



NDP Responds

Note: We have yet to release our full platform but here are the answers to date outlining our commitments.

Canadian Psychological Association

Thank you very much for the opportunity to update our response. See below the NDP response to the question, ***What is your party's commitment to research and development?***

- **What is your party's position on health care transfers to the provinces and meeting our long term health care needs?**

NDP Response: An NDP government will stop Harper's unilateral cuts and get back to working collaboratively with provinces and territories. While respecting provincial roles, we'll lead strategies to improve health care and make it more sustainable over the long term.

Our top priorities will be improved access to primary, long-term and home care, improving prescription drug coverage, better mental health services, and measures to prevent long-term illnesses that affect millions of Canadians. We'll show immediate leadership by improving health care that's delivered federally—starting with Indigenous peoples, refugees, and members and veterans of the Canadian Forces and the RCMP.

- **Does your party platform contain anything related to mental and behavioural health funding and/or to funding for psychological services?**

NDP Response: Tom Mulcair and the NDP will work with the provinces and territories to improve access to mental health care services for children and youth.

- We will establish a \$100 million Mental Health Innovation Fund for Children and Youth to improve care for children and youth. This four-year fund will contribute:
 - \$15 million annually for healthcare providers and community mental health associations to implement best practices that reduce wait times and provide appropriate care;
 - \$10 million annually for research and sharing information among healthcare providers across the country.
- Working with the provinces, this Fund will prioritize high-risk populations, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis, Canadians in rural and remote communities, and youth transitioning out of foster care.
- We will work with the provinces and territories to better integrate mental health services into primary care, building on the community-based clinic model.

- **What will your party do to address the significant barriers that exist for Canadians in accessing psychological and mental health services?**

NDP Response: New Democrats recognize the importance of ensuring that Canadians who are living with mental illness have access to the supports they need. Increasing access to early diagnosis and treatment is a priority. A New Democratic government will make it easier for Canadians experiencing mental health problems to connect with the health care supports they need. We have earmarked half a billion dollars over the next four years in infrastructure funding to help build or expand 200 clinics across Canada and to create a new training and recruitment grant to help provinces hire health professionals.

A Tom Mulcair government will work with provinces and territories to ensure that both these initiatives are targeted to communities and neighbourhoods with health care shortages to help more Canadians get access to primary care intake and the path to the psychological supports they need.

We will provide real leadership on mental health, working with communities to fight stigma and foster recovery, ensure better access to treatment, and reduce the disparities in supports and services across the country.

- **What is your party's commitment to research and development?**

NDP Response: Innovation is a critical driver of growth in the knowledge economy. At the heart of that innovation are the people, the companies and the institutions that foster innovation, growth and prosperity. The Universities that produce world-class research, serve as important anchors in communities across the country and train students to become the next generation of thinkers.

Colleges and Polytechnics play a critical role filling skills and knowledge gaps by ensuring students get hands-on experience bringing their skills to bear on industry problems. Last but not least our professors, instructors, researchers and students are innovation trailblazers in their own way. We must invest to leverage the strengths of all these important actors.

- **Does your party plan to increase the base budgets for the three granting councils? If yes, by how much?**

NDP Response: We continue to support the important work the Granting Councils do, and will not interfere with their peer review process or to influence their policy direction. We have long decried the cuts this government has made to the Granting Councils' budgets.

- **Will your party invest in infrastructures that support research and data collection? If yes, how much does your party plan to invest?**

NDP Response: The NDP believes that good data is essential to make government work. It allows government to effectively target and evaluate programs, thus, improving service quality and lowering costs. The NDP fought tooth and nail to prevent the Conservatives from eliminating the long-form census. The NDP believes that the long-form census must be restored to provide social scientists, governments, and businesses the data they need. We have also tabled Bill C-346 to reinstate Statistics Canada's long-form census and increase the independence of the Chief Statistician.

The NDP strongly supports a science-based, evidence-based approach to policy making, which requires robust support for research and data gathering. This federal government has, however, fired thousands of scientists and cancelled the long-form census, hurting our ability to gather information.

New Democrats strongly reject the Conservative government's practice of muzzling and firing our federal scientists. An NDP government will work in collaboration with federal scientists and will invest meaningfully in our world-class researchers. We will also make information gathering a priority, and will allow government data sets to be open and useable for the public.

- **Does your party plan to increase financial support for students? For example, more graduate scholarships, internships/fellowships, targeted recruitment/retention efforts, etc.**

NDP Response: New Democrats take young people seriously. We have the youngest caucus in history, and many of our young MPs hold important leadership roles throughout the party.

The NDP will increase access to education by tackling the skyrocketing costs and unmanageable debt loads faced by students. This will give more students an opportunity to affordably access education and get ahead.

Up to 300,000 Canadians work as unpaid interns to try and get a foothold in the job market, the NDP will make sure that these interns receive the same workplace protections as other workers.

Tom Mulcair is committed to investing in small business to create good-quality, well-paying jobs for young people. The NDP will restore the federal minimum wage that the Liberals axed in 1996 and raise it to \$15 an hour within our first term, setting the bar economy-wide.

- **What is your party's commitment to research and development?**

NDP Response: Under the Conservatives, research has been under sustained attack. The Conservatives have cut funding to the granting councils, including the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. They have also changed the way grants are assessed and administered, depriving important sectors of research such as Indigenous health of the crucial public funding required to support them.

The NDP considers research and development to be crucially important. That's why Tom Mulcair and an NDP government will:

Restore the voice of scientists in Canada

- We will create a Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister headed by a Chief Science Advisor to ensure that our government always has access to the best possible scientific advice from experts in all fields.
- We will immediately move to restore the mandatory long-form census and provide the necessary funding to ensure it can be included in the 2016 census.
- We will put an end to the Conservatives' policy of muzzling scientists and ensure that Canada's leading experts are freely available to speak to the media and to publish their findings. We will implement the NDP's comprehensive plan to promote the voice of scientists in Ottawa-as laid out-in M-453 to promote scientific integrity.

- We will work to re-establish scientific capacity in government departments, including Environment Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- We will establish the Office of the Parliamentary Science Officer as per Bill C-558 to ensure that parliamentarians have the best possible access to science-based analysis;

Support Canada's world-class researchers

- We will restore the independence of Canada's granting agencies and respect their status as arm's length government agencies to ensure the best research will be funded.
- We will maintain the Canada First Research Excellence Fund to help Canadian universities compete globally.
- We will support researchers in post-secondary education institutions, including universities, colleges and polytechnics with a total investment of \$105 million in new funds over five years. We will make sure that government policy supports both our leading research institutions and values the role that smaller colleges and universities play in communities across Canada.
- Ensure a balanced approach to science and technology policy. We will undertake a transparent and inclusive review of Canada's science and technology strategy to ensure that all voices are heard.
- We will make government data open and available by default, in a useable format to assist researchers and businesses across Canada.