

# 2021 Canadian Election Analysis

*By Maurice Fritze  
Government Relations*

## *At A Glance*

Here is a quick guide to the federal election. This page is a nine minute read. There are links for you if you want to go deeper. I am trying to answer the question, “voting for which party would most benefit Metis, now and in the immediate future?”

In most examples, I have featured only the three big parties. In some places and some links, you will be able to read about many different parties. You should feel compelled to vote for the party that meets your political view. That is a basic freedom. However, I am focusing on the parties who have a chance to win the election [on September 20<sup>th</sup>].

Analyzing the three Parties election policies on Indigenous people gives rise to some interesting facts.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>NDP</b>
How many times does the word Metis appear? **	2	45	13
How many words are written to describe their Indigenous policy?	1955	3975	4380
Metis specific policies?	0	15	1
Indigenous priority - in what order do Indigenous promises appear?	#14	#6	#5
Policies that promise a set dollar amount?	Four stated investments totaling \$6 Billion, of which \$5B is for Indigenous to borrow and invest in projects.	Nine stated spending programs totaling \$13.7 Billion	No specific investments for spending programs. Money will be spent, NDP did not disclose how much.
What are the written commitments to Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action?	Canada's Conservatives will develop a comprehensive plan to implement TRC Calls to Action 71 through 76.	We will also continue to accelerate implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.	In partnership with Indigenous peoples, a New Democrat government will fully implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

How many Indigenous Candidates are running?	6	16	28
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\*\* The Liberals offer Metis support more frequently than the other two parties. Most of the mentions of “Metis” in the Conservative’s and NDP’s platforms happen in a list of Indigenous communities, such as this: First Nations, Inuit and Metis.

These entries above are taken from the formal policy platforms. In person, or to certain media, the leaders may have spoken a promise different from the written document. For example, O’Toole said once to a Global reporter he would honor all 94 Calls to Action.

<i>Political Party</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Election Platforms</i>
Conservative	Conservative.ca	<a href="https://conservative.ca">Canada's Recovery Plan - Secure the Future (conservative.ca)</a>
Liberal	Liberal.ca	<a href="https://liberal.ca/our-platform/">https://liberal.ca/our-platform/</a>
New Democrats	Ndp.ca	<a href="https://www.ndp.ca/commitments">https://www.ndp.ca/commitments</a>
Green	Greenparty.ca	<a href="https://www.greenparty.ca/en/platform">https://www.greenparty.ca/en/platform</a>
People’s Party of Canada	peoplespartyofcanada.ca	<a href="https://www.peoplespartyofcanada.ca/platform">https://www.peoplespartyofcanada.ca/platform</a>
Bloc Quebecois	www.blocquebecois.org	<a href="https://www.blocquebecois.org/plateforme/">https://www.blocquebecois.org/plateforme/</a>
Maverick	www.maverickparty.ca	<a href="https://www.maverickparty.ca/policy-platform">https://www.maverickparty.ca/policy-platform</a>

You may have to scroll down to find the platform link.

The following 6 comments are written by: Ryan Malone and Olivia Stefanovich. They are subjective but can be helpful in forming your own opinion:

1. Reconciliation came to the forefront this year after the discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves containing what’s believed to be remains of Indigenous children who never made it home from Canada’s residential schools.
2. The findings sent shockwaves across the country, made international headlines and forced Canadians — along with their politicians — to ask themselves how they can advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
3. The Liberal government faced scrutiny for not yet meeting its promise to implement all 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but it has since made more progress and announced new money to help communities search for possible burials near former residential school sites.
4. But the Liberals will continue to be called hypocrites by the NDP for continuing to fight a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal order to compensate First Nations children who went through the on-reserve child welfare system. The NDP promises to end this litigation.
5. While the Liberal and NDP messaging focuses on who should be trusted to move the reconciliation agenda forward, the Conservatives are pitching an economic development agenda to bring more opportunities and improve the quality of life in Indigenous communities.

6. But the Conservatives will face questions about whether they would implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples — something they voted against in Parliament.

## What the campaigns focus on:

To the average citizen, they are looking for the right candidate or political party to vote for. The campaign organizers are looking for something different. Here's the categories they use.

- *Core* voters - those who plan to vote again for the same party as last election;
- *Soft* voters - the coveted vote switchers who cast their vote for a different party last election, but plan to switch their vote this election; and
- *Swing* voters - potential voters who are open to changing their vote from the last election, but have not yet decided to do so.

The early decisions are easy. What do we need to say to keep our core voters? This is true for each political party. Once they know that you, a person who feels at home with the XYZ party, has your important needs met by saying the party leader pledges to grow green grass, all they have to do is to say periodically that grass is important. You are not likely to change or go political shopping. The campaign dollars are spent trying to bring soft voters and swing voters to their side. What do we need to say to bring these soft or swing voters to our party? Once they research what catches the attention of these soft and swing voters, they pour money into trying to say what they want to hear. And hope that translates to ballot on election day.

**My opinion:** After scouring the platform promises, it is clear the Liberals have more details on what they promise. They spell out more precisely on what they will spend, how long it will take and what the recipient can expect. The NDP have almost all the same headings, but few or no specifics with regards to cost and timing. The Conservatives have some desirable promises, but they are the weakest on commitments, and prefer to lend money to Indigenous Communities who would invest that money in approved projects. There is nothing wrong in wanting the Indigenous to go into business. But that is not a popular request from Indigenous leaders at this time.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer [PBO] has had a chance to review the Liberal, Conservative and NDP election promises. The PBO is a group of accountants who know how governments budget and spend taxpayer dollars. You can read those analyses here:

<https://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/en/epc-estimates--estimations-cpe?epc-cmp--eid=44>

The former parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page says only the Liberal plan deserved a good grade for overall fiscal credibility.

The Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) at the University of Ottawa, where Mr. Page is founding president and CEO, rated all three platforms in three areas: realistic fiscal assumptions, fiscal management and transparency.

The IFSD gave the NDP and Conservative platforms a passing grade over all, and the Liberal document received a higher score of "good."

<b>NDP</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal</b>
The NDP's plan is the largest by far in terms of new spending	Mr. Page's team gave the <u>Conservative</u> costed	The Liberal Party Platform's proposed approach to fiscal

<p>and tax hikes. The party proposes to spend \$38.5-billion over five years on a national pharmacare plan, plus \$11-billion more for dental coverage, as part of a platform that would expand government spending by \$214-billion over that period.</p> <p>To pay for part of it, the NDP proposes \$166-billion in new tax revenues, including expanded levies on capital gains, corporations and a wealth tax, which would add a 1-per-cent tax on those with more than \$10-million in wealth, measuring elements such as property and investments.</p> <p>“We’re going to invest in people in really bold ways,” NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh said on Saturday when the platform was released.</p> <p>In the IFSD report released Sunday, the NDP platform was rated high by Mr. Page’s institute for realistic fiscal assumptions and passed on fiscal responsibility, but got a failing grade on transparency.</p>	<p>platform a passing grade overall, but a score of “fail” under the category of responsible fiscal management.</p> <p>The institute’s main concern is that most of \$60-billion the Conservatives plan to spend on increasing the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) would only come in years five through 10 of a Conservative government. Conservative Leader Erin O’Toole is also saying he will balance the books over a decade, but the institute said the platform doesn’t explain how health spending can rise sharply while the deficit shrinks.</p> <p>“The CHT escalator of at least six per cent, if ongoing, would put the long-term balanced budget target and long-term fiscal sustainability at significant risk,” the institute wrote. “The six per cent increase to the CHT may require significant reductions to other spending measures or increases in revenue measures to maintain fiscal sustainability.”</p>	<p>management is based on three principles: 1) a budget constraint fiscal rule (declining debt-to-GDP ratio; a declining annual budgetary deficit); 2) readiness to address further pandemic-related economic and health challenges; 3) a commitment to undertake a strategic policy review of government programs to improve allocative efficiency (i.e., alignment of spending to priorities) of government spending. The Liberal Party Platform spending measures, in general, are relatively straightforward to implement and do not appear to pose significant downside fiscal risk.</p> <p>IFSD finds that the Liberal Party Platform 2021 merits an overall rating of ‘good,’ with ratings of ‘good’ across the three assessment principles (realistic economic and fiscal assumptions, responsible fiscal management, and transparency).</p>
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Here are two excellent Platform Guides. Due to copyright laws, we can’t post these but you can read them on the MACLEANS’ website or CBC’s website. Scroll down to see all the major policies and in particular, the main Indigenous Policies.

<https://www.macleans.ca/rankings/2021-federal-election-platform-guide/>

Another excellent summary is on CBC’s website:

<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/elections/federal/2021/party-platforms/>

I have selected important data from the three big parties, and it is here for your analysis – on Indigenous policies. There is much more on Covid19, housing, health, economy, environment etc. on their websites.