

2025 Federal Election Platform

VOTE FOR KIDS



**Every Child Thriving:
A Plan to Protect,
Empower, and Nurture
Canada's Kids**

8 MILLION KIDS. ONE BOLD FUTURE.

Canada is one of the wealthiest nations in the world, yet it ranks **30th out of 38 wealthy nations** for children's well-being and **66th on the global Kids Rights Index**. This is not just a crisis for children—it's a crisis for Canada's future.

When children are safe, healthy, educated, and empowered, they grow into adults who contribute meaningfully to society—strengthening our economy, reducing strain on social services, and fostering a brighter future for all Canadians.

Yet today, Canada's children face alarming challenges:

- **1 in 5 children** lives in poverty and lacks adequate nutrition to feed their growing bodies and minds.
- **Child and youth mental health services** are overwhelmed, with wait times lasting years in some provinces.
- **Online harms** are rising, while opportunities for safe play and physical activity are limited in many communities.
- **Climate change** is endangering children's health now, and threatening their future and the world they will inherit.

We're witnessing a generation being left behind, with consequences that will resonate for years. This is a moment for decisive leadership, not complacency.

Investing in Canada's 8 million children is investing in our nation's success. Together, we can make Canada the best place in the world for kids to grow up.

PLATFORM OVERVIEW

This platform outlines six key priorities to ensure every child in Canada experiences a safe, healthy, and empowered childhood:

1. Nourished Minds, Full Potential
2. Strong Minds, Healthy Futures
3. Safe Screens, Safe Childhoods
4. Play More, Thrive More
5. Healthy Planet, Sustainable Future
6. Building Equity, Honouring Reconciliation



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To ensure that Canada has a **coherent and well-coordinated plan** to address these six priorities effectively, we are calling for a **National Strategy for Children and Youth**, with clear goals, timelines, and accountability measures. To **guarantee this plan is implemented**, we recommend appointing a **Federal Commissioner for Children and Youth**—an independent champion for children’s rights and well-being.

Additionally, we call for investments in **programs that empower youth to lead and serve**, fostering civic responsibility through **volunteerism, philanthropy, social entrepreneurship, and community service**. These initiatives will build **rugged and resourced youth, foster resilience, instill values like hard work and accountability**, and play a critical role in **buffering them from adversity**.

Lowering the voting age to 16 would further empower youth to take responsibility for their futures, aligning with countries like **Austria, Brazil, and Scotland**. With federal parties already allowing **14-year-olds to vote in leadership races**, it’s time to extend this principle to federal elections, ensuring youth have a voice in **shaping their country**.

With tangible action on these key priorities, we can restore Canada’s place as a global leader who prioritizes its greatest asset—our children.

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1. NOURISHED MINDS, FULL POTENTIAL

Challenge:

Child poverty and food insecurity are robbing millions of children in Canada of the opportunity to thrive, with 1 in 5 children living in poverty and going to school or bed hungry.

Goal:

Measurably reduce child poverty each year, and by 2030, every child in Canada will have access to healthy school meals.

Actions:

REDUCE CHILD POVERTY

- Expand the **Canada Child Benefit (CCB)** to include marginalized families, including children living with grandparents, close family members, and families with precarious immigration status.
- Introduce the **End Poverty Supplement (CCB-EndPov)**, providing \$8,500 per year for the first child in families earning less than \$19,000, with scaled reductions for additional children.
- **Double the Child Disability Benefit** to better support families with children with disabilities.

TACKLE FOOD INSECURITY

- **Increase tax benefits** for families with children (enhancing the CCB).
- Expand funding for **food banks, emergency food programs, and school meal initiatives.**
- **Accelerate the rollout of Canada's National School Food Program**, ensuring every child receives nutritious meals at school.
- Implement a **comprehensive nutrition curriculum** in schools to equip students with lifelong healthy eating skills.

2. STRONG MINDS, HEALTHY FUTURES

Challenge:

Rising rates of mental health issues among children and youth are putting kids at risk, with wait times for care stretching years and leaving young people without the support they need and deserve.

Goal:

Every child has timely access to high-quality mental health care, with a national standard of care for children and youth.

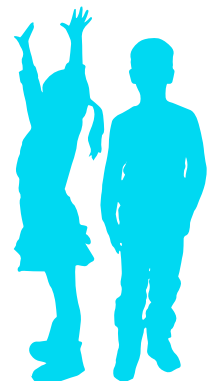
Actions:

INVEST IN CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

- Increase **federal funding to reduce wait times** and improve access to therapists and specialists.
- **Earmark a portion of federal health transfers** for child and youth mental health services.

UPSTREAM SOLUTIONS FOR CHILDHOOD ADVERSITY

- Expand **anti-bullying campaigns** and mental health literacy programs.
- Strengthen interventions addressing **childhood adversity caused by poverty, neglect, and abuse.**



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3. SAFE SCREENS, SAFE CHILDHOODS

Challenge:

The digital world is exposing children to unprecedented risks, including cyberbullying, exploitation, and harmful content, while protections and accountability measures lag behind.

Goal:

A safer internet where children are protected and empowered.

Actions:

PASS LEGISLATION TO KEEP KIDS SAFE ONLINE

- Enact a robust **Online Safety Act** to regulate social media companies, hold perpetrators accountable, and **protect kids from online harms**.
- **Strengthen the Criminal Code** to prosecute individuals and companies that **facilitate child exploitation, cyberbullying, and AI-generated child abuse imagery**.

DIGITAL LITERACY FOR KIDS AND PARENTS

- **Fund digital literacy programs** to equip youth and caregivers with skills to **navigate the online world safely**.

4. PLAY MORE, THRIVE MORE

Challenge:

Fewer children are meeting **daily physical activity guidelines**, with **excessive screen time and limited access to play spaces** worsening health and social isolation. Meanwhile, **sports organizations are failing in their duty to protect children from abuse and are not being held accountable**.

Goal:

Every child in Canada has access to **safe spaces for play, physical activity, and connection**.

Actions:

PROMOTE THE 24-HOUR MOVEMENT GUIDELINES

- **Increase funding for programs** that encourage **60 minutes of daily physical activity, sleep, and reduced screen time**.

INVEST IN SAFE AND INCLUSIVE PLAY SPACES

- Support the development of **accessible playgrounds, sports facilities, and active transportation routes** in underserved communities.
- **Strengthen accountability measures for national sport organizations** to ensure **safe, inclusive environments free from abuse**.

5. HEALTHY PLANET, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Challenge:

Climate change is significantly impacting children's health and safety, with **extreme weather, pollution, and environmental degradation** threatening their present and future.

Goal:

A clean, healthy environment where every child can **breathe fresh air, drink clean water, and have hope for the future**.

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Actions:

PROTECT THE PLANET

- Prioritize policies to reduce carbon emissions, promote clean energy, and mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events.

YOUTH VOICES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

- Include children in policy discussions about climate change, empowering them as future leaders for a sustainable Canada.

6. BUILDING EQUITY, HONOURING RECONCILIATION

Challenge:

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children in Canada face systemic inequities that threaten their health, well-being, and futures. Addressing these disparities is not just a moral imperative but a necessary step toward reconciliation and ensuring a just and inclusive society.

Goal:

Eradicate inequities faced by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children, ensuring they have the resources, support, and opportunities to live healthy, empowered lives rooted in their cultures, communities, and rights.

Actions:

END CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- Collaborate with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis governments and organizations, including women's and 2SLGBTQI+ groups, to develop culturally grounded strategies to prevent and eradicate child and family poverty.

STRENGTHEN NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

- Entrench Nation-to-Nation, government-to-government, and Inuit-Crown relationships by respecting inherent rights, treaties, and jurisdiction.
- Provide long-term, predictable funding to close socio-economic gaps using evidence-based approaches aligned with Indigenous data sovereignty principles.

FULLY IMPLEMENT JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

- Ensure all levels of government fully and properly implement Jordan's Principle to guarantee First Nations children have timely access to essential services.
- Extend Jordan's Principle and associated supports past age 18 to ensure a seamless transition for youth into adulthood.



A BOLD VISION FOR CANADA'S CHILDREN

The time to act is now.
Canada's 8 million children
deserve more than promises
—they deserve action.

By investing in their health, safety, and well-being today, we are building a stronger, more prosperous future for all Canadians.

Join us in creating a Canada where every child can thrive, and every future is bright.