

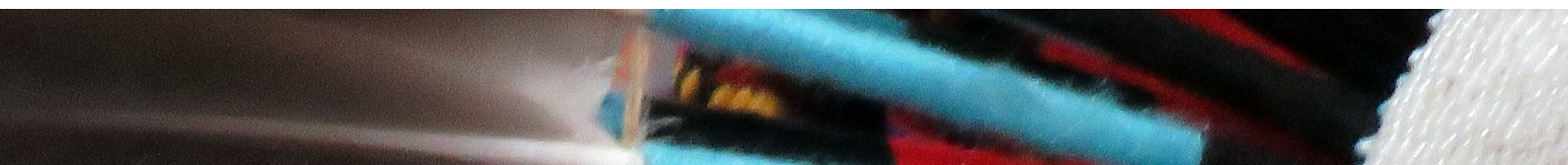
CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

FEDERAL ELECTION TOOLKIT 2021



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INTRODUCTION

Chiefs of Ontario supports all First Nations in Ontario as they assert their sovereignty, jurisdiction, and their chosen expression of nationhood.

The Chiefs of Ontario have developed this Election Toolkit to assist and provide information to First Nations leadership and communities that wish to participate in the federal election.

OVERVIEW

This toolkit aims to provide First Nations in Ontario with a guide to finding where each of the major political parties stand on key First Nations-specific concerns as well as party priorities. We also provide additional information about where and how to participate in this year's election.

Should any of this information change or be updated, it will be reflected within this document and sent to leadership regularly leading up to election day on September 20, 2021.



GUIDE TO THE FEDERAL ELECTION 2021

The official start of the federal election campaign began on Sunday, August 15, 2021, as the Prime Minister asked Governor General Mary Simon to dissolve the 43rd Parliament, launching Canada's 44th general election. The vote is to be held on September 20th, 2021. The campaign will be 36 days, the shortest possible election period under federal law. As of today, there are **13** days left until Election Day.

Why is a federal election taking place now?

By law, federal elections are scheduled to take place every four years on the third Monday of October. Since the last election was in 2019, the next fixed election date is October 16, 2023. However, even with a fixed election date, the government can choose to call an election at any time. In 2019, Canadians elected a minority government – a governing party that has fewer than half the seats in the House of Commons. Federal minority governments typically do not last very long, averaging only 18 months. In Canada, federal elections are called when the prime minister asks the Governor General to dissolve Parliament.

Did you know?

The government must maintain the support of the majority of members in the House of Commons. This is known as having the confidence of the House. If the government loses the confidence of the House, the Prime Minister must ask the Governor General to dissolve Parliament and call an election.



Meet the Parties and Party Leaders

As Election season kicks off, we can expect to see a spirited debate amongst all party leaders as Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau seeks majority government. Conservative Party leader Erin O'Toole will be looking to form a new government while new Green Party leader Annamie Paul and New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh seek to bolster their number of seats in this election.



New Democratic Party (NDP) of Canada

The New Democratic Party (NDP) of Canada was founded in 1961 out of the merger of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). Since 2017, the NDP has been led by Jagmeet Singh. In 2019, the NDP won 24 seats — 20 fewer than in 2015.

The NDP is pushing for universal pharmacare and dental care and an annual tax of one percent on families with wealth over \$10 million, along with putting forward policy positions on greater environmental protection, climate change and reconciliation.



Liberal Party of Canada

The oldest and longest-serving political party in Canada, the Liberal party is led by incumbent Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who delivered a 157 seat minority government in the 2019 election. At dissolution, the Liberals held 155 seats in the House of Commons. The Liberals will have to win back swing ridings and capture new seats to hit the majority number of 170 in the Commons to gain a majority.

The Liberal Party has yet to release its new platform, but it's likely to feature additional commitments on the Indian Residential School investigations, boil water advisories, and include an emphasis on post-COVID-19 economic recovery and further commitments on fighting climate change.



Conservative Party of Canada

The Conservative Party of Canada was formed in 2003 from the multiple right-leaning parties which had existed in Canada for over a century. The party's leader, Erin O'Toole, a former Veterans Affairs Minister in 2015, has served as the Leader of the Official Opposition since August 2020.

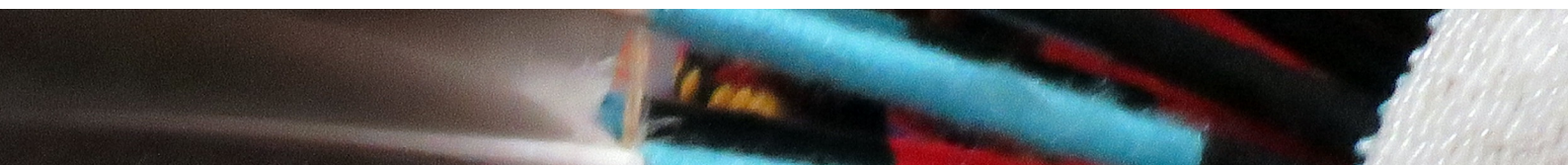
The Conservative Party of Canada has released its full 160-page election platform entitled 'Canada's Recovery Plan' — an ambitious agenda that promises billions of dollars in new spending to prop up an economy ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic, with a key focus on creating jobs and support for small businesses, among other commitments.



Green Party of Canada

Founded in 1983, the party has supported policies strengthening environmental protection. The party is now led by Annamie Paul, who was elected in October 2020. In 2019, the party won three (3) seats.

Annamie Paul outlined the Green Party's top priorities, which include boosting Canada's transition to a green economy and implementing a guaranteed minimum livable income, universal pharmacare, and long-term care reform.



Party Platforms

Party platforms have been used as a promotional tool for each Party to set out their positions on key issues heading into the campaign and as benchmarks against which to hold each Party accountable. Most party platforms are currently being finalized and are expected to be released in the coming days. Please see attached Party Platform document to view commitments and announcements in the campaign thus far.

We have created four topic areas that we will put the various platform initiatives of interest to First Nations from the parties under these headings:

- Indigenous Issues
- Pandemic Response & Health Care
- Economy & Taxation
- Environment

Please stay tuned for updates from Chiefs of Ontario on federal platform commitments and announcements.






VOTER INFORMATION

To vote, you must be a Canadian citizen, be at least 18 years old on election day and prove your identity and address. Get to know your voting options and choose what works best for you.

Voting Options

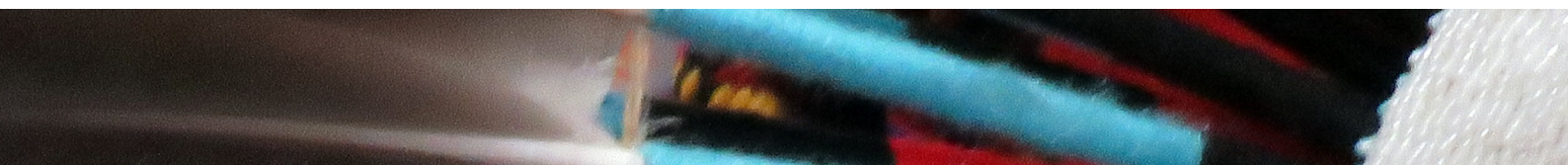
Step 1: Registering to vote

Registering to vote is the first step in voting in the 2021 Federal Election. If you don't register in advance, you can still register when you go to vote. Check to see if you are already registered by clicking [here](#).

 <p>ONLINE</p> <p>Use the online voter registration service to register in advance by clicking here.</p>	 <p>BY MAIL, EMAIL OR FAX</p> <p>Contact Elections Canada in advance of the election and they will send you a registration form by mail, email, or fax. Click here for contact information.</p>
 <p>ELECTIONS CANADA OFFICE</p> <p>Register at an Elections Canada office in person. To find your nearest elections Canada office you can click here.</p>	 <p>AT THE POLLS</p> <p>You can register to vote when you show up to the polls if you bring ID showing proof of identity and address.</p>

Step 2: When to vote

Election day is September 20, 2021, but that isn't your only opportunity to vote. There are four different ways you can vote in the federal election.



Election Day is September 20, 2021

In person - On election day, go to your polling station to vote. Bring your voter card (if you have one), proof of identification, and proof of address.

Advance Voting is September 10 - 13, 2021

In person in advance - You can vote early at polling stations that are open before election day. They will be held September 10-13th.

Elections Canada Office until September 14, 2021

Elections Canada Offices - From the day the election is called until 6 pm six days before election day, you can vote at any of the over 500 Elections Canada offices across the country.

By Mail - Application must be received by September 14, 2021

By mail - Complete and print the Application for Registration and Special Ballot from Elections Canada. Learn more about voting by mail in the next chapter.

Step 3: What I.D. should you bring?

You have many options to prove your identity and address. See your [options and the full list of ID](#) accepted at the polls.

If you don't have ID, you can still vote if you declare your identity and address in writing and have someone who knows you and who is assigned to your polling station vouch for you.



HOW TO MAIL-IN YOUR VOTE

When you vote by mail, you vote by special ballot. Once you have applied to vote by mail and Elections Canada has approved your application, Elections Canada will mail you a special ballot voting kit that includes everything you need to vote. You fill out your ballot and mail it back to Elections Canada using a pre-addressed return envelope with prepaid postage. Your ballot must be returned by election day.

How it works:

1

Apply to vote by mail as soon as possible.

You can apply online or by contacting any Elections Canada office across Canada before Tuesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m.

2

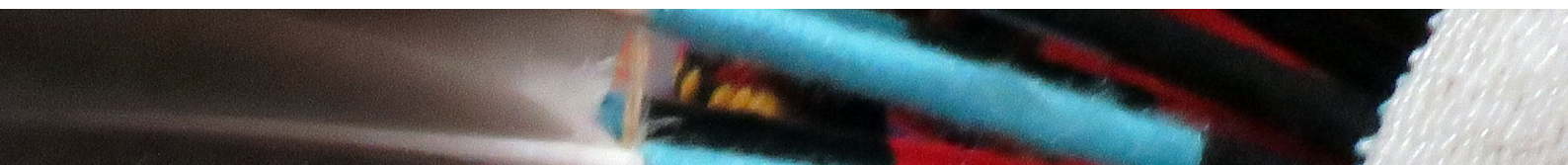
Elections Canada will mail you a voting kit. When you decide on the candidate you want to vote for, write the name of the candidate on your ballot. Learn more about how to find the list of candidates in your riding and how to mark your ballot.

3

Mail your completed ballot back to us. Deadlines apply! Your voting kit contains everything you need to return your ballot to Elections Canada, including a prepaid envelope. Follow the instructions in your kit.

Should I vote by mail?

We know many voters are asking themselves this question. This is a different election, and your voting experience will be different. If you are considering voting by mail, here is what you should know:



- Voting at advance or election day polls is still the simplest and most efficient option. A number of health and safety measures are in place at each polling location to keep you safe.
- If you want to vote by mail, plan early. Deadlines apply, and you must allow enough time for your special ballot voting kit to reach you and for you to return your marked ballot to Elections Canada by election day.
- Once your application to vote by mail is approved, you can't change your mind and vote at advance polls or on election day.
- Your ballot is your responsibility. If you need help returning your ballot, seal your ballot kit envelopes and choose someone you know and trust.

Who should consider voting by mail?

Consider voting by mail if:

- You are part of a vulnerable population;
- You are a student away from home;
- You know you will be outside of your riding during an advance or election day polls and prefer not to vote early at an Elections Canada office.

How do I vote if I live in a remote community?

Elections Canada says it has polling stations already planned for many remote locations. But for the most remote places, like fly-in communities, it relies on service agents. These agents travel with the ballots to these locations in advance of election day and often wait until residents are finished voting so they can make sure the ballots get back safe.

How do I apply to vote by mail?

You can apply online to vote by mail or contact any Elections Canada office across Canada before Tuesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTION ACTIVITIES

If you wish to get involved during the election campaign and meet your local candidates, there are a few easy steps you can take:

1) Join a pre-existing debate and/or watch national leaders debates

- Most candidates participate in debates with their competitors. These are usually hosted by community groups locally.
- Call your candidates and ask them what debates they may already be attending.

2) Offer to host a virtual debate

- With enough warning, it is possible to arrange an all-candidates debate in your community or with another local organization.
- In order to do this, reach out to all of the candidates running in your area and offer them a date and location for a debate. It is helpful to tell the candidates what some of the areas of focus of the debate will be as well as ensure that all candidates will get equal time to speak.

3) Send in a candidate questionnaire (sample below)

- Campaigns can get very busy for candidates. An easier way to find out their thoughts on particular issues is to get in touch with the candidate's volunteers and ask them to answer a questionnaire that you will send to them as well as the other candidates.

4) Offer to host an 'all candidates virtual town hall', which could focus on one particular issue

- Rather than inviting the candidates for a debate, a town hall around a single issue can be easier to organize. In a town hall, each candidate is asked to speak for 5 minutes or so on a particular issue and then the rest of the event is a 'reception' style, where members of the public and their community can meet them and ask them questions.



5) Attend gatherings and forums

- Look up local candidates' gatherings and forums, either as individual events, debates or town halls, and attend as a participant. This is an opportunity to also inform the broader population of your community's key priorities and issues. Be as specific as possible in your questions posed to the candidates to try to encourage more fulsome responses, as each candidate will have scripted key messages and canned responses.

TIPS ON HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH CANDIDATES RUNNING IN YOUR RIDING:



VISIT ELECTIONS CANADA: [HTTPS://WWW.ELECTIONS.CA/HOME.ASPX](https://www.elections.ca/home.aspx)



INPUT YOUR POSTAL CODE

It will provide the name of your riding and all of your candidates



**IMPORTANT POLICY INFORMATION IS LOCATED ON THE
CANDIDATE'S WEBSITE**

It is important to know your stance on all parties before you make any decisions



**CANDIDATES' EMAILS CAN BE FOUND ON ELECTIONS CANADA OR THE
PARTY WEBSITE.**

Can ask the office-specific questions and make inquiries if you want to coordinate a debate or survey

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Disclaimer: These questions were generated as guidelines only and are meant to generate thought and discussion on issues and topics that First Nations may find relevant. These questions do not represent the views or positions of the Chiefs or the Chiefs of Ontario but are examples only. Please alter, edit and change to suit your region or community's needs.

- We are seeing severe changes in the weather throughout the regions, what is your party proposing or doing to address climate change? What more can be done and how will you work with First Nations as partners in addressing this significant issue?
- Clean drinking water is a right, and many First Nations across the region don't have access to such an essential part of life. Please provide an overview of your party's platform on what it is doing to address First Nation Water Advisories? What more can be done and will your party commit to ending water advisories/warnings in a short-term period?
- First Nations communities everywhere face housing shortages, and infrastructure deficits, be they; clean drinking water systems, community or recreation centres, electricity, or broadband services. What is the party proposing to address these ongoing issues concerning First Nation Housing & Infrastructure?
- Former Bill C-15, an Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, now the UNDRIP Act, requires a co-developed approach to implementing UNDRIP. How will your party ensure that First Nations are not only involved but are the guiding voice, on how UNDRIP is fully and meaningfully implemented into Canadian law?



- Treaties and Treaty rights are the original nation-to-nation agreements, how will your party exercise and implement your treaty responsibilities while implementing the UNDRIP Act?
- What concrete steps will your party take to further the much-needed work on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and addressing the 231 recommendations from the Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls?
- What has your party done to date regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and what will your party do to implement the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, in particular, Calls to Action 71 - 76?
- Will your party commit to ongoing funding for Indian Residential School site searches to ensure that no matter how long the processes take, every community has access to adequate funds to bring their children home?
- What has your party done to date on increasing economic opportunities with First Nations and will your party commit to instituting a resource revenue sharing policy with First Nations? And If elected, how else will you and your party work with First Nations to enable economic prosperity and growth?



RIDING INFORMATION

Ontario Riding Information

There are 338 ridings across Canada, each represented by a member of Parliament, these ridings are distributed between provinces and territories. In Ontario, there are 121 ridings.

How do I find candidates in my riding?

As of August 30, 2021, all candidates have been announced. In the coming days, the Chiefs of Ontario will release the Ontario Ridings with Candidates and First Nation Communities document which will list the First Nation communities within each Ontario riding.

To find candidates who have announced, follow these steps:

1

Visit elections.ca

2

Type in the postal code for the address where you are registered into the **Voter Information Service** box for information about your riding.

3

Click on Who are my candidates? to find a list of confirmed candidates. Note that potential candidates have until August 30, 2021 (3 weeks before election day) to file their nomination papers.



Ontario Electoral District Maps



Figure 1. Northern Ontario Electoral Districts

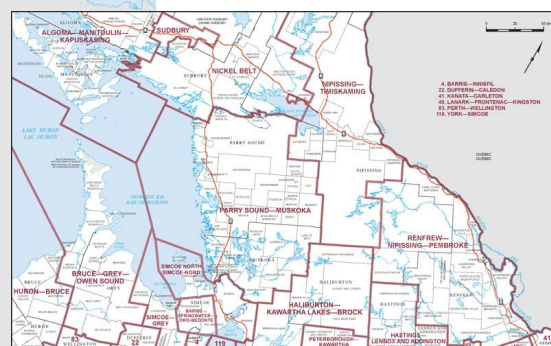


Figure 2. Southern Ontario Electoral Districts

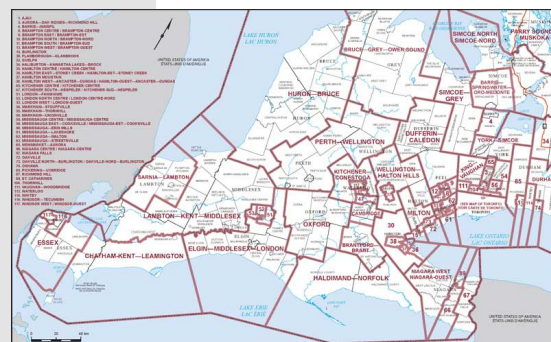


Figure 3. Southern Ontario Electoral Districts

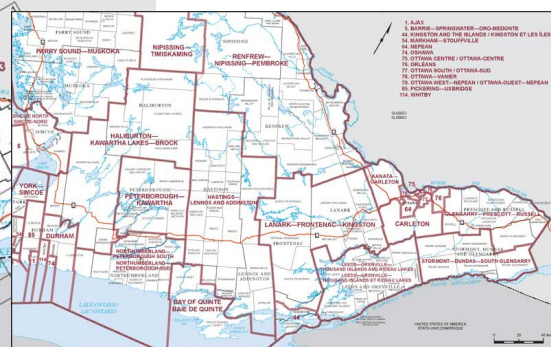


Figure 4. Southern Ontario Electoral Districts

NATIONAL LEADERS DEBATE 2021

On August 15, 2021, the Debate Broadcast Group unveiled the venue, dates and moderators for the leaders' debates during the federal election campaign. The English and French-language debates will take place at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec, on September 8 and 9, 2021.

The debates will be made accessible to as many Canadians as possible. In addition to both official languages, the debates will be simultaneously translated into ASL [American Sign Language] and will be available in six Indigenous languages: Dene, Inuktitut (Baffin) and Plains Cree for the English debate, and East Cree, Innu and Ojibway for the French debate.

Debate Broadcast Group - French Debate

Date: September 8, 2021

Time: 8 to 10 p.m. EDT.

Where: Montreal, QC

Hosted by: Debate Broadcast Group

Candidates attendance: TBD

Subject: General

Debate Broadcast Group - English Debate

Date: September 9, 2021

Time: 8 to 10 p.m. EDT.

Where: Montreal, QC

Hosted by: Debate Broadcast Group

Candidates attendance: TBD

Subject: General

For more information, read the full statement: [2021 Federal Election: Debate Broadcast Group Announces Venue, Dates and Moderators for Leaders' Debates](#)



How do I get the latest election news?

The Chiefs of Ontario will provide weekly updates to leadership through the Federal Election Toolkit. In addition, please find the following links for additional tools and resources.

CBC Poll Tracker

Find out who's ahead in the latest polls with the CBC [Poll Tracker](#).

Vote Compass 2021 - Vox Pop Labs & CBC Radio

[Vote Compass](#) is a tool developed by political scientists for exploring how your views align with those of the parties.

Macleans - 2021 Election Platform Guide

Stay up-to-date on what the Liberals, Conservatives, New Democrats and Greens have promised Canadians as the parties go into campaign mode with the [Macleans - 2021 Election Platform Guide](#).

Native Women's Association of Canada - Indigenous Women Vote

NWAC has created a series of resources, including [this website](#) and downloadable guide.





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