

# Vote for a Caring, Just, and Inclusive Canada

*Speak up with hope, love, and empathy to influence the federal election conversation*

## **Be vocal**

Be sure your candidates know you care about equity, diversity, and inclusion, and support action for peace, human rights, and climate justice. Share your faith-filled vision of hope in public forums. Lean into love and empathy over fear and division.

## **Be informed**

Learn about your candidates' commitments. Be curious. Practice reflection, discernment and empathy. Be aware of intentional dis/mis-information. Confirm your information sources and only share information that fosters beloved community.

## **Go and vote**

Speaking up for justice matters during the election period! It matters even if you don't think it will make a difference to who will be elected or their position on an issue. Candidates want to know what their communities care about. In speaking up for justice, you can let them know, and maybe they will surprise you by making a commitment! Perhaps just as importantly, when you speak up for justice you help cast a vision of hope in your community that expands what we collectively dream is possible.

As people of faith, we are called to challenge injustice and oppression so everyone can live life abundantly. The work of justice is about how we treat people in the world, so we work towards ending all forms of discrimination and equitable distribution of resources. We have a particular responsibility to guard against polarization and mis/disinformation, to be welcoming of all and collaborate beyond societal barriers as together we hold all of creation sacred.

The federal election period is an opportunity

- for you and your *future* MP to get to know each other on a personal level, acknowledging one another's humanity and learning what is important to each of you;
- to cast hope for a loving, welcoming world into the local and national conversation, expanding what everyone in the community thinks might be possible;
- to offer a faithful alternative to polarization, division, and reactive fear; and
- to bring important issues to your future MP's attention, and secure commitments.

For more tools for faithful justice action, visit our [Faith and Politics](#) page.

Please join us in building hope together.

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*Note: We aren't covering every topic or all the important questions. The last page includes links to additional campaigns and resources but is not an exhaustive list. Please also do your own searches to find other key guides and resources.*

### Interpretation Note

The United Church of Canada is non-partisan.

We do not support any specific candidates or political parties. We do not suggest to anyone who they should vote for.

We do make sure everyone knows how to participate. We do provide tools for engaging with candidates from all parties on issues that are essential to us. We do try to create spaces to cast a vision of hope, love, and empathy, as well as a reminder that our faith calls us to radical solidarity, to stand up for the rights of all, to speak against hate and division, and that our purpose here on earth is to do all we can to ensure the well-being and equitable treatment of our neighbours, near and far, and all of Creation.

Standing up for the Earth and for human rights is not a partisan activity.

## 2S and LGBTQIA+ Justice

One way to raise this with your candidates:

My faith-filled vision of hope, love, and daring justice is a world in which Canada supports and protects the rights of 2S and LGBTQIA+ people. I am very concerned about the rise of hate, discrimination and divisive rhetoric against people who are gender-diverse, Two-Spirited and LGBTQIA+, both here in Canada and around the world. As a member of The United Church of Canada, I believe that polarization and attempts to roll back rights and protections of 2S and LGBTQIA+ peoples should be met with concerted resistance by all.

**If you are elected as our member of Parliament, how will you ensure Two-Spirited and LGBTQIA+ rights are protected across Canada? Will you commit to working to ensure that Canada will continue to promote and protect 2S and LGBTQIA+ human rights here and around the world?**

### Issue

Around the world, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals face severe persecution, discrimination, and violence due to their sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression. Draconian anti-2SLGBTQIA+ laws and policies are being enacted, including here in Canada.

In response, The United Church of Canada, rooted in its commitment to justice and inclusion:

- plays a vital role in sponsoring and supporting LGBTQIA+ refugees through faith-driven advocacy, community sponsorship, and partnership with government programs;
- denounces policy and law reforms in Canadian provinces that roll back safety and legal protections for 2S and LGBTQIA+ people, particularly transgender and non-binary youth; raises the alarm about anti-LGBTQIA+ bills [that have passed around the world](#), and stands against recent attacks on trans and queer rights in the United States; and
- calls on the Canadian government to take three actions to help ensure safety, dignity, and respect for the human rights of all:
  - **Increase Canadian international assistance** to organizations supporting LGBTQIA+ human rights and make it a long-term funding commitment.
  - **Appoint a [Special Envoy on International LGBTIQ+ Human Rights](#) and use all diplomatic channels to secure the repeal of draconian anti-LGBTQIA+ laws worldwide (including Canada)**
  - **Improve pathways** to Canada for LGBTQIA+ activists and community members who may need to flee their countries for safety.

### More Information

- The United Church of Canada: [Open Letter to Party Leaders from Queer Civil Society](#)
- [Affirm United](#): for the support of all gender identities and sexual orientations
- [Dignity Network Canada](#): The United Church is a DNC board member
- Election Resources: [Vote Rainbow Equality](#); [Momentum](#); against cuts to [foreign aid](#)

## Anti-Racism: Migrant and Refugee Justice

One way to raise this with your candidates:

My faith-filled vision of hope, love, and daring justice is a world in which Canada becomes more welcoming. I am very concerned about the rise of anti-immigrant and anti-refugee rhetoric across Canada. It has become too common for (im)migrants to be blamed for the housing, healthcare, and affordability crisis. Migrants contribute greatly to the flourishing of our country. Canada has legal obligations to offer protection to refugees. As a member of The United Church of Canada, I believe that we are called to show radical hospitality to our neighbours near and far. I believe that polarization and attempts to blame immigrants for social and economic problems should be met with concerted resistance by all. It is well-documented that when people in power start to target marginalized groups, like (im)migrants, it is a warning sign that we are moving towards authoritarianism and fascism.

**If you are elected as our member of Parliament, how will you ensure that Canada is welcoming to immigrants? Will you commit to not blaming immigrants for Canada's healthcare, housing and affordability crises?**

### Issue

The United Church of Canada's congregations include both newcomers to Canada and thousands of people who welcome newcomers through formal refugee sponsorship, as well as formal and informal supports to migrants.

We believe in the dignity of every person, and a vision of an equitable and just country and world. We support regularizing undocumented migrants—people who contribute greatly to the flourishing of our country. For years, The United Church of Canada, with the Migrant Rights Network, has been advocating for status for all.

Migrants are a fundamental part of Canada's social and economic fabric and beloved members of our churches. Let us create a Canada that welcomes all and provides the conditions for newcomers of all kinds to thrive.

### More Information

- The United Church of Canada: [Ecumenical Call for Justice for Migrant Workers](#)
- Send a message to all candidates: [Support rights, not cuts](#)
- Migrant Rights Network: [Take Action](#) and [briefing](#) on regularization

## Indigenous Justice: Grassy Narrows

One way to raise this with your candidates:

Grassy Narrows First Nation suffered one of Canada's worst environmental poisonings. Decades later, they have to continue the fight for justice and to prevent this from happening again.

**If you are elected as our MP, will you support Grassy Narrows' three demands?**

1. **Compensate** everyone in Grassy Narrows fairly for the mercury crisis.
2. **Respect** the Grassy Narrows Indigenous Protected Area (end mining and logging plans in Grassy Narrows territory and keep nuclear waste out of the watershed).
3. **Support** Grassy Narrows in restoring their community and way of life from the damage that mercury has done.

### Issue

Grassy Narrows First Nation suffered one of Canada's worst environmental poisonings when, between 1962 and 1970, a paper company dumped an estimated 9,000 kg of untreated mercury into the English-Wabigoon river system. The poisoning of the water harmed Grassy Narrows in multiple ways: people suffered serious health issues linked to mercury poisoning; people could not exercise their right to fish, and the community lost their traditional economy; and unemployment sky-rocketed, among other significant impacts. For fifty years, Grassy Narrows has been fighting for government support to address and remediate the mercury crisis. Grassy Narrows is also concerned about future corporate harms, including by mining companies taking advantage of the concession staking system that fails to ensure free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. Throughout, Grassy Narrows people have shown themselves to be powerful leaders in the movement for Indigenous sovereignty and environmental justice, making some important gains. This year, Grassy Narrows announced a landmark lawsuit against the governments of Ontario and Canada:

*"Grassy Narrows is going to court to protect its people and Territory from further environmental contamination. They seek meaningful remediation, compensation for the extreme harm they have suffered, a stop to the mill's pollution and an end to industrial threats to their land, water and people. Their goal remains the restoration of the health of their people and land, their wellbeing and their way of life."*

### More Information

- The United Church of Canada endorsed the [2024 Grassy Narrows River Run](#)

## Climate Justice

One way to raise this with your candidates:

We are living in a climate emergency. People around the world and across Canada are feeling its impacts. Youth are losing hope. According to a March 2025 Leger poll the majority of Canadians—67 percent!—agree that the next federal government should make climate action and protecting nature a high priority. I join civil society across the country in calling on all federal parties not to sacrifice Canada's climate progress to the United States' destructive agenda. We all need our next Canadian government to tackle the climate crisis head on.

**The 2025 federal election will take place just one day after Earth week. For the love of creation and future generations, if you are elected as our MP, will you commit to meaningful action to address climate change? Specifically, will you commit to:**

1. Increase Canada's greenhouse gas emission targets to 60%.
2. Fund targeted climate adaptation and mitigation measures to help ease the heavy burden on those most impacted and least responsible for climate change.
3. Uphold the rights, knowledge, sovereignty, and leadership of Indigenous Peoples and prioritize Indigenous approaches to climate action.

### Issue

Climate justice has long been a focus of The United Church of Canada. Our [New Creed](#) calls us "to seek justice, and resist evil; to live with respect in Creation". The latest reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at the United Nations have made the urgency starker, making it clear that the time for bold action is now. In the biblical tradition, the prophets often called us to repent of our wrongdoings with urgency—and we must lift up that prophetic voice and do all we can to preserve life on this planet. This requires us to raise our spirited voices and engage with federal election candidates, as those who are elected will have the power to shape Canada's role and impact in the global climate crisis.

Those who are least responsible for climate change around the world are, conversely, the most negatively impacted by it. This places an unfair burden on these communities, primarily located in the Far North and the Global South. Given Canada's oversized contribution to global GHG emissions, Canada must take responsibility for this ecological debt. Canada should increase support for grant-based climate finance and should commit equal support for climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in the Far North and Global South. This could be funded, at least in part, by ending fossil fuel subsidies and reallocating those funds to climate finance initiatives.

Finally, Canada must prioritize Indigenous approaches to climate action and uphold the rights, knowledge, sovereignty, and leadership of Indigenous Peoples consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Indigenous voices in the church remind us all that we are called upon to look after Creator's gifts and to pass along these gifts to our children. We can be part of a just transition to a renewable energy economy by pressuring governments and industries, ending unsustainable overconsumption through lifestyle choices, and working with United Church ministries and partners engaged in climate justice. Indigenous Ministries and Justice Community Capacity Development Coordinator Martha Pedoniquotte teaches us all that [by integrating First Nations perspectives](#), we can foster a more comprehensive and effective response to climate change, one that respects both the natural world and the cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples. Consider sharing her [June 2024 blog](#) with the candidates you are in touch with!

### More Information

- The United Church of Canada's [Climate Justice page](#)
- The United Church of Canada is an endorsing organization of For the Love of Creation. Read more about our [collective advocacy](#).
- Climate Action Network Election resources: [As election campaign kicks off, civil society highlights that tariff response and climate action must go hand-in-hand](#)

## Guaranteed Livable Income

One way to raise this with your candidates:

My faith-filled vision of hope, love, and daring justice is a world in which everyone in Canada has a fundamental fair level of income security that allows them to live with dignity.

Poverty can happen very quickly to anyone. A guaranteed livable income would help address the persistent inequities in our country. The vulnerability of each of our employment and income is highlighted by the current trade war with the United States.

**If you become my member of Parliament, will you support a national framework for a guaranteed livable income?**

### Issue

A guaranteed livable income (GLI) is a payment to individuals or families by government that covers the cost of basic necessities (food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and community participation). It is not conditional on meeting employment criteria or being able to fulfill bureaucratically driven applications to prove they are “really poor” in order to qualify for the benefit. It ensures everyone an income adequate for meeting basic needs, allowing everyone to live with dignity regardless of work status. All Canadian citizens would be ensured an automatic top-up when their income collapses for whatever reason. Such a program would be part of the national fabric of services that preserve and protect Canadians, or, as Jesus put it, “to love our neighbours as ourselves.”

Since 1972, The United Church of Canada has advocated a policy of guaranteed annual income that is more equitable and less expensive and complicated to administer than the numerous government support programs currently available. Since then, national and international studies and programs have shown that a universal basic income is affordable and has beneficial effects in the areas of health, justice, education, and social welfare.

A Canada-wide framework for the implementation of a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income is needed. Simply put, such a framework would require the federal government to develop the standards and plan from which it, along with the other levels of government, could create guaranteed livable basic incomes in its jurisdictions.

### More Information

- The United Church of Canada: [Guaranteed Livable Income](#)

## Just Peace in Palestine and Israel

One way to raise this with your candidates:

My faith-filled vision of hope, love, and daring justice is a world in which Canada supports a just peace, respect for international rule of law, and human rights. I am deeply concerned by the violent and indiscriminate attacks on civilians being perpetrated by the Israeli military and settlers in Gaza and other Occupied Palestinian Territories. I would like the Canadian government to speak out unequivocally in support of the respect for international law, a permanent ceasefire, an end to the killing and displacement of civilians, and the prevention of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and famine. Canada urgently needs to implement a binding two-way arms embargo to ensure it is not in any way complicit in international crimes in Gaza.

**As my candidate, will you commit today to joining people of conscience throughout your riding and signing onto the [Arms Embargo Now statement](#)? If you are elected as my MP, what other steps will you take to support just peace in Palestine and Israel?**

### Issue

People in Gaza are experiencing utter destruction, loss of life, and inhumane conditions without access to necessities for life. Famine is imminent. Children are particularly impacted. Our faith and our humanity call us to act now to ensure an end to the injustice. Unfortunately, despite passing a non-binding parliamentary motion on March 18, 2024, Canada has not yet imposed an arms embargo on Israel.

1. A loophole means that arms exports can continue. Previously authorized permits (i.e., any [permits issued before 2024](#)) remain valid. This is no small number: [permits worth \\$30 million](#) were granted in 2023, much of that between October and December.
2. Canada's parliamentary motion does not apply to arms and component parts that first go to another country. As a result, Canadian [exports to the United States](#), which is Israel's largest arms supplier and one of Canada's largest trading partners, aren't touched by the motion.
3. [An arms embargo is a two-way ban](#) on both exports and imports from the named country. Canada's parliamentary motion does not prevent Canada from continuing to purchase military equipment from Israel, potentially including equipment "tested" in Gaza.
4. Canada's motion is non-binding. The Canadian government could start issuing permits again anytime, without needing to seek permission from Parliament or even needing to let the public know.

### More Information

- An arms embargo is only one of several the measures needed to secure lasting peace in the region. [Our social action page](#) has more information.
- Other resources are available at the Canadian grassroots campaign [Vote Palestine](#).

## Just Peace in the Philippines

One way to raise this with your candidates:

My faith-filled vision of hope, love, and daring justice includes a Canada that supports just peace, respect for international rule of law, and human rights. In the Philippines, human rights workers, labour activists, and community organizers are targeted and killed for defending human rights and dignity. I believe Canada must do more to support human rights defenders and to ensure we are not complicit in these abuses.

**If you become my MP, will you commit to meeting with me to hear more about why we are calling for a public audit of Canada’s support to the Government of the Philippines and for Canada to urge the Government of the Philippines to respect international humanitarian law and pursue a path towards a just peace?**

### Issue

The United Church of Canada stands in solidarity with our partner, the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP). ICHRP reminds us that the Canadian government may be inadvertently enabling continued attacks on human rights and human rights defenders by providing financial, programmatic, and technical support to the Government of the Philippines. We stand with those who struggle to live in peace, in justice, with respect for human life as well as Creation.

In the Philippines, human rights workers, labour activists, and community organizers are being targeted and killed for defending human rights and dignity. Many have been imprisoned under the guise of the anti-terror law. Religious leaders, journalists, and Indigenous peoples have also been falsely labelled as communists (which in the Philippines is called “red-tagging”). Partners inform us that the Philippines government uses these tactics to criminalize dissent, attack critics of the government as enemies of the state, and make them targets of political persecution.

The ICHRP calls on peace loving Canadians to recognize the role of our own government in this troubling situation. For example, Canadian support contributing to the increased militarization in the region and the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding on defense cooperation and potential Visiting Forces Agreement with the Marcos government risk linking Canada to abuses committed in repressive counter-insurgency campaigns. Canada should support peace negotiations, call on the Philippines government to respect international humanitarian law, support human rights defenders in the region and audit its foreign policies to ensure it is not complicit.

### More Information

- The United Church of Canada: [learn more and find other ways to take action](#)
- Read the [interfaith petition](#) of which the United Church is a signatory

## Cuban Economic Crisis

One way to raise this with your candidates:

**Cuba is facing an extreme economic crisis. If you are elected, will you help bring attention and aid to the Cuban people's plight, support increased aid to Cuba, and call for Canada to work with other countries to ease the impact of harmful U.S. sanctions on Cuba?**

### Issue

The United Church of Canada has fostered close relationships with Cuban partners for over four decades. The Cuban people are facing the worst economic crisis in the country's history: increased hunger, severe child food insecurity, increased child mortality, prolonged power outages, and lack of cash and medicines.

Jesus cared for the children around him, and our faith calls us to do the same. Today, 9% of Cuban children experience severe food poverty, and 33% experience moderate food poverty. This is in sharp contrast to Cuba's previous position as the only country in Latin America to eliminate child malnutrition (UNICEF, 2009). The extreme economic crisis in Cuba is caused by three factors:

1. the effects of US policy (sanctions and listing)
2. the impact of COVID (drop in remittances and tourism dollars)
3. the impact of droughts, tornadoes, and other effects of climate change

The solution requires both humanitarian aid and action to mitigate the harms caused by U.S. policies. Canada has a long history of connection with the Cuban people.

### More Information

- Take [action](#)
- [Letter](#) from 35 Canadian churches and civil society calls government ministers to action
- [Crisis in Cuba: a role for Canada?](#) outlines how Canada should play a greater role in responding to the crisis in Cuba

## Links to Other Resources and Campaigns

### Elections Canada

- [Who can vote and how to register](#)
- [Where to vote](#)

### Faith Based Organizations

- [Canadian Council of Churches](#)
- [Citizens for Public Justice](#)
- [KAIROS](#)

### Issue-Specific Campaigns

- [Support government aid to other countries](#)
- [Canadian Health Coalition](#)
- [Human Rights](#)
- [Canadian Foodgrains Bank](#)

### Advice for countering misinformation

- [How to have conversations with people who fall for misinformation this election campaign](#)