

RENEWAL GUIDEBOOK

Discussion Guide II: Policies and Principles

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Given that the *Leap Manifesto* is a document encompassing many policy areas, it has been broken down into smaller sections and those sections have been organized into specific issue categories. The relevant sections of the NDP's Policy Book and, in some cases, our 2015 Election Platform have also been included as a reference. These sections are followed by suggested questions and launching points for group discussions.

As always, the options for Electoral District Associations are to discuss the *Leap* document in its entirety, in part or not at all, with or without the help of the following set of workbooks. This is an EDA driven process. If your EDA wishes to follow another path for discussions, that is also encouraged. Our staff will consider all feedback collected by **September 30th, 2016**.

Given the complex nature of this document, our hope is that EDAs will provide our team with fulsome responses for consideration. In turn, these responses will be taken as recommendations to guide us forward.

Goals

For the purposes of this guide, several examples of existing policies were highlighted in the comparative guide for quick reference. Are there any existing policies that were missing that your EDA feels should be considered in this discussion?

What are the goals of your EDA's discussion of policies and principles?

Is your EDA's goal to engage in a discussion with members of the NDP or community members at large? How will you consider those views? Will you make a distinction? If so, how?

How will your EDA submit feedback? Do you intend to seek a motion to provide a mandate to the EDA or were the opinions too broad to seek a consensus?

Strategies and Tactics

What strategies and tactics will you use to ensure that a thoughtful and respectful conversation is held about these issues?

What vehicle will you use to have these conversations? Will the conversations be held at executive meetings, annual general meetings or town halls?

Outcomes

Did your EDA develop specific recommendations on the proposals in the *Leap* document?

What specific NDP policies would you recommend be amended (if any) at a future policy convention?

What NDP policies are missing (if any) from the NDP Policy Book that may relate to this conversation?

How could we better communicate our commitments to these core values to members and potential supporters?

Policies and Principles

Indigenous Peoples and Protecting the Earth

Relevant NDP Policy

5.7 First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples

- a. Building a new relationship on a nation-to-nation basis with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples that will enhance social justice, strengthen the economy and reconcile the rights and interests of Aboriginal peoples with those of all Canadians.
- b. Implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Jordan's Principle.
- c. The inherent right to self-government and rights established in Treaties.
- d. Working with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to implement self-government.
- e. Establishing new procedures for land claims that respect Aboriginal title and that are independent, efficient, just and equitable.
- f. Protecting and promoting the diverse languages and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.
- g. Ensuring equitable participation of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and governments in Canada's stewardship of the environment and resources, and on appropriate boards, commissions and international delegations.

2.1 Protecting nature and our ecosystems

- a. Protecting the environment as a common good by creating a legal framework to ensure that people have the right to live in a healthy environment with access to natural spaces.
- b. Protecting and restoring ecosystems as central to all social and economic planning.
- c. Reducing and eliminating highly toxic substances, especially those threatening life and habitat.
- d. Protecting our supplies of fresh water by excluding it from all international trade agreements, privatization and deregulation.
- e. Strengthening laws to protect biodiversity and threatened species.
- f. Protecting and developing our national parks and designating new parks.
- g. Canada's commitment to protect at least 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020 as committed to under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

Leap Document Proposal

“This *leap* must begin by respecting the inherent rights and title of the original caretakers of this land. Indigenous communities have been at the forefront of protecting rivers, coasts, forests and lands from out-of-control industrial activity. We can bolster this role, and reset our relationship, by fully implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

Platform 2015

Create a cabinet-level committee chaired by Prime Minister Tom Mulcair to ensure that all government decisions respect treaty rights, inherent rights and Canada’s international obligations.

Implement the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Provide skills training by working with Indigenous partners to renew and improve the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy and ensure its long-term sustainability.

For this policy section on Indigenous People

Where do the existing policies in the *Policy Book* and *Leap* differ?

Where are there similarities?

Do you feel that the current NDP Policy sufficiently captures the spirit of your local discussions in this section?

If not, what specific policies would you recommend be amended (if any) at a future policy convention?

What other perspectives do you think need to be considered in your discussion?

Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

Relevant NDP Policy

Section 2: Building a Clean and Sustainable Canada preamble:

Reshaping energy policy for the 21st century means moving away from fossil-fuel dependence toward a green energy future by investing in solar, wind, wave, and geothermal sources, working with provinces and territories to share clean energy; and ensuring energy conservation in transportation and building methods.

A New Democrat government will make Canada an environmental leader on the world stage by honouring treaty obligations, incorporating strong environmental standards in trade agreements and ensuring Canadian companies operating abroad will be held to standards and practices that reduce their footprint and leave local ecosystems in good health.

2.1 Protecting nature and our ecosystems

- a. Protecting the environment as a common good by creating a legal framework to ensure that people have the right to live in a healthy environment with access to natural spaces.
- b. Protecting and restoring ecosystems as central to all social and economic planning.
- c. Reducing and eliminating highly toxic substances, especially those threatening life and habitat.
- e. Strengthening laws to protect biodiversity and threatened species.

2.4 Energy

- d. Rescinding tax breaks and subsidies for fossil fuel industries, while protecting workers, communities, and the surrounding environment.

2.6 Towards a green and sustainable economy

- a. Reviewing all economic decisions to assess their environmental impact.

2.7 Showing green leadership to the world

- a. Taking leadership internationally to prevent environmental damage to the planet and implement environmentally sustainable practices worldwide.
- b. Adhering to international agreements to reverse climate change, including those with binding regulations.
- c. Demanding environmental standards in all trade agreements to which Canada is a signatory.

Leap Document Proposal

“There is no longer an excuse for building new infrastructure projects that lock us into increased extraction decades into the future. The new iron law of energy development must be: if you wouldn’t want it in your backyard, then it doesn’t belong in anyone’s backyard. That applies equally to oil and gas pipelines; fracking in New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia; increased tanker traffic off our coasts; and to Canadian-owned mining projects the world over.”

Platform 2015

The NDP will also protect our natural environment for future generations and reverse Stephen Harper's damaging changes to environmental protection laws by:

- Affirming government's strong role in environmental protection and assessment.
- Ensuring and supporting public participation in decision-making.
- Incorporating consideration of cumulative effects, regional assessments and greenhouse gas impacts for all major projects.
- Ensuring that the Crown's duty to consult Indigenous peoples in the environmental assessment process is upheld, and that Indigenous peoples' meaningful participation is facilitated.
- Restoring protection to Canada's lakes and rivers by reversing changes made to the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* in Budgets 2010 and 2012.
- Restoring habitat protection to the *Fisheries Act*.
- Meeting Canada's G-20 commitment to cut subsidies to non-renewable energy and end the federal bias towards non-renewable energy production.

For this policy section

Where do the existing policies of the *Policy Book* and *Leap* differ?

Where are there similarities?

What specific policies would you recommend be amended (if any) at a future policy convention?

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What other perspectives do you think need to be considered in this discussion?

Energy Efficiency and Housing

Relevant NDP Policy

Section 2 Building a Clean and Sustainable Canada pre-amble:

New Democrats reject the claim of a fundamental contradiction between environmental health and economic growth. Developing green energy industries is an opportunity for a dynamic new era of job creation, building a competitive advantage for Canada in environmental technologies and practices, which in turn help foster innovations in manufacturing.

1.1 Industrial policy: supporting strategic sectors

- a. Investing in job creation by developing a green economy with appropriate support for transition programs and for research and development.
- i. Investing in fair transition programs in key sectors where layoffs occur

2.4 Energy

- f. Developing strong standards and incentives for energy conservation and creating public awareness about its importance.
- g. Working with all levels of government to achieve large-scale energy efficiency, especially through major retrofit programs.
- i. Managing transitional costs and re-engineering of energy-dependent industries to help them adapt to a low carbon world.

2.6 Towards a green and sustainable economy

- a. Reviewing all economic decisions to assess their environmental impact.
- b. Establishing a major research and development fund for green technologies.
- c. Including environment sustainability in corporate social responsibility codes.

- d. Consulting with communities on the development of local sustainability initiatives.
- e. Investing in the development of “green cars”.
- f. Directing infrastructure stimulus spending in a strategic way to focus on public transit, retrofitting buildings to make them more energy efficient and following urban design to make our communities more energy efficient.

3.5 Housing

- a. Supporting social and cooperative housing, in cooperation with all levels of government.
- c. Assisting low-income households to improve household energy efficiency.
- e. Implementing a national strategy to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians in partnership with provinces, municipalities, Aboriginal communities, non-profit and private sector housing providers and civil society organizations, including those that represent groups in need of adequate housing.

Leap Document Proposal

“A *leap* to a non-polluting economy creates countless openings for similar multiple “wins.” We want a universal program to build energy efficient homes, and retrofit existing housing, ensuring that the lowest income communities and neighbourhoods will benefit first and receive job training and opportunities that reduce poverty over the long term.”

Platform 2015

Building Affordable and Efficient Housing

The volatility of energy markets and oil prices have affected all Canadians – from the pumps, to their jobs, to the cost of heating their homes. Families should never have to make the choice between paying the rent and buying groceries.

The NDP recognizes that access to affordable housing – and the ability to afford to heat and maintain your home – is essential for all Canadians. Our plan will invest in green and affordable housing by:

- Introducing a green home energy program to help retrofit at least 50,000 homes and apartment buildings. Through an initial investment of \$200 million over four years, this initiative will help make homes and apartment buildings more efficient, which will lower energy bills, create thousands of jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Restoring and reinvesting in affordable housing programs abandoned by Liberal and Conservative governments. – Bringing in legislation to protect the improvements in affordable housing that will ensure safe, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians – safe from future Liberal and Conservative governments. A National Housing Strategy will include the restoration of federal government investments dedicated to social housing and co-ops, reinvestment of funding from expiring agreements back into operating agreements, repairs and the construction of new units, and a boost in funding for homelessness initiatives. This legislation will also mandate that the redevelopment of federal lands include affordable housing and housing cooperatives.

- Providing incentives to build 10,000 new affordable and market rental housing units. → The federal government eliminated its role in social and affordable housing under the Paul Martin Liberal cuts of the 1990s, creating the affordable housing crisis we are experiencing today. We will mandate the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to provide grants and loans to construct at least 10,000 affordable and market rental units with any revenues to be reinvested back into rental housing supports. This is a concrete step towards solving the crisis.

For this policy section

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What other perspectives do you think need to be considered in this discussion?

Relevant NDP Policy

Section 1 Innovating and Prospering in a New Energy Economy pre-amble:

Expanding economic freedom and opportunity is achieved, not through large corporations concentrating power and capital, but through thriving small businesses, local community development, and cooperative enterprises, reinforcing strong sectors in our natural resource sectors as well as manufacturing.

1.1

Industrial policy: Supporting strategic sectors

- o. Facilitating worker participation within companies to develop more democratic, transparent, and efficient workplaces.

1.2

Resource industries and natural resources

- a. Supporting community development initiatives in the ownership, production, and control of primary industries.

6.5 Rights of aboriginal peoples

- c. Promoting the economic development of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities by supporting traditional economies, social and physical infrastructures, and increased training.
- e. Fostering economic opportunity and lasting prosperity for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada by advocating for shared resource management decision making, resource revenue sharing and increased access to capital for Aboriginal business development.

Leap Document Proposal

“The time for energy democracy has come: we believe not just in changes to our energy sources, but that wherever possible communities should collectively control these new energy systems.

As an alternative to the profit-gouging of private companies and the remote bureaucracy of some centralized state ones, we can create innovative ownership structures: democratically run, paying living wages and keeping much-needed revenue in communities. And Indigenous Peoples should be first to receive public support for their own clean energy projects. So should communities currently dealing with heavy health impacts of polluting industrial activity.

Power generated this way will not merely light our homes but redistribute wealth, deepen our democracy, strengthen our economy and start to heal the wounds that date back to this country’s founding.”

Platform 2015

- Improving energy security, affordability and reducing pollution by investing \$100 million in renewable energy development in northern and remote communities.
- Introducing a green home energy program to help retrofit at least 50,000 homes and apartment buildings.
- Supporting local sustainable development leaders by investing \$150 million in our communities through the Green Municipal Fund.
- Making the federal government a leader in electric transportation and energy efficiency.
- Introduce Green Bonds so that Canadians can invest in a cleaner economy.
- Meeting Canada's G-20 commitment to cut subsidies to non-renewable energy and end the federal bias towards non-renewable energy production.

For this policy section

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What other perspectives do you think need to be considered in this discussion?

Transition Training

Relevant NDP Policy

1.1 Industrial policy: supporting strategic sectors

- a. Investing in job creation by developing a green economy with appropriate support for transition programs and for research and development.
- f. Targeting tax credits towards research and development and skills training to promote productivity, sustainability and innovation in Canadian industry.
- i. Investing in fair transition programs in key sectors where layoffs occur

2.4 Energy

- i. Managing transitional costs and re-engineering of energy-dependent industries to help them adapt to a low carbon world.
- j. Providing substantive support to workers in the transition to a cleaner energy economy.

Leap Document Proposal

“We want training and other resources for workers in carbon-intensive jobs, ensuring they are fully able to take part in the clean energy economy. This transition should involve the democratic participation of workers themselves.”

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Trains and Infrastructure

Relevant NDP Policy

1.3 Physical infrastructure and transportation

New Democrats believe in:

- a. Tackling the infrastructure deficit through a Canada-wide funding program that includes the enhancement of the Gas Tax Fund transfers to municipalities.
- b. Improving rail travel for both passengers and goods, and developing proposals for high-speed systems.
- c. Regulating airlines to ensure majority Canadian control of the industry.
- d. Establishing reserve funds to improve ports and airport facilities.

- e. Investing in public transport to improve our quality of life and help sustain the environment.
- f. Strengthening VIA Rail with its own legislation guaranteeing it ongoing capital and operating funding.

2.6 Towards a green and sustainable economy

New Democrats believe in:

- a. Reviewing all economic decisions to assess their environmental impact.
- b. Establishing a major research and development fund for green technologies.
- c. Including environment sustainability in corporate social responsibility codes.
- d. Consulting with communities on the development of local sustainability initiatives.
- e. Investing in the development of “green cars”.
- f. Directing infrastructure stimulus spending in a strategic way to focus on public transit, retrofitting buildings to make them more energy efficient and following urban design to make our communities more energy efficient.

***Leap* Document Proposal**

“High-speed rail powered by renewables and affordable public transit can unite every community in this country – in place of more cars, pipelines and exploding trains that endanger and divide us.

And since we know this *leap* is beginning late, we need to invest in our decaying public infrastructure so that it can withstand increasingly frequent extreme weather events.”

Platform 2015

- Providing support for improved passenger rail infrastructure and restoring funds cut from regional rail services across Canada.
- Making the federal government a leader in electric transportation and energy efficiency.
- Strengthen disaster relief financial assistance arrangements with provinces, and invest \$9 million annually to develop emergency plans and provide equipment and training for first responders.

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Agriculture

Relevant NDP Policy

2.5 Food security and food sovereignty

- a. A comprehensive policy on food security and food sovereignty, in accordance with the following principles:
 - Food is a fundamental human right, not a commodity like any other.
 - All Canadians should have access to adequate amounts of high-quality, healthy food.
 - Farmers should be empowered to earn a decent living producing quality food for Canadians.
 - A stable and sustainable agriculture sector is essential to Canada's national sovereignty.

- b. Strengthening our domestic markets and local economies as a way to reduce our dependence on imported food.
- c. Legislative initiatives that work to ensure the quality and safety of our food supply.

1.9 Agriculture and fisheries

New Democrats believe in:

- a. Increasing support for the agricultural sector to produce quality products, ensuring long-term income for farmers, protecting small producers, promoting diversification, and ensuring fair prices for Canadian products internationally.
- b. Working with the provinces to provide easily accessible and cost-efficient business risk management programs for Canadian farmers.
- c. Encouraging young people to take up farming by providing enhanced skills training and mentorship programs, and ensuring that arable land is more widely available.
- d. Encouraging ecologically-sustainable practices by supporting organic practices and crop diversity, reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides, banning terminator seeds, improving the collection and disposal of waste materials, and conserving wooded buffer zones.
- e. Restoring the Canadian Wheat Board as the single desk marketer for wheat and barley.
- f. Improving grain transportation through the Canadian Wheat Board with the involvement of prairie farmers.
- g. Maintaining supply managed dairy, eggs, and poultry, and the farm incomes they support, ending the work-arounds to supply management by sub-products (diafiltered milk) and ensuring that any new trade agreement upholds our successful system of supply management.
- h. Working to ensure that in any new trade agreement, our successful system of supply management is upheld.
- i. Reforming fishery regulation to protect small fish harvesters through co-management and community consultation to preserve stocks and ensure fairness in the allocation of licenses.
- j. Tough laws against foreign over-fishing and the strengthening of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization.
- k. Increasing research and development in aquaculture and fish farming to develop more sustainable practices.
- l. Developing a West Coast Wild Salmon renewal program.
- m. Supporting cooperatives as a model for producing, processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products.

Leap Document Proposal

“Moving to a far more localized and ecologically-based agricultural system would reduce reliance on fossil fuels, capture carbon in the soil, and absorb sudden shocks in the global supply – as well as produce healthier and more affordable food for everyone.”

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International Issues

Relevant NDP Policy

Section 4 Redefining Canada's Place in the world preamble:

One of the defining features of social democracy is solidarity with people around the globe – particularly with the poor and powerless, those facing persecution, and the victims of acts of genocide. New Democrats believe that support for human rights is the central value of an independent foreign policy.

New Democrats believe that Canada has an obligation to share its wealth with the world's most poor and vulnerable; that we must become a leader for food security, women's equality, ensuring environmental sustainability, and ending the AIDS pandemic. Fighting for fair trade includes enforceable standards on human and environmental rights in all agreements, and in all international trade bodies. Canadian companies operating overseas must also safeguard the rights of workers and local communities.

2.7 Showing green leadership to the world

- a. Taking leadership internationally to prevent environmental damage to the planet and implement environmentally sustainable practices worldwide.
- b. Adhering to international agreements to reverse climate change, including those with binding regulations.
- c. Demanding environmental standards in all trade agreements to which Canada is a signatory.

4.4 Rights of immigrants and refugees

- a. Promoting the reunification of families as the main priority of the Canadian immigration policy while respecting the diversity of family models according to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- b. An annual immigration level of 1% of the population to meet workforce needs and family reunification requests.
- c. Eliminating application and landing fees.
- d. Providing language training in English or French as appropriate.
- e. Working with the provinces and territories to recognize foreign diploma and professional credentials.
- f. Reforming Immigration Canada procedures to eliminate arbitrariness in processing of requests and appeals.
- g. Ending the exploitation of temporary migrant workers.
- h. Simplifying the issuing of visitor visas for people coming to visit family members.
- i. Making international adoption simpler and quicker.
- j. Allowing Canadians a one-time opportunity to sponsor a relative who is not a member of the family class to come to Canada.
- k. Ensuring that tough laws against corrupt immigration consultants are enforced.
- l. Fast-tracking family class sponsorship from disaster areas.
- m. Eliminating the intake quota of parent and grandparent sponsorship applications

4.5 Fair Trade

- a. Defending Canadians’ economic interests, particularly in terms of foreign investment and takeovers.
- b. Promoting trade agreements that include enforceable standards for human, workers’ and women’s rights and environmental sustainability, and that protect public services.
- c. Subjecting all proposed international trade agreements and international treaties to a Parliamentary vote and ratification through the legislative process.
- d. Demanding more accountability and transparency in international trade organizations, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- e. Renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to protect Canadian sovereignty, especially in investment and energy security.
- f. Regulating the flow of international capital and reducing financial speculation.
- g. Preserving the rights of municipal governments and provincial entities such as Hydro Quebec and Manitoba Hydro to include local content and other local economic development requirements as part of their procurement policy.
- h. Not negotiating investor-state dispute resolutions mechanisms into trade agreements.

Leap Document Proposal

“We call for an end to all trade deals that interfere with our attempts to rebuild local economies, regulate corporations and stop damaging extractive projects. Rebalancing the scales of justice, we should ensure immigration status and full protection for all workers. Recognizing Canada’s contributions to military conflicts and climate change — primary drivers of the global refugee crisis — we must welcome refugees and migrants seeking safety and a better life.”

For this policy section

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Social Investment

Relevant NDP Policy

Section 3: Investing in a Canada where no one is left behind preamble:

New Democrats strive to build a society in which every one of its members can reach their full potential. Such progress is judged by how society cares for and supports one another. That means protecting the vulnerable and ensuring that every citizen has access to high quality social programs.

That also means working to keep our communities secure, to ensure our children grow up in a world of mutual respect and safe neighbourhoods. It means taking effective measures when crimes are committed and violence threatens our quality of life.

Nowhere is the commitment to social justice stronger than in our support of public health care. Medicare is fundamental to the way Canada defines itself as a nation and New Democrats are proud to be its founder, its greatest defender and its tireless advocate for improvements.

Social democracy is the embodiment of caring for one another and a New Democrat government will ensure that all Canadians prosper and no one is left behind.

3.2 Post-secondary education and training

- a. The establishment of a Post-Secondary Education Act to guarantee stable funding, and protect principles of accessibility, quality, academic freedom, public administration and not-for-profit delivery.
- b. Increasing post-secondary education transfers to provinces and territories.
- c. Measures to halt further privatization of education.
- d. Reducing tuition fees by working in collaboration with provincial governments.
- e. Relieving student debt through needs-based grants, maintaining low interest rates for student loans, and simplifying student aid programs.
- f. Supporting literacy programs and adult education and training.

3.3 Early childhood education

- a. Providing long-term, secure funding to provinces and territories for early childhood education and child care services.
- b. Ensuring federal funding provides high-quality, accessible, affordable, non-profit universal services.
- c. Establishing an enhanced and simplified child tax benefit.
- d. Expanding access to parental leave.
- e. Encouraging employers and employees to develop work-life balance policies.
- f. Establishing a law which will protect childcare by enshrining it in legislation, with a Canadian Early Childhood Learning and Care Act – to be a cornerstone of Canada, like the Canada Health Act.

3.4 Fighting poverty

- a. Increasing the Canada Social Transfer to the provinces and territories to enhance welfare programs.
- b. Meeting Canada's objective to eliminate child poverty within ten years.
- c. Prohibiting discrimination based on poverty and economic position.
- d. Launching a national strategy to eliminate poverty in Canada, including:
 - A focus on the core priorities of income security, housing and social inclusion;
 - A clear definition and measurement of poverty;
 - Specific responses to urban and rural poverty;
 - An analytic framework which takes into account various factors that put some at greater risk of living in poverty, such as gender, Aboriginal status, child rearing and/or single parenthood, low wages, immigration or refugee status, low education, and/or prolonged illness and disability;
 - Leadership by the entire government, with health and income security ministers taking the lead;
 - The appointment of a Poverty Elimination Commissioner to monitor and hold the government accountable; and

- Ensuring that each province and territory has a fully portable designation for persons with disabilities.

6.8 Supporting Canadian creativity

- a. Supporting Canadian artists, culture workers, and entertainers.
- b. Ensuring long-term predictable funding for Canadian museums, the Canada Council for the Arts, and other cultural organizations.
- c. Improving incentives for Canadian film and television production through Telefilm Canada and the Canadian Television Fund.
- d. Ensuring that cultural support serves Canada’s two official languages.
- e. Amending the mandate of the CRTC to protect and promote Canadian cultural enterprises.
- f. Providing artists with better opportunities to promote their work, in Canada and abroad.
- g. Improving copyright protection.

Leap Document Proposal

“Shifting to an economy in balance with the earth’s limits also means expanding the sectors of our economy that are already low carbon: caregiving, teaching, social work, the arts and public-interest media. Following on Quebec’s lead, a national childcare program is long past due. All this work, much of it performed by women, is the glue that builds humane, resilient communities – and we will need our communities to be as strong as possible in the face of the rocky future we have already locked in.

Since so much of the labour of caretaking – whether of people or the planet – is currently unpaid, we call for a vigorous debate about the introduction of a universal basic annual income. Pioneered in Manitoba in the 1970’s, this sturdy safety net could help ensure that no one is forced to take work that threatens their children’s tomorrow, just to feed those children today.

We declare that “austerity” – which has systematically attacked low-carbon sectors like education and healthcare, while starving public transit and forcing reckless energy privatizations – is a fossilized form of thinking that has become a threat to life on earth.”

Platform 2015

- Create one million quality childcare spaces at no more than \$15 a day.
- Create 40,000 jobs, co-op placements and internships for youth.
- Reinstate the federal minimum wage and raising it to \$15 an hour.
- Eliminating CEO stock option loopholes, and reinvesting the money to eliminate child poverty.
- Increasing the Guaranteed Income Supplement to help lift 200,000 seniors out of poverty, and returning the retirement age from 67 to 65.

- Restoring home mail delivery.
- Creating an action plan to end violence against women, increasing shelter funding and launching an inquiry into murdered and missing Indigenous women.
- Ensuring youth participation in sports with funding to support low-income and disadvantaged youth.

For this policy section

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What other perspectives do you think need to be considered in this discussion?

Revenue Generation

Relevant NDP Policy

1.7 Progressive and fair taxation

- a. A progressive tax system.
- b. Taxing capital gains at the same rate as salaries or wages.
- c. Ensuring that large profitable corporations pay a fair share of taxes.
- d. Targeting tax reductions to help the middle class, working families, and the poor.
- e. Combatting tax shelters and money laundering.

2.3 Climate change

- b. Creating a revenue-generating carbon market to ensure industry reduces greenhouse gas emissions to targets set by government.

2.4 Energy

- d. Rescinding tax breaks and subsidies for fossil fuel industries, while protecting workers, communities, and the surrounding environment.

Leap Document Proposal

“The money we need to pay for this great transformation is available — we just need the right policies to release it. Like an end to fossil fuel subsidies. Financial transaction taxes. Increased resource royalties. Higher income taxes on corporations and wealthy people. A progressive carbon tax. Cuts to military spending. All of these are based on a simple “polluter pays” principle and hold enormous promise.”

Platform 2015:

It’s time to restore Canada’s environmental credibility at home and around the world by putting a price on carbon, making polluters pay and taking meaningful steps to reduce carbon emissions.

Work with provinces and territories to develop a pan-Canadian cap-and-trade system that sets concrete emissions limits for Canada’s major polluters.

The NDP initiative will recognize efforts already underway in provinces like British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, and will allow jurisdictions to opt out if their own carbon pricing plans meet or exceed federal standards.

Redirecting the CEO stock option tax break in to poverty elimination.

The NDP will close the loopholes that allow CEOs to pay lower tax on their stock options – over 90% of of the value goes to those who make over \$250,000 per year. The NDP will redirect the \$500 million in savings from ending this unfair tax break into supports to combat poverty and help the working poor. This commitment will address situations where options are used primarily to avoid paying income tax, and will not impact options granted by early stage companies.

Cracking down on tax avoidance, tax evasion and the use of offshore tax havens.

The NDP will create a task force within government, including the Department of Justice and Canada Revenue Agency, to crack down on tax cheats. We will proceed with concrete steps to limit tax evasion and avoidance by passing legislation that will require corporations to demonstrate that a transaction has an economic purpose beyond reducing the amount of tax owed. We will also strengthen rules around transfer pricing.

Asking profitable corporations to pay a little bit more to ensure we can deliver the programs and services Canadians need.

The corporate tax rate will increase from 15 to 17% on January 1, 2016, keeping the combined federal/provincial rate well below the United States, and below the G7 average.

For this policy section

Where do the existing policies of the *Policy Book* and *Leap* differ?

Where are there similarities?

What specific policies would you recommend be amended (if any) at a future policy convention?

Do you feel that the current NDP Policy captures the spirit of your local discussions in this section?

If not, what specific policies would you recommend be amended (if any) at a future policy convention?

What other perspectives do you think need to be considered in this discussion?
