

# 2021 Federal Election

## SUMMARY OF PARTIES' PLATFORMS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Business owners deserve to know exactly where each party stands on the issues that matter to them.

CFIB's policy experts reviewed the platforms put forward by the 6 major federal parties and compiled their key aspects — positive and more worrisome — that affect independent business to assist you in making an informed decision this election.



As a non-partisan organization, the *Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)* has devoted itself to defending the interests of small and medium-sized businesses for the past 50 years. As we have always done, we are committed to working with whichever party forms government to ensure that our members' views are reflected in public policy. Visit [cfib.ca/federalelection](https://cfib.ca/federalelection) for more information.

The Liberal Party logo features a red maple leaf above the word "Liberal" in a bold, red, serif font.**POSITIVE**

- Extend Canada Recovery Hiring Program (CRHP) to March 2022. CRHP provides up to 50% of the incremental increase in the cost of staffing since Spring 2021 (eg. wage increases, more hours worked or bringing on new staff) for businesses that continue to experience revenue losses.
- Provide temporary support of up to 75% of wage and rent expenses for those in the tourism industry until May 31, 2022. Subsidies will be commensurate with revenue loss and are only for those with a revenue loss of 40% or more.
- Match ticket sales for performing arts, live theatres and other cultural venues to compensate for reduced capacity until May 2022.

**WORRISOME**

- Introduce 10 days of paid sick leave for federally-regulated workers through amendments to Labour Code. Will convene provinces and territories to discuss legislating sick leave across the country.
- No plan to extend the wage and rent subsidies for businesses outside of tourism and no plan to provide any support to new businesses.

[ACCESS THE FULL PARTY PLATFORM](#)The Conservative Party logo features a blue circle with a red maple leaf inside, followed by the word "CONSERVATIVE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.**POSITIVE**

- Introduce the Job Surge Plan by paying up to 50% of the salary of new hires (based on how long they have been unemployed) for 6 months following end of CEWS. Will be available to all businesses, not just those established pre-pandemic.
- Launch Main Street Business Loan (an expanded CEBA) to provide loans of up to \$200,000 with up to 25% forgivable depending on the business' revenue loss.
- Appoint a minister responsible for Red Tape.

**WORRISOME**

- Introduce EI-like payments for businesses employing gig workers/contractors and on the self-employed.
- No plan to extend the wage and rent subsidies.

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### POSITIVE

- Maintain wage and CERS rent subsidies until businesses are able to fully reopen.
- Introduce hiring bonus that pays the employer portion of EI and CPP for new or rehired staff.
- Provide a single point of contact to help ease regulatory processes and support compliance.



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### WORRISOME

- Increase capital gains inclusion rate from 50% to 75%.
- Increase general corporate tax rate from 15% to 18%.



### POSITIVE

- Extend the wage and rent subsidies until COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions are fully lifted.
- Reduce the paperwork burden on small businesses by eliminating duplicative tax filings and red tape.
- Hold taxation at no more than 9%.



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### WORRISOME

- Accelerate the increase in carbon taxes. Beginning in 2022 and up to 2030, increase carbon taxes by \$25 per tonne each year.
- Introduce guaranteed livable income.



## POSITIVE

- Eliminate the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) except in those sectors where recovery remains slow.
- Lengthen the amount of time needed to repay loans provided during pandemic.
- Lower credit card fees.



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*Available in french only.*

## WORRISOME

- No plans to prolong current emergency relief subsidies (CEWS/CERS), even among the hardest hit sectors (only mentioned for seasonal businesses).
- No mention of addressing red tape and paper burden for small businesses (just that personal income tax forms should be combined into 1 form).



## POSITIVE

- Get rid of the deficit by the end of a first mandate through fiscal prudence and spending cuts.
- Cut personal income taxes, corporate taxes, and the personal capital gains tax after the deficit has been eliminated.
- Appoint a Minister of Internal Trade whose responsibility will be to put pressure on provincial governments to get rid of interprovincial barriers.



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## WORRISOME

- Phase out all COVID programs (such as the wage and rent subsidy).
- Substantially lower the total number of immigrants Canada accepts every year and limit the number of temporary foreign workers.