

# Y.M.C.I Phoenix



## **FEATURE: “What About Us?”**

Kayla Williams & Kaitlyn Nguyen

### **Students voice concern over lack of prioritization on education**

Canada-With the Federal election right around the corner, there comes the question of what each party intends to offer to benefit Canadians. With the lack of attention regarding the topic of education, students are bound to feel uneasy and unprioritized. This raises concern amongst young Canadians, who make up approximately 40% of the voting population.

The final results of this election will heavily affect the future of our education system, and being such a pivotal decision, has the potential to change Canada for the better. Just like many others, the Canadian education system isn't perfect. Tuition costs have skyrocketed, and are only getting more expensive. Many times the curriculums we're given are outdated with no means to adapt to modernity, depriving students of crucial cognizance. This allows feelings of uncertainty to arise, as the importance of a modern education has been encouraged and pushed onto students over the years.

Each Federal party has its own views and courses of action it wishes to implement in our educational system. The Liberal party has pledged to eliminate federal interest on loans, as well as doubling student grants for those from low income families. As the current party in power, this was in effect even after the pandemic hit, and left students feeling reassured. Conservatives would like to give new graduates the opportunity of receiving up to \$100,000 or more in tax breaks for the first 3 years out of post-secondary. Both the NDP and Green party share similar ideals in wanting to entirely eliminate tuition costs for post secondary education. This in turn, greatly benefits lower income families; they won't feel as if their aspirations are restricted due to financial issues. Finally, the Bloc Quebecois wishes to increase social transfer between the provinces and territories, as well as provide better research for post secondary.

There also seems to be a lot of discourse when it comes to what each Federal party plans to bring to the table. Many students feel that certain parties' plans to encourage inclusion are important when it comes to their future. Kristine Arcadio, a senior student attending York Memorial Collegiate Institute is an obvious display of that. “The NDP and Green party's plans for post-secondary education sound amazing. I especially like how the Green Party mentioned Indigenous students, since I feel that they're not often thought of or taken into consideration when governmental decisions are made.” Others recognize the good intent many parties showcase in their promises, but still feel wary. Traceyann Lindsay, a mother of a senior high school student says, “I think the lack of voice from the People's Party when it comes to education indicates that they don't care or plan to do anything to improve its system. It makes me feel like my children's futures aren't being thought of.”

As of now, we can only hope that the candidate chosen keeps their promises, and avidly demonstrates that they plan to best represent Canadians.

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# Canada's Election is Heating up, Just Like Canada's House Market

What the politicians are promising to accomplish in order to cool down the housing market in Canada

**Nivya Kurukulasingam**

Toronto - Canada's housing market crisis has been one of the most heated topics among the campaigning political parties as the federal election date, September 20, is nearing. The housing crisis has been going on for decades due to housing prices increasing faster than the median income, rendering middle class families and youths to leave their dreams of owning or even renting a house in Canada. A study done by Oxford Economics shows that housing prices in Canada are 34% more expensive than the median income a household can afford. It has also been reported that 1.6 million Canadian households spend more than 30% of their income on housing, whether it be rent or mortgage. As the housing crisis continues, let's see what the three major parties, Liberal Party, Conservative Party, and the New Democrat Party, promise.

The Liberal Party promises to protect homeowners and homebuyer's rights by creating the Home Buyer's Bill of Rights. The bill will include the banning of blind bids, legal rights to inspect the house the buyer is buying, accurate and transparent history of the current house sale prices, and mortgage deferrals for a maximum of six months in the event of unemployment or other major life events. The Conservative Party promises to reduce mortgage payments for those who have seven-to-ten-year mortgage terms and relieve the pressure off the "Mortgage Stress Test", which means more Canadians would qualify for a mortgage. The New Democrat Party has promised to end speculation by placing a 20% Foreign Buyers Tax on those who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents. The party has also promised to fight against money laundering by requesting reports of suspicious transactions and creating a public beneficial ownership registry - shows the owner of each property - with the help of the provincial and territorial governments.



An image of the growing house prices across Canada.

# Conservatives Aiming in the Wrong Direction?

## 2021 Canadian Federal Election: Which Party Will End Victorious?

**Ian Singh**

Gun violence and gang-related crimes have been on the rise in Canada according to a 2020 report from Statistics Canada, however it seems to be the least of the Conservatives' concern. Unlike the NDP and Liberals, the Conservatives seem to have an aim in the wrong direction as they face backlash from a wide variety of Canadians for what some believe, they're moving 2 steps backwards in regards to what they've promised if they form a government. As the 2021 federal elections soon approach on Monday, September 20th, Canadians continue to listen in on what the main political parties are promising. Two of the most heated topics being discussed, gun control and gang-related crimes.



*Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole speaks to the media at a campaign event in Coquitlam, B.C., on Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021*

### **Here's how the NDP, Conservatives, and Liberals, plan to attack these issues:**

The NDP claims to retaliate against gun violence by making sure communities have access to funding in regards to anti-gang initiatives/programming but seem to avoid the topic of gun control. The Liberals are committed to enforce bans on many assault-style rifles, and also handing a bit of authority to provinces to help control handguns. They'll also make a requirement for owners of assault-style rifles to sell their guns to the government in return for a fair reimbursement. When it comes to the conservatives, they strongly disagree with a handgun ban and would love to remove Bill C-71 which the Liberals had imposed. They instead trust Canadians to own and use firearms responsibly. Although, a benefit they've promised is to hire RCMP officers to help combat smuggling of guns, as well as gang-related crimes.

As the Liberals slowly start to slip away with their lead, the Conservatives sure do have some room for improvement in order to gain more support from Canadians. Gun-control might just be a topic to overlook.

# Political party views on immigration and how it can help Refugees

## Thousands flee, in search of refuge

**Henry Au**

After the devastating Taliban takeover of Kabul in August, many seek refuge and an escape from this nightmare. With many turning to Canada to help escape and provide safety and shelter. With an estimated count of 113,000 evacuated and seeking acceptance and many more hiding in their homes of Afghanistan. With the upcoming election on the 20th, many questions are asked about the plans on how to welcome these refugees. While Justin Trudeau, already accepting and resettling as many as 5000 as well as promising to accept as many as he can.

With these questions, here are the plans from each political party:

### **Liberals**

The Liberal Party led by Justin Trudeau promises will settle 20,000 Afghans if re-elected. As well as annually raising the immigration targets. If the Liberal party continues to lead the country they will most likely continue their multi-year immigration levels plan.

### **New Democratic**

The New Democratic party led by Jagmeet Singh, promises to end all caps on the program known as Parents and Grandparents Program and will also address the backlogs. They also will work with the provinces to help improve settlement services. Regarding refugees, the NDPs plan to remove the backlog of asylum seekers.

### **Conservative**

The conservative led by Erin O'Toole, are promising and have eyes set on a more fair immigration system. While also speeding up application by reducing redtapes, by streamlining applications, and using their resources to the fullest. As well as allowing applicants to pay fees to have their process accelerated, having these extra revenues go towards hiring additional staff to increase the backlog processes. While planning to increase cultural awareness and match applicants to better suited immigration offices. While scraping the lottery system for the PGP and creating a first-come, first served style.

### **Bloc Quebecois**

The Bloc Quebecois, led by Yves-François, are promising a speed up in immigration process from Quebec. As well as wanting the repeal of the Safe Third Country Agreement in hopes of ending illegal crossings at the Us - Canada border. While planning to offer tax credits for graduates and immigrants, wishing to settle outside major urban centres.

Some plans may change due to upcoming events and future unpredicted events. All of these options will certainly help Afghan refugees in the resettling and cease their search. You will get to decide, which option will be best in accommodating these new Canadians.



# The Liberals' Future Plans for Healthcare

## Abdulhekim Kirkukli

With the rise of Covid cases, healthcare workers are having a hard time managing all of the infected patients. The workers have reported feeling stressed and with some unfortunately taking their own lives as a result. With some of these factors being considered, the Liberals have decided to augment better treatment for their healthcare workers, including new features which were once never available through the healthcare system.

There are a list of promises made which benefit the workers, as well as people struggling with mental health issues and other health related problems:

- Support hiring 7,500 doctors and nurses.
- Better long-term care.
- Work to hire 50,000 PSWs and raise their wages to \$25 an hour.
- Accessible public mental health care.
- Action to address the opioid crisis and make it easier for people with problematic substance use to access treatment.
- 10 days of paid sick leave for federally regulated workers.
- Protecting your sexual and reproductive health and rights.



With all of these new implementations said to take action after the election, it's safe to say that they are aware of our healthcare workers' situations, and are taking action to assist them. With the addition of mental health care that is accessible through public means will be huge in assisting students who are struggling with mental health issues.

# Canada on the Verge of an Economical & Environmental Breakdown?

We need affordable houses to live in, and Beautiful nature to be surrounded by.

Let's see what federal leaders are going to do about it.

**Haimi Patel & Aakanksha Parekh**

In 4 days, Canada will be casting votes for the Federal elections to either Justin Trudeau, leader of the Liberals, NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, Conservative head Erin O'Toole, and a few other parties. The nation depends on our political leaders to lead Canada out of crisis and into an economically and healthier Canada.

Climate has been one of the most popular and often discussed topics in the Federal elections. For years, many leaders have promised us a greener and healthier future but who owned up to it? It is as if we were passengers on the Titanic, who had seen paradise and luxuries, but in reality, they sank. From what we were expecting, only a couple of promises were delivered and taken care of: generating economy-wide climate plans and putting a price on carbon emissions. The Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change and Clean Growth (PCF) from 2016, and the Healthy Environment Healthy Economy plan (HEHE) from 2020. They are both significant for the potential climate changes, although they are not ideal.

The release of HEHE in December of 2020 gave us confirmation that pan-Canadian carbon prices will increase post-2022. Carbon pricing is a critical element because it enforces that it is no longer acceptable to externalize the cost of pollution. It also encourages the private sector transitions. Therefore, we can expect the carbon price to be \$170 per ton by the year 2030. That is crucial, as this is what Trudeau has promised this year in the elections. Justin Trudeau had promised a lot in his 2015 election campaign. According to National Post news, Trudeau had made 353 pre-election promises. He broke 10% of them and partially completed 40% of the promises. It is why our greenhouse gas emissions are not reducing. It is also important to note that climate plans ignore oil and gas productions, which are the largest source of emissions.

According to an article by Joe McCarty - since signing the Paris Agreement in 2015, Canada is the only G7 country whose emissions have increased. The emissions are significantly higher than in 1990. He also wrote that the PCF and the HEHE had 60+ policies, yet none focused on the actions needed to tackle oil and gas productions.

The rise of the global temperature is half of Canada's average temperature rise. If we can maintain fact-based and determined conversations about climate change, we can sustain very little of what we have.

**Continued in next slide**

# Canada on the Verge of an Economical & Environmental Breakdown? - Continued

Likewise, the federal election seems like empty promises for housing the homeless, lower-class, and middle-class families. In Toronto, everyone has seen the problems of homelessness. Even the lower-class families are starting to fall after this pandemic. Remember that it is only one city. Understand that if Toronto is this bad, how bad are the rest of the cities in Canada?

Back in 2015, during the last federal campaign, we heard of unkept promises. At that time, current prime minister Justin Trudeau had promised new, affordable housing for the middle- and low-income classes. There has been no improvement in the past five years.

Recalling a promise made by Trudeau called the rent-to-own program, he wishes to make it easier for renters to buy their own house. Technically, the program is built for owners to own the residence by renting it, which takes longer than mortgaging and charges high interest rates.

A similar promise made by the leader of the conservatives, Erin O'Toole, was to put affordable housing near transit stops. Honestly, most middle- and lower-class people take the transit as their rent/mortgage is already high. If one had riches, such as a car, and moved/bought a house there, what is the use of a transit stop nearby?

For the past three years, we have seen skyrocketing prices for households and rentals. Therefore, the thought-provoking question is, if one has no job stability, how will one pay for all these rising prices? According to an RBC survey, Canadians from ages 18 to 40 think they will not have a home to call theirs. According to Statistics Canada states, "More than 235,000 people in Canada experience homelessness in any given year and 25,000 to 35,000 people may be experiencing homelessness on any given night."

What will happen to the population of Canada if residence prices stay up even after the promises from the federal leaders? No one would prefer to live in a country facing an economic and environmental breakdown.



# Canadian Federal Elections 2021 Affect Rural Areas

## Party Leaders can do to make a change in rural

**Franchelle Joyce C.**



**The Canadian Federal Election 2021 party leader Candidates.**

Canada's having elections this September 20, 2021. There are many party leaders that are running from different parties, and they have their own goals to make changes here in Canada. To be specific in rural areas. The voting for the election will be done by casting a ballot in person at polling places, and special ballot as you have to apply it online, also doing a mail-in ballot this separate the process and set of deadlines to meet they supposed to start the process before the election day to get their vote counted. As for the pandemic, there are protocols that are followed for each province or region.

This election has a lot of promises that each candidate will do to make changes for the rural regions and places. The major issue that different parties are addressing is giving negative effects to the rural regions and places. Many public policies limit rural areas to places where food and energy are produced, rather as places where people develop their lives and livelihoods. The effects of climate change are frequently felt most acutely in rural areas. These major issues are the COVID-19 Response, Cost of living/Affordability, Housing, Health Care, Energy, Climate Change, Drug Policy, Child Care, Indigenous Relations, Senior's Care, and Immigration.

Energy and climate change are two issues that are focusing on rural regions and places, as they are having an impact on them. The liberal party is implementing energy-related initiatives like as energy efficiency and conservation, which can assist lower overall demand for fuel and save communities money. This local renewable energy, such as wind, solar, hydro, or biomass, can be used to substitute diesel, which has negative environmental and health consequences. Since thousands of people in the province have been temporarily displaced from their homes due to out-of-control fires, revealing plumes of smoke moving across North America, and the skies over Vancouver have turned red, making it difficult to breathe and dangerous for anyone with a respiratory illness, the liberal party is taking action on climate change. The liberal have said " they intend to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 45 percent by 2030." this has become beyond what the government agreed to do at the 2015 climate change conference in Paris, and less that both NDP and Green Party are pledging.

The party leaders are coming to there conclusion of major reasons that are the parties promises and to make sure that they fulfill the promises that they made. Not just to make them win the elections, but to prove to Canada that they can handle and do well as leaders of the country.

# The negligence of Canadian political parties in reducing rising gas emissions

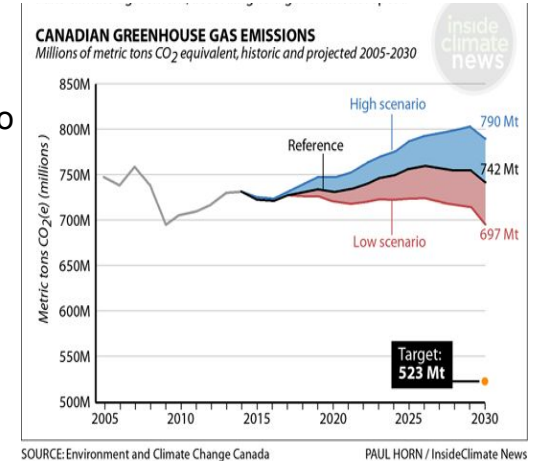
With 2030 approaching, candidates are a far cry away from keeping the promises they made to combat climate change

## Shujana Alam

As Canada's greenhouse gas emissions increase rapidly, the current federal government and popular competing parties show no interest in tackling this issue. According to the 2015 Paris Agreement signed by Stephen Harper, Canada's goal was to reduce emissions by 40-45 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

It seems that the Liberal party doesn't feel concerned about achieving this result. In Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's 2019 re-election campaign, he vouched, "We are on track to reduce our emissions by 30 percent by 2030 compared to 2005 levels." This year, he proposed reducing it to the original 40 percent, as the Paris Agreement states. This information has been proven misleading as studies from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) show that it's unlikely to reach the desired goal by 2030 with the party's current plan. They expressed that in the best-case scenario, Canada's total emissions will be only 63 percent of the way to the targeted outcome.

The Conservative Party seems to be no better. Leader Erin O'Toole has recently been under fire for favouring reducing emissions by a lower percentage, around 30 percent, than the Paris Agreement states, showing how much he cares for the wellbeing of Canada's environment. The New Democratic Party's stance on combating this issue seems almost identical to their last federal election campaign. Jagmeet Singh is aiming to lower emissions by 50 percent, but lacks the new ideas and plans to do so. With the health of our future generations on the line, will this election determine who can protect our country from this crisis?

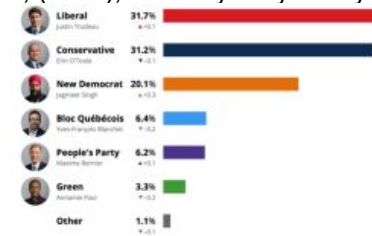


# How the increasing PPC vote could affect future elections

## Muslim Abd Ali

Since Canada's inception, Liberals have been the most common ruling party. They would often win elections with landslides, commonly getting over a hundred seats more than their opposition, the Conservatives. This all changed in 1962 when the New Democratic Party was formed by Tommy Douglas. Ever since then, they have been bleeding the Liberal party of their votes, and each coming year they gain a bigger foothold on the voting spread. The two parties are both on the same side of the political spectrum, so much so that when in 1972, the NDP and Liberals formed an unofficial coalition to pass many socialist laws, despite the Conservatives' disapproval. Even the current party leader, Jagmeet Singh vowed to do "anything possible" to prevent the conservatives from coming into power, so it's obvious that people who vote NDP would also support the Liberals. We can't forget about the Bloq Québécois, another Centre-Left party that holds around 5-10% of the vote. Some may point out how there was a smaller, secondary Liberal party before the NDP, (CCF), but they very rarely had over a handful of seats, and never enough to actually make a difference.

What does this have to do with the PPC? The far-right group led by Maxime Bernier was laughed off by many during their first stint in 2019, being deemed too extreme for Canadian voters, they have a whopping 6-10% of the poll during the election in 2021, a sharp increase from their previous election. They came out of nowhere in their second year and have made a large impact. (Sound familiar?)



*Image of 2021 Poll Results as of 9/15/2021*

The problem arises in the fact that the Conservative party has largely run **unopposed** as the only right-wing party, engulfing most of the Republican voters, and even with that they only win by a couple of per cent at best (with one or two exceptions). If the PPC can gain enough of a foothold, we could see a large split of the CCP vote, especially considering how some voters already view the CCP as "too progressive". It may already be too late. Polls such as Mainstreet show that where the CCP loses, the PPC win. So what may

happen is entirely dependent on the CCP leadership, they can decide to stay progressive to peel more independent voters, or they can revert back to their old policies to get their core voters back. No matter what happens, having this much choice as a voter is a sign of a healthy democracy.

# How the Election will affect Immigration

## A sneak peak on how immigration might change.

**Jason Tran**

With the 2021 Canadian federal election coming up on Monday September 20 2021, one of the topics that were brought up was what each of the parties had to say about immigration and how they might change the process of immigrating to Canada. As of July of this year, there have been more than 184,000 new permanent residents in 2021. Most people would consider there being three parties that could win the election. Those being the Liberal party led by Justin Trudeau, the Conservative party led by Erin O'Toole and finally the New Democratic party (NDP) led by Jagmeet Singh.

If re-elected, Trudeau has promised to resettle up to 20,000 Afghans similar to how he promised to accept 25,000 Syrian refugees in 2015. Trudeau has also promised to make housing more affordable for first-time buyers.

In the Conservative's plan, they call for an immigration system that welcomes international talent, offers refuge to human rights defenders and those who are fleeing persecution, and reunites families. They want to speed up the application process by reducing red tape, streamlining applications, and moving the application process online. They also want to record all interactions between immigration officers and applicants.

The NDP's 2021 platform promises to end the caps on the Parents and Grandparents Program (PGP) and address the backlogs. They would also prioritize pay equity to end wage discrimination based on gender, which affects immigrant women.

How each party plans to deal immigration is going to be something that might and very well could affect how people vote. We'll just have to wait and see if these new ideas really change how Canadians vote.

# Learning loss due to school closures during the pandemic

On March 14th, 2020, Ontario schools were first closed and students had to move to remote learning after the announcement by premier Doug Ford.

## Hamza

The move to remote learning lasted 20 weeks and changed students' lives and learning experiences forever. This especially affected Ontario, because Ontario has had the longest interruption to in-person classes in Canada. Due to these lockdowns and consistent school closures, students' mental health, marks, and learning progression were highly affected. A survey was taken to see how the effects of marks and learning progression were on students during remote learning, and in the survey's results, it was stated that students made little or no progress while learning from home. Learning loss was most pronounced among students learning from home. Despite a lot of learning progression being decreased from students, this wasn't the only aspect where students were suffering in.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented another challenge to students which is their mental health. Students already coping with mental health conditions have been especially vulnerable to the changes. There have even been times where students have spoken out and explained how their mental health was not stable, and interviews and surveys were taken. For example, the website Active Minds reached out to students during the pandemic and collected data on students, and it was recorded more than 20 % of students' mental health has become unstable and worsened to an extent where small tasks have become overwhelming. As you can see, it is a common theme that students need more resources and more ways to be helped, even after people tried reaching out to them. Even during the pandemic, Doug Ford and Minister Stephen Lecce failed to deliver smaller class sizes. This wasn't only happening during the pandemic, in 2019 Doug Ford cut school budgets and increased class sizes.



# How The Corona Virus Outbreak Affected My Family

## How the lives of me and my family changed in the blink of an eye.

**Ayyub Mohamed**

The coronavirus outbreak appeared in Canada after a couple months since its founding in China. On April 3, 2020, Covid-19 changed the lives of me and my family. When covid first reached Ontario it wasn't really talked about until the premier, Doug Ford, put out that the province would go into lockdown for 4 weeks. Schools closed, jobs were put on hold, stores closed, and pretty much everything else was closed as well. After the lockdown finished people thought life would go back to the way it was, but this was only the beginning. Schools were closed for the rest of the year, only stores/jobs that were considered essential remained open, and my family was stuck inside home watching a virus take over the world.



Premier Doug Ford announcing a province wide lockdown

When the schools were announced to be closed for the rest of the year it affected me and my two younger brothers. Looking at a screen for the remainder of the year is not really enjoyable. The person who was affected the most when schools were closed was my mother. My mother worked in an elementary school as a lunch supervisor and lunch lady. It was a source of income for her. I asked her how she felt then and she replied, "Not going to work and making money for my family hurts, but now that I look back at it, I was not the only one. Many people around the world were going through what I was going through as well." Another person that Covid really affected was my father. I feel that he may have

been affected the most since he was a main source of income for the family as

he worked really hard to pay for our living expenses. He worked as a truck driver and would be making long trips to the U.S for his work before Covid. When Covid hit the U.S, he had to come home and was not allowed to work for a while. From then on, our everyday routine became the same as there was not much to do in the world. Although the coronavirus has had an enormous impact on the entire world, it really did not take a huge toll on the health and well-being of my family as it has for many. Now going into this election, I hope that the party that is going to be elected has a plan set out to deal with the corona virus for good and take all the necessary precautions needed to ensure our safety as a nation.

# Elections during the pandemic

## Taibah Akhanda

Why would the prime minister call an election when another pandemic wave could be on the way? It's possible that holding an election during a pandemic was not the best decision. Citizens have the opportunity to entrust authority to persons to represent them and their interests through elections and the democratic process. As a result, elections and the electoral process are the foundations of democracy. While each party has their speeches, a large crowd will gather, which is not safe at the moment. Keeping the same prime minister would have been more convenient for everyone because it wouldn't have added to their stress. Each side has a different approach to the pandemic, it might produce chaos and confusion among people. Having a new president can be a significant change for everyone, especially when we want expert assistance. It chose the incorrect person at this moment, because we re procedure that must be completed to change something as as well as the fear that other voting systems may result authority to effect meaningful change in Canada. Something lik or make things worse during the pandemic, when we des Even with the vaccination, the number of cases is increasing we do to help stop this? People are tired of not being able and it will only be a matter of time until they stop caring. H of a pandemic may not have been the best decision, but now can we can do is wait and see. It's possible that holding elections during a pandemic was not the wisest idea, but all we can do now is wait and see.



# The Flames That Would Change Lives

A Major Event No One Expected that Would Change the Lives of Many People

**Jessica La**

In York Memorial a fire mysteriously occurred. Students and teachers believing that it was a drill exited the building nonchalantly. As people were processing the information of their school burning in a fire, the fire grew bigger and the school was no more. Looking at this from a student's point of view, they wouldn't know that this would cause a huge change in their lifestyle. Guardians of the students felt scared for the children they were in charge of and also had to face the problems that the victims were facing. Possessions were burned, new changes in school and mental illnesses caused by a major event.

After the events of the fire, the students were stressed out. Then they were warned about the possibility of the school being closed down for good. A student in York Memorial would have to change routes of transportation and they would have to change the place they are used to going to and many students and teachers would change into new schools and change their whole lifestyles.

Victims are now more aware of the issues and how the government is not solving their problems. Students and staff are not going to stand a chance if another candidate will not listen to their plea in the future. How is there going to be a change if there's no answer? Students want to be listened to, not ignored.



# Do Religious Beliefs Affect Voting Behaviour in Canada?

Religion is shown to be one of the main factors that affect the voting behaviour of a person.

## Hetvi Patel

Toronto - Since the past years in Canada, there has been a strong importance in understanding the voting behaviour. There are many factors including class, race, gender and religion that may affect a person's voting behaviour. Many studies in the past were done to understand voting behaviour in Canada and the results were shown to be that religion plays a huge and important role in voting.

Thus, religion is a factor that will be shown to be an important role in the elections for the coming years in Canada.

I spoke to the former leader of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Chirag Patel. I asked him if his religious beliefs affect his voting behaviour during the elections. He answered "My personal religious experiences, nature, environment and even my genetics help shape my beliefs and perspective. These are the beliefs that influence my behaviour and determine my actions." I strongly agree with his opinion because my religious beliefs also affect the way I think and act towards others. When it comes to voting you feel an instant connection towards someone that may have the same religious beliefs as you and due to that there is an immediate bond of trust that you feel which makes you satisfied that the person you are voting for will live up to the expectations of Canadians. The reason why is because our cultures are really similar and because of that there would be an instant trust bond and reliance that the future of Canada would be safe in his hands. This is why I think religious beliefs do affect a person's voting behaviour in Canada.

Though there are many other factors that affect a person's voting behaviour, past studies have shown that religion is one of the most significant factors. I strongly agree with this because for every person religion is one of the most important parts of them. A person's religious belief shapes how they think and act towards others and during the elections they always try to make personal connections to the leading parties. Religion is thus likely to continue to play a major role in Canada elections for years to come.



# Old Generation Vs New Generation: Election Wants / Needs

## What the Older Generation Seeks In The Election Compared to the Younger Generation

### Deneer Zakaria

When it comes to the election, what people want from candidates usually depends on their net worth. But I feel like people seek different things from candidates depending on their age group. I have interviewed my father on what he seeks from candidates in the election. It'll be a comparison between the old generation vs the new generation on what they seek from parties in the election.

My dad seeks a party that will treat indigenous people with respect. At the moment they aren't treated like Canadian citizens. They don't receive clean drinking water and especially with the pipeline situation that was trying to take a chunk of the Wet'suwet'en land that's been going on in the past year. Personally, I couldn't agree more. I genuinely think that we need a candidate that prioritizes treating indigenous people equally with the rest of Canada. Most parties think about helping indigenous people as an afterthought or a promise that never goes through.



*Image of the indigenous people protesting in their land to stop the pipeline*

The party my dad seeks the most is one that doesn't fund the military as much. He said, "the money should go into the people more and less into the military". He stated, "Canada should be a peaceful country since it will bring in more immigrants". I can't agree with him at all unfortunately. Canada actively goes out to help other countries in need. If we stop putting money into the military, we won't get more immigrants. We'll get less because we're not going out there to help countries in need and letting them take refuge in Canada. On top of that it'll make Canada more vulnerable to attacks if it ever happens.

At the start of this interview, I thought that we'd agree with everything. Unfortunately we didn't, but that just shows the difference between the old and the new generations. Although we did agree on the indigenous topic, I couldn't agree with him on the military topic.

# Stereotypes vs Reality in the Federal Election

## Why do people really vote?

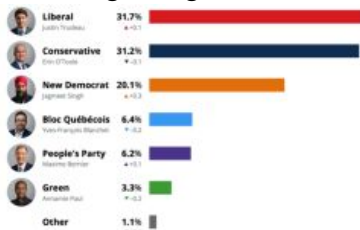
**Tenzin Namdol**

The 2021 federal election has approached, and voting has commenced. Canadians will soon be determining a new parliament to take over. According to the poll analysis, the Liberal Party, as well as the Conservatives seem to be taking the lead. Each Canadian citizen has a right to vote in the election, but the question is, what determines which party they vote for? That's where these stereotypes come in. People think the lifestyle you have dictates your decision. You get automatically placed into a category depending on your social status. For example, wealthier citizens will vote for Conservative, and middle-class citizens will vote for Liberal. This is the reason why we can't typecast. In reality, citizens cast a vote in the federal election based on whom they feel has addressed and created or is on the path of creating a solution for the issues they're concerned about.

The voters come to a conclusion based on this or simply from peer Influence, which is known to have a strong effect on an individual. "One of the big things the Liberals spoke about was the middle class, but I'm



(Toronto Star, 2021)



\* Percentages indicate a change in party support since Sep. 15, 2020.

(CBC News, 2021)

middle class through and through. I'm a small business owner, a single mom, a property owner. I'm all these things, but my taxes have gone up," said Bernadette Bosse. She continued by saying, "what Canadians need is jobs, not handouts, at this moment in time. Because we still have to pay for, and our children have to pay for, handouts. We need a working economy. The Conservatives have got the best perspective on how to achieve that." Many other citizens like Bernadette will be voting for the party that resonates most with their concerns and changes they wish to see implemented in the Canadian government system. This goes to prove that social status doesn't necessarily determine who citizens will be voting for in the upcoming election.

# Political Party Views on Vaccine Mandates and how it may affect our Lifestyles

**Afnan Nabi**

**What's the issue?** - Early in the Federal Election Justin Trudeau - the leader of the Liberal party, proposed the idea of vaccine mandates and established the matter as a key wedge issue. However, Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole opposed such vaccine mandates and proposed that we should rapidly test the unvaccinated, giving citizens the option to present negative tests.



**How will this affect lifestyle?** - Depending on whichever gets chosen we may have to face consequences. If we go with the option to enforce vaccine mandates, we may have to live a lifestyle of many restrictions. Opponents of the vaccine mandates see it as an infringement on their rights. However many people may decide to oppose this idea and not get vaccinated at all and instead riot or protest because of it. If we don't enforce vaccine mandates and instead rely on negative tests, we may be stuck in this "lockdown" for a long time and be forced to wear masks for the majority of our lives. I think vaccine mandates are a pretty good idea and everybody should push towards getting vaccinated. We've had restrictions put on us for way too long and It's time to move past it and return to our normal lives. Vaccine mandates put restrictions but it's not like you'll be completely restrained from doing something, you'll still be able to do things but not to the same extent as vaccinated people, you'll basically have to resort to other options.

# My Representation In The Election

## Lugman Dirie

Ahmed Hussen PC MP is a Canadian lawyer and politician who presently serves as Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and is currently running in the Election. Ahmed Hussen is a Somali man born in 1976 Mogadishu, Somalia But now lives in Canada. Ahmed joined the federal public service in 2005 and Since 2010, Ahmed has been the manager of the policy and procedures section of the SR&ED directorate of the Canada Revenue Agency. This is important because I am also a Somali Canadian and to see representation of my heritage in politics is truly encouraging. A man from the same country as my parents is running in the 2021 Canadian federal election. Some people may not understand why this may be so important to me and other Somali Canadians, but I will explain the depth of the situation. From youth Somali Canadians have had a lack of representation in not just politics but in media in general. This can cause these young minds to not feel capable of such great things, from being actors to being politicians. I Remember being 10 years old and my older sister 14 wanting to become singers because we had been represented in music by an artist named K'naan. K'naan was like us a Somali Canadian but what we were amazed by was he was a singer with millions of views. K'naan spoke about his heritage and his mother while throwing in Somali words in his songs. This made it so relatable for us young kids to believe we could all achieve such great things. This is the importance of representation in such aspects of life to encourage youth and evoke passion for what they want to do.



# Who Will Fix The Canadian Housing Crisis?!

**Jonathan DaCosta**

The Canadian housing crisis is one of the most important topics in this year's election. Housing prices have increased by 22% in Canada, making it virtually impossible for young Canadians and low income families to become homeowners.

The liberals plan to fix this issue by enforcing a new ban on blind bidding, meaning no bidding on houses without knowing the previous bid. They also wish to spend \$2.7 billion over a 4 year period to turn empty office spaces into affordable housing. Another Proposal is jump starting savings for new home owners under the age of 40. By enforcing these proposals it should lower housing prices by about 25%. On the other hand the NDP's main focus is on housing and rentals. They plan on spending \$14 billion on 500,000 housing units over a 10 year time span. The NDP also plan to add an additional 20% tax on homeowners that aren't Canadian citizens thus lowering the competitiveness in the housing market causing prices to drop. Lastly we have the conservatives who wish to build 1 million homes in 3 years. They also plan to turn 15% of federally owned real estate and office buildings into affordable housing. Another plan is to spend 325 million dollars on housing for the homeless. Considering that the NDP and the Liberals have very similar plans, which party has your vote? The Liberal, the NDP or the Conservatives?

# Canadian Frontline Nurses Protest

A bad protest by a worse organization

**Prasanna Vinotheeswaran**

On September 13, 2021, a silent protest was organized and took place in front of the Toronto General Hospital by a group known as the Canadian Frontline Nurses. While the name may make the group seem like a positive one, the Canadian Frontline Nurses organized this event in order to protest against mandatory vaccines for nurses in Canada. Many citizens joined the protest with the nurses. Alongside this protest, other protests happened in the rest of the provinces across Canada protesting the mandatory vaccines. I believe that this protest is a bad event for Canada, and that the group behind the protests, the Canadian Frontline Nurses, are a very horrible group, and I wish to explain why.

The Canadian Frontline Nurses were founded by Kristen Nagle and Sara Choujonian, both nurses in Toronto. They were both spreading misinformation about the Corona-virus pandemic, like masks and the vaccine. Eventually, Kristen was fired from her nursing job because of this. At this point, they both were going to Washington to meet with the organization called “Global Frontline Nurses” (which is also an organization in opposition of vaccine mandates and masks, among other activities), and participate in a freedom Health Summit on January 6<sup>th</sup>. At this point, they both cto the press that they were being investigated for speaking at anti-mask rallies by the College of Nurses of Ontario. After the Capitol riots on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Kristen and Sara both created the original Canadian Frontline Nurses Facebook group as an offshoot of the Global Frontline Nurses group, but in Canada. At this point, Sara was also fired from her nursing job for spreading misinformation.

On the day of the protest, many citizens joined in the protest, which is horrible for the rest of Toronto, since that means there are many people who are willing to risk other's lives for their own selfishness. The fact that the same protests happened in every other province is even worse. Overall, these protests have shown that there is a vocal minority willing to fight back against things that are truly helping them, and I believe that this needs to be fixed.

# Do younger people have an interest in voting today?

The Youth age group (18-24) have the least electoral votes

**Kristen Do**

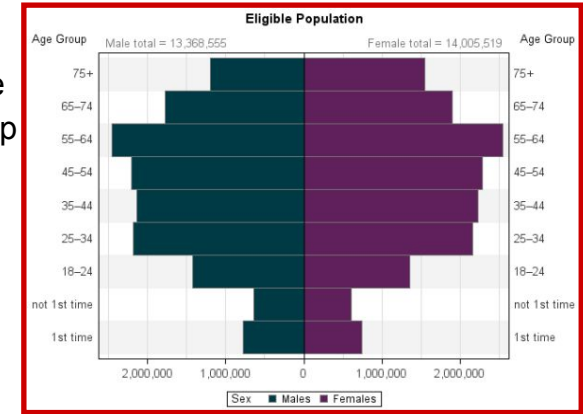
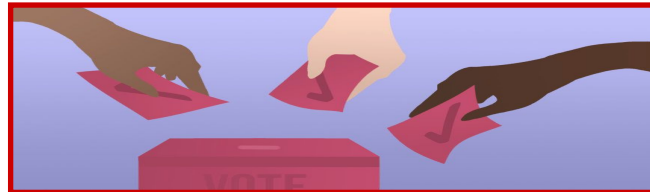
Youth turnout participation in Canada has had a declining voting rate for the past decade. Thus, showing that there are less people in the age groups of 18-24 that are willing to cast a vote for the elections. There are many opinions among this age group that result in not having interest to vote. However, some do speak otherwise.

The majority of younger people/students do not want to vote. As shown in the youth turnout for 2019, the cohort with the least percentage of votes were from the 18-24 age group, making them have the least amount of impact on the ballot.

Some opinions that students and young-adults have said for not wanting to vote are from them being uninterested and or not encouraged. Unfamiliarity with candidates and the topic of politics on the news may not interest them. Peers and family may not speak about the topic of voting, and they have thought of their vote not making a difference.

**Anonymous** "I would not vote because the candidates in the election are mostly gonna use the current covid situation to their advantage to lie their way into winning. Last year Trudeau had no clue what he was doing whatsoever in my opinion, so there's no doubt about it this year that if I even vote for someone they might not make the change they say they would do."

**Anonymous** "Canada is dominated by two parties that don't represent young people. From the smaller amounts of turnout votes, the candidates won't rely or invest in young people." What could be done to encourage more youths/young adults to vote for future elections?



The youth (ages 18-24) have the least electoral population in 2019

*There is a negative side with less young people casting a vote. The opinions of students that would vote state how the actions of the voted party affect us changing many issues, and that democracy depends on us.*



# The Homeless Situation in Our City

## Marcellus Hamilton

Like many cities Toronto has many homeless people living within the city, over 10,000 people in Toronto have no place to go home to at night and this has been a problem for countless years. There are many reasons why people end up homeless such as family abuse, poor mental health and loss of employment just to name a few. It seems as though homeless people in Toronto aren't noticed and are chosen to be ignored by the government which is a huge problem. Over the past year the city of Toronto has forcefully been removing living escapements for the homeless. A controversial story regarding homelessness in Toronto included a man named Khaleel Seivwright, Khaleel started a non profit named "Toronto Tiny Shelters" which provided small homes for the homeless during winter time, however the city saw this as a problem. The city disagrees with this plan saying it violates many by laws and produces fire hazard issues. I would've loved to see the city work with Khaleel instead of stopping the program altogether. During this campaign for this upcoming 2021 election numerous parties have briefly touched upon this topic and given their opinions on what they can do to combat these problems that civilians face.

The NDP leader Jagmeet Singh has spoken on this problem and given some great ideas to combat this problem, on June 10, 2021 he discussed affordable housing for Canadians. He stated that he promises to build over 500k affordable houses and produce thousands of jobs for Canadians in need. The conservative party took a very different approach to this situation and chose not to make it a focus of the party. In the past the conservative party had actually planned to stop programs that helped the homeless. Over the past few years the liberal party has jumpstarted many programs for the homelessness and funded many non profit organizations and are planning to put even more money towards the cause. I hope that the upcoming election brings light to the people of Toronto who don't have a place to call home and many of the great ideas to help the homeless go as planned.



# Will the Government Mess up Once Again and Cause Schools to Close Down?

## A Drastic Change of Going Online and no Student ever Thought that would Happen

### David Rendorio

For the past year or so, students had to go through a very tough way of getting their education. The citizens have seen how much the situation has changed. Now they all await what Ford has planned for everyone, especially the students within the province.

The city of Toronto has been going in circles for the past couple years. Why you may ask? Our school system has been extremely stressful and confusing. Schools have been opening and closing suddenly making it hard for us students. Many students are already stressed enough and to add to our struggle with online learning makes it worse. Doug Ford, our premier, had announced that we were going to be transitioning from everyday,

in-person learning, to remote learning for the 2020/21 school year. This made everything online which meant there were going to be minimal hands-on classes and zero physical learning.

Since this topic is a very important situation for thousands of students Doug Ford has been trying his best to keep this under control. The disadvantages about his plan was that Ford didn't take into account that not all students learn the same way. Some students may feel comfortable with remote learning while others find it extremely difficult. Ford's plan was for the students to remain online and learn through the use of personal cell phones and laptops. With remote learning, time to socialize with classmates and as well as compare answers and work was very limited. Without that privilege, how are we going to communicate with our peers to improve? Also, some students got a high level of stress and anxiety from this change due to the fact a lot of students' marks matter for universities. At least for the 2021-2022 school year Doug Ford has made a change for the better and let students stay in school for learning. This change will definitely help make students feel comfortable again and grant students the opportunity to learn in-person.

During the upcoming election, I hope and pray that the government will keep going onto the path we are currently on. This future change can help Canada's upcoming generation be the best we can all be and serve our country to the best of our ability.



# Intramural Sports

How this upcoming Election Will Affect Intramural Sports at Your School

**Vaashaan Persaud**

Intramural sports are a part of every school. Sports teams give students a goal to work towards and a team to root for, sports at lunch or before school provide physical activities to look forward to, all in all sports are crucial to the quality of student life at any school. As a student that wants intramural sports to return I am hoping this upcoming election will positively impact and speed up the process of lifting covid restrictions. The job of students is to inform parents and guardians that it is important to make an educated vote in the upcoming elections.

In this upcoming election, the parties that have adequate covid plans that lead to the earliest removal of covid restrictions will be the most beneficial for those wanting intramural sports. The Liberal party has invested billions of dollars into pandemic aid. These are things such as CRB that help citizens who have lost jobs due to this pandemic, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy that helps employers afford employees wages, Implementing effective vaccination strategies and producing more domestic personal protective equipment. These are all things that help control whether the economy can open up sooner rather than later. With the return of intramural sports as a priority, I believe that the Liberal party has adequate plans and procedures in place that can ensure a lifting of Covid restrictions in the foreseeable future.