

PARTY PLATFORMS: IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURALISM 2015 ELECTION

Liberal	NDP	Conservative
General		
	Create an ombudsperson for the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to investigate complaints and monitor human rights.	
Immigration		
	Reduce wait times by increasing resources to reduce the huge backlogs in processing applications.	Continue to make the immigration system faster, more flexible, and more responsive to the needs of Canada's economy.
Double budget for family sponsorship	Speeding up family reunification, specifically the reunion of children with their parents.	Provide increased funding to Citizenship and Immigration Canada to clear this backlog over a two-year period.
Additional points for applicants who have Canadian siblings under Express Entry		
Double parents and grandparents to 10,000 per year		Increase intake of applications for the parents and grandparents sponsorship program, as the backlog and processing times continue to decrease.
Restore maximum age for dependants to 22 from 19		
Immediate permanent residency for spouses (eliminate 2-year waiting period)		

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Waive Labour Market Impact Assessment fee for caregivers for families with members having physical or mental disabilities		
	Restoring \$30 million for the Foreign Credential Recognition Program	Double foreign credential recognition (FCR) loans and setting a goal of providing as many as 20,000 FCR loans over the next four years.
	Offering grants to professional bodies to develop harmonized standards for credential recognition with a single point of contact.	Work with the provinces and territories to improve the service standards for accreditation decisions for target, high-demand occupations under the Framework from one year to 60 days.
	Reaching out to potential immigrants seeking employment by holding more orientation sessions.	
	Make the visitor visa system more transparent and accountable, including by creating an appeal process.	
	In consultation with communities, provinces and territories, introduce a comprehensive action plan to foster immigration to Francophone minority communities across the country.	

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Refugees		
		Continue to be a world leader in refugee protection.
Expand intake of Syrian refugees to 25,000 through immediate government sponsorship	Resettle 10,000 Syrian refugees in Canada by the end of this year. Welcome 9,000 Syrian refugees per year starting in 2016.	Accept 10,000 more persecuted Syrian and Iraqi refugees fleeing the brutality of ISIS.
Provide additional funding of \$250 million, \$100 m to UNHCR	Create a Syrian Refugee Coordinator to expedite and coordinate the efforts of the government, and eliminate barriers to speedy resettlement.	Provide further humanitarian assistance through the Syria Emergency Relief Fund to match individual donations from Canadians up to \$100 million.
		Take further action to support the victims of child, early, and forced marriage, particularly in the “rape camps” and slave markets of Iraq and Syria, by establishing a new DFATD program.
Fully restore the Interim Federal Health Care Program for refugees	Fully restore the Interim Federal Health Care Program for refugees	
Establish expert human rights panel to determine designated countries of origin	Reverse the Conservatives’ discriminatory changes to refugee determination and ensure that every refugee claimant receives a fair and unbiased hearing.	

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Citizenship		
Restore pre-Permanent Resident time for international students and other temporary residents	Mandate an independent review of Temporary Foreign Worker program to determine whether the program is meeting its goals and to put an end to any abuse. All TFWs, current and future, will have the ability to access a path to citizenship	
		Reintroduce and pass the Oath of Citizenship Act requiring citizenship candidates to be seen and heard when reciting the Oath in community with others, to confirm their commitment as new citizens to Canada's laws and values.
		Enact “Declared Areas” legislation to prosecute foreign fighters
		Modernize the definition of High Treason to include fighting against the Canadian Armed Forces alongside jihadist terror groups.

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Multiculturalism		
		Support persecuted religious minorities around the world
Prioritize community outreach and counter-radicalization by creating the Office of the Community Outreach and Counter-radicalization Co-ordinator	Prioritize de-radicalization efforts to protect Canada's youth from ISIS recruitment by creating a National Coordinator who will work in cooperation with local communities.	Continue to address the growing problem of terrorist radicalization and violent extremism among Canadian youth by renewing funding for the Kanishka Project for another five years.
		Establish a tip line allowing Canadians to alert the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to suspected cases of female genital mutilation, so-called honour killings, polygamy, and early and forced marriages.
		Mandate the integrated teams of Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, and Vancouver to investigate these cases.
	Enacting legislation to ensure consistent and non-discriminatory provision of consular services to all Canadians abroad.	Fund a new three-year program within the Office of Religious Freedom to support persecuted religious minorities in the Middle East, and to protect their places of worship and priceless artifacts at risk of destruction.

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Other		
Immediately restore the mandatory long-form census to give communities the information they need to best serve Canadians.	Immediately moving to restore the long-form census and provide the necessary funding to ensure it can be included in the 2016 census	
Include an equal number of women and men in our Cabinet.	Mandate that half of all government appointments to the boards of Crown corporations and government agencies are women.	
Ensure that federal departments are conducting the gender-based impact analyses that have been required of them for the past 20 years.	Require that publicly traded, federally regulated companies have a minimum of 40% women on their boards.	

Notes:

- Only written commitments were used. Campaign statements, interviews, debate remarks were not included as they are ‘softer’ commitments than the official party platform.
- To ensure — or at least minimize — omissions, a search for key words in each platform was used. Key words included citizenship, multiculturalism, integration, radicalization, extremism, equity, equality and accommodation.
- Commitments were edited for brevity purposes.
- Where possible, similar commitments by the parties were placed side-by-side for comparison purposes. Blank spaces mean no commitment.

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Compiled by Andrew Griffith, contact info:

Email: agriffith232@gmail.com
LinkedIn: [Andrew L Griffith](#)
Twitter: [@Andrew_Griffith](#)
Blog: [Multicultural Meanderings](#)
Facebook: [Andrew Griffith C&M](#)
Books: [My Author Spotlight](#)