

THE FEDERAL ELECTION – AS PROGRESSIVE PAKISTANI-CANADIANS SEE IT

Some people vote along ethnic or religious lines or for friends. Most, however, vote according to what political parties say about themselves – which might or might not be true. Or, they might be influenced by the mass media which can give undue importance to minor or non-issues.

Here, according to us, are the main issues and what we think political parties will most likely do about them. Your feedback will be appreciated. *Committee of Progressive Pakistani-Canadians*

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ISSUES (Parties listed in alphabetical order)	COMMUNIST/ LEFTIST	CONSERVATIVE (PQ in Quebec)	GREEN	LIBERAL	NDP	PEOPLE'S PARTY
Very high house prices and rents in some large cities are a big problem for working people. Will they try to make housing affordable?	Yes. Will build social housing, bring in strict rent controls	No	Not likely	Not likely	Will build affordable housing, favour rent controls	No
Many working Canadians live close to poverty. The minimum federal wage is \$11.06/ hour. \$20 per hour is considered a 'living wage'. Will they increase the minimum wage to that figure?	Yes	Oppose even the minimum wages now	Are unlikely to	Are unlikely to.	Yes	Oppose even the minimum wages now; likely to reduce them
Daycare is a necessity for most families these days. Public schools are free. Will they make daycare free?	Free	No	Unlikely	Unlikely	Affordable	No
Higher education is free in many countries (Germany, Cuba). Will they make it free or almost free?	Yes	No	Unlikely	Unlikely	Yes	No
Will they increase or reduce the gap between rich and poor	Reduce it sharply	Increase it	Same or increase	Same or increase	Reduce it	Increase it much more
Will they favour the rich 1% (corporations) or the 'average' Canadian?	Strongly favour average Canadians	Strongly favour the 1%	Favour the 1%	Favour the 1%	Favour average Canadians	Strongly favour the 1%
Corporations don't pay their fair share of taxes. Will they favour fair taxation or not?	Strongly in favour	Against	Not likely	Not likely	Strongly for	Strongly Against
Will they improve or at least maintain publicly funded healthcare (Pharmacare for example) or try to privatize it?	Improve public health care system. Against privatization	Status quo but might go for some privatization	Status quo.	Status quo; might go for some privatization	For public health; against privatization	Favour Privatization
Will they increase or decrease anti-immigrant feelings	Decrease	Increase	Decrease slightly	Decrease slightly	Decrease	Increase much more
Will they increase or decrease Islamophobia	Decrease	Increase	Decrease slightly	Decrease slightly	Decrease	Increase much more
Canada spent \$18 billion in Afghanistan from 2001–2014 It stands with US aggressive policies (Libya, Syria, Iran, Venezuela, China etc). Will they favour an aggressive foreign policy or a peaceful one?	End aggression, promote peace and equal and mutually beneficial relations.	Even more aggressive	Somewhat less aggressive	Aggressive	Less aggressive.	Much more aggressive
Proportional Representation is fairer than the First-Past-The-Post system. Will they favour PR or FPTP?	PR	FPTP	PR	FPTP	PR	FPTP
Indigenous People have been, and continue to be, treated unjustly. Will they treat Indigenous People fairly or unfairly?	Full Reconciliation	More unfairly	Somewhat fairly.	Mostly unfairly - some reconciliation	Full Reconciliation	More unfairly
The environmental crisis has reached alarming levels. Will their policies help or harm the environment.	Help	Harm more	Mixed – help and harm	Harm overall	Help	Harm much more
Gun violence is a big problem in the US and is becoming one in Canada. Will they favour or oppose gun control?	Support gun control	Oppose	Oppose somewhat	Oppose	Support	Oppose
No country is threatening Canada yet its defence budget is \$25 billion per year, the 14th highest in world. Will they increase defence spending or decrease it and spend more on social needs.	Decrease defence budget by 50%	Increase defence budget	Increase or keep same defence budget	Increase or keep same defence budget	Decrease it.	Increase defence budget
Corporations play a big role in elections via money. Will they favour or oppose the role of big money in elections.	Eliminate its role	Favour big money	Favour big money	Favour big money	Reduce its role.	Favour big money
The Canadian government is strongly biased in favour of Israel. Will they support rights of the Palestinian people?	Support rights of Palestinian people	Strong support of Israel	Support of Israel	Support of Israel	More balanced approach	Strong support of Israel