



**FIGHTING FOR
QUEBECERS**



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*Please note that some of the photos in this document were taken before the pandemic.

Message from the Leader of the NDP



Dear Quebecers,

It is with great pride, commitment and determination that I present to you our platform for Quebec. I strongly believe our plan, has the potential to improve your lives in positive and concrete ways. It is a plan for today, tomorrow, and for a slightly more distant future: for our children.

You know, I often think about Quebec, about what unites us as progressives. One thing keeps coming up: you have shown audacity in your lives.

You fought individually and collectively, and you never stopped! Whether it was to protect your culture, your language, your rights, or by putting in place innovative and inspiring social programs that have profoundly changed lives for the better.

The Quebec nation has been bold, creative and forward-thinking.

Just think of all the areas in which you, have challenged the limits, chosen to do things differently, and carried out significant initiatives together. From the nationalization of hydroelectricity to drug coverage, pay equity and even key social programs such as childcare: you boldly aimed higher. You have built a strong and unique nation that shines at home and around the world.

Like you, I too have had to fight in my life.

I had to fight harder to find my place, to be heard, to be taken seriously, to be considered as a real human being, to embrace my differences. I had to fight to overcome hardships, such as financial insecurity, a parent's addiction and its collateral damages and mental health problems. I also had to dare to want to build a better world, refusing to accept excuses and the lack of political will.

As you know, today's world is in dire need of a positive collective effort.

The pandemic has revealed and accentuated the flaws of the system in which we live: an unprecedented housing crisis, climate emergency, justice and reconciliation for Indigenous people, rising costs of drugs and groceries, the terrible situation in long-term care facilities, lack of jobs, lack of childcare spaces, and so on.

Every day, these things are played over and over again, and it can feel like we are not making any progress. But the needs are many, glaring and urgent.

When we decide to dare together, we can choose to write a different story, refuse the status quo and excuses, and put in place concrete and sustainable solutions. Together, as progressives, we can join forces to make the system better for everyone. The NDP recognizes the unique realities of the Quebec nation and will implement asymmetrical federalism. We will work with the government of Québec to tackle the various challenges you face – for Quebec to be proudly sitting at the table. New Democrats don't sit idly by when Quebecers are suffering, we propose solutions.

The NDP's platform for Quebec outlines our commitments to Quebecers, deeply rooted in the values that have inspired our movement for decades, and Jack Layton's hope and dream of rallying progressives from coast to coast to coast.

New Democrats will fight with Quebecers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jagmeet Singh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jagmeet" and the last name "Singh" clearly distinguishable.

Jagmeet Singh

Leader, Canada's New Democrats

Fighting for Quebec



Jagmeet Singh
NPD

Fighting for Quebecers

Since passing the Sherbrooke Declaration in 2006, the NDP has been committed to maintaining a relationship with Quebec that recognizes its distinct identity. We are proud of this ongoing commitment. We must have the courage to do things differently if we want different results. Here are some examples of what a Quebec-Ottawa relationship could look like under an NDP government.

- ➔ New Democrats will ensure Quebec's national character will not be met with just empty words and hot air. It will instead be recognized with concrete plans and governance based on **asymmetrical, cooperative and respectful federalism**. This means that Quebec will have specific powers and discretion. In concrete terms, this includes the right to opt out of federal programs with financial compensation for Quebec. It is not a matter of suppressing differences, but rather of harmonizing them.
- ➔ The NDP believes that the Patriation of the Constitution in 1982 without Quebec's signature was a historical mistake. Our goal is therefore to enable Quebec **to integrate the Canadian constitutional framework**, because we sincerely believe that Quebec's national character can find its expression in the Canadian federal context.

Quebecers are forward-thinking and eager to move ahead, but Ottawa has a tendency to drag their expectations down, including the federal government's bad habit of making decisions that have negative repercussions for Quebecers. Justin Trudeau is no exception.

On the basis of asymmetrical, cooperative and respectful federalism, we believe that Quebec must have its say in the matters that affect it.

- ➔ Under the NDP, **infrastructure projects** that could have an environmental impact, including those related to the transportation of oil, will all be subject to Quebec's environmental assessment procedure. They will no longer be able to escape Quebec's environmental laws or go ahead without the agreement of the gouvernement of Québec and Quebecers.
- ➔ The NDP will formalize the **appointment process for judges** representing Quebec to the Supreme Court, and ensure that the selection is based on a list of candidates pre-selected by the Québec gouvernement.
- ➔ The NDP will enact legislation to ensure that no Conservative or Liberal government can sign a unilateral agreement with **web giants** as was done by the Liberals with Netflix, without consulting Quebec.
- ➔ The NDP will formally consult Quebec on all **international trade agreements**. We will also conduct transparent trade negotiations, so that the costs and benefits are known before anything is signed.

Fighting to promote Quebec's culture



Fighting for Quebecers

Quebec is known for celebrating culture and bringing it to life through art, both in Canada and abroad. The strength of a society is expressed through its culture and language and is a source of pride for everyone from Quebec.

In this era of globalization and expansion of digital broadcasting channels, promoting and ensuring the continuity of cultures and languages presents challenges, in Quebec as elsewhere.

Instead of promoting the growth of Quebec culture, successive Liberal and Conservative governments have unfortunately opted to harm it. They have not had the courage to put in place the necessary safeguards to protect and promote the French language.

Quebecers expect better. The NDP will build a future where Quebec culture, Quebec arts, and the French language are seen and heard here and around the world.

- The NDP will make **web giants pay their fair share** and modernize the Broadcasting Act so they are subject to the same rules as any other Quebec or Canadian company.
- The NDP will offer artists and cultural workers the option of **spreading out their income** for federal tax purposes and exempt the first \$10,000 of income from artistic activities.
- The NDP will **modernize the Broadcasting and Copyright Act** to create a more equal playing field between domestic broadcasters and web giants.
- The NDP will increase funding for organizations that work to promote and **protect the French language** in Quebec and elsewhere. In this age of globalization and web giants, we will ensure that necessary legislative protections for the French language are updated.
- The NDP will require businesses under federal jurisdiction in Quebec to comply with the **Charter of the French Language**, such as banks, the telecommunications sector, etc.
- The NDP will ensure the **bilingualism of Supreme Court judges**, which will be at the heart of the new judicial appointment process. The NDP will make sure every judge is able to read and speak French as well as English.
- The NDP will work with the cultural community and the Québec government to restore Quebec's **cultural sovereignty**. This autonomy would take the form of a transfer of powers and a historic transfer of federal funding for culture.
- The NDP will invest more in the production of **original French-language content**.

Fighting for a fairer and more affordable society



Fighting for Quebecers

Before the COVID-19 crisis, Quebecers were already facing a housing crisis, rising costs of living and stagnant wages. The pandemic has emphasized and reinforced many of these challenges faced by families. Meanwhile, in a parallel world, the ultra-rich and large corporations have continued to grow richer at a blinding pace and an unprecedented scale.

This situation is anything but coincidental: it is the result of concerted of political actions and inactions that allow the most powerful to grow their wealth at the expense of workers, consumers, the environment and social cohesion.

The rich have benefited greatly from a system that favours them, a system created by successive Liberal and Conservative governments.

While **many Quebecers have lost their jobs or had to close their businesses because of the pandemic, billionaires have become \$78 billion richer.** Multinationals like Walmart have also made record profits without paying their fair share. This is completely unacceptable.

Enough is enough. Everyday people have paid enough. We must dare to demand that the ultra-rich and big corporations pay their fair share to make life more affordable for people here.

→ The NDP will put an end to **tax loopholes and tax havens** that allow the wealthy to avoid or reduce the amount of taxes they pay.

- The NDP will introduce a temporary, **pandemic 15% excess profits tax** on the extraordinary pandemic profits of large corporations.
- The NDP will introduce a **1% wealth tax on assets over \$10 million.**

These **new sources of revenue** will be used to lower the cost of living for Quebecers.

- The NDP will tackle the housing crisis with bold measures that will allow Quebecers to access to housing that fits within their budget. The NDP will:
 - **Build at least 110,000 social and affordable homes in Quebec** over the next ten years, half of which will be built in five years;
 - Invest a minimum of \$3 billion more per year in social housing and facilitate the construction of cooperative and non-profit housing;
 - **Implement a 20% tax on foreign home buyers;**
 - Use federal land, such as those by the Peel Basin in Montreal for social and affordable housing.
- Because they have become essential, we will lower the price of internet and cell phone services for everyone. The NDP will:
 - Implement a price cap to force the big telecom companies to lower their fees so that we pay a similar price as elsewhere in the world until the industry becomes more competitive;

- ➔ Ensure that service providers offer a basic cellular and broadband package that is comparable to affordable packages offered in other countries;
- ➔ Require companies to offer unlimited data options at affordable rates, as are available elsewhere, and abolish internet data caps;
- ➔ Pass a Telecom Consumers' Bill of Rights to protect people from price gouging and dishonest company tactics
- ➔ Increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement to lift all seniors out of poverty.



Fighting for a greener society



Environmental protection and the climate emergency are at the heart of Quebecers' priorities. Reports from experts are overwhelming, unequivocal, and consistently blame inaction and lack of political will. Some leaders refuse to say they will act, while others like Justin Trudeau make promises but fail to act once in office.

Under Justin Trudeau, Canada has increased fossil fuel subsidies and has the worst GHG reduction record in the G7. This is negligent and irresponsible. We can no longer afford to let the federal government ignore this crucial issue.

Through the pandemic, we've seen that emergencies can and must be addressed boldly, effectively, and quickly, in concert with experts and science. The climate crisis is no exception - all it takes is the political will to succeed. New Democrats are committed to protecting the environment and to addressing the climate emergency. We want to be on the right side of history, to be able to look our children in the eye and say, "we did everything we could." We will not continue on the same path that has brought us to this point.

We have concrete commitments rooted in science to tackle the climate emergency and create quality jobs. Quebecers can expect:

- Their money will finally stop being used to row upstream, by eliminating subsidies to Big Oil
- The federal government will not invest in the 3rd link project in Quebec City, or in any other similar project that contributes to climate change;

- Public transit will be fully electric by 2030 and free in municipalities that want it;
- Quebec municipalities will have access to additional funding for climate change adaptation and disaster relief;
- Quebec will become a world leader in the electrification of transportation and an innovation hub for batteries and charging stations;
- More clean and renewable energy projects in Quebec will see the light of day, such as biofuel projects created from forest residue and waste, thanks to our Climate Bank;
- The St. Lawrence River will be granted legal personhood status so that it is fully protected;
- We will reduce our emissions by at least 50% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels;
- The Quebec City-Windsor high-speed rail project will be launched within our first 100 days of government;
- 30% of our land, freshwater and oceans will be protected by 2030;
- An Office of Environmental Justice will be created to address the disproportionate impacts of pollution and biodiversity loss on low-income, racialized, and marginalized communities.

Quebecers have consistently demonstrated their willingness to address the climate crisis and their outrage at government inaction. The NDP is more than ready to change history with you. Time is running out, but it's not too late.

Fighting for 21st century health care



The pandemic has put the spotlight on existing vulnerabilities in our society and made them worse – and our healthcare system is no exception. Many people have gained a better appreciation for how vital, the dedication of our health care workers, and the magnitude of the problems that persist, including labour shortages and staff fatigue. Liberal and Conservative cuts to health care transfers have resulted in devastating negative impacts. With these cuts, it has been difficult for the Québec government to keep up the pace alone.

It is time for Quebecers to have a federal government that will have the courage to do its part in improving our health care system, not one that just says nice things :

- ➔ The NDP will respond to the Québec governments call for an increase on health transfers;
- ➔ The Québec government has been a pioneer with its public-private drug plan, but with a federal government that does its part, Quebecers will have access to a fully public pharmacare plan, as called for by many Quebec groups and organizations, which would allow for every person to have free access to the medications they need;

- ➔ The NDP will also ensure that Quebecers who do not have dental and mental health coverage have access to the care they need;
- ➔ In the wake of the crisis in residential and long-term care centres, especially the disaster at CHSLD Herron, the NDP will do its part to improve our system so that our loved ones can age with dignity, and so rich investors can no longer make profits at the expense of the suffering of our loved ones.

New Democrats don't just sit back when people are hurting. We help, we alleviate, we collaborate, and we extend a hand and do our part by offering solutions. Ottawa has a responsibility to do this; we will invest and work together to ensure that people have access to the care they need, and that they no longer suffer unnecessarily. Let us aim for better, work together, and combine our strengths to improve people's health. If at the end of our discussions, the Québec government chooses to withdraw, it will of course have the right to do so with unconditional compensation.

Fighting for the Quebec economy



We must make bold, strategic investments to build a strong economic recovery. The NDP understands that in Quebec there are several key sectors that have been neglected by both the current and previous governments. The NDP will make up for this by investing in important sectors in Quebec:

- ➔ The NDP will implement a National Aerospace Strategy as requested by workers in this sector;
- ➔ The NDP will stand with agricultural producers to protect the supply management system in its entirety, fully compensate for any losses caused by the Liberals' bad choices and increase investments that support our farmers;
- ➔ The NDP will also stand up for the interests of the forestry and aluminum industries that have suffered considerably due to our strained relationship with the United States;
- ➔ The NDP will increase supports for social economy groups and cooperatives;
- ➔ The NDP will implement a program to support the creation of greenhouses and urban agriculture.

There is a labour shortage in Quebec that has been exacerbated by the pandemic and must be addressed to strengthen the economy. The NDP will work with the gouvernement of Quebec to find innovative solutions to this challenge. This includes working together to determine how we can support the creation of more childcare spaces quickly so parents who wish to return to work can do so. We will also put in place a tax credit to encourage new graduates to work in the region.

The government of Quebec needs a reliable ally in Ottawa to ensure a smooth immigration process, in a way that both contributes to our society and addresses the labour shortage. It is time for a true partnership that does its fair share for the integration and french education of people who settle in Quebec.

- ➔ The NDP will increase immigration transfers to the gouvernement of Quebec by \$73 million per year on a permanent basis.
- ➔ The NDP will also work with the gouvernement of Quebec to promote and encourage newcomers to settle in rural areas.