

Candace Shaw - NDP

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Q1 Taxation Would you encourage your party to appoint a royal commission to conduct a comprehensive review of the Canadian tax system guided by the principles of tax competitiveness, simplicity and fairness?

Yes,

Comment:

I would encourage my party to look into the costs and benefits of appointing a royal commission. I believe that it's every Canadian's patriotic duty to pay their fair share of taxes, so that we can reinvest in ensuring that the workforce is healthy, well-educated, and trained, and that infrastructure is built and maintained to a standard that allows business, industry, and the community to thrive. I favour simplicity in order to demystify the tax system and to ensure that the process of filing returns is not arduous, but understand that detail is essential to make clear distinctions and ensure that returns are processed accurately.

Q2 Regulation Would you encourage your party to implement a 2-for-1 rule to require the elimination of two regulations for every new one introduced over the next five years?

No,

Other (please specify):

Though I agree with reviewing regulations in order to ensure that they are still applicable and are adapted, revised, or revoked to conform to modern requirements, practices, and needs, I can't endorse a blanket 2-for-1 rule. This would effectively tie lawmakers to eliminating regulations without reason. While I understand that regulations are sometimes onerous and require extra expense, and would endorse simplifying where possible, any requirement to eliminate regulations is inappropriate. To help ease regulatory processes and support compliance, we will provide small- and medium-sized businesses with a single point of contact - freeing up time for entrepreneurs to invest in growing their business.

Q3 Small Business How would you ensure federal programs and interactions with business align with and respect small business realities?

New Democrats will keep working hard for small businesses to tackle issues that impact their bottom line, like high credit card merchant fees. Our plan for public, universal pharmacare will also save businesses approximately \$600 per employee with extended health benefits every year – and it means that all small businesses can feel confident knowing that their employees are able to access the prescription drugs they need.

We'll also make it easier for the family business to be passed on to future generations with new legislation to end the unfair tax treatment of family transfers of small businesses.

To help Canadian small business step out on the world stage, a New Democrat government will streamline access to government export services and make it simpler to break into foreign markets. We'll also provide small- and medium-sized businesses with a single point of contact to help ease regulatory processes and support compliance - freeing up time for entrepreneurs to invest in growing their business.

Recognizing that a shortage of workers is a major barrier for many small businesses operating in rural areas, we'll make important new investments in training Canadians and boost support to traditionally underemployed groups, ensuring that they can access good jobs that pay a fair wage.

Q4 Connected Canada How will you continue to improve access to high-speed networks in underserved communities? (municipalities as a whole and business)

New Democrats believe that no matter where you live in Canada, you should be able to stay connected – without breaking the bank because of unfair gouging. That's why, until the industry becomes more competitive, we'll put in place a price cap to make sure that Canadians aren't paying more than the global average for their cell phone and internet bills.

Expanding cell coverage and delivering reliable, affordable broadband internet to every community in Canada is vital to the economic future of rural Canada and remote communities. But it has been ignored by successive governments for far too long. That's why we believe that we need to act urgently to close the digital divide now, not ten years from now as the Liberal government proposed. We are committed to making sure that every community in Canada has access to high-speed internet without delay.

In addition, we'll make sure that providers offer a basic plan for wireless and broadband that is comparable with the affordable plans that are available in other countries. To put an end to surprise bills, we'll require companies to offer unlimited wireless data options at affordable rates as exist elsewhere in the world, and abolish data caps for broadband internet.

And finally, to protect Canadians from unfair wireless and internet sales and services practices, we'll introduce a Telecom Consumers' Bill of Rights and put an end to gouging for good.

Q5 SkillsWhat is your plan to help with retraining and upskilling of workers?

We're committed to working with the provinces to ensure that Canadians have access to education throughout their professional lives, including proactive training and retraining, as well as support when they are unemployed. Our vision is one where training opportunities are flexible enough to work with people's busy lives and significant enough to really improve job prospects.

To get there, we'll change EI rules to allow workers who quit their job to go to school to qualify for EI benefits, so that families can count on some income support during that period of transition back to school. We'll also expand options for workers in designated sectors and regions to take EI funded training in advance of losing a job, while at the same time promoting investment to ensure that regional economies are creating good jobs that support families and communities. Finally, to make sure that businesses are investing in the training that Canadians need, a New Democrat government will require employers to spend at least 1 percent of payroll on training for their employees annually.

In order to deliver these changes, we'll work closely with the provinces to establish national training priorities and create a new Workers Development and Opportunities Fund to expand training options beyond people who qualify for EI. This fund will be provincially directed with dedicated support for marginalized workers, those in transitioning sectors, and for efforts to improve literacy and essential skills.

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Q6 TradeWhat is your position on breaking down interprovincial trade barriers?

Until consumer protection standards are standardized across provinces, interprovincial barriers must remain in place.

Q7 TradeHow do you view international trade agreements? What role do you see them playing in economy?

New Democrats support fair trade that broadens opportunity in all areas of the country, while protecting our industries and upholding labour standards, environmental protections, and human rights. That's why we'll always defend Canadian workers in trade negotiations, protect supply management, and stand up against unfair tariffs.

We're committed to improving the transparency of trade negotiations, so that Canadians can clearly understand the costs and benefits of any proposed agreement and have their say before it's signed. That's why a New Democrat government will directly engage with Canadians on the expected costs and benefits of potential trade deals, as well as ensure that all trade agreements are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We will evaluate all potential trade deals for social, environmental, and gendered impacts on Canadians.

When it comes to what's on the negotiating table, Canadians know that there are some things that we shouldn't be willing to compromise on, like investor-state dispute settlement measures that hand too much power to corporations and undermine the rules that keep us safe and healthy. Trade agreements should have enforceable labour, human rights, and environmental protections – and New Democrats will always protect Canadians against measures that could increase the cost of pharmaceuticals, weaken our cultural protections, or undermine privacy rights.

A New Democrat government will also do more to defend Canadian workers and communities from unfair trading practices. We will modernize Canada's trade remedy system and make sure that trade unions have full standing in trade cases and the ability to initiate trade disputes, as is the case in other countries.
