



Federal Election 2019: a brief election guide for Catholics

The Catholic Church, which endorses no particular party, reminds us that we all should take an active part in public life, and participate in elections. Participation begins with informing our conscience, and continues in various ways such as exercising our right and responsibility to vote. Co-responsibility for the common good makes it morally obligatory to, among other things, exercise one's right to vote (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)*, #2240).

As we approach the 2019 Canadian federal election on October 21, 2019, let us take the time to learn about the issues, and where local candidates and national parties stand on those issues. Ask questions and, if possible, attend or view debates. Let us seek to elect a government that is committed to promoting and protecting the innate dignity of all, the common good, and a spirit of solidarity.

Human Dignity:	Health Care:	Environmental Stewardship:
<p>The inherent dignity of the human person comes from God. The right to have that dignity respected from conception until natural death is core to the Gospel. Human life is sacred, for each person is made in the image of God. CCC: 1701-1706; 1929-1933</p> <p>Possible Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will your party protect life from conception to natural death?• Will your party work to make palliative care accessible for all in need?• How will your party restore a positive relationship with Indigenous people?	<p>Caring for all people and the common good requires that our political leaders ensure that health care is accessible to all, especially those most in need. "Concern for the health of its citizens requires that society help in the attainment of living-conditions that allow them to grow and reach maturity..." (CCC, 2288). Also see CCC: 2211</p> <p>Possible Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will your party's priorities promote a universal, long-term plan to ensure that health care is affordable and available?• What is your party's plan to ensure that services are available to those who suffer with mental health concerns?	<p>In his encyclical, <i>Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si')</i>, Pope Francis appeals to us: "The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change" (#13). CCC: 337-349</p> <p>Possible Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is your party's plan to care for our common home? To address carbon emissions?• Are you and your party open to working with the best scientific research to fight climate change?



<p>Work and the Economy:</p> <p>People before profits! Many Canadians are finding it difficult to find jobs that offer stability and a living wage. Precarious employment and low income can result in people having to live from paycheque to paycheque, underemployment, or unemployment. The economy must serve people. CCC: 2426-2436</p> <p>Possible Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your party promote a ‘people first’ economic plan? • How will your party’s policies ensure that all workers will have rights to productive work, decent and fair wages, and safe working conditions? 	<p>Poverty and Homelessness:</p> <p>Poverty and homelessness affect many in our communities. Some are forced to spend their days in search of basic needs (food, shelter, clothing, health care, work), making it difficult to develop or share their gifts. Unfortunately, we can fail to recognize and enjoy their talents. Poverty not only hurts its victims—our brothers and sisters—but also the whole community. CCC: 2443-2449</p> <p>Possible Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your party support policies and practices that provide the structures to address and combat poverty? • Will your party continue to support the Child Benefit and its positive impact on family incomes and thus the reduction of child poverty? • Does your party support the goals of the National Housing Strategy to reduce homelessness by 50% by 2027-2028? 	<p>Welcoming newcomers to Canada:</p> <p>Many of our brothers and sisters are forced to flee from their homes and seek refuge in other countries. Pope Francis, in his 2019 message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees, reminds us that we are called to welcome, protect, promote and integrate those who seek to come to our country. CCC: 1911 & 2241</p> <p>Possible Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your party’s plans to welcome, protect, promote and integrate those who seek refuge and/or wish to migrate to Canada? • How will you protect our brothers and sisters from being victims of human trafficking?
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Please be informed and, on October 21, vote!

For more reflections for Catholics on the important matter of choosing people for political office, we invite you to visit <http://acbo.on.ca/download/choosing-government> and [https://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/2019 Federal Election Guide.pdf](https://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/2019_Federal_Election_Guide.pdf).

