



Liberal Party of Canada

350 Alberl Street, Suite 920
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6M8

Parti libéral du Canada

350, rue Albert, bureau 920
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

September 10, 2021

Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights

Via email: frederique@actioncanadashr.org

Dear Ms. Chabot,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party of Canada's formal response to your questionnaire.

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

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Access to abortion

All Canadians should have access to a full suite of sexual and reproductive health resources and services, no matter where they live. We know that women, youth, LGBTQ2+ people, racialized Canadians, and Indigenous populations face the highest sexual and reproductive health risks and the greatest barriers to accessing support, information, and services.

That is why, a re-elected Liberal government will establish regulations under the *Canada Health Act* governing accessibility for sexual and reproductive health services so there is no question, that no matter where someone lives, that they have access to publicly available sexual and reproductive health services. Failure on the part of a province to meet this standard would result in an automatic penalty applied against federal health transfers. Our Liberal government has already taken action against New Brunswick by withholding \$140,216 in this year's budget from health, the equivalent of what Medicare would have paid for the service at Clinic 554.

Additionally, we will provide up to \$10 million to Health Canada to develop an easily accessible portal that provides accurate, judgement-free, and evidence-based information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, which will include a section that counters misinformation about abortion.

In an effort to reduce the spread of misinformation, we will no longer provide charity status to anti-abortion organizations (for example, Crisis Pregnancy Centres) that provide dishonest counseling to women about their rights and about the options available to them at all stages of the pregnancy.

Comprehensive sexuality education

Sex and gender related disparities continue to persist in Canada's health system. We recognize the importance and the need for comprehensive sexuality education. Additionally, any strategy must be based on facts and evidence; however, there are no existing resources that collect comprehensive data on a wide range of sexual and reproductive health indicators in Canada. That is why in Budget 2021, we provided \$7.6 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, for Statistics Canada to develop and implement a national survey on sexual and reproductive health that captures data on race, household income, and sexual orientation.

Additionally, a re-elected Liberal government will provide up to \$10 million over 3 years to youth-led grassroots organizations that respond to the unique sexual and reproductive health needs of young people.



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Sex work

The Liberal Party of Canada is committed to ensuring that our criminal laws are effective in meeting their objectives and protecting our communities, and are consistent with our constitutionally protected rights.

With respect to the current laws, we support the commencement of the five year Parliamentary review of the former Bill C-36. The review will serve as the appropriate forum for Parliamentarians to examine the full range of effects that this legislation has had since its coming into force. It will also provide an opportunity for sex workers, stakeholder groups, and civil society more generally to share their perspectives. At the conclusion of the review, the committee will have an opportunity to provide recommendations to the government based on their findings.

Access to contraception

We believe that no Canadian should have to choose between paying for prescription drugs-- including contraception medication-- and putting food on the table. That is why we support the continued work to develop a universal national pharmacare policy that expands drug coverage and reduces the costs of prescription drugs for all Canadians, including for sexual and reproductive health medications. The Liberal Party is committed to pharmacare and has begun work with the provinces, territories and stakeholders to advance the implementation of national universal pharmacare so that Canadians have the drug coverage they need. Most recently, the Liberal government took a significant first step in launching its first pharmacare demonstration initiative in partnership with Prince Edward Island. Through this initiative, PEI and its residents will see the expansion of the drugs covered by public plans and improved affordability of drug plans. This initiative will provide important insights to inform the implementation of national universal pharmacare in other willing provinces and territories.

A re-elected Liberal government will continue this important work so that Canadians have the drug coverage they need. This includes establishing a Canadian Drug Agency to negotiate drug prices on behalf of Canada's drug plans to help lower drug costs for Canadians by up to \$3 billion per year in the long term, as well as developing a national formulary – a comprehensive, evidence-based list of prescription drugs, including contraceptives – which would help promote coverage that is more consistent across the country.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights globally

Through the Feminist International Assistance Policy, we have made historic investments to improve the lives of women, girls, and vulnerable populations. Unlike the Harper Conservatives, the Liberal government ensured that the full range of sexual and reproductive health and rights were included in our international development assistance funding.



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Specifically, in 2017, we announced our investment of \$650 million over three years to improve the reproductive health and rights of women and children.

In June 2019, at the Women Deliver 2019 Conference, the Prime Minister announced a 10-year investment of \$1.4 billion annually, starting in 2023, to support women and girls' health around the world, with \$700 million of the annual investment dedicated to sexual and reproductive health rights.

A re-elected Liberal government is committed to be a leader in this sector and that is why we are committed to doubling our funding to grassroots women's rights organizations and continue to make significant investments in comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services as well as the global care economy.