

Strong and Free Party Platform

Party Name: Strong and Free Party

Party Slogan: “Common Sense, Peace of Mind”

Party Logo:



Candidate Introduction: Wajid Zaman is certainly *Za Man* for the job, having worked in major roles at the Treasury Board Secretariat and now Global Affairs. Wajid’s experience in the public sector showcases that he not only knows the priorities and management of our country on a domestic level, but also has an understanding of the importance of representing our interests internationally. Moreover, he is someone greatly involved in the community and has even been chosen to lead an important international conference in Ottawa.

Beyond his extensive public service and community leadership, Wajid has a background in economics and political leadership and he knows our country can and should be doing better. Wajid is well aware of the issues affecting everyday Canadians and the loss of potential we’ve had as a country. He doesn’t want to continue down the misguided path of Canada’s current leaders. Instead, Wajid wants to make Canada an example again on the international stage.

Wajid embodies values of civic duty, faith, foundational values, and strength, all of which are important characteristics for the top job in the country.

Staff Position Information:

- Leader: Wajid Zaman
- Policy Advisor: Muna Derie

- Campaign Director: Osman Abu Rayash
- Operations Director: Hafsa Nachete
- Communications Director: Asma Muhammad

Main Message: We see how our quality of life as well as our international standing has declined in the past few years, and we wish to reverse the mistakes and irresponsible leadership that brought us into this mess. It's time we take charge to fix our economy, immigration, reduce crime, and provide a rational approach to issues such as the environment and housing instead of the "wacko" ones we've been seeing. It's also time we end the attack on our freedoms, values, families, and create a space where Canadians can thrive. Canada has always been an amazing country and a model for the world and it's time we bring it back better than ever. It's time we bring back common sense into Canada's politics, bring back your peace of mind, and make our country strong and free again.

Platform Points:

Economy:

The Strong and Free Party understands the importance of a healthy economy that works to help all Canadians. We believe that Canadians work hard to earn a living to support themselves and/or their families. Their hard work should not be penalized by excessive taxes, and a big government that overspends recklessly. To this end, we propose the following:

Stimulate the growth and prosperity of small businesses in Canada:

1. Offer tax cuts to small businesses to help them grow and expand: Cutting taxes on small businesses will provide immediate financial relief by putting more money back into businesses' pockets. It will encourage businesses to hire more employees thereby stimulating job creation. This additional money can be used to invest in robust training programs that improve the skills of new employees and increase overall productivity. Further, by cutting taxes on small businesses, our party will help businesses retain a larger portion of their profits, which can be reinvested into their businesses.
2. Reduce administrative burden by cutting the red tape i.e. redundant and long-winded regulatory schemes: We will implement annual review processes that work to examine and review existing regulations to identify redundancies, and burdensome measures. This will help to cut down on bureaucratic and red tape measures that stifle business growth and cause administrative burden by eliminating unnecessary and/or redundant regulations. Small businesses will have a smoother and more streamlined compliance

process, ensuring that they are better able to focus on growing their business instead of filling out dozens of forms.

Achieving fiscal responsibility:

1. Impose spending caps to control government spending, avoid deficit spending and bring down inflationary spending: We would enact laws to establish limits on the growth of government spending notwithstanding public emergencies. This will prevent unnecessary and reckless spending that grows the deficit and disregards the future of young Canadians.
2. Streamline the public sector to promote efficiency by conducting public audits: The public sector has ballooned in recent years resulting in a significant increase in federal spending. We would conduct regular performance audits designed at evaluating the efficiency of government departments and agencies. This will help us identify which government departments/agencies are providing a good value for money and those that are a waste of resources, allowing us to act accordingly. These audits will be conducted by both internal and external auditors to ensure unbiased reporting and they will include recommendations to reduce costs. Finally, they will be published publicly to promote transparency and accountability to the taxpayer.
3. Establishing a debt repayment program: We will establish a clear and achievable debt repayment program that takes into consideration the total debt, the types of debt, the country's debt-to-GDP ratio, and debt service costs. Using this information we will set an annual target of 3% debt reduction over the next 4 years in order to aim to reduce the total debt long term.

Supporting research and development (R&D) and stimulating innovation:

1. Offer tax credits to small and medium sized businesses: We will offer tax credits based on the total amount of R&D spending to incentivize businesses to invest in research and development activities. This will help to reduce the risk of engaging in R&D for small and medium sized businesses and encourage an environment of growth and innovation.
2. Offer innovation grants: We will offer grants for innovative projects especially those in the fields of artificial intelligence, clean energy and biotechnology. This will provide an incentive for businesses to invest in these areas and encourage innovation in Canada.
3. Support startup businesses by investing in incubators: We will invest in incubators that provide early-stage startups with networking, mentorship and resource opportunities to transform their ideas into sustainable companies. This will be done primarily through providing office workspaces so startups can have a space for meetings and through

funding networking opportunities that create opportunities for investors to connect with early stage startups.

Healthcare:

The Strong and Free Party understands the importance of accessible and timely healthcare service for all Canadians. We are committed to increasing the supply of key healthcare workers, including nurses and family physicians and we will also work to address the ongoing health crisis of drug addiction and the burden this can pose on the healthcare system if left unchecked. We propose the following measures:

1. Increase the supply of family doctors and nurses to ensure Canadians can achieve good health outcomes:
 - We will establish a process to fast track licensure of internationally trained nurses and doctors: We will establish a national testing standard to license internationally trained nurses and doctors. This national standard will cut down on a significant amount of bureaucracy and red tape that prolongs the licensure process and derails internationally trained healthcare workers from becoming licensed to practice in Canada. Instead of having internationally trained healthcare workers go through a series of tests and paperwork that takes years, we aim to streamline this process. Further, internationally trained healthcare workers will also be able to freely practice in other provinces and territories after being licensed through this national standard because currently the requirements to be able to practice as an international healthcare worker vary across Canada. Our national standard will reduce the shortage of healthcare workers, particular family doctors and nurses, and it will encourage the immigration of these skilled workers to Canada.
2. Support public health drug prevention and substance abuse programs instead of simply decriminalizing drug use:
 - Implement comprehensive drug prevention programs: Drug prevention programs will be created to educate the public and the youth about the dangers of drug use. These programs will include social media campaigns and school based prevention programs. Through creating these programs, youth and young adults will be better educated about the harms of drug use and we will be able to prevent drug use from occurring. As a result, we will save costs associated with treatment and rehabilitation.
 - Invest in greater law enforcement to safeguard public areas and alleviate the burden on healthcare systems: We will invest in and expand law enforcement to crack down on illegal drug sales and use in public spaces to uphold the safety of the entire community. This will prevent open drug use, enforce drug laws, uphold

public safety but most importantly, it will act as a preventative measure against widespread drug use and as a result drug withdrawals, which will limit this burden on healthcare systems.

3. Invest into health science R&D to promote innovative and efficient medical technologies that better serve the health of Canadians:
 - We will provide financial support for emerging technologies in health sciences that yield beneficial outcomes: The Strong and Free Party will invest and provide funding for companies innovating in technologies designed to significantly improve healthcare delivery and patient outcomes. This will encourage companies to invest in research and development activities for new medical technologies, new diagnostic tools, telemedicine etc. These investments will however be monitored through evaluation mechanisms to ensure that our investments produce desired results and that companies are held accountable.

Housing:

Canadians who work hard should be able to buy a home and achieve this part of the Canadian dream. Unfortunately this dream has been broken due to a lack of housing development and long, bureaucratic processes that stall the building of homes. The Strong and Free Party is committed to cutting the red tape and getting more houses built to restore this Canadian dream. We propose the following:

1. Create a single authority to oversee and ensure municipal accountability of federal funding:
 - We will establish a single centralized authority that will be responsible for overseeing federal housing funding. This authority will have a mandate to ensure that federal funds are being used to achieve the goal of building more housing. By establishing one centralized authority, our party will reduce bureaucratic inefficiencies, implement a more efficient approach to housing development, and ensure federal funding is put towards housing development.
2. Establish housing growth targets across provinces and territories and tie funding to the ability of provinces/territories to meet these targets:
 - The Strong and Free Party will work with provincial and territorial governments to establish clear and realistic housing growth targets that are based on the region's population growth, housing demand and needs. We will monitor and evaluate provinces and territories progress and tie federal funding to their ability to meet these established housing growth targets. In doing so, we will incentivize provinces and territories to make housing development a key priority to receive federal funding.

National Defense:

During a time of global uncertainty, it is imperative now more than ever to safeguard Canada, and by extension, Canadians, through military investment and partnership. The Strong and Free Party will:

1. Increase military spending gradually:
 - The Strong and Free Party will invest in making our military stronger so Canada can be protected in the midst of emerging global security challenges. We will increase budget spending gradually to support the military while also being fiscally responsible.
2. Focus on strategic military investments:
 - To keep in line with fiscal responsibility, we will make investments in key areas of military development to make Canada's military more efficient and to provide better value for money. Our targeted investments will focus on modernizing existing defense equipment, making technological upgrades and investing in cyber defense. In doing so, the Strong and Free Party will make Canada's military stronger, better equipped, and more efficient.
3. Establish a task force that includes CSIS, and National Defence:
 - We will create an interdepartmental committee to better address threats from foreign actors. An interdepartmental committee will enable faster reporting of threats and enable our government to be better prepared. It will also facilitate a smoother communication process between various government departments and therefore limit any bureaucratic delays that hinder efficient responses.

Climate:

Climate change is a real threat to Canada's future and we have to act now to limit its effects. Unlike other parties, we do not believe in punishing common Canadians with aggressive climate tax hikes. Instead we support innovation and private sector investment as a way to address climate change. Our party will:

Adopt clean technologies and encourage green investments:

1. Incentivize businesses to invest in advanced energy efficient technology: The Strong and Free Party will offer tax credits as an incentive to encourage businesses to make operational changes designed to reduce their environmental impacts. Tax credits will be provided to businesses that make the switch to advanced equipment that produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions and that uses less energy in the extraction of natural resources. Businesses will also be encouraged to upgrade their machines and opt for technologies that minimize environmental impact and overall energy consumption.

2. **Support Private Sector Investment:** The Strong and Free Party is a strong proponent of the private sector and will provide tax credits to stimulate private sector investments in renewable energy projects, and clean technologies. Our tax credits will alleviate the financial burden on private businesses that are investing in sustainable agriculture, renewable energy initiatives and energy efficient technologies while also allowing our government to stimulate employment creation in the green sector without funding the full cost of these investments.

Immigration:

The Strong and Free Party understands the important role of immigration for Canada's economy but we also know we need to protect Canada's borders. It is why we are committed to supporting the entry of immigrants who will contribute to economic growth and innovation for Canada while also focusing on controlling Canada's borders. Our party will:

Prioritize the immigration of skilled individuals and improve their integration into the economy:

1. **Fast track processing of skilled immigrants (STEM professionals and trades workers):** Our party understands that there remains a shortage of skilled trade workers and that it is also important to make Canada an attractive destination for STEM professionals. Therefore, we will commit to implement an efficient and fast tracked process for expediting the entry of skilled immigrants into Canada by approving their visa/permanent residency applications faster. This process aims to reduce bureaucratic and regulatory roadblocks that make this process lengthy for skilled immigrants. Our fast-tracked process will enable Canada to benefit from the entry of skilled trades workers and STEM professionals, which will help support economic growth and innovation.
2. **Streamline recognition of international education and credentialing through partnerships with regulatory bodies:** Our party will streamline the recognition of foreign qualifications by simplifying the equivalency and testing processes. We will partner with regulatory bodies, including, but not limited to, Engineers Canada, Federation of Law Societies of Canada, and the Canadian Pharmacists Association to reduce duplication and standardize credential assessments. We will ensure that when skilled immigrants arrive in Canada, they can effectively integrate into the workforce.

Address illegal border crossings:

1. **Enhance border security:** We will crackdown on illegal border crossings by increasing the border patrol personnel. This will be achieved through increased funding to ensure there are sufficient agents monitoring the border and contributing to upgrading infrastructure at border points, especially remote entry points which are in serious need of repair. Funding will also be put towards improving inspection and surveillance technologies, including

drones and cameras to better identify and stop illegal border crossings. Through these measures, our party aims to secure Canada's border and prevent illegal border crossings.

Indigenous Relations:

The Strong and Free Party will strengthen the federal government and Indigenous relationship by providing communities with greater financial authority and supporting self-governance. We propose the following:

1. Collaborate with Indigenous communities to ensure they benefit from natural resource extraction:
 - The Strong and Free Party will collaborate and work with Indigenous leaders to ensure that Indigenous communities can gain greater financial benefits from resource extraction carried out on their lands. In doing so, our party will put more money into the pockets of Indigenous communities to reinvest in their lands. Further, it will enable Indigenous leaders and their communities to exercise a greater level of self-governance by allowing them to make decisions on how to invest in their respective communities. Finally, it will limit federal government interference and paternalism.
2. Support Indigenous self-governance across Indigenous communities through training and collaboration:
 - Our party will empower the next generation of Indigenous leaders by providing training and resources to young Indigenous leaders so they can gain skills in self-governance and leadership. These training programs will reflect traditional governance practices and co-created with elders from Indigenous communities. Through collaboration, existing Indigenous leaders can provide insight into the existing forms of traditional governance and how modern skills can be applied within these guidelines. The training programs will focus on community planning, financial management as well as governance structures. Our goal is to invest into creating long term Indigenous leadership and work towards Indigenous self-governance so that individuals in these communities can make the important decisions that directly affect them. Overall, the creation of these programs will lead to a pipeline of young Indigenous leaders that will be able to govern their own communities and it will decrease government interference.

Flagship Policy:

The Strong and Free Party presents the **“Housing Accountability Act”**

We believe that one of the biggest challenges to housing development is bureaucracy. Canadians need more homes built and they need it now. The Strong and Free Party will eliminate

bureaucratic processes and cut the red tape so that more homes can be built and Canadians can move in faster. To do this, we will create a single authority to oversee and ensure municipal accountability of federal funding. The Housing Accountability Act will operate as the guiding mandate for the centralized housing authority. This authority will be responsible for overseeing federal housing funding and ensure that federal funds are being used to achieve the goal of building more housing. By establishing one centralized authority, our party will reduce bureaucratic inefficiencies, implement a more efficient approach to housing development, and ensure federal funding is put towards housing development. Most importantly, this centralized authority will be required to fulfill the obligation of ensuring housing accountability as outlined within the act. The Strong and Free Party will therefore get more housing built for common Canadians and ensure a greater level of fiscal accountability and transparency.

Campaign Strategy:

The Strong and Free Party campaign focuses on managing finances, educating the public about our policies and raising awareness about our platform. Our goal will be to get at least 130 email signatures. This is a reasonable goal and each team member will aim to get 26 email signatures.

Our strategy includes first texting close friends and family to obtain their email signatures. Then, we plan on using social media, particularly, WhatsApp, Instagram and LinkedIn to reach a wider audience of friends, family, and acquaintances. We also plan on securing email signatures through our extracurricular activities. Our party members are involved in a variety of extracurricular activities and are engaged within their respective communities; therefore, this will be another way to gain email signatures. Finally, we hope to get in touch with a broader group of individuals at local mosques to secure more email signatures.

Budget breakdown:

- **Online Marketing (22%):** 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, 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 (15%):** Funds allocated to the door-to-door campaign, engaging directly with voters and understanding their needs.

- **Market Research and Polls (12%):** To assess public opinion, develop effective strategies, and track campaign progress.
- **Donor List (5%):** 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 (5%):** Public events, town hall meetings, rallies, and other community outreach initiatives.
- **Campaign Office Budget (4%):** Covering the costs of maintaining an accessible and functional campaign office.
- **Travel and Accommodation (4%):** For campaign-related travels, visits to communities across the country, and accommodation.