**The Conservative party**

Formed in 2003 when the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada and the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance merged. The party favors strong national defence, lower taxes, a more decentralized federal government. The party was in power from 2006 until 2015, with Stephen Harper as the Prime minister and is currently led by interim leader [Rona Ambrose](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rona_Ambrose) while undergoing a [leadership election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservative_Party_of_Canada_leadership_election,_2017).

**The New Democratic Party**

The NPD was formed after a merger between The Canadian Labour Congress and Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. It is a secular pluralist party despite its predecessors having populist, socialist and Christian Left affiliations. Led by Tom Mulclair since 2012, the party currently identifies as democratic socialist and advocates for healthcare, real action on environmental issues, higher taxation of large corporations reducing poverty in Canada and the protection of LGBTQ rights.

**The Green Party of Canada**

Founded in [1983](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1983_in_Canada), the Greens have always had leftist and centrist leanings. However, many Greens hold that the [traditional left-right political spectrum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Left-right_politics) doesn’t correctly convey the pragmatic, ecological stance of the party. Led by Elizabeth May since 2006, the party advocates for bold climate action,social justice, sustainable economy, non-violence, and the regulation and taxation of cannabis.

**The Liberal Party of Canada**

Established in 1867, the Liberal Party is the oldest [federal political party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_federal_political_parties_in_Canada) in [Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada). The party generally sits at the centre of the Canadian political spectrum, with strong leftist stances on many policies. The Liberals' legislative decisions include [universal health care](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_health_care), official [multiculturalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiculturalism), entrenchment of Canada's C[harter of Rights and Freedoms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Charter_of_Rights_and_Freedoms) and making [same-sex marriage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_marriage) legal throughout the country. Led by [Justin Trudeau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin_Trudeau), son of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, the party’s proposals include setting national targets to lower greenhouse gas emissions, improving infrastructure, full legalisation of cannabis and improving healthcare.