



## **Response from the Liberal Party of Canada**

### **Question 1: Economic Competitiveness**

We will take bold steps to make free trade within Canada a reality. Across Canada, the livelihoods of millions of workers depend on the good trade deals we have negotiated with our trading partners. And while Canada is a leader when it comes to international trade – we are the only G7 country to have free trade agreements with all other G7 nations – there is still more work to be done to make sure people benefit from greater trade right here at home.

Building on 2017's Canadian Free Trade Agreement and more recent efforts to break down the barriers that limit trade between provinces and territories, we will move forward with new collaborative rules to streamline trade by promoting mutual recognition of standards from coast to coast to coast. This could mean, for example, that a professional who is licensed in one province is more easily able to work or practice in another.

We will actively assert federal jurisdiction where needed, to help move forward with free trade within Canada, and will create a Canada Free Trade Tribunal to hear, investigate, and help resolve cases where domestic trade barriers may exist.

We will seek out more opportunities for exporting companies to succeed, grow, and create more good jobs. As the only G7 country with free trade agreements with all other G7 nations, and with comprehensive trade deals that give our businesses access to billions of customers around the world, Canada is uniquely positioned to help our businesses succeed and grow.

To help create more opportunities and more good jobs, we will move forward with new investments to promote Canada's global brand and make sure that our companies have the support they need to break into new markets. We will also look for opportunities for increased collaboration between our talented scientists, researchers, and innovators and those in other G7 countries and advanced economies. And to make sure that Canadian exporters have the help they need when they need it, we will give Canadian companies facing commercial or trade disputes abroad immediate, on-the-ground help through a Canada Commercial Counsellor Service.

We will help exporters who face commercial or trade disputes abroad. Last year, we set an ambitious goal to increase Canada's exports by 50 per cent by 2025. It's a goal within our reach, but with protectionism on the rise around the world, Canada's exporters are vulnerable to unfair practices by other countries who don't respect rules-based trade. Large corporations may have the resources to resolve these challenges in court, but the same isn't always true for small or medium-sized businesses, especially those who are new to international trade. Just as our embassies support people when they get into challenging circumstances abroad, we need to protect the interests of Canadian companies. To help Canadian companies who encounter significant trade disputes around the world, we will move forward with a Canada Commercial Consular Service to help connect companies with local legal assistance and support.

We will make sure that Indigenous communities directly benefit from major resource projects. From ore to oil to natural gas, Canada is rich in natural resources – but for too long, the original caretakers of this land have been excluded from the benefits that come along with developing those resources. To ensure that Indigenous communities directly benefit from major resource projects in their territories, we will move forward with a new national benefits-sharing framework.

We will create more opportunities for Indigenous-led businesses to succeed. Across the country, Indigenous-led businesses are helping to create jobs, build strong communities, and make real progress on the important work of economic reconciliation. But there is more we can do to ensure their success. To create more opportunities for these businesses to succeed and grow, we will move forward with a new target to have at least five percent of federal contracts awarded to businesses led by Indigenous Peoples.

## **Question 2: Jobs and Skills Training**

### ***Creating Jobs and Enhancing Skills Training***

We invested in Canadians over these past four years, and in turn they invested in their communities – creating more than a million new jobs, and driving Canada’s unemployment and poverty rates to record lows

We will continue to help all workers get the skills they need to succeed. For generations, middle class Canadians and those working hard to join them could be assured that with a good job came a good quality of life. Families were able to pay their bills, save for their retirement, and set aside money for their kids’ education. Today, the evolving nature of work means that people may change jobs many times over the course of their working lives, presenting workers with a new challenge: how to get the training they need to keep their existing jobs, or prepare for a new one. To help give people the time and money they need to keep their skills relevant and in-demand, we will move forward with the Canada Training Benefit, which gives workers money to help pay for training, provides income support during training, and will also offer job protection so that workers can take the time they need for training, knowing they will have a job to come back to when their training is done.

We understand the issue of the skilled-labour shortage and since 2015, the government, under the leadership of the Liberals have been filling these shortages by:

- Investing \$46 million over five years to develop and enhance pre-apprenticeship training.
  
- Supporting an Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women, by investing \$19.9 million in a five year pilot project where women in maledominated Red Seal trades would receive a new grant of \$3,000 for each of their first two years of training. This, in combination with the existing Apprenticeship Completion Grant valued at \$2,000, will result in combined \$8,000 in support

over the course of their training in becoming welders, pipefitters, or any other skilled trade worker.

- Launching the Women in Construction Fund by investing \$10 million over three years from existing resources.

A re-elected Liberal government will help Red Seal apprentices get the work experience they need to finish their certification and find good, well-paying jobs. People in the skilled trades are a vital part of our economy – helping to build our homes, feed our families, and keep our communities powered and moving – but too often, apprentices miss out on good jobs because they can't get the job experience they need to complete their training on time. Today, only one out of five Red Seal apprentices are able to complete their certification on time, with the lack of stable jobs cited as the most common reason. This is true even for trades where workers typically earn more than \$100,000 per year. To give apprentices more certainty and more opportunities to gain work experience, we will move forward with creating the Canadian Apprenticeship Service, in partnership with provinces, territories, employers, and unions. With this new help, apprentices who enter the Red Seal trades can be more confident about the future, knowing that jobs will be available when they need them. To support this effort, we will work with our partners to create more opportunities, providing up to \$10,000 per apprentice, over four years, for every new position created. This investment will help 12,500 more apprentices finish their training on time.

We will also lead by example – directly hiring up to an additional 250 apprentices each year, requiring that government suppliers participate in the Canadian Apprenticeship Service, and requiring that federal construction contracts meet targets for greater inclusion of women in the trades.

Since 2015 we have invested \$25 million annually in the Union Training and Innovation Program (UTIP) to help unions purchase up-to-date training equipment, develop innovative approaches to improve apprenticeship outcomes, and increase the representation of women in the trades.

### ***Supporting the Participation of Indigenous and Underrepresented Groups***

Across the country, Indigenous-led businesses are helping to create jobs, build strong communities, and make real progress on the important work of economic reconciliation. But there is more we can do to ensure their success. We are committed to working with First Nations partners to continue to increase First Nations participation in the Canadian economy. To create more opportunities for these businesses to succeed and grow, we will move forward with a new target to have at least five percent of federal contracts awarded to businesses led by Indigenous Peoples.

Every First Nation child deserves the best start in life, and this starts with a high-quality and culturally-appropriate education. We have invested nearly \$1 billion to build and renovate First Nations schools. To date, 60 projects have been completed, and another 60 are underway, with 240 First Nations communities benefiting from this work.

With a new co-developed education framework, we finally started funding First Nations K-12 education on an equitable basis compared with non-Indigenous children. Plus, we're funding language and cultural programs, full-time kindergarten and special education. As National Chief Bellegarde has said, "This is a significant step toward closing the gap in education outcomes for First Nations children and students."

We also increased funds available through the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program, which was co-developed with Indigenous partners to provide greater flexibility for organizations to design programming to meet the needs of their people and communities. Our new distinctions-based strategy recognizes, respects and reflects Canada's Indigenous peoples, but also addresses urban/non-affiliated service delivery needs.

We will improve equality in Canada's job market. Our economy is strong and growing, with more than a million new jobs created since we came into office. While that is good news for people looking for work, it's little comfort to anyone who finds good opportunities out of reach because of their gender, race, ability, or other intersectional identity factors. To help more visible minority newcomer women find and keep a good job, we will build on the research, support and employment projects announced earlier this year, and move forward with an additional \$9 million investment over three years. To ensure that racialized and Indigenous young people face fewer barriers at the beginning of their working lives, we will both enhance the Youth Employment Strategy and ensure that the upcoming State of Youth reports take an intersectional approach that includes race. We will also work with economic development, agricultural and trade organizations to ensure that underrepresented communities are better served and more informed about the programs and services that can help them find and keep good, middle class jobs.

### **Question 3: Immigration**

#### ***Economic Immigration***

Immigration helps to make Canada more diverse – and more successful. In communities across the country, new Canadians work hard – teaching our children, caring for us when we're sick, starting new businesses, and creating good jobs. To keep our economy strong and growing, we will move forward with modest and responsible increases to immigration, with a focus on welcoming highly skilled people who can help build a stronger Canada. We expect to welcome 350,000 immigrants by 2021, 202,300 of which will be in the economic class. We are committed to continual growth in the economic classes. We introduced multi-year immigration level planning to ensure that provinces and stakeholders have predictability and certainty.

### ***Processing Times for Economic Immigrants***

We are proud to have maintained a six-month processing time for federal economic immigrants under express entry. Since forming government, we have increased the number of economic immigrants coming in through the Provincial Nominee Program. We anticipate welcoming 71,300 immigrants through that stream in 2021. These increases have driven down processing times in PNP, and we are proud to have maintained a six month service standard for PNP immigrants coming in through provincial/territorial enhanced streams.

### ***Meeting the Immigration Needs of Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises***

To keep our economy strong and growing, we will move forward with modest and responsible increases to immigration, with a focus on welcoming highly skilled people who can help build a stronger Canada.

We know that Canada has immense potential in innovation and we need to ensure that the small- and medium-sized enterprises are able to attract global talent to grow. That is why we introduced a new Global Skills Strategy to help fill skills gaps by providing businesses with a quick and reliable process to access to global talent. The strategy has:

- Reduced processing times for highly skilled workers to as little as 14 days;
- Approved over 3,265 applications for high skilled immigrants;
- Created 40,833 jobs and 9,732 paid coop positions;
- Leveraged over \$87.9 million for training.

In Budget 2019 we have invested \$35.2 million over five years and \$7.44 million per year ongoing to make this pilot project permanent and ensure that Canadian employers have access to the global talent they need to grow their businesses and create good jobs for Canadians.

### ***Supporting Settlement Services***

Our government is committed to helping newcomers integrate and succeed in Canada. With the right supports, immigrants are able to get to work, help build up our communities, and grow our local economies in short order. We have increased funding for settlement services across Canada by 30%. The recent call for proposals funded 782 settlement and 40 resettlement projects across the country.

### ***Meeting Provincial and Territorial Immigration Needs***

We recognize that different provinces and territories have different immigration needs, and we are committed to working with the Provinces and Territories to address them. This is why we have been creating new programs for communities to determine the immigrants their workforce needs. Our government will increase the Provincial Nominee Program by 52% to 71,300 by 2021 to better respond to regional labour market needs.

To make sure that communities of all sizes are better able to attract and support new Canadians, we will move forward with a Municipal Nominee Program. This program will allow local communities, chambers of commerce, and local labour councils to directly sponsor permanent immigrants.

In order to continue to support greater immigration and economic growth across Atlantic Canada, we will move forward with making the Atlantic Immigration Pilot permanent. A minimum of 5,000 of the new spaces will be dedicated to each of the Municipal Nominee Program and the Atlantic immigration stream.

#### **Question 4: Healthcare Sustainability and Innovation**

We will strengthen health care and make sure all Canadians get the high-quality care they deserve. For more than a decade, Conservative inaction put the future of our public health care system at risk. We reversed that worrisome trend, moving forward with new health accords, investing billions more, and making sure that home care and mental health services have the funding they need to make a real difference in people's lives. We will continue to collaborate with the provinces and territories to move forward with more accessible care, shorter wait times, and better health outcomes, and we will:

- make sure that every Canadian has access to a family doctor or primary health care team, improving the quality of care for the nearly five million Canadians who today lack access;
- set clear national standards for access to mental health services so Canadians can get the support they need quickly, when they need it most;
- continue to make home care and palliative care more available across the country; and
- take the critical next steps to implement national universal pharmacare so that all Canadians have the drug coverage they need at an affordable price.

We will back up these commitments with an additional commitment of \$6 billion over the next four years, tied to outcomes and negotiated with the provinces and territories.

#### **Question 5: Climate Change**

Our government helped to spur global ambition and strengthen resolve by pushing for the 1.5°C objective into the Paris Agreement in 2015, which has guided our climate policy ever since. The 1.5°C limit matters for Canada, which is warming at twice the global average – and at three times the global average in the north. The 1.5°C limit is even more essential for poorer

countries, which often lack adequate resources to adapt to climate change. That's why Canada has committed over \$2.6 billion to support climate action in developing countries, which is double what the previous government committed.

Under the previous government, Canadians heard a lot about climate targets but saw virtually no action to meet them. We took the opposite approach, getting straight to work on actions to cut pollution. We negotiated Canada's first-ever national climate plan, and we've been working every day since to implement it.

In the past four years, that approach has delivered the largest ever projected cut to Canada's emissions. And while that's a big step, we know there's much more to do. The Paris Agreement requires us to increase our ambition over time, and that's exactly what we'll do – through legislation, regulations, smart policies, and international commitment and leadership.

That's why a re-elected Liberal government would adopt a net-zero GHG target for Canada for 2050. We would immediately appoint an expert advisory panel to recommend pathways to reach the 2050 target, and we would develop a plan to achieve it drawing on their recommendations, as well as on consultations with Canadians in all sectors and regions of the country. This will build off of the Generation Energy Report, which is a roadmap for Canada's Clean energy transition over the next 25 years. We have also committed to put our net-zero 2050 target into law, and to legislate a series of five-year carbon budgets starting in 2025 to attain the 2050 target. The carbon budget trajectory will draw on the recommendations of the expert panel and consultations with Canadians.

And to help us get there, a re-elected Liberal government will build on Canada's climate plan by introducing a series of new measures to further cut pollution, notably by strengthening existing rules to cut emissions from Canada's biggest polluters, including oil and gas. We will ensure Canada leads and succeeds in zero-emissions clean tech by cutting corporate taxes in half for businesses developing or manufacturing zero emissions technologies.

We will cut energy waste and energy bills by:

- Providing free energy audits to homeowners and landowners, and up to \$40,000 in interest-free loans for green renovations;
- Providing a Net Zero Homes Grant of up to \$5,000 to Canadians purchasing newly built energy efficient homes;
- Retrofitting 1.5 million homes to support Canadians in making their homes more energy efficient, and better protecting them from climate-related risks;
- Investing \$100 million in skills training, to ensure there are enough qualified workers to keep up with energy audits, retrofits, and net-zero home construction;
- Making Energy Star certification mandatory for all new home appliances starting in 2022;
- Moving forward with a competition to create four \$100-million long-term funds to help attract capital that can be used for deep retrofits of large buildings, such as office towers.

We will make clean, affordable power available in every Canadian community by:

- Moving forward with new clean electricity generation and transmission systems;

- Creating a new \$5-billion Clean Power Fund that will support electrification projects and the transition of northern, remote, and Indigenous communities off reliance on diesel-fueled power and onto clean, renewable, reliable industry;

We will also continue to make it easier and more affordable for people to use zero-emissions vehicles by:

- Installing up to 5,000 charging stations along the Trans Canada Highway, and in other major road networks to cover Canada's urban, rural, and Northern areas, as well as in apartments and condominiums. This will complete the work we started in our first mandate and enable Canadians to travel coast to coast electrically;
- Expanding our \$5,000 electric vehicle incentive to cover used zero-emissions vehicles;
- Requiring that new federal investments in public transit are used to support zero-emission buses and rail systems starting in 2023;
- Creating a new fund to help school boards and municipalities purchase 5,000 zero-emissions school and transit buses over the next five years;
- And exploring measures to support the conversion of business fleets, such as those used by taxi and courier companies, and industrial vehicles, like mining trucks.

Harnessing the power of nature is critical to succeeding in the fight against climate change. That is why we will also set new, ambitious targets in protecting more of Canada's lands and oceans. By 2025, we will protect 25% of our lands and 25% of our oceans. And by 2030, we will protect 30% of our lands, and 30% of our oceans. In that same vein, we will also move forward with an ambitious plan to plant two billion trees over 10 years and to invest in other nature-based solutions, which will cut an estimated 30 Mt of emissions.

We know there is more to do, and we will continue to look for opportunities to do more with Canadians. During our last mandate, we also provided \$20 million over four years for an independent expert institute on climate change, which will inform future governments about best practices in emission reductions to achieve Canada's target. The newly created Canadian Centre for Energy Information will provide publicly available modelling, forecasting and foresighting of energy data aligned to the Paris Agreement.

As we move forward with developing net-zero legislation, we will carefully consider how we ensure that we are growing our economy today in a manner that is consistent with achieving a net-zero future. Further, by legislating net-zero and five-year milestones, we will provide important transparency for businesses so that they can plan long-life assets to be consistent with national climate goals and our international climate action commitments.

Our government is a strong supporter of transparency about emission reductions and pathways. The proposed actions noted above build on our track-record in this area. We were one of the first governments in the world to complete a long-term low-carbon development strategy under the Paris Agreement. As mentioned above, we also provided \$20 million over four years for an independent expert institute on climate change, which will inform future governments about best practices in emission reductions to achieve Canada's target.



## ***Disaster Assistance and Mitigation***

The cost of climate change is undeniable. In Canada, we've paid out more in the last six years in response to floods and wildfires than we have in the past 40 years combined – and that doesn't include the financial and emotional toll that disasters take on people, when crops go unplanted and homes are destroyed

Building on the \$2 billion we have already invested in helping communities prepare for and prevent weather related disasters like floods and fires, we will move forward with an additional \$1 billion investment over the next decade in the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, so communities have a proactive, permanent and sustainable way to address the emerging threats of climate change.

## ***Question 6. Strengthening Canada's Position in the Arctic***

In Canada's north, we will continue to move forward toward a future where northern and Arctic people are thriving, strong, and safe. We will work closely with our partners through the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework to make this a reality, and to protect Canada's rights and sovereignty in the Arctic, and to strengthen continental defence, we will move forward with better-developed surveillance and rapid-response capabilities. We will also provide international leadership on the rules governing the use and navigation of Arctic waters.

Co-developing the new Arctic and Northern Policy Framework became a bold opportunity to shape and direct change in the region by collaborating with governments, northerners and Indigenous governments and organizations. Engagement was not enough to meet the challenges and harness emerging opportunities in the Arctic and North. In a significant shift, the federal government, Inuit, First Nations and Métis, 6 territorial and provincial governments (Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, and Manitoba) contributed to this framework together. To realize the promise of the Arctic and North, this new approach puts the future into the hands of the people who live there. The Framework and partner chapters will form the foundation for future discussions as work on the Framework enters its next phase, which focuses on the co-development of implementation and governance. We are committed to moving towards more integrated federal-territorial-provincial and Indigenous approaches to challenges and opportunities in Canada's Arctic and North.

## ***How will you empower and work with Indigenous peoples, communities, and governments in the region?***

We recognize that 'made in Ottawa' policies have not been successful in the Arctic and North. For the federal government, the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework's goals will guide investments and activities, through 2030. Implementing the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework will require collaborative approaches. Through the co-development of the framework, and by working in partnership to realize its vision and implement its goals and

objectives, this initiative will advance reconciliation and renew Canada's relationship with Inuit, First Nations, Métis and support the non-Indigenous residents of Canada's Arctic and North. The Framework and partner chapters will form the foundation for future discussions as work towards implementation and a more integrated federal-territorial-provincial and Indigenous approaches to challenges and opportunities in Canada's Arctic and North.

***What kind of approach will you take to invest in Canada's Arctic and the populations that live there?***

The Arctic and Northern Policy Framework and partner chapters will form the foundation for future discussions as we co-development implementation and move towards more integrated federal-territorial-provincial and Indigenous approaches to challenges and opportunities in Canada's Arctic and North. However, our government has already begun to realize the Framework's vision of thriving, strong and safe communities, and made progress on the priorities identified in the chapters developed by Indigenous, territorial and provincial partners.

For example, new transportation infrastructure funding has been identified by all Northern partners as crucial to improving safety and fostering economic and social development. Canada is already investing \$71.7 million in federal funding through Canada's National Trade Corridors Fund for four Nunavut transportation projects, including preparatory work on the Grays Bay Road and Port Project and an expansion of the Rankin Inlet airport terminal building capacity. Planning for the proposed Taltson hydroelectricity expansion project in the Northwest Territories, identified as a priority infrastructure project by the Northwest Territories, is funded through Budget 2019 starting this year. This year in Yukon we announced \$9.3 million for the three projects to support modern water and wastewater infrastructure in the territory. As part of its commitment to support new protection for the High Arctic and create opportunities for Inuit, our government is also providing infrastructure investments totaling over \$190 million to build multi-use buildings, food processing units and harbours.

Over the last two years our government has signed 10-year agreements with the governments of Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut under the National Housing Strategy, which will invest almost \$395 million from the federal government in the territories to protect, renew and expand social and community housing, and support the territorial priorities related to housing repair, construction, and affordability. These investments are in addition to previously planned federal housing investments of almost \$424 million in the territories through the Social Housing Agreement (SHA) over the next 10 years. We are also working in partnership with Northerners on the design and implementation of a new Canada Housing Benefit in each of the territories to provide affordability support to families and individuals in housing need<sup>[u1]</sup>. Over the last four years we have also announced historic direct Inuit housing investments (\$80 million and \$400 million respectively) to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Makivik Corporation and the Nunatsiavut government. These investments complement direct and indirect investments through existing multilateral or bilateral (federal / provincial-territorial) agreements intended to help address the significant housing needs in Inuit Nunangat. We are also committed to

addressing critical infrastructure needs in Inuit communities across Inuit Nunangat by 2030 and providing new investments to support the ongoing operation and maintenance of this infrastructure.

We will move forward with building a fully connected Canada, ensuring our rural, remote and northern communities will have high speed internet. Earlier this year, we set a national target to ensure that 95 per cent of Canadian homes and businesses by 2026, and 100 per cent by 2030, no matter where they are located in the country. To make travel more affordable for everyone in the North, we will move forward with improvements to the Northern Resident Deduction, giving people living in the Northern Zone at least \$1,200 in deductible travel costs, with \$600 in deductible travel costs for people in the Intermediate Zone.

A re-elected Liberal government will build upon our tangible investments in the Arctic and North over the past four years as we co-develop the implementation of the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework, which will guide future federal investment.

### **Question 7: Advancing Recognition with Indigenous Peoples**

Over the last four years we have made building a new relationship with Indigenous Peoples – one based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership – a true priority. That work must continue to move forward. We will continue work to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls’ Calls for Justice, in partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We will also continue to support Indigenous-led processes for rebuilding and reconstituting their nations, advancing self-determination and, for First Nations, the transition away from the *Indian Act*. To ensure timely and just resolution to specific claims, we will continue ongoing work with First Nations to re-design federal policies on additions-to-reserves, and the Specific Claims process. We will continue to make progress on Indigenous priorities, meeting regularly through the Assembly of First Nations – Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Priorities, the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, and the Métis Accord. We will also host a First Ministers Meeting on First Nations, Inuit, and Métis priorities, and continue to advance meaningful inclusion of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners in federal and inter-governmental decision-making processes that have an impact on Indigenous rights and interests.

We will also move forward with introducing co-developed legislation to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as government legislation by the end of 2020. In this work, we will ensure that this legislation fully respects the intent of the Declaration, and establishes Bill C-262 as the floor, rather than the ceiling, when it comes to drafting this new legislation. To ensure that Canada implements the spirit and intent of Treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements, we will move forward with a new co-developed distinctions-based process for the ongoing review, maintenance, and enforcement of Canada’s treaty obligations between the Crown and Indigenous communities.

This work will be supported by a new National Treaty Commissioner's Office which will be designed and established with Indigenous partners.

***What is your plan and funding commitment to measurably improve the quality of life in Indigenous communities? How will you address the findings of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and support implementation of the Calls to Justice?***

The Liberal Party is committed to ending the ongoing national tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. Upon forming government, we took immediate action, launching an independent public inquiry – the first of its kind – so that the families and loved ones could finally get the answers they have been waiting for. Our response to the Inquiry's interim report was substantive and included investments in women's shelters, housing, education, safety on the Highway of Tears, and reform of Indigenous child welfare. It also included nearly \$50 million in new funding to provide health and support services to survivors and their families; for a national investigative body at the RCMP, and to support a review of police policies and practices. We thank the Commission of Inquiry for its final report, identifying systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls, and for their substantive recommendations regarding a path forward. We are committed to working collaboratively with partners to develop a national action plan – as called for by the Inquiry – to implement its calls for justice, which is distinctions-based and flexible.

**Question 8: Canadian Federalism**

Our government is committed to working with provincial and territorial governments to increase opportunities for Canadians and make our communities stronger and more prosperous.

We have held three First Ministers Meetings in three and a half years—something the Harper Conservatives never did during their entire majority government.

The First Ministers' Meeting was an important opportunity for the Prime Minister and Premiers to discuss how we can create jobs and economic growth that benefit all Canadians across the country. We are proud of the progress that we have made together, including 2017's Canadian Free Trade Agreement, and look forward to working collaboratively with our provincial and territorial partners if reelected.