

Strong Québec, Stronger Canada!

The Canadien Québécois Party Platform



The Canadien Québécois

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Party Name: The Canadien Québécois

Party Slogan: “Strong Quebec, Stronger Canada”

Candidate Introduction:

My fellow Canadians,

My name is Sabiba Sultana, I am honoured to lead The Canadien Québécois (TCQ) in our mission to create a compassionate, equitable, and thriving Canada. At TCQ, we believe in a Canada where every citizen has the opportunity to flourish, and Quebec's unique identity is celebrated and preserved. Our vision prioritizes mental health, ensuring expanded access to vital services and support for all. We advocate for a fair taxation system where those with the greatest means contribute justly to strengthen our society, ensuring a powerful and resilient Canada.

We are dedicated to advancing reconciliation and upholding the rights of Indigenous peoples, including a bold commitment to abolish the Crown and transfer sovereignty to Indigenous communities. This historic step will promote healing, unity, and a shared future rooted in mutual respect and collaboration. We stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people, advocating for their rights and justice. Our commitment to human rights extends beyond our borders, reflecting our values of compassion and equity. Together, we can create a just and inclusive Canada where everyone can thrive. Let us build a future where Quebec's unique identity is celebrated, and our collective strength propels us towards a brighter, more prosperous tomorrow.

Join me, Sabiba Sultana, and The Canadien Québécois, as we embark on this transformative journey. Together, we can make a difference.

Together, we are stronger. Vote for a Strong Quebec and a Stronger Canada!

Main Message: At The Canadien Québécois (TCQ), we are deeply committed to building a compassionate, equitable, and thriving Canada where every citizen has the opportunity to flourish. We envision a future where mental health is prioritized with expanded access to services and support, and where those with the greatest means contribute fairly to strengthen our social safety nets. Our vision includes a revitalized healthcare system that delivers top-notch care to all, robust social welfare programs to uplift every Canadian, and a steadfast commitment to combating climate change for a sustainable tomorrow. We believe in affordable housing as a fundamental right, ensuring that every Canadian has a safe and secure place to call home. We are also dedicated to fostering Indigenous self-determination and honoring land rights, working towards a just and equitable system for all. On the global stage, we stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people, advocating for their rights and justice. By

nurturing Quebec's unique identity and championing progressive values, TCQ is devoted to creating a just, inclusive Canada where everyone can thrive.

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Economic Policy

1. Support for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Key Objective: Support for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises to foster economic diversity, support community engagement, and contribute to sustainable practices.

Small businesses are the backbone of our country's economy, driving innovation, creating jobs, and fostering vibrant local communities. The Canadian Québécois (TCQ) is committed to creating a nurturing environment that enables these businesses to thrive, compete, and contribute to Canada's prosperity. Our policy outlines specific measures that we will implement to support and empower small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Canada.

a. Financial Support and Access to Capital

- i. **Increased Funding:** TCQ will establish dedicated funding programs to support Quebec's small businesses, including grants, low-interest loans, and venture capital initiatives tailored to the needs of SMEs.
- ii. **Access to Credit:** We will also ensure enhanced access to affordable credit for SMEs by partnering with local credit unions and community-based financial institutions, ensuring that small businesses can secure the necessary funds for growth and development.

b. Reducing Regulatory Burdens

- i. **Red Tape Reduction:** We will establish a permanent task force to identify and reduce unnecessary red tape, making it easier for small businesses to start, operate, and expand by committing our implementation efforts on education and compliance, not punitive enforcement.

c. Tax Relief and Incentives

- i. **Progressive Tax Policies:** The TCQ will introduce progressive tax policies that provide relief to small businesses, including lower corporate tax rates for SMEs. We will implement tax credits and deductions that encourage investment in SMEs.

- ii. **Start-Up Tax Credits:** The TCQ will offer tax credits specifically for start-ups to ease the financial burden during the critical early stages of business development. This will include credits for initial capital investments, hiring, and operational costs.

d. Promoting Local Procurement

- i. **Buy Local Initiatives:** The TCQ will implement policies that promote local procurement, requiring governments and public institutions to prioritize purchasing goods and services from small businesses. This will help stimulate the local economy and create more opportunities for SMEs.
- ii. **Investing in Local Businesses:** We will invest in marketing campaigns for SME's to encourage consumers to buy locally produced goods and services, highlighting the quality and uniqueness of small businesses in Canada.

e. Fair Competition

- i. **Anti-Monopoly Measures:** The TCQ will enforce stronger antitrust laws and regulations to ensure fair competition, protecting small businesses from unfair practices by larger corporations.
- ii. **Support for Sector-Specific Needs:** We will provide tailored support for specific sectors vital to Canada's economy, such as agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism, addressing their unique challenges and opportunities.

2. Increase Taxes on the Wealthy

Key Objective: Increase taxes on the wealthy to redistribute their wealth and stimulate our economy.

TCQ is committed to promoting social equity and economic justice within Quebec and Canada. In line with our values, we believe that those with the greatest financial means should contribute their fair share to society. By implementing a progressive tax policy that increases taxes on the wealthy, we aim to reduce income inequality, fund essential public services, and stimulate the Canadian economy in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

a. Progressive Taxation Framework

- i. **Higher Income Tax Rates for Top Earners:** Introduce higher income tax brackets for individuals with annual incomes above \$250,000. Specifically, implement a 35% tax rate for incomes between \$250,000 and \$500,000, a 40% tax rate for incomes between \$500,000 and \$1 million, and a 45% tax rate for incomes above \$1 million. Reduce first tax bracket to 13% and second bracket to 19%.

b. Wealth Tax

- i. **Annual Wealth Tax:** Implement an annual wealth tax of 1% on gross assets exceeding \$10 million. For gross assets over \$50 million, the tax rate will increase to 2%. This tax is expected to generate an estimated \$5 billion annually.
- ii. **Expand Reporting Requirements:** Introduce stringent reporting requirements for high-net-worth individuals to prevent tax evasion and ensure accurate assessment of wealth.
- iii. **Exit Tax:** 20% on the transfer of assets above \$2 million in a year abroad.

c. Corporate Tax Reforms

- i. **Higher Corporate Tax Rates for Large Corporations:** Increase the corporate tax rate for large, highly profitable corporations (those with annual revenues exceeding \$100 million) from 15% to 18%. This measure is projected to generate an additional \$10 billion annually.

- ii. **Closing Tax Loopholes:** Eliminate tax loopholes and offshore tax avoidance schemes, estimated to recover \$3 billion annually.
- iii. **Exit Tax:** 20% on the transfer of assets above \$2 million in a year abroad.

d. **Luxury Goods Tax**

- i. **Luxury Goods and Services Tax:** Introduce a 10% luxury tax on high-end goods and services, such as cars valued over \$100,000, yachts over \$500,000, private jets, and real estate transactions over \$3 million. This tax is expected to generate \$1 billion annually.

3. Fund Our Communities

Key Objective: To stimulate economic growth and development through strategic investments in public services, infrastructure, green initiatives, and support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

a. **Economic Stimulation**

- i. **Investment in Public Services:** Allocate the additional revenue, estimated at \$19 billion annually, to enhance funding for essential public services such as healthcare, education, and social welfare programs. This will ensure that all Canadians benefit from improved services and supports.
- ii. **Infrastructure and Green Investments:** Direct \$5 billion annually towards infrastructure projects and green initiatives that create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and support the transition to a sustainable economy. Prioritize investments in public transit, renewable energy, and energy-efficient technologies.
- iii. **Support for SMEs and Innovation:** Use \$2 billion annually to provide tax relief and incentives for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic diversity.

Tourism and Culture

1. Tourism and the Economy

Key Objective: Stimulate local economy and encourage cultural preservation through promoting tourism.

In the Laurentides RCM, nearly 50% of jobs are related to the tourism sector (BQ, 2024). Many Quebecois rely on local tourism for their livelihoods but are struggling to keep up amidst labour and housing crises.

The arts, music, and culture industry also took a hit following the COVID-19 pandemic. To underscore the importance of the cultural sector and to support artists and artisans, programs must be created to promote cultural tourism.

a. Investment in Sustainable Tourism

- i. **Develop Infrastructure:** Commit to developing infrastructure that is climate adaptable to support sustainable tourism.
- ii. **Tax Incentives:** Work with the Minister of Tourism to introduce tax incentives that promote domestic travel and tourism, such as dine-in rebates and domestic tourism tax credits modeled after the Ontario Staycation Tax Credit.

b. Digital Royalties for Cultural Content

- i. **GAFA Royalties:** Impose a 3% GAFA (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft, Spotify, Netflix) royalty so the Canadian activity of Internet multinationals is used to produce Canadian and Quebec content through an institution managed by the affected industries (arts, culture, and media).

c. Collaboration and Outreach

- i. **Increased Collaboration with Federal Bodies:** Advocate for increased support, funding, and resources for SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises).

- ii. **Public Education Campaigns:** Invest in public education campaigns around Quebec heritage and increase promotion around Quebec tourism.

d. **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- i. **Impact Assessment:** Develop a system to predict and assess the impact of proposed legislation and incentives. Work with sustainability experts to adapt to evolving environmental needs.

2. Preservation of French in Educational Institutions

Key Objective: Encourage preservation of the French language in educational institutions.

As one of Canada's two official languages, the French language is a key symbol of Canada's diversity and is a vibrant part of our national identity. Though nearly 18% of Canadians are bilingual, gaps exist in our social and educational institutions and present challenges to bilingualism. Through a number of policies, the party promises to strive towards language equality in Canada where Canadians can participate in all communities they belong to.

a. **Support for French-speaking Immigrants**

- i. **Immigration Policies:** Support immigration policies that welcome French-speaking immigrants into Canadian communities in Quebec and beyond.
- ii. **Université de l'Ontario Français:** Encourage enrollment at Toronto's Université de l'Ontario français.

b. **Investment in Language Programs**

- i. **Language Learning Programs:** Invest in official language learning programs in Canada.
- ii. **Federal Collaboration:** Advocate for increased support, funding, and resources for language learning programs and immigration services.

c. **Outreach and Education**

- i. **Promote Learning:** Promote the use of the Mauril mobile application to encourage Canadians to learn French.

d. Monitoring and Evaluation

- i. **Policy Impact:** Develop a system to assess the impact of proposed policies and adapt accordingly.

Environment

Key Objective: Implement robust environmental policies to combat climate change and protect natural resources.

1. Carbon Emissions Reduction

- a. **Mandatory Carbon Capture:** Implement mandatory carbon capture at the source for sources producing greater than 1 tonne of carbon per year.
- b. **Carbon Neutrality Requirement:** Require producers to ensure carbon neutrality across the board. Failure to do so will result in federal government intervention and penalties twice the cost incurred by the government to clean up.

2. Lakewater Cleanup Initiatives

- a. **Water Quality Monitoring:** Implement lakewater clean-up initiatives near population centres and deploy monitoring beacons randomly throughout the Great Lakes to monitor illegal dumping/runoff.

3. Indigenous Practices

- a. **Forest Management:** Reintroduce indigenous forest management practices to reduce wildfires.

Democratic Reform

Key Objective: Ensure fair representation and democratic principles in the electoral system.

1. Electoral Reform

- a. **Eliminate FPTP:** Eliminate the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system immediately, which is undemocratic and prone to abuse.
- b. **Public Education:** Launch massive public education campaign on the Mixed-Member Proportional (MMP) voting system.
- c. **Ranked Ballot Referendum:** Hold a referendum on which voting system to implement, with the referendum itself being held as a ranked ballot.

2. Citizens' Initiatives

- a. **Meaningful Petitions:** Introduce questions onto the ballot paper during general elections for petitions with 500,000 or more signatures nationwide.

3. Voting

- a. **Mandatory Voting:** Introduce mandatory voting with a \$100 fine for non-compliance.
- b. **Guaranteed Voting Rights:** Guarantee the right to vote to all Canadian citizens, including the incarcerated.
- c. **Representation to Permanent Residents:** Grant permanent residents the right to vote in provincial and municipal elections.

Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation

Key Objective: Advance reconciliation and uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples.

1. Truth and Reconciliation

- a. **Educational Mandates:** Make the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report mandatory reading for secondary school students in federally funded education programs and new immigrants, including PRs and citizenship test applicants.

2. Sovereignty and Reparations

- a. **Abolish the Crown:** Transfer sovereignty to First Nations under a new Grand Treaty guaranteeing democratic principles.
- b. **Reparations:** Implement one-time reparations based on the wealth growth rate of average European-origin Canadians, with the principal amount being the average wealth of non-Indigenous Canadians.

3. Cultural and Language Promotion

- a. **Renaming Places:** Support the renaming of places with Indigenous names, if any.
- b. **Language Classes:** Subsidize Indigenous and French language classes and launch public education campaigns promoting Indigenous beliefs, practices, and languages.

Healthcare

Key Objective: Improve healthcare accessibility, strengthen public health infrastructure, and enhance preparedness for future health crises across Canada, ensuring equitable, high-quality care for all citizens.

1. Expansion of Universal Healthcare Services

- a. **Mental Health Coverage:** Expand coverage to include comprehensive mental health services, including therapy and counseling.
- b. **National Pharmacare:** Introduce a national pharmacare program to provide coverage for prescription medications related to mental health diseases.

2. Enhancing Health Care Accessibility

- a. **Training and Recruitment:** Expand training and recruitment efforts for healthcare professionals in high-need areas.
- b. **Incentives for Schools:** Reduce healthcare professional shortages by implementing further incentives for schools to create more seats and relax admission requirements.

3. Preparing for Future Health Crises

- a. **National Health Crisis Response Plan:** Develop and implement a National Health Crisis Response Plan, including guidelines for coordination among federal, provincial, and territorial health authorities.
- b. **Educational Campaigns:** Implement educational campaigns on preparedness, health practices, and emergency procedures.
- c. **Simulations and Drills:** Conduct regular simulations and drills in agreement with provinces and territories to test and refine emergency response protocols.

Education and Workforce Development Policy

Key Objective: Improve access and equity in education, align education with workforce needs, and promote innovation and research.

1. Investment in Equity and Access Initiatives

- a. **Funding for Underdeveloped Areas:** Increase funding for schools in undeveloped and rural areas to address disparities in resources and infrastructure.
- b. **Support for Disadvantaged Students:** Implement programs to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds and marginalised communities.

2. Align Education with Workforce Needs

- a. **Expand Career Pathways:** Develop education and training programs that better align with the current and future needs of Quebec's labour market to address job shortages.
- b. **Job Creation and Economic Diversification:** Develop policies to support job creation in various sectors, especially in emerging industries such as green technology, digital innovation, and advanced manufacturing, tailored to Quebec's economic landscape.

3. Advocate Innovation and Research

- a. **Promote Regional Development:** Implement policies that support economic development and job creation in rural and less economically developed regions of Quebec to balance regional growth.
- b. **Support for Workers in Transition:** Create programs to assist workers who are transitioning between industries or who are affected by economic shifts, including retraining programs and career counselling services.

Immigration

Key Objective: Ensure that immigration policies respect Quebec's unique culture, language, and identity while addressing demographic and economic needs.

1. Provincial Control and Integration

- a. **Enhanced Autonomy:** Secure greater control for Quebec over its immigration policies, ensuring that the province can tailor immigration criteria to address its unique demographic, economic, and cultural needs.
- b. **French Language Integration:** Mandate higher French language proficiency levels for immigrants and provide French language training programs.

2. Federal Policies for Quebec

- a. **Support for French Proficiency:** Implement federal policies that support Quebec's mandate for mandatory French language proficiency for economic immigrants.
- b. **Family Reunification:** Advocate for streamlined and expedited family reunification processes at the federal level.

3. Refugee Support

- a. **Compassionate Policies:** Promote a compassionate federal approach to refugees and asylum seekers, ensuring that Canada provides protection to those in need while respecting Quebec's capacity to integrate newcomers.
- b. **Integration Services:** Enhance federal support programs for refugees, including language training, mental health services, and employment assistance.

Flagship Policy

If elected, TCQ will abolish the Crown and advocate for a ceremonial handing over of sovereignty to Indigenous peoples after extensive consultations.

The Statute of Westminster (1931) provided independent autonomy to Canada to exercise decision-making without requiring approval from the British. The Constitution Act (1982) witnessed the introduction of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and transitioned the Constitution to full Canadian control. In the current context, the role of the British monarchy is ceremonial at best and the monarch's duties are performed by the Governor General, who acts as a representative on their behalf.

Support for the monarchy in Canada is dropping; a recent survey found that 64% of respondents would vote to abolish the monarchy in a hypothetical referendum. Abolishing the monarchy in Canada and transferring sovereignty to Indigenous peoples would be a significant step towards reconciliation and true sovereignty. The monarchy, a relic of colonialism, symbolizes a history of oppression and exploitation for many Canadians, particularly Indigenous communities. By ending the monarchy's role, Canada will assert full independence and self-governance while acknowledging the Indigenous people of the land. A ceremonial transfer of sovereignty to Indigenous peoples would not only recognize their inherent rights and their crucial role in Canada's history but also set a powerful precedent for respecting and integrating Indigenous governance systems. This gesture would promote healing, unity, and a shared future rooted in mutual respect and collaboration, addressing past injustices and paving the way for a more equitable and inclusive nation.

It is time for Canada to become a post-colonial state, at long last.

Policy Conclusion

TCQ is dedicated to creating federal immigration policies that respect Quebec's autonomy, promote the French language and culture, and meet the province's demographic and economic needs. Our policies aim to ensure that immigrants integrate successfully into Quebec society, contributing to its prosperity and preserving its unique identity within Canada.

Election Campaign Budget Breakdown

- **Online Marketing (15%):** Investment in social media campaigns, targeted online advertisements, and search engine optimization to boost the party's digital presence.
- **Offline Marketing (10%):** Includes billboards, newspaper advertisements, and television commercials. A smaller allocation because of our focus on digital strategies.
- **Staff Salaries (20%):** 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 (5%):** Funds allocated to the door-to-door campaign, engaging directly with voters and understanding their needs.
- **Market Research and Polls (5%):** 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 (12%):** Public events, town hall meetings, rallies, and other community outreach initiatives.
- **Campaign Office Budget (10%):** Covering the costs of maintaining an accessible and functional campaign office.
- **Travel and Accommodation (13%):** For campaign-related travels, visits to communities across the country, and accommodation.