

DELTA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

11. Regarding jobs, what are your plans to create opportunities of employment that pay a living wage?

As of the end of August 2020, Canada has recovered over 94% of the 3.3 million jobs lost during the pandemic. In fact, all the jobs lost in BC have been recovered – and even more have been created. This is a sign that our economy is healthy and rebounding well.

But many people remain unemployed, and many people who are working are not making enough to make ends meet.

That is why a re-elected Liberal government will continue to invest in skill development, job creation and business growth. We will support sectors that have not yet recovered. We will extend the Canada Recovery Hiring Program until March 2022 so that businesses can continue to hire and offer workers more hours.

Our platform commitment is to go beyond just recovering the jobs lost during the pandemic. We will create new jobs - including green jobs, jobs in the digital economy, jobs in health care, and jobs in the skilled trades.

And finally, because too often low-income workers, including full-time workers earning minimum wage, live below the poverty line, we will continue to expand the Canada Workers Benefit to support about 1 million additional Canadians in low-wage jobs, helping them return to work and increasing benefits for Canada's most vulnerable, who will be eligible for up to \$1,400 a year.

12. The Liberal government tabled legislation to create the Canada disability benefit in June of this year. If you are elected, would you re-introduce and implement this benefit to help Canadians with disabilities living in poverty?

Yes absolutely. As part of our historic Disability Inclusion Action Plan, a re-elected Liberal government will re-introduce and implement the Canada Disability Benefit Act, which will create a direct monthly payment for low-income Canadians with disabilities ages 18-64. This will reduce poverty amongst persons with disabilities in the same way the Guaranteed Income

Supplement and the Canada Child Benefit have reduced poverty among seniors and families with children.

The Canada Disability Benefit is the flagship element of our Disability Inclusion Action plan, which will also include an employment strategy for persons with disabilities and a modernization of the Government of Canada's approach to disability services and programs. This includes changing the way we determine eligibility for disability related programs and benefits, based on a modern and dignified approach. This will make federal disability supports more accessible to more people. We are taking a human rights-based approach to disability inclusion within the Government of Canada and putting a disability lens on all government decision-making.

I was incredibly proud to have table Bill C-35 to create the Canada Disability Benefit in June 2021. And I will be equally as proud to see our Liberal government re-introduce and implement this legislation if re-elected.

13. What is your view on gun control? Do we need more or different legislation? Explain why.

American-style gun violence is on the rise in our country. It has to be stopped. In May 2020 we put a ban on the use, sale, or import of assault weapons most used in mass shootings and implemented a buyback program for owners. These were the kinds of guns used in the shootings at the Quebec mosque and in Nova Scotia: these are guns designed and built to kill people.

Conservatives will repeal this assault weapon ban - with the support of the gun lobby. Liberals believe even stronger action is needed to get weapons designed for mass casualties off our streets and out of our communities.

So, our 2021 platform goes even further, making it mandatory for banned assault rifle owners to sell their banned guns to the Government of Canada for a fair price or have the guns made inoperable by the Government of Canada. We will also make high-capacity magazines capable of holding no more than 5 bullets. And finally we will also set aside \$1 billion for provinces and territories who want to implement a handgun ban and keep their communities safe.

14. Many Canadians are astounded by the slow progress being made on solving the ongoing issues related to the Federal Government's Phoenix payroll system. In total, BILLIONS of taxpayer's dollars have been spent and YEARS have elapsed (two of which were under your watch as Minister of Public Services and Procurement) and yet the system is still flawed. Paycheques are months late, amounts paid are incorrect and the support systems either by phone or online to assist those individuals with problems are grossly inadequate. Being kept on hold literally for hours, being sent from person to person, hearing messages of 'there is no one here to take your call, leave a message' and 'sorry, we can't divulge that information', etc. are common complaints. What can you tell the voters to convince them that, if elected, the Liberals have finally 'figured it out' when it comes to fixing Phoenix?

The fact that many federal employees went so long without pay or were paid improperly due to a failure of an IT system remains completely unacceptable. I understand and sympathize with the impacts this had on the personal lives of so many, and appreciate greatly the professionalism of the public service, who kept showing up to work every day to serve Canadians even when they were facing such tough circumstances.

Over the years, the Liberal government worked closely with unions, experts and the private sector to find ways to stabilize the system and address the backlog of pay errors that had been generated. We literally left no stone unturned. We opened up Pay Centres and Call Centres, hired hundreds of employees, and launched an innovative approach to case resolution called the Pay Pod System. We worked closely with unions to provide compensation to effected workers.

I can assure you that the system has been stabilized. And we are working on developing a new human resources and pay system. While there remain some outstanding claims in the backlog, they will be resolved. And we are working to ensure that no new claims are added.