

## **NDP Response: Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada**

### **1. Tackling Climate Change**

**One of the greatest challenges facing Canada is the climate crisis. Canada needs investments in public science to help inform Canadians and find solutions. We need to fund the science to solve the climate crisis. PIPSC members working at the Canada Revenue Agency see every day how we could make the tax system fairer and ensure all are paying their fair share. It's time to crack down on corporate tax cheats – and use the money to pay for better public services for all Canadians. Will your government ensure that all Canadians pay their fair share of taxes so we have the funds available to tackle challenges like climate change? If yes, how does your party plan to achieve this?**

New Democrats believe that for too long, Liberals and Conservatives have been all too happy to let big corporations and the super-wealthy get away with not paying their fair share of taxes – and in the face of emergencies like the climate crisis, we can't afford it. We'll put more money into enforcement, so that CRA can go after tax evasion and crack down on aggressive avoidance. We'll also boost the top marginal tax rate, create a super-wealth tax on the very richest millionaires and billionaires, and increase the capital gains inclusion rate to 75 percent.

### **2. A working public service pay system**

**The Phoenix pay system is unfixable and the government has acknowledged that it must be replaced. Will your party commit to ensuring that Phoenix's replacement, known as the NextGen HR-to-Pay system, receives sufficient up-front funding? Will your party commit to fully consulting unions during every step of the process when building a replacement system?**

New Democrats believe that the Phoenix pay system has failed Canada's dedicated and professional public service. Public servants make incredible contributions to our country – and they deserve a government, and an employer, that treats them with respect. New Democrats will replace the failed Phoenix pay system brought in by the Conservative and Liberal governments, and ensure that impacted workers get fair compensation. We will commit to ensuring a stable rollout of NextGen HR-to-Pay and fully consult unions to ensure that a debacle like Phoenix never happens again.

### 3. Tax Fairness

**Program cuts and staff restructuring have placed Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) professionals at a significant disadvantage in ensuring individuals and corporations pay their fair share of taxes and, in particular, that revenue needed for public programs is not lost to off-shore tax havens. Will your party commit to investing in training, new technologies and regional office audit and investigations staff to help the CRA: catch wealthy tax cheats and hold large corporations accountable for what they owe; tax E-commerce companies fairly; create a publicly accessible “beneficial ownership” registry; and end “profit shifting”?**

Canadians know that good services we can all count on need to be funded sustainably. But for too long, Liberal and Conservative governments have told Canadians to expect less – cutting back on services, handing out special deals for big corporations and big polluters, and giving tax breaks to their wealthiest friends. Instead of lowering costs for Canadian families, they have delivered outrageous giveaways to the richest few, while letting costs grow for everyone else.

CRA needs to keep pace with the complexity of tax avoidance schemes, we'll invest in the CRA to ensure that they can collect what Canadians are owed, make sure that foreign web giants are paying their fair share, create a beneficial ownership registry to fight money laundering, and crack down on avoidance techniques like profit shifting.

### 4. Public Science

**While the ranks of federal scientists, engineers and researchers have gradually been replenished, much more remains to be done. Canada needs more, not less, federal government science to tackle challenges such as climate change, environmental protection, ensuring Canadians' health and safety and improving innovation. Overall spending on federal government science – in particular, Research & Development (R&D) – is lower today than it was under the Harper government. Will your party commit to:**

We believe in independent public science. An NDP-led government would: expand the role of the Chief Science Advisor to allow them to better monitor federal science capacity as well as create a Parliamentary Science Officer position to inform Parliamentarians about scientific evidence; make investments in federal government science, particularly climate science, and review the state of federal science funding across government; and ensure that government science is carried out independently and free from political management and oversight with strong scientific integrity policies.

## 5. Costly and wasteful outsourcing

**Canada needs a permanent, not a contract, public service. Yet overall spending on outsourcing has grown from \$10 billion to \$12 billion since 2015. Will your party commit to establishing a government/union taskforce to resolve the problem of outsourcing and to reduce spending on outside consultants to 2005-06 levels?**

New Democrats believe that a dedicated, permanent public service is a strong public service. We would work with unions to reduce the use of outsourcing and temporary help services to foster internal expertise and the public service's strong culture of excellence.

## 6. Protecting Retirement Security for Working Canadians

**Defined Benefit pension plans are the best and most efficient way to provide a secure and predictable retirement income for all Canadian workers. They are an essential part of Canada's pension system. Governments should protect Defined Benefit pensions, not contribute to their demise. Will your party commit to supporting retirement security? Will your party work to enhance retirement security and expand access to Defined Benefit pension plans? Will your party commit to not introducing legislation like Bill C-27 from the last Parliament that worked to convert Defined Benefit plans to Target Benefit plans?**

The federal government has a critical role to play in protecting defined benefit pensions across the country. The Liberals' openness to target benefit plans in the public sector, which don't guarantee stable benefits for retirees, puts defined benefits at risk for all Canadians – and we will immediately put a stop to this chipping away of retirement security.

We are committed to strengthening public pensions and improving retirement security for all Canadians. A New Democrat government will create a Pension Advisory Commission to develop a long-term plan to protect and enhance Old Age Security, boost the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and strengthen the Canada Pension Plan.

## 7. Quality Public Child Care

**Canada needs a publicly funded and managed Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) system that is affordable, high-quality, accessible and inclusive. The evidence is clear: investments in child care are the best way to grow the economy, promote gender equality, increase women's labour force participation and enhance children's well-being. Will your party commit to allocating \$1 billion for child care transfers to the provinces and territories in its first federal budget? Will your party invest an additional \$1 billion each year to make affordable child care a reality for all Canadians by 2030?**

Young families need access to quality, affordable child care. But today, there is an affordability crisis in child care across the country. Families are struggling to find child care spaces and get on waitlists – before their children are even born. Costs are unaffordable in many cities. And parents are forced to make impossible choices between delaying their return to work or paying huge amounts for the child care they need.

Our vision is to give families relief. Every parent across Canada should be able to find the child care you need, when you need it with a licensed provider making a fair wage. We'll work with other levels of government, Indigenous communities, families, and child care workers to ensure that care is inclusive and responsive to the needs of all Canadian children. And we'll introduce legislation that enshrines Canada's commitment to high-quality, public child care in law. Public early childhood education and child care that is affordable and available to all families helps our economy and gives parents real choices.

We will make child care better for families by investing \$1 billion in 2020 and growing that investment annually, along with the provinces and territories. We're on the side of parents to ensure affordable, quality child care for all – because no one should be forced to choose between having a family and having a career.

## Pharmacare

**There is a mountain of evidence that shows a public universal Pharmacare program will provide equal access and coverage for all Canadians, reduce drug prices and save billions of dollars. Does your party support taking the next step of providing public universal coverage of prescription drugs for all Canadians?**

New Democrats believe in a public, universal Pharmacare system and would immediately work to make it a reality. We will begin working with the provinces right away to target a late 2020 start date, with an annual federal investment of \$10 billion. That means access to necessary medicines in the same way that we have access to medical and hospital care – free at the point of care, financed by a public insurance system that covers everyone. It means that you’ll need your health card – not your credit card – at the pharmacy till. And it puts an end to costly co-payments, deductibles and premiums that cost families hundreds and even thousands a year.