full potential. That's why we are calling for a GBA+ lens to be applied to every component of the National Housing Strategy, a National Action Plan to Address Gender-Based Violence, and investments to establish Affordable Child Care for All.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

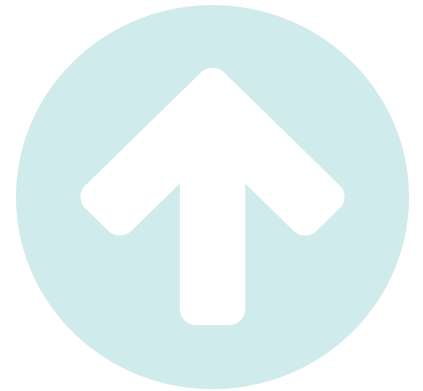
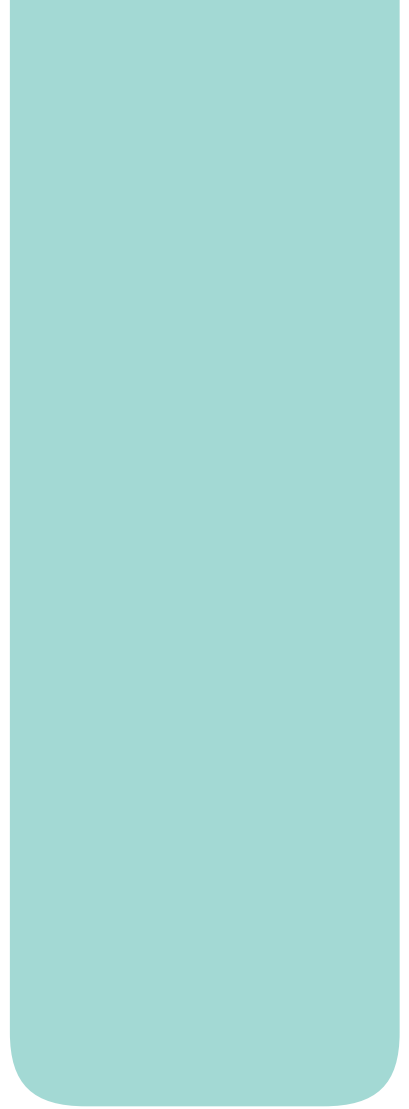
Endorse the Affordable Child Care for All Plan - email Anjum Sultana at asultana@ywcacanada.ca to find out more information: timeforchildcare.ca/the-affordable-child-care-for-all-plan



POLICY FOCUS:
Gender Equity



Read the *Blueprint for a National Action Plan on Addressing Gender-Based Violence*: endvaw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Blueprint-for-Canadas-NAP-on-VAW.pdf



PAMELA UPPAL

Ontario Nonprofit Network

What current election issues might impact your work?

In this election, ONN is closely monitoring issues that impact women's economic empowerment. While this can align with any number of issues (e.g. affordable housing, income security, gender-based violence), we are specifically interested in how the federal government facilitates decent work for women. This is because it plays a critical role in setting policy direction, has jurisdiction over key labour force levers, and can model equitable systems for other provinces/territories and countries.

In Canada, 47% of the labour force consists of women workers while women comprise 80% of the workforce in our non-profit sector. Labour is inherently gendered and racialized, and thus any work on women's economic empowerment must take into account the experiences of diverse women in the labour market. When policies use an intersectional gender lens, not only do they impact the most vulnerable women workers but also raise the floor for everyone.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

In Canada, women are more likely to be primary caregivers and work in precarious or low-wage industries and occupations with limited benefits, particularly racialized women, immigrant women, Indigenous women, women with disabilities and trans women. This significantly impacts their economic empowerment. Two solutions the federal government can implement are access to a high-quality and affordable childcare system and equitable employment insurance (EI) benefits.

Evidence across jurisdictions highlights how a high-quality and affordable childcare system can better



POLICY FOCUS:
Gender Equity



support women's participation in the labour force after having children and mitigate the gender wage gap over their lifecycle. An EI benefits system that has a lower number of hours required to qualify for benefits, no waiting periods, and a higher benefits replacement rate during maternity and parental leave can ensure more women qualify for EI and that there is a wider uptake of shared leave between parents.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Women's Voices - Stories about working in Ontario's Nonprofit Sector: theonn.ca/our-work/our-people/decent-work/womens-voices

No equality without universal child care:
childcarecanada.org/blog/no-equality-without-universal-child-care

“Expanding How We Think About Women's Economic Empowerment in Canada's Non-Profit Sector”:
thephilanthropist.ca/2019/07/expanding-how-we-think-about-womens-economic-empowerment-in-canadas-non-profit-sector

ONN Employment Insurance Policy Brief
<https://theonn.ca/our-work/our-people/decent-work/ei-policy-brief/>



GEORDIE DENT

Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations

What current election issues might impact your work?

For the Tenant Federation, the roll-out and expansion of the federal National Housing Strategy will have significant impact on our work. From the 1940s to the 1960s most of the affordable housing (owned and rental) was built in Canada with subsidies from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In the 1990s, the federal government abandoned the housing file, returning to the issue again in 2016. The amount of funding allocated and the number of new units being built will have a major impact – if both are big enough.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

The need for more housing – specifically Indigenous housing – needs attention. But also the fact that broad housing programs existed decades ago, and they need to return. Indigenous housing has been at a crisis point for decades, with critical needs in terms of mould, structural issues, and a lack of maintenance causing major health issues. Cat Lake First Nation declared a state of emergency over their housing recently. Vancouver and Toronto, meanwhile, are in the midst of major crises related to a lack of rental supply and major price escalation, while housing costs are shooting up in most areas of the country.

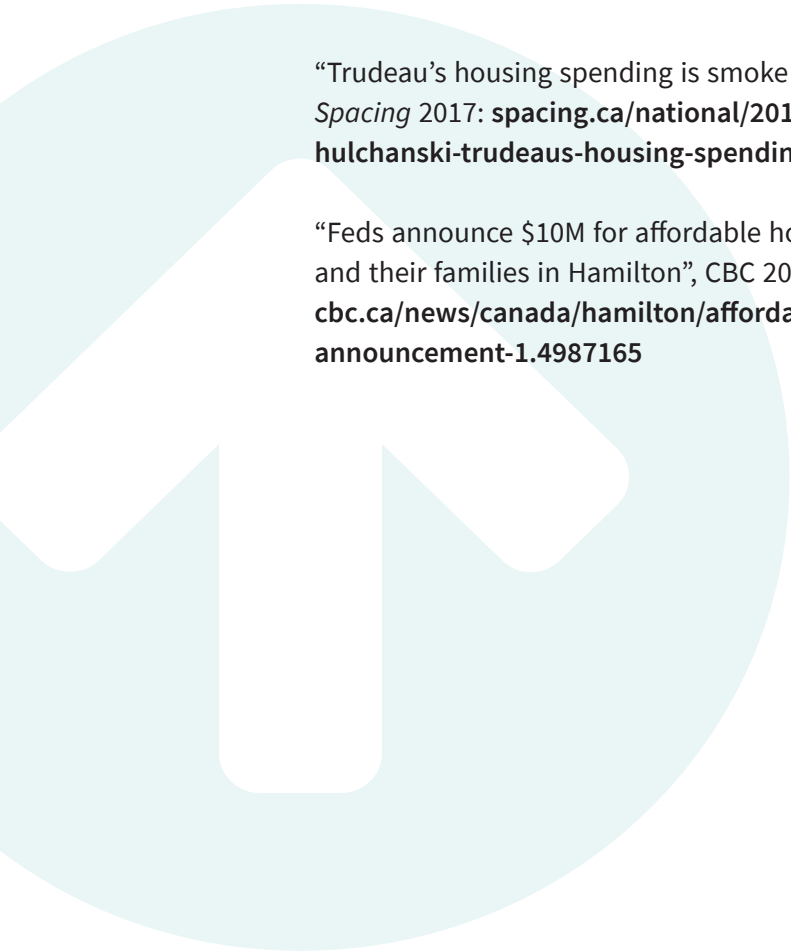
Where can we learn more about these issues?

“Cat Lake First Nation declares state of emergency over illness, death from ‘profoundly poor’ housing”, CBC 2019: [cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/cat-lake-state-of-emergency-1.4982734](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/cat-lake-state-of-emergency-1.4982734)



POLICY FOCUS:
Housing and Poverty





“Trudeau’s housing spending is smoke and mirrors”,
Spacing 2017: [spacing.ca/national/2017/04/05/
hulchanski-trudeaus-housing-spending-smoke-mirrors](https://spacing.ca/national/2017/04/05/hulchanski-trudeaus-housing-spending-smoke-mirrors)

“Feds announce \$10M for affordable housing for women
and their families in Hamilton”, CBC 2019:
[cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/affordable-housing-
announcement-1.4987165](https://cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/affordable-housing-announcement-1.4987165)



SARA MIDDLETON

United Way Elgin Middlesex

What current election issues might impact your work?

There is increasing public awareness and agreement that poverty impacts everyone. But because of deeply embedded social and structural inequities, some groups, including Indigenous people, are more likely to live in poverty. If the federal election brings attention to systemic inequities and a commitment to a full and complete implementation of the TRC Calls to Action as a way to address challenges faced by Indigenous people in our community, this will support our organization's continued efforts to end poverty. Conversely, negative election storylines related to diversity or equality could be a distraction from realizing solutions to deeply embedded social challenges like poverty.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

As federal public investments for infrastructure continue to flow to communities, public policy goals like the development of local economies or the reduction of poverty could be accomplished simultaneously through the implementation of Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs). CBAs deliver training and job opportunities to equity-seeking or vulnerable groups; provide procurement opportunities for local suppliers offering needed goods and services; and can include other supplementary benefits like new public assets. Infrastructure Canada announced a Community Employment Benefits initiative under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program in June 2018, but the policy could be broader in its application and content and more Canadians should be aware of it.



POLICY FOCUS:
Housing and Poverty



Where can we learn more about these issues?

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada:
rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1450124405592/1529106060525

London for All: A Roadmap to End Poverty:
unitedwayem.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/London-for-All-final-report.pdf

Community Benefits Agreements: Empowering Communities to Maximize Returns on Public Infrastructure Investments:
unitedway.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/UWCC-Supplemental-Policy-Paper-Community-Benefits-Agreements.pdf

Community Benefits Agreements:
communitybenefitsagreements.ca



MARTHA POWELL

London Community Foundation

What current election issues might impact your work?

Affordable housing in Canada is a huge issue, and so is appropriate housing. Mental health and addictions, homelessness, and poverty all contribute to this need. When I say appropriate, I mean not just a roof over someone's head, but the right roof that provides the supports to ensure people and families are housed in sustainable homes that meet their individual needs. Wrap around supports are paramount. Governments must work collectively with organizations such as community foundations to change the game through innovative investment, not just throwing dollars at these issues.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

A provincial- and indeed country-wide coordination of mental health and addictions funding strategy is needed. This will ensure a thorough mapping of the landscape and service delivery so that no one falls through the cracks. Less bureaucracy and funding envelopes (right now there is so much overlap) to a streamlined solution. You can't streamline when you have so many different funding bodies and regulators.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Niagara Mental Health and Addictions Charter:
<http://www.niagaraknowledgeexchange.com/resources-publications/niagara-mental-health-and-addictions-charter>



POLICY FOCUS:
Housing and Poverty



MELANIE REDMAN

A Way Home: Working Together to End Youth Homelessness in Canada

What current election issues might impact your work?

There are many factors that contribute to homelessness, many of them structural. Key structural factors that contribute to homelessness include social and economic conditions like poverty, violence, inadequate education, underemployment, and lack of affordable housing. Other contributing factors include discrimination in the form of homophobia, transphobia, racism, bullying, and the experience of colonialism. These structural factors not only contribute to housing precarity for individuals and their families, but can manifest at the community level as well. Current election issues that tie to these factors include:

- Affordable housing
- Mental health
- Provincial health transfers
- Child benefits
- Human trafficking
- Law enforcement

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

The approach we take to homelessness must be proactive, rather than reactive, given that research consistently shows that even a brief experience of homelessness is extremely harmful. Across Canada, we must focus on intervening quickly and effectively when people are at risk of homelessness, rather than waiting until they are in crisis. The absolute only way we can achieve reductions in chronic homelessness, and ultimately push towards eliminating homelessness as we know it, is to move upstream and prevent youth homelessness before it



POLICY FOCUS:
Housing and Poverty



begins. We also need to rapidly intervene to ensure youth experience with homelessness is brief and nonrecurring.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

A New Direction: A Framework for Homelessness Prevention: homelesshub.ca/ANewDirection

The Roadmap for the Prevention of Youth Homelessness: homelesshub.ca/resource/roadmap-prevention-youth-homelessness

What Would It Take? Youth Across Canada Speak Out on Youth Homelessness Prevention: homelesshub.ca/WhatWouldItTake

Preventing Youth Homelessness - An international review of evidence: homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/180910_WCPP_international_evidence_review__report_submission.pdf



NICK SAUL

Community Food Centres Canada

What current election issues might impact your work?

Community Food Centres Canada works in low-income neighbourhoods with populations that face high rates of poverty, food insecurity, and poor health.

From 2015 to 2017, 825,000 Canadians were pulled out of poverty, but, still, nearly 10% of our neighbours struggle to make ends meet. The Poverty Reduction Strategy set the goal for Canada to reduce poverty by 50% of 2015 levels by 2030, though there's no clear pathway yet to get us there. This is an urgent matter. We need to keep pressing for more inclusive policies so more Canadians can afford good food for themselves and their families.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

While provincial governments have jurisdiction over social assistance and minimum wages, the federal government has an effective lever to increase the incomes of Canadians living in poverty through the tax system. The Canada Child Benefit and the Guaranteed Income Supplement for low-income seniors have decreased poverty in those populations, but we need to further strengthen the social safety net for adults aged 18-64. Increasing benefits for low-income workers and people with disabilities will start to move the needle for these citizens.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

PROOF Food Insecurity Policy Research: proof.utoronto.ca



POLICY FOCUS:
Housing and Poverty



PAUL HAGERMAN

Canadian Foodgrains Bank

What current election issues might impact your work?

Foodgrains Bank advocates on aid issues that impact global hunger. We don't expect aid to be a big election issue.

Climate change will likely be a significant issue in this election, with much debate over carbon taxes and the need for mitigation. We don't expect much discussion about Canada's support for adaptation efforts in developing countries, but the overall debate could still affect this.

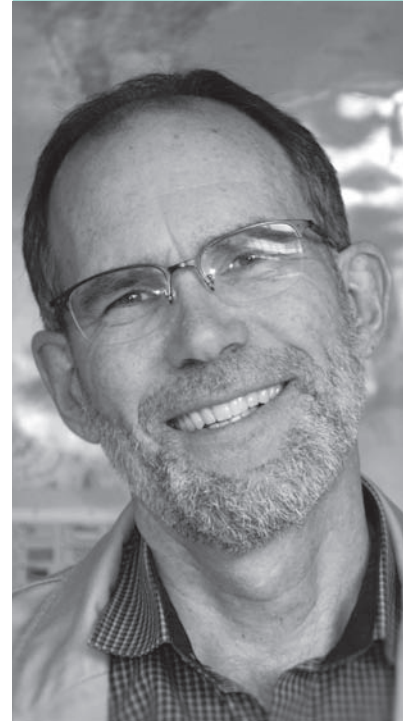
Immigration and refugees will likely be election issues. While we don't deal with these issues directly, they are part of the big picture on how Canada engages with the world, especially in less-developed countries, and so may impact how Canadians and politicians view aid.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

Canada's overall aid levels are very low when compared to peer countries, and to Canada's historical record. We are encouraging political parties to look at the benefits of aid: for recipient countries, for the world as a whole, and for Canada's long-term interests.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Visit the Foodgrains Bank "I care" campaign to send post-cards to the Prime Minister: foodgrainsbank.ca/icare



POLICY FOCUS:
International Aid



ADELLE STEWART

Do More Agriculture Foundation

What current election issues might impact your work?

Our focus as a non-profit is in rural mental health, and we are passionate about maximizing awareness, decreasing stigma, and increasing national support for all producers in the agriculture sector. Positive strides in awareness and support have been increasing from a federal perspective as of late and we are encouraged by that movement. Our hopes for the upcoming election would be continued perseverance in this topic, which would allow us to capitalize on our progress and work together as a nation to support our producers.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

We are extremely pleased with the report presented to the House of Commons in May 2019. It provides a very in-depth explanation of the unique challenges presented to those working in the agriculture sector. A continued focus on support and outcomes of this report and topic overall is important to us. Our intentions are for cohesive efforts and results between everyone supporting and working towards increasing the mental wellness of our Canadian producers.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Do More Agriculture Foundation: domore.ag

Mental Health: A Priority for Our Farmers: ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/AGRI/report-16



POLICY FOCUS:
Mental Health



NAVARANA BEVERIDGE

Qikiqtani Inuit Association

What current election issues might impact your work?

The high cost of living in the Inuit Nunangat is an important issue that affects all aspects of life in Canada's North.

Nearly 70% of Nunavut Inuit experience food insecurity. Not having enough nutritious food can have negative impacts on physical and mental health, resulting in higher rates of heart disease, diabetes, and depression.

Food insecurity in Nunavut means more than 1,700 children do not have any food for at least one day each year. This impacts children's cognitive, academic, and physiological development.

For Inuit, the effects of food insecurity also extend to cultural wellbeing because of the centrality to our culture. Initiatives, such as the Nutrition North Program, which provides subsidies to imported food, are not working.

At the Qikiqtani Inuit Association we are striving to change the dialogue from food security to food sovereignty so we can empower Inuit to feed our own communities.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

Inuit are still living the legacy of colonialism. Our communities are disproportionately impacted by income disparity, lack of housing, and inadequate access to healthcare, to name a few. These factors create barriers to achieving social and economic success.

To turn the tide, we must address the disparity between the North and the south and invest in the Inuit Nunangat. The Government of Canada's Arctic Policy Framework offers an opening for a dialogue on what is needed for a better future. At Qikiqtani Inuit Association, we have engaged in this dialogue advocating for long-term,



POLICY FOCUS:
Northern Communities



adequate, stable funding that can start to bridge the social and economic gaps.

Recently, we finalized several agreements in relation to marine protection in the Qikiqtani region. These agreements not only protect the environment but also address the infrastructure deficit in the High Arctic, a blueprint for how working in partnership can benefit all Canadians.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

To learn more about Qikiqtani Inuit Association's work visit our website qia.ca. You can learn more about our position on various policy issues at: qia.ca/documents.



DANIEL BOUCHER

Société de la francophonie manitobaine

What current election issues might impact your work?

Our organization is currently working to modernize the Official Languages Act. Although we already have the support of all the political parties, a change in government could cause delays or lead to a shift in strategy along with a new timeline. What's more, the federal government has announced additional investments to support communities, and it is important to ensure that this commitment to official languages is permanent and sustainable. French-speaking communities in some Canadian provinces have been losing ground of late, and it is the federal government's responsibility to stand up for linguistic duality across the country.

Quels enjeux électoraux actuels pourraient avoir un impact sur votre travail?

Notre organisme travaille présentement sur la modernisation de la Loi sur les langues officielles. Malgré le fait que nous avons l'appui de l'ensemble des partis politiques, un changement de gouvernement pourrait entraîner des délais ou même une différente stratégie avec de nouveaux échéanciers. Aussi, le gouvernement fédéral a annoncé des investissements additionnels pour appuyer les communautés et il sera important d'assurer que cet engagement aux langues officielles est permanent et durable, car la francophonie a été fragilisée récemment dans quelques provinces canadiennes et le fédéral doit défendre la dualité linguistique partout au pays.



POLICY FOCUS:
Official Languages



What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

With this year marking the 50th anniversary of the *Official Languages Act*, there needs to be a nation-wide conversation about the importance of supporting both official languages in Canada and promoting and encouraging the development of a country where more and more Canadians appreciate and use both languages. Francophone immigration is another vital issue. We have to increase the numbers and offer more services to newcomers. Francophone immigration is essential to maintaining and increasing the proportion of French speakers across Canada.

Quels enjeux aimeriez-vous davantage mettre en valeur lors des élections?

En cette année du 50^e anniversaire de la *Loi sur les langues officielles* il doit y avoir un dialogue national sur l'importance non seulement de soutenir les langues officielles au Canada, mais de promouvoir et encourager le développement d'un pays où de plus en plus de Canadiens et Canadiennes valorisent et utilisent les deux langues officielles du Canada. Le dossier de l'immigration francophone est aussi très important, car il faut accroître les nombres et aussi les services aux nouveaux arrivants. L'immigration francophone est essentielle pour maintenir et augmenter le poids démographique des francophones partout au Canada.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Modernizing the Official Languages Act: The Views of Federal Institutions and Recommendations: sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/421/OLLO/reports/ModernOLA FedInst_2019-06-13_E_Final.pdf

Modernizing the official languages act: Vision of the Commissioner of Official Languages: clo-ocol.gc.ca/sites/default/files/modernizing-ola-vision.pdf



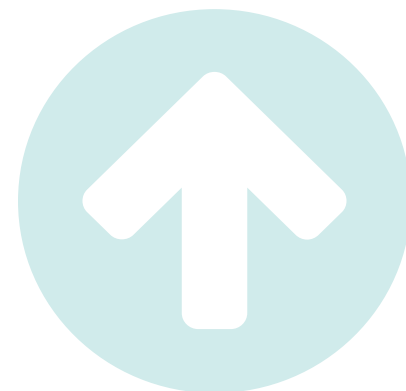
Où pourrions-nous obtenir plus d'information au sujet de ces enjeux?

Modernisation de la Loi sur les langues officielles: fcfa.ca/modernisation-de-la-loi-sur-les-langues-officielles

Modernisation de la loi sur les langues officielles: la vision du commissaire aux langues officielles: clo-ocol.gc.ca/sites/default/files/modernisation-llo-vision.pdf

La modernisation de la *Loi sur les langues officielles*: la perspective des institutions fédérales et les recommandations: sencanada.ca/fr/info-page/parl-42-1/ollo-modernisation-loi-langues-officielles

Immigration francophone: fcfa.ca/immigration-francophone



NABIL ALI

International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF)

What current election issues might impact your work?

Although IDRF works in several continents, our programs in Canada that support newcomers, minorities, young women, and at-risk youth are a critical part of our mission to improve people's social and economic circumstances.

There are limited newcomer integration programs that support families and individuals long-term as they plan their futures in Canada. Programs that support at-risk youth and minorities across Canada have taken cuts, which has reduced economic opportunities and, in some neighbourhoods, led to an increase in crime and violence. NGOs and community groups need financial support to help steer vulnerable kids away from violence and foster resiliency.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

We must bring more attention to the gender disparity in our labour force. The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) sector is primarily dominated by men, as too many women are either reluctant or not encouraged to enter the field. Minority groups comprise a low representation as well. As a diverse country, many workplaces and boardrooms do not reflect Canadian multiculturalism.

Canada must also emerge as a global leader for the Sustainable Development Goal of Gender Equality. Millions of women and children face gender-based violence, discrimination, and female genital mutilation every day. We must continue to combat these challenges.



POLICY FOCUS:
Settlement



Where can we learn more about these issues?

Empowering women and girls and gender equality:
international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/gender_equality-egalite_des_genres/empowerment-autonomisation.aspx?lang=eng

National Diversity and Inclusion Benchmarking Study:
ccdi.ca/media/1867/20190225-research-national-diversity-and-inclusion-benchmarking-study.pdf

Canada's response to conflict, crises and disasters:
international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/response_conflict-reponse_conflits/about_humanitarian-a_propos_humanaire.aspx?lang=eng



SAMANTHA ROGERS

Relate Social Capital

What current election issues might impact your work?

I'm always concerned about sport funding. I believe there is mixed messaging — on one hand we preach the importance of health (both physical and mental), inclusion, diversity, childhood obesity, care for our aging population, skill development, and empowering women and girls, but on the other hand, sport organizations that directly contribute to positive outcomes in these areas are increasingly fighting for smaller and smaller pieces of the same government funding pie. We are failing sports in Canada. The lack of resources, talent, access, programming, and support in the sport system is leading our country down a path of unsustainability, and the organizations that will suffer the most are the ones with greatest impact on our communities.

What issues would you like to bring more attention to in the election?

I am extremely passionate about using sport for social good. Canadians have identified population health, community building, social development, nation building, and civic engagement as areas in which sport can make the greatest contributions to our society. At the moment, the Government of Canada is the single largest investor in our sport system, which is unsustainable, so I would like to see sport recognized as a charitable purpose. Incorporating sport itself as charitable reinforces the government's stance that sport is important, and provides the opportunity to fill the funding gap with private support. This in turn enriches key sectors involved in, and influenced by, sport participation and supports Sport Canada's vision that all Canadians can pursue sport to the extent of their abilities and interests. As the source of



POLICY FOCUS:

Sport



limitless public benefit, sport deserves an equal seat at the charitable purpose table.

Where can we learn more about these issues?

Sport Philanthropy in Canada — The Case for Change:
sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/421/CSSB/Briefs/RelateSocialCapital_e.pdf

Women and Girls in Sport, 2017 Report of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage: ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/CHPC/Reports/RP9068268/chpcrp07/chpcrp07-e.pdf

“The health benefits of sport and exercise are for everyone”: cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/49953.html

Strengthening Canada: The Socio-economic Benefits of Sport Participation in Canada, Conference Board of Canada: conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=1327

