



Jagmeet Singh



**A BETTER FUTURE FOR
NORTHERN ONTARIO**



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A better future for Northern Ontario



Even before the pandemic, families in Northern Ontario were struggling due to rising costs and decades of Liberal and Conservative cuts to services. Everyday needs in Northern Ontario—housing, prescriptions, cell phone and internet service, heating and hydro—keep getting more expensive.

Many of the industries that our communities were built on are facing tough times. Meanwhile, Ottawa and Queens Park are cutting services that families need more than ever.

Constant underfunding of schools, health care, clean water, housing and all services in Indigenous communities hurt kids growing up on reserve.

Every year, we experience more frequent and more severe wildfires that are making breathing itself difficult. We are seeing extreme weather events like never before, which we know are the result of climate change. Consecutive Liberal and Conservative governments have done little to protect us.

Northerners are struggling. We lose more people to opioid overdoses every day. Homelessness is increasing in every town and every city. Instead of finding solutions, Liberals and Conservatives have left people in desperate circumstances.

The North was built at a time when every town had a train station, when getting to a major centre for health care or other services was doable without a car or the money to pay for one. After decades of Liberal and Conservative cuts to Northern transportation, Northern communities have been disconnected from one another.

Liberals and Conservatives are not working for Northern Ontario. They're working for themselves and billionaire corporations.

Jagmeet Singh and the New Democrats have a plan to make life better for families in Northern Ontario—a plan that puts Northerners first.

- ➔ We'll take action on the rising costs of living and make life more affordable.
- ➔ We'll make sure that safe housing, income supports, health care and mental health care are there for those who need it the most.
- ➔ We'll reverse years of Liberal and Conservative cuts in the North.
- ➔ We'll ensure that FedNor is a well funded, stand alone development agency with a strong mandate to create economic diversification in the North. We will fight for the jobs that Northerners need and ensure that when we're building in Canada, we're using Canadian lumber, steel and minerals.
- ➔ We'll invest in infrastructure and restore services that have been cut. We will restore the federal government's share of funding for the Northlander train to get this vital service back into operation.

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- We'll expand bus and train service in the Northwest to connect more communities.
- We are committed to ensuring access to French-language services in Northern Ontario.
- We'll ensure Laurentian University—and all Northern and francophone universities—can serve families across Northern Ontario.
- We'll work towards true reconciliation by finally bringing in a new relationship with Indigenous peoples based on respect, appropriate, permanent funding for services, and righting historic wrongs like the lack of clean water in communities such as Neskantaga, which have been ignored by the Liberals.
- And we'll work hard to make Canada a climate leader with a new deal that creates thousands of jobs, one that includes science-based emissions targets, a national freshwater strategy, and investments in climate resiliency and emergency management for the North. We will support Indigenous communities to establish programs that increase their ability to fight forest fires and manage climate change.
- We'll support immigrant and refugees who want to settle, live and work in the North with special attention paid to French-speaking New Canadians.

New Democrats know that Liberals and Conservatives aren't working for Northern Ontario. We're ready to fight for the people of Northern Ontario.



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Making life affordable for Northern families



Across Canada, life is getting more expensive for regular people. Yet the Liberals don't seem to understand what we are going through. For families in the North, this means too many are facing really tough decisions. Housing, medication, student debt and our phone bills just keep going up, as we all pay more for less. Only New Democrats will fight for Northern families.

A New Democrat government will:

- ➔ Eliminate costs for prescription medication with national, universal pharmacare. Medication is part of health care, and you shouldn't have to swipe your credit card to get the medications you need to be healthy.
- ➔ Cover costs of essential dental care for families that are uninsured.
- ➔ Make homes and rent affordable—build, renovate or preserve 1.7 million homes—including 500,000 new units of quality, affordable housing across Canada, set up fast-start funds for co-operatives, social and non-profit housing, boost construction of affordable homes with an HST rebate, and give immediate relief for families that are struggling to make rent by providing help of up to \$5,000 a year.
- ➔ Reduce costs of first homes for young families by doubling the Home Buyer's Tax Credit and make 30-year mortgages available to first-time homebuyers.

- ➔ Reduce home energy bills and lower emissions by launching a large-scale retrofit program for homes, including low-interest loans repayable through energy savings for upgrades like heat insulation, windows, heat pumps and other renewable technologies.
- ➔ Protect pensions by making sure that pensioners are always at the front of the line in case of a corporate bankruptcy, protecting the defined benefit pension plans that are under attack by Liberal legislation and making sure that Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement are protected for the long term.

“The people of Sudbury and Northern Ontario deserve so much better than Trudeau’s MPs who went missing when Laurentian was being devastated by cuts and job losses. They did nothing to help our community. It’s time for an MP who will fight for Sudbury and get the results we need. Together with Jagmeet Singh and the NDP, we’ll get the job done for Northern families.”

Nadia Verrelli

- ➔ Make post-secondary education more affordable by forgiving up to \$20,000 in student debt and eliminating interest on federal student loans. Expand Canada Student Grants, give everyone a fair chance by introducing tuition waivers for youth who grew up in foster care. Work to make post-secondary education part of our public education system so that every child in Canada can pursue their dreams, no matter where they come from.
- ➔ Lower costs for high cellphone and internet plans. Canada's bills are higher than most countries, and we need to stop unfair gouging that Liberals and Conservatives have ignored for years, starting by mandating a basic plan for cellphone and internet providers at a lower price and capping fees.
- ➔ Expand broadband internet service to every Northern community in under ten years.
- ➔ Bring in federal minimum wage starting at \$15 an hour and rising to \$20 an hour, indexed to the cost of living, which would help almost a million workers across Canada, so that no one working full-time is living in poverty.
- ➔ Stop gas price gouging across the North by creating a Fair Gasoline Prices Watchdog to investigate complaints about gouging, and boost the power of the Competition Bureau to proactively investigate allegations of anti-competitive activity in the gasoline market.



Stronger services for a stronger North



After years of neglect from Ottawa and cruel cuts from Queen's Park, Northern Ontario needs a government that is on its side.

New Democrats will act to restore and expand services that Northerners depend on.

A New Democrat government will:

- ➔ Strengthen our public health care system by reversing cuts to funding and investing in hiring and training more nurses and front-line health workers.
- ➔ Work with the province to expand access to health care, including Nurse Practitioners.
- ➔ Improve seniors care by taking the profit out of long-term care, develop national care standards, with accountability measures, and boost wages and supports for long-term care workers.
- ➔ Improve paid travel for medical companions to help seniors and others travel safely to medical appointments.
- ➔ Take action on treatment and support for the opioid epidemic.
- ➔ Work with all Northern Ontario communities and health districts to create real and sustainable programs that are culturally and regionally appropriate to address homelessness, mental health concerns and the opioid crisis.
- ➔ Expand Northern transportation by committing the federal portion of funding for the Northlander train service between Toronto and Cochrane and funding the Mask Wa Oo Ta Ban Bear Train between Hearst and Sault Ste. Marie. This would make travel safer, easier and encourage more tourism in the region.
- ➔ To help replace the loss of Greyhound routes, develop a public inter-city bus system.
- ➔ Provide support and funding to an autonomous, francophone University of Sudbury, fight to rebuild Laurentian University after the Liberals allowed it to be gutted, and support all Northern Ontario universities. Reform the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) to make sure it can't be used this way ever again, and work with the community to protect the trails and green space around Laurentian.
- ➔ Strengthen and expand services in French—Northern Ontario is home to a large part of Canada's Francophone population and the region should have high-quality service in both official languages.
- ➔ Reduce wait times at Service Canada centres by providing adequate funding for federal government services.
- ➔ Launch a postal banking service through Canada Post to ensure that everyone has access to financial services in their communities.
- ➔ Make Employment Insurance fairer, including a universal qualifying threshold of 360 hours and extending sickness benefits to 50 weeks.

Fighting for jobs and economic growth in Northern Ontario



Under Liberal and Conservative governments, Northern Ontario hasn't gotten its fair share. Big companies set up shop to take advantage of our region's natural resources and skip town when the profits dip, leaving communities behind.

The North needs a new deal for jobs and growth. Only New Democrats have the vision to invest in Northern Ontario for the next generation of Northern industries and jobs.

New Democrats will:

- ➔ Create one million good new jobs across Canada through our plan for better jobs.
- ➔ Ensure that FedNor is fully established as a standalone, regional economic development agency, focused on creating good jobs, developing the region for the long-term, and supporting community economic development.
- ➔ Invest in value-added Canadian wood products, funding for forestry innovation and reforestation to continue to create jobs in one of Northern Ontario's most important sectors.
- ➔ Defend Canadian workers in trade negotiations, including standing up against unfair tariffs against lumber.

- ➔ Guarantee that good jobs, training, apprenticeship and support for local business are part of every infrastructure project and require all infrastructure projects to prioritize steel, lumber, minerals and other materials from Canada.
- ➔ Support the exciting and growing film industry across Northern Ontario and ensure support for Northern artists and venues to help the recovery from the pandemic.
- ➔ Boost supports for those searching for minerals that are needed for emerging renewable energy technologies.
- ➔ Launch a Canadian Climate Bank to boost investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and low-carbon technology across the country, as well as made-in-Canada manufacturing of renewable energy components and technologies.
- ➔ Help college and university graduates stay in Northern Ontario by connecting them to careers in a diversified Northern economy to ensure the ongoing health and vibrancy of Northern communities.

"The COVID pandemic continues to have devastating impacts on seniors, small businesses, workers, youth and families. Fear, grief, economic and social loss, and uncertainty for the future affect us all. I am committed to guarding against further impacts with responsible emergency planning, continued business and worker supports, affordability of housing and needed services, and access to meaningful connections and mental health care."

Chantelle Bryson

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- ➔ Expand the Rural and Northern Immigration pilot into a full-fledged program to attract new immigrants to the North.
- ➔ Create a Canadian Food Strategy to invest in agricultural communities and to support young and new farmers.
- ➔ Expand training and re-training for workers by requiring that corporations spend 1 percent of payroll on training every year.
- ➔ Support small business by continuing pandemic supports and by putting in place a long-term hiring bonus.
- ➔ Connect Canadians to farmers with initiatives like local food hubs, community supported agriculture, and networks to increase the amount of food that is sold, processed and consumed in local and regional markets.
- ➔ Fully protect supply management and ensuring reciprocity in all trade negotiations, and supporting our supply managed sectors as they innovate and grow.

“I’ve never been afraid to speak out against unfair treatment, whether it’s poor Internet and mobile service and price gouging by the telecom giants, or the continued failure of our government to deal with Indigenous peoples in good faith. When you vote NDP, you’re electing MPs who will stand up for the North—and fight for a better, more affordable life for you and your family.”

Charlie Angus



Putting reconciliation into action



Northern Ontario is home to many, diverse Indigenous communities covering multiple treaty territories, cultures and languages. For too long, the federal government has been talking about action, while leaving Indigenous people living in Northern Ontario behind.

Indigenous people have never been a priority for Liberals and Conservatives. New Democrats fight for people, and we believe in action, not words. The ongoing underfunding of services, infrastructure and housing in Indigenous communities must end.

New Democrats will work in partnership with Indigenous people and communities to:

- ➔ Co-develop a National Action Plan for Reconciliation and a National Council for Reconciliation to set the terms of a new, better relationship between the federal government and Indigenous peoples.
- ➔ Fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- ➔ End discriminatory funding of child welfare systems as well as action to promote and resource Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services.
- ➔ Implement Jordan's Principle, working with the provinces and territories to ensure equitable access to health services and educational supports for Indigenous kids.
- ➔ Take action on the housing crisis with a co-developed First Nations housing strategy and address the high rates of mould in on-reserve housing.
- ➔ Make Shannen's Dream a reality and ensure that every child gets a safe place to learn and support Indigenous youth in post-secondary education.
- ➔ Lift all drinking water advisories for good and support Indigenous-led water management training programs and water system operations as an immediate priority.
- ➔ Invest in health care, including mental health and addiction treatment, and take a social determinants of health approach.
- ➔ Develop a National Suicide Prevention Action Plan to help address the suicide epidemic in some First Nations in the North.
- ➔ Implement the Calls for Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Calls for Justice of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry.
- ➔ Work towards a new fiscal relationship based on predictable budgets instead of program funding that ensures smaller communities get dedicated regional development support.
- ➔ Ensure proper funding for the treatment centre for victims of mercury poisoning in Grassy Narrows and clean up the English-Wabigoon rivers of contamination sources affecting Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemoong First Nations.
- ➔ Commit to the relocation of Kashechewan First Nation to higher ground in accordance with the community's wishes.

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- ➔ Settle with outstanding claimants of harm from the residential school system who did not receive a fair process in their claims, including the survivors of St. Anne's Residential School.
- ➔ Appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the crimes at residential schools and ensure proper funding for communities who wish to search the sites and bring back the bodies of their children.
- ➔ Work with the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society to implement the Spirit Bear Plan.
- ➔ End discrimination against Indigenous children, young people and families by fully implementing the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal orders to stop chronically underfunding child welfare services on reserve.
- ➔ Fully implement Jordan's Principle, working with the provinces and territories to end the delays and ensure equitable access to health services and educational supports for Indigenous children from coast to coast.
- ➔ Help protect and revitalize the incredible diversity of Indigenous languages in Canada with new legislation and stable funding.
- ➔ Invest \$500 million to support Indigenous-led programs to advance reconciliation and to protect land, water and forests.

"Everyone in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario deserves the chance to thrive and prosper here. But too often that's a lot harder than it has to be. It's time we were represented by MPs who understand that we can do better. I'm proud to have chosen Thunder Bay–Rainy River as my home, and I'm proud to call the people here my neighbours. And I'll fight for all of us to have the opportunities and the future every Canadian deserves."

Yuk-Sem Won



Protecting Northern Ontario's environment and acting on climate change



Northern Ontario is already facing the realities of climate change, with more and more forest fires every summer. Climate change puts the health of our forests and lakes at risk.

The North depends on those natural resources—and the natural beauty—for much of our livelihood, and we need a government that is willing to stand up to big corporate interests, create a new generation of green jobs, and protect our region from climate change.

New Democrats will:

- ➔ Reduce our emissions and create over one million good jobs all over Canada with bold action on climate change.
- ➔ Eliminate billion dollar subsidies to big oil corporations and invest in renewable energy to create jobs and power a better cleaner future.
- ➔ Roll back the big polluters' carbon tax breaks in the Liberals' plan.
- ➔ Invest \$3 billion to help municipalities respond to disasters and support communities in building climate resilience infrastructure, while working with communities on an emergency management plan, to ensure that we are ready to manage wildfires, floods and other disasters worsened by climate change.
- ➔ Develop and support a climate resilience strategy for Northern Ontario with Indigenous communities and regional industries to protect our natural ecosystems and resources for the long term.
- ➔ Create and implement a national freshwater strategy to ensure responsible management of our lakes and rivers, and restore navigable water protections gutted by the Conservatives and neglected by the Liberals.

"Across the country, people watched in horror as towns and reserves had to be evacuated in the wake of raging forest fires. With the hottest summer on record, huge chunks of Canada were turned into tinder boxes.

The effects of climate change cannot be ignored, and action needs to be taken immediately. The NDP has created a platform that will address preventing further weather-related disasters by working quickly and efficiently in consultation with stakeholders in heavily-forested areas. That includes Indigenous people whose traditional way of life is currently in peril. The NDP will establish an Office of Environmental Justice to examine and address the effects of climate change and to ensure that Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples are full and equal partners in Canada's determination to win the battle against climate change."

Janine Seymour