

Summary of Federal Political Party Positions on Seniors Issues

The following summary is not exhaustive; it reflects public statements and position papers issued by the four national parties as of October 18, 2019. A list of sources used is provided at the bottom of the chart.

Issue	Liberals	Conservatives	NDP	Green Party
Seniors strategy/ support for seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No commitment made to develop a <i>national seniors strategy</i> • Propose to boost Old Age Security at age 75 by 10% (to a maximum of \$729 more per year) • Pledge to increase the Canada Pension Plan and Quebec Pension Plan survivor's benefit by 25%, providing up to \$2,080 more per year (have not stated whether this would mean higher premiums) • Promise that people will not pay taxes on the first \$15,000 they earn, which would benefit lower-income seniors • Want to change the <i>Criminal Code</i> with new penalties for elder abuse and invest in better data collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No commitment made to develop a <i>national seniors strategy</i> • Propose to increase the Age Tax Credit by \$1,000 which would benefit low- and middle-income seniors; based on income, a person aged 65 or over could receive up to \$150 more per year and a couple could receive up to \$300 more per year • Pledge to keep old age security at age 65 (the previous Conservative government had changed the requirement to age 67) • Would require federally regulated companies to report on the solvency of their pension funds and allow for transfers from one pension plan to a "more successful" one 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose to create a <i>national seniors strategy</i>, which would include a strategy for dementia and a prevention plan for elder abuse • Propose to make the Caregiver Tax Credit refundable to help those who care for seniors • Believe that the federal government has a "critical role to play in protecting defined benefit pensions across the country" • Promise to "create a <i>Pension Advisory Commission</i> to develop a long-term plan to protect and enhance Old Age Security, boost the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and strengthen the Canada Pension Plan" • Also pledge to make automatic enrollment in the Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement retroactive • Commit to creating a half a million affordable housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose to develop a <i>national seniors strategy</i>, which would include a dementia strategy • Propose to establish a universal Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) program that would replace the current system of income supports such as disability payments, social assistance, and income supplements for seniors • Would like to boost, over time, the CPP's target income replacement rate from 25% to 50% of income made • Would like to legislate housing as a legally protected basic human right • Propose to appoint a Minister of Housing to strengthen the National Housing Strategy • Pledge to provide financing to non-profit housing organizations to construct and restore quality, energy-efficient housing for seniors,

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			units, including accessible housing, which will increase choices for seniors	people with special needs, and low-income families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would reorient the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) mandate to support affordable, non-market and cooperative housing • Promise to protect private pensions by amending the <i>Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act</i> and <i>Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act</i>
Pharmacare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promise to take “critical next steps” toward a national pharmacare program • Have proposed the creation of a Canada Drug Agency to make purchasing of medications more efficient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have dismissed national pharmacare • Have promised instead to focus on Canadians without workplace or provincial coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose a “national, universal, public pharmacare program” • Pharmacare to cover Health Canada-approved drugs • Promising \$10 billion to begin implementation in 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose universal pharmacare • Would create a bulk purchasing agency and reduce length of drug patent protection
Home care/long-term care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promise to “continue to make home care and palliative care more available across the country” • Platform does not address long-term care specifically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not covered in the platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that Canadians “need access to quality home care and long-term care no matter where they live” • Promise to “develop national care standards for home care and long-term care that will be amended into the <i>Canada Health Act</i>” • Process of developing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose to encourage innovative home-sharing plans to allow seniors to remain at home “as long as possible” • Pledge to create more long-term care beds in neighbourhood facilities

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			<p>national home care standards would include “determining a core basket of home care services that will be available and covered by provincial insurance plans”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For long-term care, the process will involve “setting minimum national care standards” 	
Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promise to continue providing provinces and territories a 3% annual health transfer increase with more funding for home care For “strengthening public health care,” their platform includes new investments of \$750 million in 2020-2021, then \$1.75 billion in 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pledge to increase health transfer payments by at least 3% annually Promise to uphold the Canada Health Accord with provinces and territories Promise to invest \$1.5 billion over 4 years to purchase MRI machines and CT machines to replace aging equipment and expand availability across the country Pledge to expand eligibility for the disability tax credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Believe that Canada needs to work towards a “head to toe” public health care system and want to expand coverage to include mental health, dental, eye and hearing coverage Want to include dental care in the <i>Canada Health Act</i> Maintain that “the federal government has a critical role to play in upholding and enforcing the <i>Canada Health Act</i>, especially against the creeping threat of privatization and user fees” Believe that “everyone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose to revamp the Canada Health Accord by basing health transfers on demographics and actual health needs in each province, replacing the current formula based on GDP growth (introduced by the Harper government and retained by the Trudeau Liberals) Reorient Health Canada’s mandate to prioritize mental health and addictions, health promotion and disease prevention, and health risks of climate change Want to implement free dental care for low-

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			<p>should have access to quality health care no matter where they live”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for an “historic expansion of the services covered under our national health care system” • Intend to address seniors’ isolation by making transit more affordable and creating more community recreation spaces • Want to loosen restrictions on medical assistance in dying 	<p>income Canadians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promise to develop a national mental health strategy and suicide prevention strategy • Call for improved health care for Indigenous Peoples • Pledge that all veterans will have access to health care, mental health support and treatments • Propose to amend the Medical Assistance in Dying legislation to ensure that everyone has the choice of dying with dignity; would include advance directives and guaranteeing the right to a “living will” to limit or refuse treatment

Sources used:

- 1) CBC: <https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/elections/federal/2019/party-platforms/>
- 2) National Institute on Ageing: <https://www.nia-ryerson.ca/commentary-posts/election-2019>
- 3) Liberal Party of Canada: <https://2019.liberal.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/292/2019/09/Forward-A-real-plan-for-the-middle-class.pdf>
- 4) Conservative Party of Canada: https://cpc-platform.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/CPC_Platform_8.5x11_FINAL_EN_OCT14_web.pdf
- 5) New Democratic Party of Canada: https://action.ndp.ca/page/-/2019/Q2/2019-06-19_Commitments-Doc_EN.pdf
- 6) Green Party of Canada: https://www.greenparty.ca/sites/default/files/platform_2019_web_update_oct_6.pdf