

4 PARTIES' 2008 ELECTION PLATFORMS FOR CHILDREN'S CARE AND WELL-BEING

Kids First is a non-partisan charitable organization, therefore we do not endorse any particular political party. We support any party taking steps that will improve children's well-being and support recognition and equitable treatment of parental child care.

At this time no party has a policy that treats all families equitably.

Every family is unique. Different situations—health, disabilities, type of paid work, finances, housing, schedules, preferences, children's ages, beliefs—may mean different parties positions better meet their concerns.

There are many other issues, and different voters will have different priorities. Many of these at least indirectly affect children and their parents also, but Kids First takes no position on them at this time: war, environment, medicare, corporate taxes, wages, manufacturing sector, trade, world poverty, North American integration, debt, arts, medical services, taxes, endangered species, electoral reform, infrastructure, crime, etc.

Here—in alphabetical order—are the parties (other than the Quebec-only Bloc Quebecois) child-related platforms.

4 Parties' Platforms (we regret any errors or omissions)

	CONSERVATIVE http://www.conservative.ca/EN/4739/	GREEN http://www.greenparty.ca/en/policy/vision/green/partfour#_Toc180047632	LIBERAL http://www.liberal.ca/pdf/platform/2008lp_action_plan_e.pdf	NDP http://www.ndp.ca/platform
FUNDING FAMILIES	<p>2006-NOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * initiated a tax credit worth \$310/child for each dependent child 0-18 * initiated a tax credit for children's sports * initiated the "Working Income Tax Benefit" for low-income families * increased the amount of the "spousal" and "eligible dependent" exemption and made them equal to the "personal" exemption * initiated "income splitting" for pension income <p>NEWLY PROPOSED POLICIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * self-employed parents can contribute to EI and then receive maternity/parental benefits * maintain \$1,200/yr UCCB, index it to inflation, and make it non-taxable for single parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * income splitting for all * "Value the decisions of parents who choose to stay home with children." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * maintain the \$100/month taxable UCCB * a new additional benefit for low income families worth up to \$1,225/child/yr age 0-18 * a new universal refundable tax credit worth \$350/child/yr ages 0-18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * a new Child Benefit of up to \$400/month modelled on the Child Tax Benefit combining existing benefits and credits including the UCCB and the CTB * get provinces to stop clawing back National Child Benefit supplement to families on welfare

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * income splitting for families caring for a disabled family member * tax credit for children's sports to be extended to arts programs 			
FUNDING DAYCARE CENTRES	<p>2006- now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * extended several agreements with the provinces that allow provinces to spend on daycare/preschool and increased funding to over \$2 billion/yr * business tax-credit for creation of daycare "spaces" * gave the provinces \$250 million in new money to spend on daycare "spaces" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * revamp 2005 Liberal daycare plan emphasizing "workplace child care" * "creation of workplace child care spaces through a direct tax credit to employers (or groups of employers in small businesses) of \$1,500 tax credit/child per year" 	* spend \$1.25 billion each yr creating daycare "spaces"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * pass the NDP's Early Learning and Childcare Bill C-303 * \$1.5 billion/yr to create 150,000 daycare "spaces" in the first yr and 220,000 by 4th yr. *Goal of a daycare space for every child who "needs" one
CHILD WELL-BEING and OTHER FAMILY RELATED POLICIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * banned baby bottles made of a toxic plastic * \$5,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * eliminate corporate tax write offs for advertising targeting children * stress importance of time parents spend with children and mothers' care * mention of breastfeeding in platform * "Promote and facilitate access to Roots of Empathy Programme to every Canadian child at some point in their elementary school years." 	* reduce child poverty by 50% in 5 yrs [how would this be measured and accomplished?]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * a Bring Canada Home program to increase affordable housing *a new home care benefit (to help pay for in-home non-family care of seniors) * limit children's exposure to "junk food" promotion to reduce obesity * a Children's Nutrition Initiative to increase school food programs * Implement new legislation to require all Canadian Internet Service providers to prevent the publication or proliferation of child sexual abuse content on the Internet. * Poverty Elimination Act: a commitment to reducing child poverty by 50% in 5 yrs, and develop a measurement of poverty [how would this be measured and accomplished?]