



April 2011

Election Edition - CASW Reporter

Information – Communication – Action

CASW and Election 2011

Election 2011: The Party Platforms on Fighting Poverty

The Dignity for All Campaign (DFA), of which CASW is a founding and active member, calls for vigorous and sustained action by the federal government to combat the structural causes of poverty in Canada. For Election 2011, DFA is encouraging people to vote for the parties that are making a national plan for poverty elimination a priority. [Click here](#) to access DFA's analysis on the party platforms to determine which way you want to vote to help make poverty history.

Poverty Reduction - Open Letter to the Elected Leaders of the Parliament of Canada

In anticipation of a 2011 election, CASW President Darlene MacDonald sent the elected leaders of the Parliament of Canada an [Open Letter](#) (January 12, 2011) seeking their pledge to make poverty elimination a central issue in the next election. CASW received only one response, from NDP Leader Jack Layton. Please [click here](#) to view this response.

National Settlement Funding Cuts

Prior to the election call, the Harper Government announced \$53 million in cuts to settlement programs in Canada. [CASW's response](#) was swift, calling for full restoration of the funding. CASW President followed up with [a letter](#) to the Immigration Minister, Jason Kenney, requesting that the funding be restored immediately. Please [click here](#) to view his response. During Election 2011, CASW invites social workers to make their views on the issue known to ensure that the next government makes funding settlement programs in Canada a priority.

Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Dismisses First Nations Children on Reserves

CASW strongly supports the complaint filed in 2007 by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (FNCFCS) and the Assembly of First Nations alleging that the Federal Government is racially discriminating against First Nations children by providing less child welfare benefit on reserves. Make equality of opportunity an election issue in 2011 by asking your candidates to become witnesses. Visit the FNCFCS website to learn more by [clicking here](#)

Election 2011 - Platforms

At a Glance - CASW Compares Party Platforms

CASW has compiled the commitments of the national parties' platforms for Election 2011 on the issues that matter most to the social work profession. [Click here](#) to access a comparison of commitments to a national plan to reduce poverty, affordable housing, early learning and childcare, women's equality, and support for low-income seniors.

For your own comparison, listed below are the links to the full platforms for each of the national parties in Canada. Inform yourself on the platforms and priorities for each political party vying for your vote in this election. (Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Conservative Party of Canada

http://www.conservative.ca/media/ConservativePlatform2011_ENs.pdf

Green Party of Canada

<http://greenparty.ca/files/attachments/green-book-2011-en.pdf>

Liberal Party of Canada

http://cdn.liberal.ca/files/2011/04/liberal_platform.pdf

New Democratic Party of Canada

<http://www.ndp.ca/platform>

Election 2011 - Pursuit of Social Justice

Children and the 2011 Federal Election

Canadians under 18 cannot vote, but federal policies affect their lives. They represent one quarter of Canada's population. There is a lot of talk about families in this election, but not all family policies have the same impact on children. [Click here](#) to consider the facts and ask about the impact of proposed policies on all children in Canada in this election.

UNICEF Canada asked the leaders of the federal parties if they will champion our [Charter for Children](#) to close the gaps for children, in Canada and around the world. As a non-partisan organization, UNICEF Canada and our supporters across the country are asking the same of the candidates in ridings across the country. See the responses that are coming in at www.unicef.ca/vote2011.

Affordable Housing and Homelessness

What's being said about affordable housing and homelessness this election? [Click here](#) to get to the core of the issues and the platforms with the Canadian Housing & Renewal Association's one-page platform analysis.

Making It Count

Making It Count is the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' 2011 federal election blog, designed to bring you expert analysis and commentary on the issues that will—or should—define the federal election. [Click here](#) for in-depth views on the issues to help you make your vote count.

Making Mental Health a Priority

The Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) reminds social workers that the candidates chosen in this election will become responsible for overseeing negotiations concerning the Health Accord, which is up for renewal in 2014. The 2004 Accord set out an extra \$41.2 billion over 10 years in dedicated funding for health care issues, such as reducing wait times, training health professionals, expanding home care and developing a national pharmaceutical strategy. It will be vital to increase awareness of mental health and mental illness issues so that they are fully addressed in upcoming negotiations. Seize this opportunity to be involved by [clicking here](#) to access CAMIMH's election campaign and send candidates the message that the mental health of Canadians is your voting priority in this election.

Vote to Make Poverty History

A Dignity for All Campaign co-lead, Make Poverty History, has launched a “Vote to Make Poverty History” campaign. Learn how you can help make poverty a top election issue by visiting <http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/vote>.

Election 2011 – Resources

Elections Canada

Find your electoral district, local Elections Canada office, list of candidates, where to vote—and more—by [clicking here](#) or visiting <http://www.elections.ca/home.aspx>.

Election Almanac

Visit this site to access updated news, polls and election information. [Click here](#) to visit the *Election Almanac*.

Vote Compass

Use this on-line tool to better understand whose views are closest to yours in Election 2011. [Click here](#) to access CBC's interactive *Vote Compass*.

Leadnow

Leadnow has brought together generations of Canadians to share ideas and draft a *Declaration for Change*, a commitment to create a better future for all Canadians. [Click here](#) to sign the declaration.