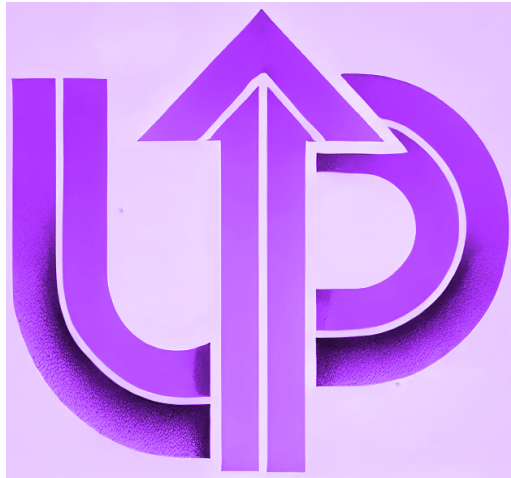


The United Progressive Party of Canada

-

Party Platform



The United Progressive Party of Canada - Introduction



Party Slogan:

Uniting Canadians from Coast to Coast

Main Message:

Join us as we build a Canada that is progressive, inclusive, and works for everyone. Regardless of your identity, the United Progressives will support all Canadians as we work together to address job security, transit gridlock, and the affordability crisis.

Staff:

- Leader: **Zain Khurram**
- Policy Advisor: **Sarah Jagani**
- Communications Manager: **Amira Hanslod**
- Campaigns Manager: **Mariam Mohamed**
- Operations Manager: **Rana Zia**

Candidate Introduction:

Zain Khurram is the son of two immigrant parents and was born and raised in Scarborough. Growing up, he noticed the lack of priority given to Scarborough and the hurtful stereotypes people had associated with its marginalized communities. This always stuck with him, and he vowed to show Canada what Scarborough has to offer.

In high school, Zain became a prominent advocate for youth and transit issues. He primarily became involved with TTCriders, an advocacy group focused on improving public transit in the city, particularly in response to the closure of the Scarborough RT. This was a very big issue as, historically, Scarborough was considered a transit desert in comparison to the rest of the City, and it was about to get much worse. Zain Khurram later became the Transit Lead for the Toronto Youth Cabinet, where he is fighting to achieve a subsidized post-secondary transit pass for students in Toronto. Currently, Zain is studying Urban Planning at the University of Waterloo.

Zain has held many positions within the City of Toronto, ranging from Parks and Recreation to the Parking Authority. But the most notable position he has had so far was

working for the Toronto Transit Commission in their subway warehouse. This vital experience taught Zain the importance of maintaining our government infrastructure and the importance of the skilled trades in Canada.

Zain is championing a platform based on creating unity in a country that has become very divisive, believing the only way forward is to unite Canadians, regardless of socio-economic status, from coast to coast. Zain, alongside the United Progressives, is running on a platform that addresses job security, transit gridlock, and the affordability crisis Canadians are facing through the creation of government-owned and operated crown corporations. Not only will these provide stable jobs, but they will also invest in the social services Canadians have come to rely upon.

UP's Platform Points - Economic Growth and Employment:

In a post-pandemic country, how will your party focus on recovery through job creation, income disparities and ensuring fair wages?

The United Progressives recognize that in this post-pandemic Canada, many are struggling as unemployment rises and the cost of living increases. This is why the United Progressive Party of Canada will focus on increasing job opportunities, reducing income disparities, and ensuring fair wages for all Canadians. Our approach prioritizes innovations and regulations within various industries in Canada.

Job Creation and Industry Innovation

1. **Crown Corporations:** Establishing Crown Corporations to invest in and innovate across industries such as public transit, food, retail, pharmaceuticals, housing, and telephone services. This will create new public-sector jobs while improving public services.
2. **Subsidizing Apprenticeships and Post-Secondary Education:** Providing subsidies for apprenticeships and post-secondary education within the trades to develop a robust and skilled workforce. In addition, we will prioritize collaboration with industry leaders to ensure apprenticeships and programs are relevant and aligned with future industry needs.
3. **Incentives for Businesses:** Offering tax credits and hiring grants to businesses that create new jobs, particularly in the construction and innovation-related industries.

Addressing Income Disparities and Fair Wages

1. **Progression Taxation:** Implementing a progressive taxation system that ensures the wealthy contribute their fair share to public services and infrastructure.
2. **Increasing Social Safety Nets and Benefits:** Increasing funding for social safety nets, including child benefits and food assistance, to support vulnerable populations.
3. **Strengthening Labour Rights and Worker Benefits:** Increasing the minimum wage to a living wage level to ensure all Canadians can afford the cost of living. Additionally, extending labour protections to all public-sector positions, including benefits such as health insurance, paid leave, and job security.

UP's Platform Points - Climate Change and Sustainability:

What environmental regulations, sustainable practices, infrastructures and targets will your party state/create, if any?

The United Progressives recognize climate change as a rapidly concerning issue impacting the country. We remain committed to addressing climate change by prioritizing the expansion and modernization of public transportation and progressive community planning while imposing stricter governance on plastics and emissions standards.

Regulations and Practices

1. **Carbon Pricing:** Implementing a progressive, equity-driven carbon tax system to combat increasing greenhouse gas emissions, with revenues reinvested into social services like public transportation.
2. **Stricter Emission Standards:** Enforcing stricter emission standards for industries, transportation, and agriculture to minimize air pollution and greenhouse gases.
3. **Banning Single-Use Plastics:** Phasing out single-use plastics and promoting the use of biodegradable and reusable alternatives.
4. **Renewable Energy Transition:** Investing in renewable sources of energy by subsidizing provinces to implement and construct infrastructure to generate wind, solar, and hydroelectric power.

Infrastructure

1. **Public Transportation:** Expand and modernize public transportation networks to reduce reliance on personal vehicles by investing in new overhead electric buses, trams, and rail systems.
2. **Green Building Standards:** Update building standards to be stricter for new constructions and renovations, focusing on energy efficiency, water conservation, and sustainable materials.

Target

- **Net-Zero Emissions:** Aiming for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with interim targets for 45% by 2030 and 65% by 2040.

UP's Platform Points - Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation:

What will your party do to address the concerns of indigenous communities, especially around systemic issues such as access to clean water and equitable healthcare?

The United Progressives remains deeply committed to advancing Indigenous rights and fostering genuine reconciliation. Our policies ensure Indigenous communities receive the support and resources needed for sustainable development and self-determination.

Access to Clean Water

1. **Immediate Action on Water Advisories:** Committing to ending all long-term drinking water advisories on First Nations reserves within two years, with immediate interim measures to ensure access to safe drinking water.
2. **Infrastructure and Maintenance Investments:** Investing in new water treatment facilities within Indigenous communities. Additionally, funding technical training for local Indigenous community members allows for self-sufficiency and local employment.

Systemic Reforms

1. **Indigenous Legal Rights:** Strengthening the legal protections for Indigenous land rights and ensuring robust consultation processes for any development projects affecting Indigenous lands. In addition, it will provide a platform for direct communication and collaboration with affected communities to address key issues.
2. **Restorative Justice Programs:** Addressing the over-representation of Indigenous peoples in the criminal justice system by focusing on rehabilitation and community-based solutions.
3. **National Inquiry Follow-Up:** Acting on the recommendations of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and ensuring accountability and systemic change.
4. **Equitable Education**¹: Investing in educational infrastructure and programs that ensure Indigenous students have access to high-quality, culturally relevant education and opportunities for higher learning.
5. **Community-Led Health Programs:** Supporting and funding community-led health programs that incorporate traditional practices and knowledge, ensuring culturally sensitive healthcare. At the moment, healthcare is inaccessible to many

¹ See footnote 2 for statistics.

Indigenous peoples, especially those living on reserves, as a result of both geographical and post-colonial impacts. Our reformation plan includes strengthening on-reserve healthcare accessibility, especially through the promotion of Indigenous medical professionals and the building of more healthcare infrastructure.

Overall, the United Progressives are dedicated towards implementing authentic Indigenous voice in the handling of Indigenous affairs and addressing key accessibility issues such as access to education², clean drinking water, and healthcare, especially for those living on-reserve.

² Only 63% of Indigenous highschoolers on-reserve graduated in 2023. Many Indigenous youth are held back from pursuing further education due to over-representation in the criminal system and systemic issues plaguing their communities (Statistics CAD)

UP's Platform Points - Healthcare and Public Health:

How will your party enhance healthcare accessibility and strengthen public health infrastructure and preparedness for future crises?

The United Progressives are dedicated to strengthening healthcare accessibility and infrastructure. Our approach focuses on creating resilient public health systems and ensuring healthcare is affordable and accessible to all Canadians, regardless of socioeconomic status.

'2.3 million Ontarians do not currently have a family doctor. By 2026, 4.4 million or a quarter of Ontarians are expected to be without a family doctor, according to the OMA and the Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP).' - Global News.

In light of the increasing demand for physicians and the overburdening of the healthcare system in Canada, the UP party is committed to supporting healthcare facilities and removing barriers to the practice of medicine to ensure all Canadians have access to health services and professionals.

Enhancing Healthcare Accessibility

1. **Boost Funding to Public Health Infrastructure:** Increasing funding for hospitals, clinics, and community health centers in urban and especially rural communities to ensure all Canadians have access to high-quality care.
2. **Broaden Access to Mental Health Services:** Expanding funding for mental health services, ensuring there is comprehensive coverage under public healthcare insurance plans.

Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure

1. **Establishing a Crown Corporation for Medication Regulation:** Regulating pharmaceutical distributions and prices, making medications more accessible to all Canadians and reducing the financial burden on patients.
2. **Licensing Immigrant Doctors:** 'Around half of the roughly 1,000 doctors who immigrate to Canada every year eventually abandon their medical careers.'³ The barriers to their recertification in Canada lead to an overqualified yet underemployed workforce and contribute to the healthcare worker shortage. We are committed to helping immigrant professionals achieve Canadian certifications in a timely manner and eliminating barriers in their paths.

³ <https://thewalrus.ca/even-during-a-pandemic-immigrant-doctors-struggle-to-find-work/>

3. **Investing in Preventative Healthcare Programs:** Implementing vaccination programs, health education, and early screening for chronic diseases, to improve overall public health outcomes.
4. **Investing in Digital Health Infrastructure:** Investigating and implementing new technologies within hospitals and standardizing electronic health records.
5. **Support for Healthcare Workers:** Increasing funding for training and professional development programs for healthcare workers. Additionally, implementing measures to improve working conditions and mental health support for healthcare professionals.

UP's Platform Points - Social Inequality and Affordable Housing:

What will you party do around affordable housing, homelessness, and addressing homelessness and social mobility?

The United Progressives are committed to tackling social inequality and ensuring housing is available for all Canadians. Our policies focus on government-led initiatives to build and manage housing while reducing reliance on private developers.

Government Built Affordable Housing

1. **Government-Led Housing Development:** Establishing the government's role in directly building public housing.
2. **Provincial Public Housing Entities:** Consolidating municipal public housing corporations into provincial entities to ensure consistent standards and funding. Additionally, funding for these new provincial public housing corporations will be increased to expand their capacity to build and maintain housing units.

Addressing Homelessness

1. **Developing a National Homelessness Strategy:** Creating and supporting emergency shelters and transitional housing while also providing services for homeless individuals, including mental health care, addiction treatment, job training, and social services to address the root causes of homelessness.

Planning Better Communities

1. **Investing in Community Development:** Invest in projects that provide access to quality education, healthcare, and employment opportunities to underserved and marginalized communities.
2. **Flexible Urban Planning:** Updating strict zoning by-laws to allow for flexible urban planning. This creates inclusive zoning policies that encourage the development of mixed-income neighborhoods, reducing segregation and promoting social cohesion. Ultimately, it allows for more inclusive and better utilized communities.

United Progressive's Flagship Policy

Establishing Crown Corporations across Canada:

The United Progressives are strongly advocating for the establishment of crown corporations across Canada. These corporations are vital to strengthening public services, providing job security, and competing with private companies in key industries.

Drawing inspiration from successful former Canadian crown corporations like the Urban Transportation Development Corporation (UTDC) and Manitoba Telephone System (MTS), this policy aims to create government-owned enterprises in public transit, food retail, pharmaceuticals, housing, and telephone services. These crown corporations will not only generate stable employment opportunities but also ensure that essential services are managed in the public interest. Additionally, these corporations will have the advantage of accessing funding from the government, eliminating the need for cost-cutting and shortcuts, as is usually the practice of private companies. This paves the way for innovation, which will benefit Canadians and the rest of the world.

By investing in these sectors, the United Progressives will enhance the quality and accessibility of these important social services while promoting economic stability and supporting community well-being. This strategic initiative and policy demonstrates the United Progressives' commitment to social equity and sustainable development, ensuring that Canadians have reliable access to the services they depend on.

United Progressives - Campaign Strategy:

Email Sign Ups Goal:

- Achieving a minimum of 100 signups - 20 each per member

Strategy:

- **Friends and Family:** We will start by reaching out to our immediate circle, which includes our friends and family.
- **Use of Social Media:** Our team members will also post the link and information about the sign-ups on our social media accounts, specifically Instagram and TikTok. We want to make videos for our campaign to encourage people to sign up for our party on social media.
- **Associated Organizations:** Many of our members are involved in different organizations, such as Islamic Relief, from which they will also collect sign-ups.

United Progressives - Budget Breakdown:

- **Online Marketing (10%):** Investment in social media campaigns, targeted online advertisements, and search engine optimization to boost the party's digital presence.
- **Offline Marketing (13%):** Includes billboards, newspaper advertisements, radio and television commercials.
- **Staff Salaries (8%):** Salaries for our dedicated team, including a Field Director, Fundraising Director, Data Analyst, Policy Advisor, and Communications Director, to ensure we have the best talent on our team.
- **Canvassing and Voter Outreach (17%):** Funds allocated to the door-to-door campaign, engaging directly with voters and understanding their needs.
- **Market Research and Polls (7%):** To assess public opinion, develop effective strategies, and track campaign progress.
- **Donor List (10%):** The allocation to grow and maintain our donor list. The funds will be used for events and communications to engage potential contributors.
- **Events and Public Outreach (10%):** Public events, town hall meetings, rallies, and other community outreach initiatives.
- **Campaign Office Budget (8%):** Covering the costs of maintaining an accessible and functional campaign office.
- **Travel and Accommodation (17%):** For campaign-related travels, visits to communities across the country, and accommodation.