

THE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS AND ELECTION 2019

Poll after poll, including our own, shows that affordability may be the top ballot box issue this election. **And for good reason.**

ALMOST HALF OF CANADIANS

worry they don't make enough to cover their costs



WAGES STAGNATE AS COSTS RISE

Average amount of debt for every dollar earned



ECONOMIC GROWTH GOES MOSTLY TO THE RICH

20% Richest 20% own half the wealth in the country.

87 of Canada's richest families make as much as the 12 million poorest.

87

The Broadbent Institute is looking at three major issues effecting affordability - housing, healthcare and taxes, during the federal election.

AFFORDABILITY ISSUE #2: EXPANDING HEALTHCARE



1 IN 5

Canadians can't afford to fill their prescriptions



Out-of-pocket medical expenses have nearly doubled, from

\$504

per person in 2000 to

\$972

in 2016



Canada is the only country with universal healthcare that

DOESN'T INCLUDE

prescription drug coverage

Canada's universal healthcare system only includes free access to hospital and family doctor care, leaving out coverage for most medications as well as vision, hearing, and dental care. For some, these services are covered under employer insurance. For a growing number of workers, such as those in part-time or "gig" economy work, these costs are often not covered. The need for a national, universal pharmacare plan and other essential healthcare is more urgent than ever.

Pharmacare

After years of being pushed aside by successive Liberal and Conservative governments, pharmacare is finally top of mind. In July, the federal Liberal government's own Advisory Council recommended a universal, single-payer, pharmacare plan but Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau has not concretely committed to implementing the recommendation.

Here's what the parties have promised in the election:



DOWN PAYMENT

\$6 BILLION OVER 3 YEARS TO MAKE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS MORE AFFORDABLE, EXPAND SUPPORTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND FAMILY DOCTOR CARE

NO COMMITMENT TO EXPANDING HEALTH COVERAGE

PHARMACARE ++

UNIVERSAL PHARMACARE FOR ALL BY 2020
 EXPAND MEDICARE TO INCLUDE MENTAL HEALTH, DENTAL, HEARING AND EYECARE FOR ALL

PHARMACARE +

UNIVERSAL PHARMACARE FOR ALL AND FREE DENTAL CARE FOR LOW-INCOME CANADIANS