

# Childcare Fact Sheet

**Families have identified lack of access to affordable, quality child care as a barrier to:**

- finding and keeping jobs;
- participating in job training
- getting out of poverty

**Canada has no national child care program,** and without federal leadership and funds, provinces/territories have not developed the services to meet the needs of families.

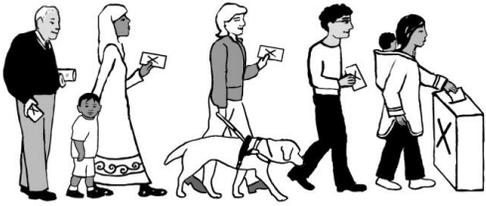


**In 2004, the federal-provincial-territorial governments had an agreement on** providing affordable, quality childcare.

When the Conservative government came into office in 2006, **the agreement and related funds were cancelled.**

Conservative Federal Government Approach	Advantage	Disadvantage
Increase the Universal Childcare Benefit (UCB) to \$160 per month, per child children under 6; and \$60 per month per child ages 6 - 17	Puts money in the pockets of families with children	-Does not provide enough money to pay for childcare - Does not create a childcare program where all can benefit
Income splitting for families with children under 18 . This means that couples can split up to \$50,000 of their income when reporting for taxes, so that the higher income earner pays lower taxes.	Two parents families, with different levels of income, can benefit up to \$2000.	-The wealthy families benefit the most. -Single parent families do not benefit. -Does not build a childcare program -Will cost \$2 billion in 2015 alone.

Province of Quebec Approach	Advantage	Disadvantage
Since 2003, Quebec has offered publicly funded \$7/day childcare per child.	-Employment rates increased -Child poverty decreased	-Long wait list -Cost more than \$7/day to run, increasing to \$15/day



# Good Food for All Food Security Fact Sheet

Many Canadians do not have access to sufficient amounts of nutritional food.

First Nations, Inuit and Metis people, especially in northern communities face food shortages.

Use of Food Banks has gone up by 25% since the 2008-2009 recession.

Food Banks were supposed to be a temporary measure, but are now entrenched community institutions.

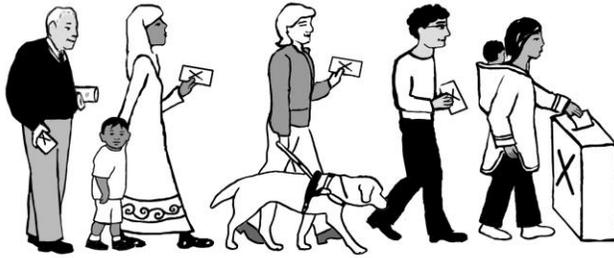
## Why?

- frozen incomes,
- inadequate income support programs,
- loss of permanent jobs
- rise of precarious employment (unstable and without benefits)
- rising cost of food



**A National Right to Food Policy** that guarantees universal access to adequate amounts of healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food would help to address this.

**What will the Political Parties commit to do in the Federal Election?**



# Good Jobs For All Employment Fact Sheet

**Job insecurity is rising while stable employment erodes.**

In the past 20 years, **insecure or precarious employment has increased** by nearly 50 per cent.

**Precarious employment** means they may not have benefits or sick days, and workers may not be able to predict their schedules or income.

## **Who is most affected?**

- Unemployment rates among **First Nations** are at least three times higher than the rest of Canada.
- **Immigrants and racialized Canadians** experience disproportionate levels of poverty, unemployment, and underemployment, especially in the short term.
- **Racialized women** earned, on average in 2014, 24% less than racialized men.
- In 2006, the average income of **recent immigrants** (\$20,999) in Canada was much lower than that of non-immigrants (\$36,243), even though a larger percentage of immigrants come to Canada with professional skills and training.
- High unemployment rate among **youth** and record debts from post-secondary education.



**The cost, to our country, of not making full use of these professional skills, is very high.** The Conference Board of Canada pegs the economic cost at \$4.1 to \$5.9 billion a year.

## **Employment Insurance (EI)**

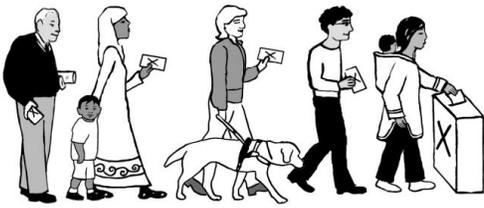
- There is funding for **training dollars** for people on Employment Insurance.
- However, **less than 40% of unemployed works now quality** for Employment Insurance Benefits.

**No comprehensive strategy** so there is a patchwork of programs across Canada.

A **National Job Creation and Training Strategy** would be one way to change this.

**What will the Political Parties commit to do in the Federal Election?**

Making Votes Count Where We Live, 2015 – [www.makingvotescount.ca](http://www.makingvotescount.ca)



# Affordable Housing Fact Sheet

The cost of housing is increasing faster than incomes, leading to increasing housing vulnerability across the country.

Canada is the only G8 country without a National Housing Strategy.

United Nations has asked Canada to recognize the right to adequate housing as spelled out in the **International Convention on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights**.

63 percent of Canadians believe new affordable housing will make life better in their communities (Federation of Canadian Municipalities).

## Funding for Affordable Housing:

- Funding for affordable and social housing has been on the decline for more than two decades.
- Funding will continue to drop as federal government “steps out” of its remaining affordable housing commitments.
- An investment of about \$1 billion dollars is needed to expand and repair housing on First Nations reserves.

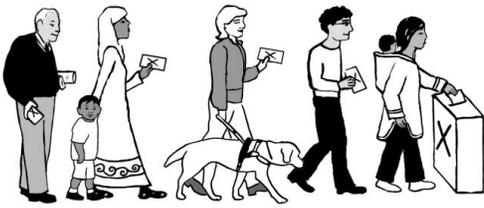


## Federal Government Approach:

- Renewed the Homeless Partnering Strategy (\$113 million per year) and investment in Affordable Housing Program (\$253 million, per year) until 2019.
- The Provinces are to pitch in for a total of \$506 million per year.
- However, this funds about ¼ of what is needed to expand and upgrade affordable housing.

**A National Housing Strategy with dedicated funding, that recognizes the right to affordable housing could change this.**

**What will the other Political Parties offer in the Federal Election?**



# Affordable Transit Fact Sheet

The ability to travel quickly is a foundation for a vibrant city, and quality of life for everyone.

64 percent of Canadians say that improved public transit will make life better in their communities (Federation of Canadian Municipalities).

Traffic congestions makes cities less productive. The average Canadian commuter spends the equivalent of 32 working days a year travelling to and from work.



The rising cost of transit makes it unaffordable for many.

## Federal Government Approach:

In the 2015 Budget, the federal government committed to the new Public Transit Fund to invest \$1 billion a year on urban transit. Provinces and Municipalities would each match it. Ottawa will be able to apply for Phase 2 light-rail money under this new fund

### However:

- the fund gets off to a slow start, by only providing a total of \$750 million until 2019, but then committing \$1 billion annually thereafter.
- the Mayors of the big cities want to confirm that this fund is permanent
- requires partnering with the private sector, not clear by how much

## Fares:

This does not directly address rising fares, but will make Public Transit more accessible. It can be hoped that if the City of Ottawa has more money for expanding transit, then more funds are freed up to decrease fares.

## What will the other Political Parties in the Federal Election offer?