



2019 Federal Election Guide

Inspired by our faith and Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the preferential option for the poor and care for creation, **Development and Peace - Caritas Canada supports our sisters and brothers living in poverty in over 30 countries of the Global South who are working to improve their lives and to protect the Earth.** Through our advocacy work, both on Parliament Hill but also in ridings across the country, we can influence Canadian laws and policies in order to have a positive impact on the lives of the poorest people and the planet.

Do you want to ensure that global justice is a campaign issue in the 2019 federal elections? Use this election guide to ask your local federal candidates about how they plan to protect the Earth, reduce global inequality, and address the needs of the world’s most vulnerable women, men, and children.

Mining justice



Canada’s wealth and economy benefit extensively from the extractive industry, but unfortunately, this is often at the expense of poor and marginalized communities in the countries where these companies operate.

Canada must ensure that its mining companies respect human rights and protect the environment, no matter where they operate.

1. After 500,000 Canadians showed their support for a human rights ombudsperson for the overseas mining sector, the current government finally created an ombudsperson office, but without the independence and investigative powers that would make it effective. If elected, will you work to ensure that the new Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) is effective in ensuring that communities suffering negative impacts of Canadian mining operations have access to justice?¹
2. The best way to address the negative impacts of Canadian companies overseas would be to prevent them before they occur. Voluntary guidelines have proven to be ineffective at preventing human rights abuses in many countries around the world. Does your party support laws that would ensure Canadian businesses respect human rights and the environment, no matter where they operate?

Climate justice



Canada has the highest per capita rate of greenhouse gas emissions of any G20 country.² Yet, even as we are seeing the impacts of the climate crisis here in Canada, across the Amazon forest, and around the world, the latest Canadian report on emissions submitted to the United Nations showed a 2% increase in greenhouse gases³.

Canada needs to not only respect the commitments it made in the Paris Agreement to decrease its emissions, it must be even more ambitious in addressing the climate emergency.

1. Do you support new, more ambitious greenhouse gas emission targets for Canada by 2030? In your view, what concrete measures should be implemented by Canada in order to meet these goals?
2. While people in the Global South are most affected by the impacts of climate change such as severe storms, desertification, and sea rise, they contribute the least to its causes. Do you support an increase in financial and technical support from Canada that will enable them to adapt to climate change?
3. Given the importance of the Amazon in regulating global climate and the Bolsonaro government's undermining of Indigenous land defenders' rights, what will your party do to pressure the Government of Brazil to protect the environment and respect human rights? Would you push to ensure that the possible Mercosur free trade agreement with Canada is contingent on respect for human rights, including Indigenous peoples' rights?⁴

Forced migration



Every minute, 31 people are forced to flee their homes⁵. The majority of them live in the poorest countries in the world under extremely difficult conditions.

By addressing the root causes of forced migration, including armed conflict, climate change, extreme poverty, development megaprojects, and persecution, we can work to ensure that people are not forced to flee.

Forced migration *(continued)*

1. Armed conflict is a major cause of forced migration. Peacebuilding that includes women has been shown to prevent and resolve conflicts. Do you and your party prioritize diplomatic and peaceful solutions to armed conflicts before military intervention?
2. International aid needs to respond to humanitarian emergencies, but it also needs to focus on reducing poverty, promoting peace, and building citizen participation in the long term, in order to address the root causes of forced migration. Although Canada is one of the richest countries in the world⁶, our international development assistance has seen a downward trend over the last two decades.⁷ Would you support an increase in the Canadian international assistance budget in order to promote democracy, development, and peace in countries where refugees are fleeing?

Helpful resources

- Development and Peace-Caritas Canada Education and Action Campaigns:
devp.org/en/resources
- Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' (CCCCB) Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace, **Voting as Catholics: 2019 Federal Election Guide**:
ccc.ca/site/eng/media-room/5143-voting-as-catholics-2019-federal-election-guide
- Catholic Conscience Canada, **2019 Federal Election Catholic Action Campaign**:
catholicconscience.org/whats-happening-the-2019-federal-elections/

Endnotes

¹ devp.org/en/education/fall2013

² climate-transparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/BROWN-TO-GREEN_2018_Canada_FINAL.pdf

³ canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-emissions/inventory.html

⁴ canadians.org/media/why-does-canada-continue-trade-talks-extremist-bolsonaro-government

⁵ unhcr.org/globaltrends2017/

⁶ cidpnsi.ca/canada-and-the-2018-oecd-dac-aid-statistics/

⁷ ccic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CCCI-Fact-Sheet-Elections-ENG.pdf