



New Democrat's Plan for a Fairer Deal for Workers

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

Even before the pandemic, working life was getting harder for Canadians. A future that workers could look forward to seemed to become less and less possible.

When the pandemic hit, these cracks in our system were thrown into a harsh light. They became impossible to ignore. Front line workers were getting sick and dying because they couldn't afford to stay home. Parents, primarily women, were giving up their careers to look after children because they didn't have care. And those who are paid the least became the people we relied on the most.

New Democrats have always and will always fight for working people, because we are a party of working people. Jagmeet Singh has a plan for a future where work is fairer and more secure for all Canadians. As prime minister, Jagmeet would make the federal government a leader to protect the health, safety and rights of all workers.



Taking better care of Canadians

- ➔ Immediately introduce **10 days of paid sick leave** for workers in federally regulated jurisdiction.
- ➔ Fix the **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit** program to work better until all provinces have introduced 10 days of paid sick leave, including allowing workers to access leave one or two days at a time, and requiring employers to pay workers their regular wage and then apply for reimbursement.
- ➔ Extend **EI Sickness Benefits to 50 weeks** to help workers who have Long Covid or who have had their treatment delayed due to COVID.
- ➔ Implement a **pilot project for Canadians with episodic disabilities** to improve access to EI Sickness Benefits.





Defending wages and workers' rights

- ➔ Increase the **federal minimum wage** from \$15 to \$20 over the course of our first term in government.
- ➔ **End the misclassification of workers**, and in particular gig workers, by making workers employees by default, putting the onus on employers rather than workers to prove they are not, and simplifying the test required to prove someone is not an employee. We would also introduce sectoral bargaining for gig workers.
- ➔ Invest in enforcement of rules and **crack down on misclassification** of employees.
- ➔ Pass **anti-scab legislation** in the first 100 days in government.
- ➔ Introduce a new tax deduction for **skilled workers** who need to temporarily relocate for work.
- ➔ Require part-time and temporary workers to receive benefits or pay on the same basis as **full-time workers**.
- ➔ Reduce the federal government's reliance on **contracting out**.

Helping parents

- ➔ Make a **\$10 a day, universal child care** system a reality across the country and enshrine this program in legislation that clearly outlines Canada's commitment to high-quality, public child care.
- ➔ Include dedicated funding for culturally appropriate Indigenous child care.
- ➔ Prioritize regulated, public and non-profit child care.
- ➔ Ensure fair wages for child care workers.
- ➔ Create a **new parental leave** that offers fewer weeks of leave at a higher replacement rate, much like the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan to ensure that more parents can afford to take time off after the birth of a child.



Fixing Employment Insurance

- Create a new eligibility threshold of **360 hours** for workers in all regions to access both regular and special benefits.
- Create a new **low income supplement** so that no one receiving EI regular or special benefits falls below \$2000 a month.
- Restore the **Five Extra Weeks** pilot project and make it permanent to fill the black hole for seasonal workers.
- Allow people to leave **work for education, caregiving, or health reasons** and still access benefits.
- Roll back Harper's changes to the EI economic regions in 2014 so that they're more fair



Protecting pensions

- Introduce legislation to ensure that **pensioners are at the front of the line** when a company goes bankrupt.
- Prevent companies from **paying out dividends and bonuses** when pensions are under-funded.
- Create a mandatory, industry-financed **pension insurance program**.
- Defend **defined benefit pension plans**.