

Responses from Canada's Conservatives

Canadian Association of Professional Employees (CAPE)

Mandatory Vaccines

Canada's Conservatives want to put the pandemic behind us. The best way to do this is through vaccines and we urge every Canadian to get vaccinated. Canadians want a balanced approach that protects their right to make personal health decisions and the need to keep everyone safe.

Canada's Conservatives believe that vaccines are not a political issue and should not be a political issue. Canadians should be united on this and not divided, and Canada's Conservatives will not engage in this attempt to drive a wedge between Canadians.

Canada's Conservatives recommend that every Canadian get vaccinated; but if that is not possible, accommodations such as providing a negative COVID-19 test would be deemed appropriate. Every worker should follow local public health restrictions, including measures such as wearing masks indoors and practising physical distancing.

A Conservative government will require unvaccinated Canadian passengers to present a recent negative test result or pass a rapid test before getting on a bus, train, plane, or ship. Every passenger should follow local public health restrictions, including masking and physical distancing. We will also require federal public servants who aren't vaccinated to pass a daily rapid test.

Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery

Canada's Conservatives have a plan to secure economic recovery from the pandemic. Canada's Recovery Plan is a detailed plan that puts working Canadians at the front of the recovery. This plan includes recovering one million jobs lost during the pandemic within one year through a new hiring incentive and taking immediate action to help the hardest hit sectors with a series of measures to help businesses of all sizes and from all sectors get back on their feet. Our plan also includes targeted measures and investments in health care and mental health, as well as building up our domestic vaccine and PPE manufacturing capacity and stockpiles. The full plan is available at conservative.ca/plan.

Public Debt Regarding Public Services

Canada's Conservatives recognize running structural deficits and growing the national debt without economic growth or growth in real wages can lead to a number of fiscal challenges. Those include contributing to rising inflation, squeezing out funding for public programs in order to service debt costs, and saddling future generations with difficult decisions to either raise taxes or cut services in order to address debt levels.

Through Canada's Recovery Plan, a Conservative government will get spending under control. We believe there is a third path that doesn't burden Canadians with painful tax hikes or deep cuts to social services. Our plan will secure Canada's finances by adopting a responsible approach to balancing the budget over 10 years and reducing the deficit by 90 per cent by repairing the economy.

The Conservative plan to secure Canada's finances will also:

- Rein in deficits to address inflation and the rising cost of necessities like groceries and gas.
- Wind down emergency pandemic supports in a responsible and compassionate way as recovery gets underway.
- Invest in targeted stimulus measures, such as infrastructure, to create jobs and improve the quality of life of Canadians.
- Get back to robust economic growth of three per cent or more by introducing a generous new hiring incentive, so people have access to good jobs and opportunities to grow their business, which in turn provides more tax revenue to invest in core public services.

Canada's Recovery Plan has been costed internally and is currently being reviewed by the Parliamentary Budget Office, and we look forward to releasing the results of the review as soon as the information becomes available.

Health & Safety

Canada's Conservatives will ensure the health and safety of federal public service employees by using a balanced approach that protects individual rights to make personal health decisions and the need to keep everyone safe.

We strongly encourage every Canadian to be vaccinated, not only to protect themselves but the people around them. For those who are unvaccinated, we support enhanced measures, such as masking and rapid testing. Employees must also follow all local public health restrictions wherever they are working.

Over the last year, we have learned a lot about the health benefits that come from many jobs being performed remotely. Canada's Conservatives will work towards making remote work an option for as many jobs in the federal public service as possible - reducing office expenses while improving quality of life by giving public servants in many roles the ability to choose to work from home. Flexible office space could allow public servants to work on-site when appropriate

Official Languages within Public Services

In the first 100 days of forming government, Canada's Conservatives will table legislation modernizing the Official Languages Act. The new legislation will increase the powers of the Official Languages Commissioner. By increasing these powers, Canada's Conservatives will work with the Commissioner towards changes needed in the federal public service, including effective bilingual services to Canadians.

Mental Health

Mental health and addiction were serious problems before COVID-19 hit. After more than a year of lockdowns, these are crises that our government needs to address.

Canada's Conservatives will treat mental health as the health priority it is by implementing the Canada Mental Health Action Plan. This plan proposes to the provinces to partner with us by dedicating a significant portion of the stable, predictable health funding to mental health with the goal of ensuring that an additional million Canadians can receive mental health treatment every year.

We are also encouraging employers to add mental health coverage to their employee benefits plans by offering a tax credit for 25 per cent of the cost of additional mental health coverage for the first three years.

We will also create a nationwide three-digit suicide prevention hotline to provide help to Canadians when they need it.

Racism, Sexism and Discrimination in the Workplace

A safe and respectful workplace free from sexual harassment and discrimination should be the standard. Canada's Conservatives will stamp out the culture of sexual harassment and discrimination that unfortunately persists in too many federal government institutions, including the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP.

We will ensure that the Government of Canada serves as an example for the country of a safe and respectful workplace.

Climate Change

Canada's Conservatives will meet our Paris climate commitment and reduce emissions by 2030, but without the government taxing working Canadians and driving jobs and investment out of the country.

That's why, in April, we released a comprehensive plan to meet our Paris commitment while growing jobs and the economy. We invite everyone to read it here: <https://www.conservative.ca/plan/secure-the-environment/>