



2021 Federal Election: Candidate Responses to Questions About Downtowns & Main Streets			
Candidate/Party/Riding & Response Date	Do you believe that Canada's Downtowns and Main Streets are an important priority for the Federal Government in their recovery and future growth?	What programs is your party planning to create which will speed the recovery and revitalization of Canada's downtowns and main streets?	How will you and your party contribute more substantially to 'community well-being' in the realms of housing, mental health, and addictions?
<p>Meghan Waters, NDP Saint Boniface-Saint Vital Winnipeg</p>	<p>I describe myself as an urbanist and believe that the federal government does have a role in ensuring that the downtown area is a welcoming environment for all.</p> <p>A complex system with many factors at play means that there is no one size fits all solution to adding vitality to the downtown area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need to build more housing in the downtown area. People living in the area means people walking around and patronizing businesses. 2. Investing in public and active transportation. It needs to be convenient for people to get downtown. 3. Working with city planners to remove all the one way streets. For downtown to thrive, it needs to be a destination; not a place you try to pass as many cars as 		

	<p>possible through. (This is not something within the power of the federal government, but definitely something I would speak out in favour of)</p> <p>4. Downtown needs to be accessible for pedestrians and have lots of welcoming places to sit and visit.</p> <p>5. Folks need to feel safe. This is a complex issue but adequately funding organizations like Main Street Project and addressing the poverty and addictions crisis is how we start to deal with the root of the issue.</p> <p>6. Working with the community-lead organizations already in places to continue to support local initiatives.</p> <p>7. Funding the arts in order to provide more things to see and do.</p> <p>This is not an exhaustive list, just a few things that I believe the NDP has a mandate to do based off our platform.</p>		
<p>Dr. Michelle Corfield, Liberal Nanaimo-Ladysmith, B.C.</p>	<p>As Canada moves toward economic recovery of the worldwide pandemic, Canada's, especially Nanaimo and Ladysmith's downtown and main street are an important priority for our communities. The future growth for economic, social, and cultural focal points is deeply needed in our communities. The small businesses and activities that have been focused within our business core have been severely impacted these past eighteen months, and stimulus recovery is desperately needed. This creates employment, social activity,</p>	<p>A re-elected Liberal government will extend the Canada Recovery Hiring Program to March 21, 2022, so businesses can hire more workers and Canadians can get back on the job. We will also provide the hard-hit tourism industry with temporary wage and rent support of up to 75% for their expenses to get through the winter and implement the Canada Digital Adoption Program which will give microgrants to smaller Main Street businesses so they can afford the costs</p>	<p>All across the country, and also for Nanaimo and Ladysmith, we are dealing with homelessness, mental health and addictions of our most vulnerable populations who are currently residing in our downtowns and along main street businesses. A re-elected Liberal government has pledged to establish a new federal transfer to provinces and territories - the Canada Mental Health Transfer - to assist jurisdictions to expand the delivery of high-quality, accessible</p>

	<p>and aids in economic recovery.</p>	<p>of new technology so that they are poised to compete in an online market. In addition, a re-elected Liberal government will move forward with its plan to unleash investments by improving the Canada small Business Financing Program. All of these new programs will speed the recovery and revitalization of Nanaimo and Ladysmiths downtown and main street businesses while contributing to stemming climate change, enhancing social balance and fairness within society, adding to our communities' cultural richness and diversity, helping communities to become more racially integrated, and making them more innovatively robust. An open business is good business.</p>	<p>and free mental health services. They will also commit to permanent, ongoing funding for mental health services under the Canada Mental Health Transfer with an initial investment of \$4.5 billion over 5 years. To save lives, we need a whole-of-society approach to the opioid epidemic. The Liberal government will continue to take an evidence-based approach to problematic substance use and work with all orders of government to support innovative approaches so that Canadians have access to the care and support they need. Finally, to answer your housing question, a re-elected Liberal government will appoint a new Federal Housing Advocate within the first 100-days of a new mandate to ensure the federal government's work toward eliminating chronic homelessness are fulfilled and to move forward with the plan to invest in Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy to support communities across the country.</p>
<p>David Busch, Conservative Saanich- Gulf Islands B.C.</p>	<p>David and the Conservative party are clearly more focused on business and the success of business than the other parties.</p> <p>To quote from our platform:</p> <p>"Small business has borne the brunt of the downturn. Across the country, hard-working</p>		

	<p>women and men have lost their jobs. Entrepreneurs have been forced to close their businesses while watching massive competitors like big box stores and online web giants stay open, make record profits, and pay huge dividends to their shareholders.</p> <p>To get Canadians back to work, we need to focus on the hardest-hit sectors. From coast to coast, many main streets are hollowing out and are full of boarded-up storefronts and For Lease signs. Small businesses are the backbone of the job market, with two-thirds of Canadians working for a small or medium-sized business. We need them to survive in the short term to thrive in the long term.</p> <p>It's time to rebuild main street."</p> <p>May I suggest that you download our whole platform and search for business. The word occurs over 80 times.</p> <p>https://www.conservative.ca/plan/</p> <p>Best regards Deid Reimer Policy Chair Saanich Gulf Islands</p>		
<p>Meghan Shannon Conservative Waterloo, Ontario</p>	<p>The Conservative Party absolutely understands the importance of local small businesses and the great potential for growth and recovery that exists on main street.</p>	<p>To support small businesses in the covid-19 recovery we will implement:</p> <p>a. Rebuild Main Street Tax Credit: providing a 25% tax credit on amounts of up to \$100,000 that Canadians</p>	<p>Our party has a serious plan for mental health and addictions. Downtown businesses have been dealing with the issues of addiction and homelessness for too long with</p>

		<p>personally invest in a small business over the next two years, to get money flowing into main street businesses and create jobs.</p> <p>b. Main Street Business Loan: providing loans of up to \$200,000 to help small and medium businesses in hospitality, retail, and tourism get back on their feet, with up to 25% forgiven.</p> <p>We have many different avenues to address some of the other challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Establishing a path to permanence for temporary workers and students ii. credential recognition for immigrants iii. investing in public transit iv. incentivizing redevelopment for housing near transit projects v. Clean Buildings Plan 	<p>far too little support. We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. double the annual increase of the Canada Health and Social Transfer b. invest 325 Million Dollars in 1000 addiction treatment beds over three years c. re-establish the housing first model to get addicts off the streets and get them the help they deserve.
<p>Hal Berman, NDP Willowdale, Ontario</p>	<p>I think that businesses all over Canada are hurting. All must be supported as we build a recovery from Covid 19. As we escape the pandemic, by continuing to practice infection prevention, people will become more confident of public transit and I hope our downtowns will be helped this way.</p>	<p>By supporting businesses to provide living wages to workers, we can revitalize downtown businesses, and increase the workforce because people will be able to afford to either live where they work or to commute there. Small businesses will be invited to participate in green retrofitting (either as customers or as providers).</p>	<p>Our party has a platform that includes support for mental health and addiction. By tackling poverty, and building half a million AFFORDABLE housing units, we will contribute to community well-being.</p>
<p>Zia Choudhary, Conservative Scarborough-Rouge Park,</p>	<p>I am committed to working for the betterment of Scarborough-Rouge Park and making sure your voices are heard in</p>		

Ontario	the right places.		
Stephen Gallant Conservative London North Centre, Ontario	The Conservative Party of Canada is the only party with a plan to recover Canada from the Covid19 Pandemic and in particular the downtowns of Canadian cities with the creation of one million jobs in the first year of office. Please see: Secure Jobs - Secure the Future (conservative.ca)		
Stephanie Kusie Conservative Midnapore, Calgary, Alta	<i>Thank you for reaching out to Mrs Kusie. Given the volume of these types of requests, she is not able to address each one however please be assured that your communication will be brought to her attention as soon as possible and we will share any response with you. Details of the Conservative election platform - which include a significant section on infrastructure - are available at www.stephaniekusie.ca.</i>		
Lisa Hefpner, Liberal Hamilton Mountain, Ontario	Thank you for reaching out and we'll do our best to follow up with you quickly on these issues. I've included our Campaign Manager in CC. Thank you and please look for our response presently, Team Hefpner.		
John Aldag, Liberal Cloverdale, Langley City B.C.	Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to those who manage business improvement associations [BIAs] in my community.		

	<p>Attached you will find my response to your request. If you require any further information, please let me know.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there was nothing attached.</p>		
<p>Heather Hay, NDP Parry Sound-Muskoka, Ontario</p>	<p>Small businesses are one of the engines of job creation in Canada, and an important part of every community across the country. Local shops keep our communities running, and they need our support now more than ever.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NDP pushed for a wage subsidy of 75% instead of the proposed 10% and will insist on keeping it in place till the pandemic is over to support small businesses. - Hold on their workforce by making sure the wage subsidy program continues until the pandemic is over. - Keep paying their rent and invest in their businesses by making sure the rent subsidy program and the business loan program continue until the pandemic is over. - Get people back to work by putting in place a hiring bonus to pay the employer portion of EI and CPP for new or rehired staff. - Place a hard cap on credit card transaction fees that have been gouging our local businesses for years. Canadian small businesses are paying among the highest credit card transaction fees in the world. It will help small businesses thrive – and that means stronger family businesses and stable, good jobs in communities across Canada. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will invest in 500,000 affordable housing units to create safe and affordable housing - The NDP will increase existing medicare to include dental, vision, pharmacare and mental health care. - Our plan for dealing with the opioid crisis our plan includes ending criminalization and investing in harm reduction, treatment and recovery

<p>Barb Dunlop, Conservative Yukon</p>	<p>Thank you for contacting the campaign. Barbara is in close contact with our local business community and chambers of commerce and will continue to discuss Yukon issues directly with them.</p>		
<p>Geneviève Nadeau, Bloc Québécois Gatineau, Quebec</p>	<p>Merci de nous avoir fait part de vos préoccupations dans le cadre de cette campagne électorale.</p> <p>Soyez-assurez que votre candidate, Geneviève Nadeau, en prendra connaissance.</p> <p>Pour de plus amples informations sur notre programme, nous vous invitons à consulter la plate-forme du Bloc Québécois : blocquebecois.org/plateforme</p>		
<p>Hedy Fry, Liberal Vancouver Centre, B.C.</p>	<p>Yes. The downtown core attracts tourists, there should be a diversity of restaurants, a diverse arts and culture. The impact is not only on tourism, but on employment and will improve the face of the downtown core, making it more beautiful, clean, and encouraging. There should be green spaces and parks, easy access for persons in wheelchairs, it should be safe and well-lit.</p>	<p>One of the things we are doing regarding climate change is committing to more urban parks and green spaces and working closely with municipalities to determine what cities want their downtown to look like. We are committed to working with municipalities to create programs unique and appropriate to the specific area to make communities more socially balanced, culturally rich, racially integrated, and innovatively robust. Accessibility and safety within cities are essential in every downtown core in Canada.</p>	<p>Our Liberal government has already committed to every single factor that would help harm reduction, prevention, emergency access in cases of overdose, safe consumption sites, and safe supply. We have received a project from the City of Vancouver to have a scientifically done research project on decriminalization of simple possession of opioids. We have committed to including mental health in the <i>Canada Health Act</i> under all of the principles of Medicare. We are the first government in Canada to determine the right to housing is a human right. As such, we are working with provinces and territories,</p>

			<p>municipalities, non-profit organizations, and private developers to build affordable housing, co-op housing, and housing of people who are homeless. We have already begun this work. For more details on this plan, head to our website HedyFry.Liberal.ca or the Liberal website Liberal.ca.</p>
<p>Kyla Kitzul, NDP Saskatoon Grasswood</p>	<p>Thank you for contacting me regarding this issue! I appreciate the opportunity to learn more about your work in the community.</p> <p>Responses to your letters are provided by our federal campaign, but I did want to let you know that this information was helpful.</p> <p>Kind regards, Kyla Kitzul</p>		
<p>Sean Fraser, Liberal Central Nova</p>	<p>Thank you for your message and information about the International Downtown Association. The riding that Sean is running to represent, Central Nova, has no cities but there are 9 small towns! The downtown is at the heart of each of these communities and it is truly amazing to see the effort put in by residents and business owners alike to maintain and improve our thriving town centres.</p> <p>We will forward your email to Sean and his core campaign team.</p>		
<p>Chris Cameron, NDP</p>	<p>Thank you for reaching out to me with these important questions. As you noted,</p>	<p>Small businesses play an extremely important cultural role in our society,</p>	<p>I am glad you have raised the issue of community well-being, as it directly</p>

<p>Durham, Ontario</p>	<p>small businesses have been hit especially hard by the pandemic. Often, they did not have the same resources to adapt in the way that large businesses did, meaning they felt the impact much more severely. Lacking in the resources for online advertising, difficulties selling their products online (and limited capacity to ship products), as well as being extra-vulnerable to price comparisons in the online market (who can compete with Amazon's prices?) as well as the loss of local foot traffic made the last 18 months or so especially difficult on small businesses. While I am happy to see many of my personal favourite local businesses survived, I also know there are many who did not.</p> <p>This is an extremely important question, aspects of which are often glossed over. There is a lot of talk about the economic importance of small businesses; rightly so, as SMEs are the largest employers in the Canadian economy, with almost 90% of Canadians being employed by a small or medium-sized business in 2019. However, I think focusing on just the economic benefits of a thriving small business community dismisses other important aspects of their existence.</p> <p>So, in answer to your first question, I strongly feel that Canadian small businesses are essential to Canada's sustained growth; economically, socially and culturally.</p>	<p>especially in the Durham Region. I know how many people love having a unique set of local restaurants to eat from, or enjoy walking down King St. in Bowmanville to window shop the local businesses. Even if large corporations provided the same goods and services at the same price and hired the same amount of people at the same wage, there would be something lost to the community. Small businesses contribute to the culture of a region in a way that isn't captured in economic analysis. It's also important for local entrepreneurship and innovation that people feel they have that business ownership is a realistic goal, not a far-flung dream.</p> <p>Small businesses also tend to be more in touch with their local community's needs and seem more inclined to give back (when possible). Most small businesses I have had the pleasure of interacting with are extremely willing to support their community, whether by fundraising for local causes, raising awareness of local issues or supporting local initiatives. Small businesses also tend to get to know and value their customers as people and are willing to step up when needed to help them out. Even simple gestures, like letting a regular who forgot their wallet pay the bill next time, or reducing prices for people going through tough times, can have a major impact on people's lives. The strong connection between small businesses and the local</p>	<p>impacts small businesses' ability to survive. One of the greatest obstacles young people today are facing is the skyrocketing prices of housing. Locally, I have seen homes that would normally be called "starter homes" and sold for \$200,000 sell for closer to a million dollars. This means that working at a small business and earning near-minimum wage income (which is all many small businesses can afford to pay) isn't feasible for many people. This means that many people cannot make any sort of living working at many small businesses, especially those in the restaurant or retail sectors. This is partly why we have both high unemployment and an apparent labour shortage for these industries. If more is not done to address issues like housing, and general affordability, small businesses will find it increasingly difficult to hire staff. The staff they are able to hire will move on quickly once they find livable incomes, inhibiting the business' ability to operate effectively.</p> <p>Mental health and addictions are also critical issues for many people across this country, especially in North Oshawa. Too many individuals face barriers to treatment, including financial barriers like cost and social barriers like stigma. The high cost of mental health support quickly becomes a vicious cycle. Those who need it most are unable to afford it</p>
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		<p>community genuinely is a two-way street, that leaves both parties better off.</p> <p>Small businesses, especially after the effects of the pandemic, need support from all levels of government to survive, and continue to thrive as we move back to normalcy. For starters, I will commit to keeping the current government support programs in place until the effects of the pandemic are over. While I hope this will be soon, if things take a turn again, I am in favour of extending programs like the interest-free loans and wage subsidies. An NDP government would also introduce a bonus for businesses that either hire new staff, or re-hire laid off staff, by paying the employer portion of EI and CPP. This better enable small businesses to either return to their former strength, or to expand to new levels.</p> <p>We would also cap merchant fees, which have climbed drastically over the years. As one of my favourite local business owners is fond of saying, "running a small business is like collecting the pennies until they add up to a dollar." While the 3-4% fees some merchant terminals charge may not sound like a lot, I know how much it adds up and how it eats into the already tight profit margins. Large corporations have the weight to negotiate better fees, as they</p>	<p>and are at a higher risk of losing their jobs, which makes affording care even more difficult. We must break this vicious cycle by recognizing mental health as health and bringing it into our single-payer healthcare system. I am also proud to advocate for decriminalizing the simple possession of addictive substances like narcotics. The criminalization and historically heavy-handed approach to people suffering from addiction has only made the problem worse, as it has built an unfair stigma that prevents people from getting help. Addiction is an illness, not a crime, and it is important our system finally reflects that.</p>
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		<p>represent a lot of revenue. Small businesses do not have this capability, which is why I believe the government must do it on their behalf.</p> <p>I also know how many small business owners truly view their employees as team members, or even family. I also know that many do not have the capacity to look after their team members the way they would like to. Benefit and Pension plans are very expensive for small businesses, often putting them out of reach. Our commitment to expand the universal healthcare system to cover things like pharmacare, dental care and vision care means that small businesses no longer have to worry about not being able to provide these options to their employees and saving the ones that already do \$600 per employee per year.</p>	
<p>Jonathan Roberts, NDP Halifax West, N.S.</p>	<p>Our party would use a tax on wealth and other revenue (potentially a gasoline tax) to enhance the livability of cities by electrifying mobility. We are committed to increasing funding to diversity and multiculturalism, and of course, taking action to end the addictions crisis (which will take increased funding of mental health care).</p>		
<p>Jo-Ann Roberts, Green Halifax, N.S.</p>	<p>Downtowns and Main Streets are very important to Green MPs. We believe that they are not only economic hubs but also</p>	<p>Greens believe in investing in the municipal order of government. If municipal governments are able to</p>	<p>The Green Party is calling for major changes to our social safety net which would have a dramatic impact on the</p>

	<p>where people should work and live and be able to access services. This is a good way to reduce carbon emissions and strengthen our social fabric.</p> <p>We also know that many arts and cultural facilities are located in our downtowns and Main Streets. Green MPs are calling for more support in these areas.</p> <p>A Green government will:</p> <p>Increase support for indoor or outdoor arts performances required to adapt to become compliant with COVID regulations.</p> <p>Provide \$25 million in additional funding to aid museums and cultural organizations in both post-pandemic reopening and continuing to offer accessible digital offerings.</p> <p>Ensure the viability of our cultural infrastructure in consultation with Arts Service Organizations, professional associations, trade associations and unions across the creative sector.</p> <p>We believe in supporting local, small businesses which means ensuring there is a level playing field. We would apply a corporate tax on transnational e-commerce companies doing business in Canada by requiring the foreign vendor to register,</p>	<p>have more stable funding and the ability to raise revenue they will be able to invest the necessary funds to provide active transportation and infrastructure to support downtowns and Main Streets which are the heart of every municipality.</p> <p>Very specifically:</p> <p>A Green government will:</p> <p>Support the use of city charters to give greater autonomy to cities.</p> <p>Make changes to the Canada Infrastructure Bank to reduce interest rates to municipalities on loans for infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Institutionalize federal transfers to municipalities through the creation of a Municipal Fund, renaming the Gas Tax funds, which were delinked from gas tax revenue years ago, and retaining the same eligibility as the Gas Tax funds.</p> <p>Ensure a permanent doubling of current funding to ensure predictable and reliable funding to municipalities.</p> <p>Allocate one per cent of GST to housing and other municipal infrastructure on an ongoing basis to provide a consistent baseline of funding.</p>	<p>housing crisis, the mental health issues and drug issues many inner city cores are experiencing. It is time for a Guaranteed Liveable Income.</p> <p>We would Declare the drug poisoning crisis a national public health emergency and move to decriminalize possession of illicit drugs for personal use.</p>
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	<p>collect and remit taxes where the product or service is consumed. The e-commerce sector – giants like Netflix, Facebook, Amazon, and Google - command a significant share of the Canadian market but pay virtually no tax.</p> <p>At the same time we would ensure the small business tax is held at 9% and increase the federal corporate tax rate from 15 to 21 per cent to bring it into line with the federal rate in the United States, our biggest trading partner.</p>	<p>Answer the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' and Vancouver Mayor's Council's call for a permanent, dedicated federal public transit fund of \$3.4 billion annually starting in 2026-2027, once the existing transit program expires.</p> <p>Commit to a multi-year solution to transit operating shortfalls in order to protect and secure shared investments in building out Canada's transit networks for the decades to come.</p>	
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