



New Volunteer Guide

[Click here to view as a Google doc \(easier to read if you are using a phone or tablet\)](#)

Welcome! Bienvenue!

We are so glad to have you!

Thank you so much for choosing to volunteer with the Toronto Centre NDP Riding Association.

This document is designed to give you a broad overview of what you can expect as a volunteer and where to turn if you need more support.

Table of Contents

Pour la Francophones, nous savons que le livre est seulement en anglais. Le Nouveau Parti Démocratique de Toronto Centre soutenons notre communauté Francophone dans la circonscription. Si vous voulez aider notre équipe en français, dites-nous. Merci!

Welcome	3
Meet Toronto Centre's MPP Suze Morrison!	4
How can you make a difference?	5
Attend an event	6
Volunteer at an event	6
Canvassing	8
Why does canvassing work?	8
How does canvassing work?	8
Phone banks	9
Why does phone banking work?	9
Contribute to province-wide decision making	10
Meet the Toronto Centre NDP Executive	12
Who are New Democrats?	16
What do the New Democrats stand for?	18
What are we doing about COVID-19?	23
Elections	25
More questions?	26

1. Welcome

Thank you for volunteering with the Toronto Centre NDP! We are so thrilled to have you join us as we fight for a better future for the communities in Toronto Centre.

Toronto Centre is the smallest, most densely populated electoral district in all of Canada. We are made up of many diverse and distinct communities including Regent Park, Moss Park, Cabbagetown, the Church and Wellesley Village, St. James Town, the Garden District, St Lawrence Market, Corktown, and parts of the Bay-Yonge Corridor.

We are home to the largest Pride festival in Canada, the largest social housing development in the country (Regent Park), the last urban farm in Toronto (Riverdale Farm), and our riding hosts major tourist attractions and public spaces including the St. Lawrence Market, Eaton's Centre, Yonge-Dundas Square, and Allen Gardens.

Our community is vibrant, and rich in culture.

But our dense downtown-east community also struggles with deep social issues. We are the epicentre of the housing, homelessness, and opioid crises. We are the child poverty capital of Canada. We have the highest concentration of social housing in Ontario. And the minimum wage would have to be more than \$35 an hour to afford the average market price of a one bedroom apartment.

Our communities need us to fight for change for the better.

As New Democrats, we advocate for progressive policy in healthcare, education, housing and so much more. We know that progress is possible, and we don't compromise our values to achieve it.

Welcome to the fight - we are so glad to have you!
Sincerely,

Suze Morrison, MPP - Toronto Centre

Jeff Slater, Provincial President - TCNDP

Monique Chin, Federal President - TCNDP

2. Meet Toronto Centre's MPP Suze Morrison!

Toronto Centre is provincially represented by Suze Morrison — your Ontario NDP Critic for Tenant Rights, Urban Indigenous Issues, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Response.

She has overcome significant adversity to get to where she is today. Poverty, precarious housing, and learning how to understand her identity as a woman with mixed settler and Indigenous heritage are all critical parts of how she looks at policy from a progressive and intersectional lens.



MPP Morrison lives in Toronto Centre with her husband Trevor and their dog Nova. When she's not working for her community at Queen's Park, she is an avid motorsports enthusiast and spends her free time competing in autocross events.

Suze is fighting for Toronto Centre through her Private Member's Bills:

- [The St. James Town Act](#) — a Bill to protect tenants from landlord negligence and abusive Above the Guideline rent increases in response to the fire at 650 Parliament St.
- [The Rent Control Act](#) — a Bill to close Doug Ford's rent control loophole
- Supporting [Andrea Horwath's Homes You Can Afford](#) Platform

➡ [Click here to watch Suze sharing her story during her inaugural speech at Queen's Park](#)

➡ Click here to follow Suze Morrison's work on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)

- ➡ Check out [Suze's MPP Website](#) to sign her petitions and sign up for our community newsletter
- ➡ Click here to listen to Suze's podcast [Stories for Change](#)

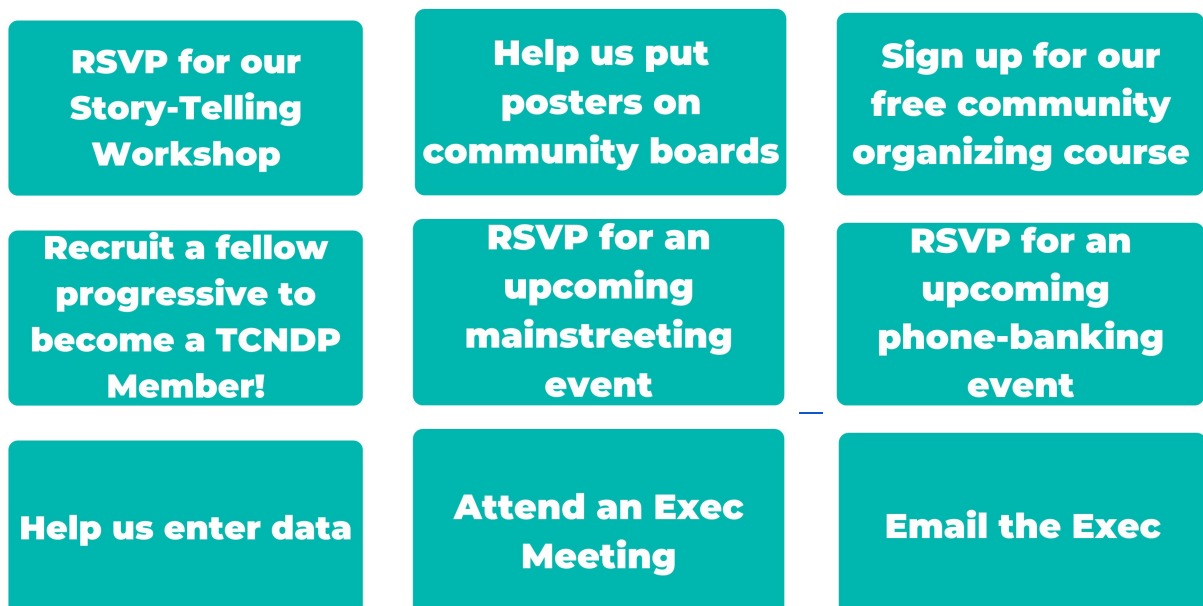
If you or anyone you know ever needs help with a provincial challenge, please encourage them to reach out to Suze Morrison's office by emailing morrison-co@ndp.on.ca or phoning 416-972-7683.

3. How can you make a difference?

Getting Started



Becoming an Active Member



Do you have your own idea for an event or organizing project? Email us at tcndp.organize@gmail.com!

Attend an event

This is the starting point for most volunteers. You don't need to do anything but come out and have fun! This is a no-pressure, no-commitment opportunity to meet members of the team, get a sense of how an event of ours runs, and ask any questions you might have. It's also a perfect time to sign up to volunteer!

Volunteer at an event

Putting together a successful event requires a lot of people. We have events every week and often need volunteers to make sure they run smoothly. These roles include:

- Working the sign-in table
- Tabling
- Set up and take down
- Photography
- Managing food delivery
- And more



You find out about those opportunities the same way you learn about the events.
Get connected with us and we'll tell you what we need.

[Fill out this form](#) and we will call you to chat about how you can join us volunteering!

Canvassing

One of the most effective ways of connecting with voters and constituents is through canvassing.

Why does canvassing work?

- It is the most effective way to bring out the vote.
- It allows us to update voter information.
- It provides supporters with an opportunity to sign up for updates or volunteer.
- It offers the candidate or elected member to make direct connections with the people they represent.
- It allows you to form connections with other volunteers.
- It is a flexible way to be involved.

How does canvassing work?

It's easy! Canvassing is when volunteers go door to door in a pre-designated building or neighborhood to discuss our current issues/causes with residents. This can be anything from collecting signatures to support a current motion or bill that our MPP is proposing, or to recruit voters for an upcoming election. Each interaction is recorded and rated from positive to negative, allowing us to get a sense of the community and whether our work is resonating.

When you sign up for volunteer opportunities, indicate that you are interested in canvassing. When a canvas is scheduled, you will be contacted. If you are available, you will be given a place and time to meet. On arrival, you will be told the purpose of this canvas (updating information, bringing out the vote, etc) and how to perform it. You will be paired with another canvasser and given a sheet to fill out. You will never canvass alone. When you're done, you return to the office and count up your records.

Phone banks

Another way we reach people is through the phone. This is a great way of volunteering with us on your schedule and from your own home.

Why does phone banking work?

- You can connect with many more people in a shorter period of time.
- Some people are more comfortable engaging with someone over the phone.
- You have access to the NDP website and can look up answers and offer directions that would be difficult to offer at the door.
- Information can be updated directly to the database, which reduces administrative burden.

How does phone banking work?

All you need is a phone number and a computer with an internet connection. When you sign up for a phone banking session, you will be emailed a link and instructions on which campaign to join. We typically host a Zoom call at the beginning of the phone session to get started and get a walkthrough of CallHub if you need it.

Once you get on Call Hub, you will enter your phone number and the system will call you. That way, when the system's dialer begins calling, the people on the other side of the line will see the NDP calling, rather than your personal number. Since the system calls you, it doesn't use up any of your outgoing call minutes either.

But don't worry! You aren't calling anyone yet! You'll be given a chance to review the script and offered a walk through of the controls. It can take a little while to get the hang of it, and we're here to support you till you're a pro.

Once you're ready, you click Next Call, and off you go. When you've run out of numbers or time, simply get out of the campaign and go on with your day.

Contribute to province-wide decision making

Although local riding associations do most of the on-the-ground work in between elections (canvassing, holding community events, doing local outreach, engaging with voters and supporters), the decision-making process tends to happen in a more collective way, involving members from across the province.

As a new member, you have opportunities to join in the decision-making process, too!

At the top of the decision-making chain, the highest authority of the Ontario NDP is the **Convention**. This is a large assembly of approximately 1000-1200 delegates from across the province (between 10-25 from each riding, depending on population), which gathers every two years for four days. Convention is where all the key decisions are made: multiple hours each day are devoted to debating and passing resolutions to be added to the Ontario NDP Policy Book; amendments to the Party Constitution are voted upon; and major policy announcements are made by the Leader and Caucus. Delegates also have the opportunity to vote for who will represent them on the Executive Committee.

The **Executive Committee** is a body of 36 elected members from within the Ontario NDP who meet once a month to make strategic and administrative decisions in between Conventions. This committee is elected at Convention every two years, and comprises a President, six Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, two Regional Representatives from each of the six regions, two Co-Chairs from each of the Equity-Seeking Committees, and six Members-At-Large.

Once every 4 months, the **Provincial Council** meets to ratify decisions made by the Executive Committee. Formally, the Provincial Council is the body that is authorized by the Constitution to make binding decisions in between Conventions. This body consists of 2-4 delegates from every riding association, plus a few representatives from each Equity-Seeking Committee, as well as all the members of the Executive Committee. The meetings take place on a weekend and normally consist of approximately 300 delegates from across Ontario. If you'd like to become a Provincial Council delegate, speak with your Riding Association President. There are sometimes delegate or alternate spots that open up.

The **Equity-Seeking Committees** are one of the easiest points of entry into the decision-making parts of the party structure, as they do not require their members to be elected—you just have to be eager and willing to work on special-interest projects related to that equity group! The Equity-Seeking Committees are: the **LGBTQ Committee**, the **Ethno-Racial Equity Committee (ERE)**, the **Ontario New Democratic Youth (ONDY)**, the **People Living With Disabilities (PLWD)**, **Aboriginal Committee**, the **Women's Committee**, and the **Francophone Committee**. Each of these committees has two co-chairs that also sit on the Executive Committee, mentioned above (with the exception of the Francophone Committee). These

committees meet during Provincial Council, but they also often hold regular meetings beyond that. If you'd like to join an Equity-Seeking Committee, ask your Riding Association President to help put you in touch!

The **Regional Committees** exist to coordinate organizing within the regions, so that neighbouring riding associations can collaborate on shared interests. Each region operates differently —ranging from regular meetings to monthly conference calls to even an annual conference. It's best to ask your Riding Association President to help put you in touch. In Toronto, it's called the **Toronto Area Council (TAC)**.

4. Meet the Toronto Centre NDP Executive

We are the Toronto Centre NDP Riding Association.

A riding association is the most basic part of any party - we are volunteers committed to advancing the needs of the riding, and we believe the New Democrats are the party that cares most about the issues affecting Canada generally, and Toronto Centre specifically.

We hold events and do outreach to understand what our riding needs, we vet and choose candidates to run in the riding and support their campaigns. If a candidate is elected, we act as another conduit of information between the elected member and the constituency.

While the provincial and federal NDP are distinct organizations, we have a combined executive that oversees the work of the riding association. We have federal and provincial Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Chief Financial Officers, and the remaining executive positions all have shared provincial/federal responsibilities.

Monique Chin
President (Federal)

My name is Monique Chin and I am currently serving as the Federal Electoral District Association (EDA) President. As for a brief description for what my responsibilities are with the riding association are: formally they are to make sure that the EDA is within compliance with our riding's constitution and rules set up by the party. To ensure that the riding association is in accordance with the rules and regulations set up by Elections Canada. Now that I have gotten the formal description of what my role is. My main responsibility is to listen and to make sure that all the talented people willing to give their energy and time have an environment to do so. I am glad you have made the decision to become an active member of the NDP. The purpose of this volunteer guide is to meet you at your intention with information that will help you to navigate to the place that best utilizes your gifts. Volunteers are the lifeblood of this riding association and I look forward to serving with you.



Jeff Slater
President (Provincial)

I oversee the work of our provincial riding association, which I've had the pleasure of doing since 2017.

We organize the local presence of the Ontario NDP here in Toronto Centre – that includes voter outreach, election preparation, fundraising, organizing our delegation & policy resolutions for provincial conventions, and when applicable, candidate search. We also work alongside our amazing Toronto Centre MPP, Suze Morrison, and other members of our caucus, to amplify the work they do at Queen's Park.

The riding association is the most local, grassroots organization within the NDP, and volunteering with your riding association is a great way to get involved with the party – we'd love for you to join us!

Tyler Johnson
Vice President
(Federal)



Emma Beattie
Chief Financial Officer
(Federal)

I keep the membership apprised of the Federal Riding Association's financial situation, write cheques to cover expenses, and file the annual financial return with Elections Canada.

My goals are to send out everyone's tax receipts out asap in the new year and make sure we have a healthy bank balance to finance a strong federal campaign in 2023 (or sooner)!

Outside of all the number-crunching, I love reading, rock climbing, soup making, and community organizing with fellow queers!



**Ben Donato-
Woodger**

Chief Financial Officer
(Provincial)

As your Provincial CFO, I write the cheques and balance the books for the riding. I also file our annual financial return with Elections Ontario.

My goals are to ensure our financial return is filled out early and to support our continued fundraising to keep Toronto Centre Orange!

I love community organizing theory and practice, canvassing, [my dog Riot](#), coffee, the vision of climate justice, and peanut butter.

Angela Zhu Recording
Secretary

As recording secretary, I make notes and minutes about our meetings. I also keep records of our events, our organizing efforts, and the administrative decisions we make. When it comes time for the Annual General Meeting or the (biannual) Party Convention, I process the Policy Resolutions and the Constitutional Amendments that our riding association submits (and make sure that rules of procedure are followed).

Bored yet? ;) To break up all the bureaucratic paperwork, I also canvass. Door-knocking is my favourite form of exercise! Come canvass with me.

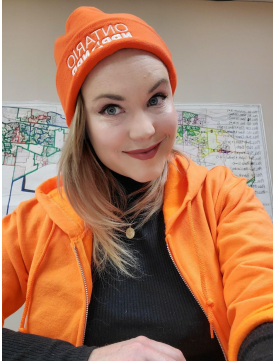


Paula Willis
**Membership
Secretary**

As the membership secretary, I try to keep track of the comings, goings, and address changes of New Democrats in Toronto Centre.

I make sure that members receive communications about our annual and nomination meetings, reminders to renew and I liaise with the central party offices to make sure our membership lists are up to date.

My goal is to promote NDP membership as the best way to influence our politics for the better.



Jasmine Attfield
Fundraising Director

As the Fundraising Director, I'm responsible for finding ways to encourage donations, including phone banking, and coming up with targeted campaigns and events.

My goal is to encourage more small-dollar monthly donations to ensure that our riding association has a steady flow of income so that we can focus on advocacy and elections..

I also spend my 9-5 working for the ONDP Caucus.

[Vacant]
Social Convenor

As Social Convenor it is my job to take point in facilitating in person and online events in order to engage members of the riding community.

[Vacant]
Communications
Director



Lina Cino
Voter Contact
Organizer

As Voter Contact Organizer, my priority is to turn and keep Toronto Center orange! That requires reaching as many residents as possible through canvassing, phoning, and various community events; clearly communicating our platform; and listening to their hopes, dreams, and intentions. And keeping a thorough record of who our voters are so we are ready come election time to knock on their door.

[vacant]
Youth Rep

Tali Chernin
Women's Rep

As Women's Rep, my priority is on ensuring that the needs and interests of women in the riding are front and centre when decisions are being made from policy to event logistics.

I love watching TV, reading, swimming and strength training.

Rita Brooks
Disability Rights Rep

We've come a long way in prioritizing accessibility in building design but how we get around the city hasn't kept up - by and large it's designed around the car, not people - with accessibility applied like a varnish at the end - that is poor

design. We need to flip that approach, prioritizing people and making accessibility a part of the original design conversation, rather than an afterthought.

[Vacant]

Indigenous Rep

Kevin Beaulieu

LGBTQ Rep

Kelly Skeete

Ethnocultural Rep



As Labour Rep, my goal is to strengthen the connection between the Toronto Centre NDP and organized labour and to promote the TCNDP within the Labour movement.

Bryan Cox

Labour Rep

Members at Large:

Ellen Tolmie, Heather Erlen, Puria Pezeshkighahafarokhi, Madeline Lemire

Members at Large are members of the Executive that do not have a specific portfolio. They have equal voting rights and attend all Executive meetings. They often promote their own niche issues or support reps.

Provincial Council Delegates:

Jasmine Attfield, Vienna O'Shea

Provincial Council Delegates attend the annual Provincial Council. At this Council, the delegates provide input to party direction. Delegates are not required to attend Executive meetings.

5. Who are New Democrats?

Canada is a great country, one of the hopes of the world.

New Democrats are progressive Canadians who believe we can build an even better one—a country that's more prosperous, sustainable, and where no one is left behind.

Canada's NDP has a proud history of fighting for ordinary Canadians and delivering results. Over the last 50 years, New Democrats have helped ensure the introduction of universal medical care, public pensions, and the expansion of Canada's social safety net.

New Democrats are champions for people – not corporations or the ultra-rich. We believe in building a society that is more equal and just for everybody. We are determined to fight for solutions people urgently need right now. From skyrocketing housing prices to soaring out-of-pocket healthcare costs – Canadians haven't received the help they need.

We believe in this movement because we know that politics is about people – and that when we work to improve the lives of Canadians, we can build a better Canada where everybody feels included, and can follow their dreams.

6. What do the New Democrats stand for?

TAKING BETTER CARE OF EACH OTHER



BETTER HEALTHCARE

We'll strengthen and expand public health care, including pharmacare for all.



SECURITY FOR ALL SENIORS

We will work to reduce isolation and poverty among seniors, build accessible housing, and prioritize seniors' health care.



TACKLING POVERTY

We're committed to building a Canada without poverty by investing in public services and by ending homelessness within a decade.



CONFRONTING THE OPIOID EMERGENCY

We aim to declare a public health emergency on the opioid crisis, stop criminalizing addiction, and expand access to treatment.



EXTENDED MEDICARE COVERAGE

We're committed to making sure everyone gets the dental, eye, and mental health care they need.



HEALTHY FOOD IN EVERY COMMUNITY

We're committed to making sure every Canadian can access affordable healthy food. We'll also work towards a national school nutrition program.



ACCESS TO QUALITY HOME CARE AND LONG TERM CARE

We'll make sure our seniors can access quality home care and long term care.



PROTECTING PENSIONS FOR EVERYONE

We'll strengthen public pensions and ensure companies protect workers' pensions.

BUILDING AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS BETTER FOR MORE PEOPLE



SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

We're committed to ending unfair taxes on family businesses and helping businesses save money and grow faster.



A NEW DEAL FOR ALL WORKERS

We're committed to making work fairer and more secure for everyone. We aim to strengthen protections for contract workers and interns, and raise the bar with a federal minimum wage.



SCALING UP HIGH TECH SUCCESS

We have a plan to provide sustainable, long term support for Canada's innovators to optimize growth and play to our strengths while investing in new low carbon technologies.



MORE ACCESSIBLE JOB TRAINING AND LIFELONG LEARNING FOR ALL

We'll broaden opportunities for everyone by expanding training options, and support unemployed people and precarious and transitioning workers.



A NEW DEAL FOR TAX FAIRNESS

For decades, governments in Ottawa have cut back on the services we count on, while giving tax breaks to their wealthy friends. We have a plan to make the very richest people pay their fair share.

THE COURAGE TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT



ADVANCING GENDER EQUITY

We'll tackle discrimination and gender-based violence, invest in evidence-based violence reduction, domestic violence shelters, and affordable child care. We will also ensure access to reproductive health care including contraception and abortion.



UPHOLDING LGBTQI2S+ RIGHTS

New Democrats are committed to ending employment discrimination, banning conversion therapy, ensuring access to gender-confirming health care, and helping LGBTQI2S+ refugees.



CONFRONTING RACISM

We'll counter online hate and work to end systemic racial injustice and employment discrimination.



A GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS FOR YOU - NOT INSIDERS

Decades of Liberal and Conservative governments have sided with wealthy insiders over everyday people. New Democrats will do things differently. We'll work for families and communities to restore people's trust in government.



BUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE WE NEED

We're committed to strong infrastructure because it makes people's lives easier. That means good jobs, reliable public services, convenient transit, affordable housing, and high-speed internet no matter where you live.



ENHANCING OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM

We'll restore the independence of judges, better fund legal aid, and work towards reconciliation. This starts with expunging criminal records for minor cannabis possession.



MAKING EVERY VOTE COUNT - FOR REAL

We'll actually deliver democratic reform to make sure that everyone's vote counts.

BUILDING STRONGER, MORE VIBRANT COMMUNITIES



SUPPORTING CANADIAN ARTS AND CULTURE

We're committed to supporting strong, independent Canadian arts and culture, including Canadian film, television, and other media.



WELCOMING NEW CANADIANS

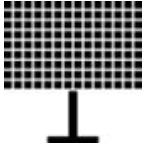
We're committed to protecting newcomers, reuniting families, and resettling refugees with the fairness, respect, and dignity they deserve.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

Every Canadian deserves to feel safe and secure. We'll support innovative community policing, support victims of crime, and fight hate and racism.

PROTECTING OUR AIR, LAND, AND WATER



TAKING CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

We'll set ambitious carbon emissions targets, declare a climate emergency, and make the federal government a trailblazer in tackling climate change.



CHANGING HOW WE GET AROUND

We'll invest in electric transit, improved transit routes, and fare-free public transit. We'll also help make it easier to own zero-emission vehicles.



PROTECTING OUR LAND AND WATER

All communities should have clean water, land, and air. We'll ban single-use plastic, protect our oceans and marine life, revitalize our forests, and guarantee the health of our lakes and rivers for our kids and grandkids.



POWERING OUR COMMUNITIES CARBON-FREE

We'll cut big oil and gas subsidies and use that money to protect good jobs for people while investing in net-carbon free electricity.



IMPROVING WHERE WE LIVE AND WORK

Making all new buildings energy efficient and retrofitting existing ones means we can save families \$900 or more every year while reducing emissions.

RECONCILIATION AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO



UPHOLDING INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND ADVANCING SELF - DETERMINATION

In partnership with Indigenous peoples, we're committed to fully implementing UNDRIP, co-developing a National Action Plan for Reconciliation, and doing our part to advance Indigenous rights.



INVESTING IN CHILDREN AND ENDING FUNDING DISCRIMINATION

We're committed to taking immediate action to implement the TRC's 94 Calls to Action, Jordan's Principle, and UNDRIP to end discrimination against Indigenous children.



CLOSING THE EDUCATION GAP

We're committed to implementing Shannen's Dream of equitable access to education by increasing funding to Indigenous schools and bridging the gap to post-secondary education.



HONOURING INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS, AND TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLES

We'll implement the National Inquiry's recommendations and ensure equal status and self-determination for all Indigenous communities.



RECONCILIATION AND JUSTICE

We're committed to ending systemic discrimination. This includes advocating for healing and restorative justice, supporting Indigenous police, and fighting for justice for survivors of residential schools, the 60's scoop, and the millennial scoop.



SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

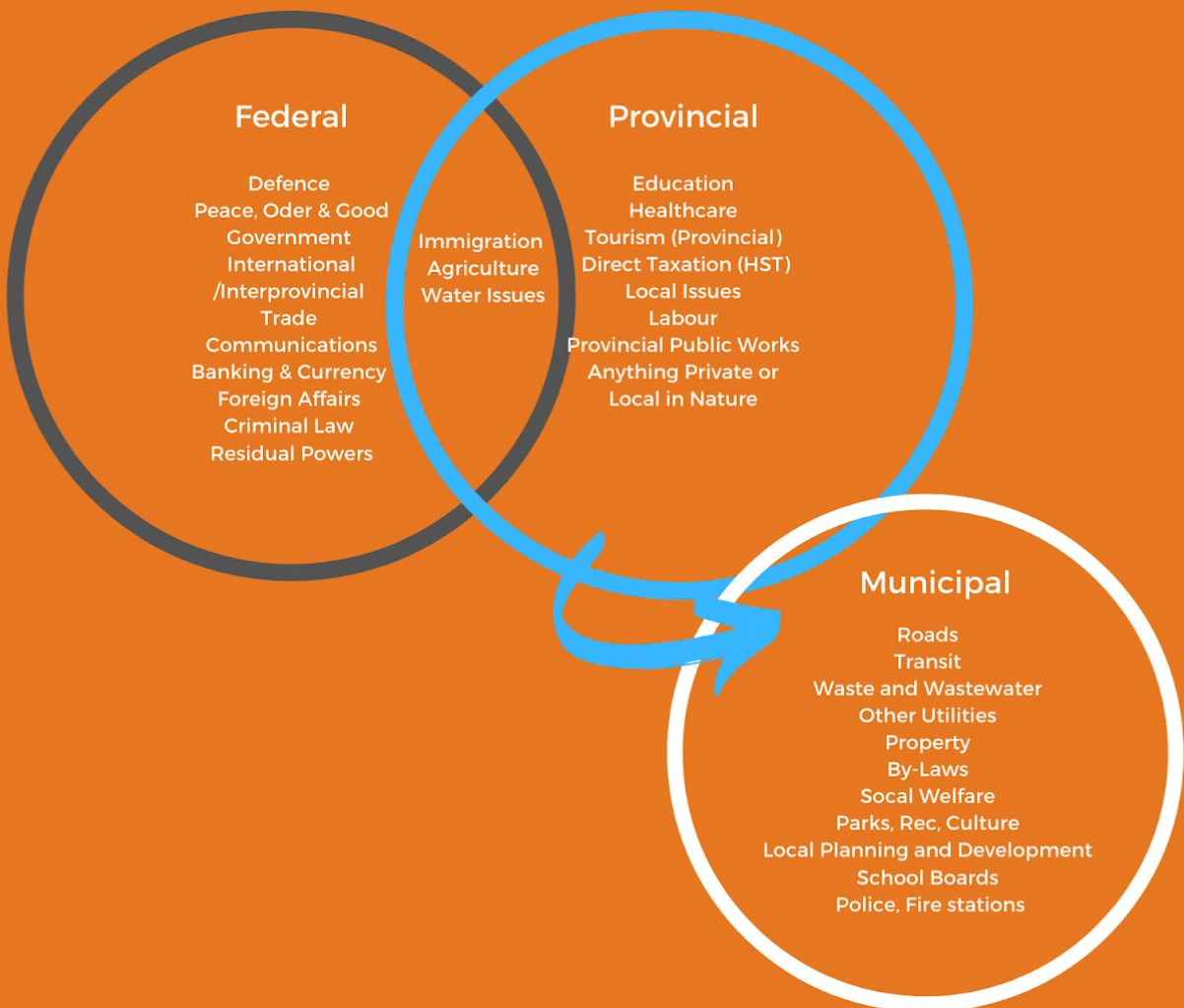
We're committed to partnering with Indigenous communities to encourage economic development, create jobs, and support Indigenous entrepreneurship and social enterprise.



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT TOGETHER

We're committed to fighting climate change with Indigenous peoples as full and equal partners in decision-making.

Federal NDP, Provincial NDP, and Local Government



7. What are we doing about COVID-19?

The New Democrats care deeply about the safety of our volunteers. The New Democrats follow all national, provincial, and municipal advice on safely reaching out to our constituents.

At this time, this means that we are focusing our energies on virtual town halls, phone banking, and street canvassing, which is done outside with plenty of social distancing.

If you have any concerns or have special accommodations, please reach out to us. This is always true but particularly now. If you want to be involved, we will do everything we can to make that possible for you.

6.Elections

It's election time! This is a very exciting time and volunteers are desperately needed. During this time, we ramp up everything from events to canvassing and more.

A year or more before the Election begins, we form a committee called an Election Planning Committee (EPC). They ensure our riding is ready for the Election. Some time before the Election, a Campaign Manager will be hired, then riding volunteers, the Exec, and EPC will join the Campaign Team, and we will do everything we can to turn and keep Toronto Orange!

7. More questions?

We know it can be stressful to try these things for the first time and we are here to support you. If you have any questions or just need someone to talk to, don't hesitate to reach out.