

**Mulcair's PLAN**

# A new era: Nation-to-Nation

**Media backgrounder**

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# A new era: Nation-to-Nation

## The challenge

**Decades of inaction under Liberal and Conservative governments have left First Nations, Inuit and Métis children to grow up with unsafe water, crumbling homes, substandard health care and education, and scarce economic opportunity.**

- // One in four children in First Nation communities live in poverty—double the national average—and First Nation youth are more likely to end up in jail than to graduate high school.<sup>1</sup>
- // The high school dropout rate for Indigenous youth is four times higher than the national average at 41%. Nearly six out of 10 adolescents living in First Nations communities do not finish high school.
- // Indigenous women and girls face violence at a rate three times higher than all other Canadian women, and they are four times more likely to be murdered. More than 1,200 have gone missing or been murdered over the past 30 years.<sup>2</sup>
- // The drinking water systems of 39% of First Nations pose a “high risk” to health and safety.<sup>3</sup>
- // Over 40% of Inuit live in homes in need of major repairs and 20% of households have problems with mould.<sup>4</sup>
- // 37% of First Nation households require major repairs, while 51% of First Nation adults reported mould and mildew present in their homes.<sup>5</sup>

**Indigenous communities deserve better. Canada deserves better.**

- // Despite the official 2008 residential school apology, the Harper government's inaction on the issues facing Indigenous communities has earned Canada condemnation from the United Nations.<sup>6</sup>
- // After a decade in government, Stephen Harper still refuses to call an inquiry into the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women, saying it “isn't really high on our radar.”<sup>7</sup>
- // First Nations are still struggling to provide services for their growing populations thanks to the last Liberal government's punitive 2% funding cap—an effective cut that has perpetuated third-world conditions.<sup>8</sup>

# A new era: Nation-to-Nation

## Our vision

Tom Mulcair and the NDP understand that after decades of inaction in Ottawa, First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities have reached a tipping point. Too many empty promises have been made with little progress.

We believe that change is not only possible—it is necessary. Tom Mulcair and his team have been clear: it's time for a new era that embraces a true Nation-to-Nation relationship built on respect and, above all, meaningful progress. We must not fail another generation. Every community matters.

**It's time for a new era based on a respectful Nation-to-Nation relationship with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.**

- // An NDP government will go beyond words and take action, working with Indigenous communities on a Nation-to-Nation basis.
- // Working together, we will show that the 2008 residential schools apology was more than empty words.
- // Inspired by “Shannen’s Dream,” we need to begin the work of closing the education funding gap to ensure every First Nation child gets the educational opportunities afforded to every other child in Canada.

# A new era: Nation-to-Nation

## Our commitment

**Tom Mulcair is ready to work on a Nation-to-Nation basis with Indigenous communities. After so many years of broken promises, it's time for a new era, with a prime minister you can trust to be a respectful partner.**

### An NDP government will:

- // Create a cabinet-level committee chaired by Tom Mulcair as prime minister to ensure that all government decisions respect treaty rights, inherent rights and Canada's international obligations.
- // Call a national inquiry into the issue of the 1,200 missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls within our first 100 days in office.
- // Fix our country's broken treaty process and deal with unresolved land claims.
- // Implement the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- // Reverse the dangerous damage done by Stephen Harper by putting teeth back into the environmental assessment process, working to protect our lakes and rivers and repealing Bill C-51.
- // Take action on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations on a priority basis established in consultation with Indigenous communities.
- // Improve essential physical infrastructure such as housing, roads and drinking water facilities.

<sup>1</sup> Assembly of First Nations, *Fact Sheet: Quality of Life of First Nations*, June 2011. <<http://bit.ly/1HaYD6Z>>

<sup>2</sup> Royal Canadian Mounted Police, *Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: A National Operational Overview*, 2014. <<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/mmaw-faapd-eng.htm>>

<sup>3</sup> Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, *National Assessment of First Nations Water and Wastewater Systems*, April 2011. <<http://bit.ly/1S30VYM>>

<sup>4</sup> Minich et al., "Inuit housing and homelessness: results from the International Polar Year Inuit Health Survey 2007-2008," *International Journal of Circumpolar Health* 70:5, 2011. <<http://bit.ly/1KHmSxq>>

<sup>5</sup> Assembly of First Nations, *Fact Sheet: First Nations Housing On-Reserve*, June 2013. <<http://bit.ly/1IEREFE>>

<sup>6</sup> UN Human Rights Council, *The situation of indigenous peoples in Canada* (Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya), 2014. <<http://bit.ly/1HbjEhE>>

<sup>7</sup> Tanya Kappo, "Stephen Harper's comments on missing, murdered aboriginal women show 'lack of respect,'" *CBC News*, Dec. 19, 2014. <<http://bit.ly/1zgy6mP>>

<sup>8</sup> Assembly of First Nations, *Fact Sheet: The \$9 Billion Myth Exposed: Why First Nations Poverty Endures*. <<http://bit.ly/1H5IzQP>>