

NDP Commitments

Would the New Democratic Party support the following measure(s) in the next Parliamentary session?

(Yes, no, under the following conditions: feel free to explain):

Healthy Eating:

1. ***Introduce measures that address the marketing of unhealthy food and beverages (those high in salt, sugar and saturated fats) aimed at children under the age of 13.***

Yes, New Democrats support introducing measures to stop the marketing of unhealthy food and beverages to children under the age of 13. We know that children are particularly responsive to the advertising they see, especially through new digital media platforms.

Voluntary standards to protect children from targeted marketing aren't enough to ensure kids eat a heart-healthy, nutritious diet. For this reason, we support mandatory federal regulations to restrict marketing of certain foods to kids.

Pharmacare

1. ***Quickly finalizing provincial and territorial bilateral agreements with the federal government to ensure the timely implementation of the initial phase of the national pharmacare program.***

New Democrats fought hard in the last Parliament to secure the largest expansion of the Canadian healthcare system in generations. Because of our work, millions of Canadians are able to receive dental care, diabetes medications and devices and contraceptive medications that they previously had no access to.

We are committed to negotiating bilateral agreements with the remaining provinces and territories to expand diabetes and birth control coverage within the first year of the next Parliament.

2. ***Expanding the national formulary to cover prescription medications for heart disease and stroke. A feasible first step would include adding heart disease and stroke medications commonly used by people with diabetes.***

Yes – New Democrats firmly believe in building a national, comprehensive pharmacare system. Mark Carney and Pierre Poilievre have been clear – they have no intention of expanding the pharmacare coverage that many Canadians are demanding. Only New Democrats are fighting for national pharmacare.

In addition to securing bilateral agreements within the first year to expand diabetes medications and devices, New Democrats will expand that list to include essential medicines on the CLEAN meds list developed by researchers and clinicians at St. Michael's hospital in Toronto. We will work towards full pharmacare coverage before the end of the four-year term.

Protecting Youth from Nicotine Addiction

1. Implementing a comprehensive vape flavour ban that includes mint and menthol.

Yes. Since 2021, the Liberals have promised to restrict vape flavours but haven't gotten the job done. Despite years of consultations, the Minister for Mental Health and Addictions has failed to develop a comprehensive approach to banning flavoured products.

New Democrats are committing to working across jurisdiction to develop a comprehensive plan to ban vape flavours, including mint and menthol. In November 2023, MP Don Davies introduced M-103, calling on the government to restrict the manufacture and sale of flavoured products. In the next Parliament, we'll continue the work to protect young people from the health risks associated with these products.

2. Raising the minimum legal age of sale for tobacco and vaping products to 21.

New Democrats are aware of public health organizations across the country calling for Health Canada to raise the minimum age to purchase tobacco and vaping products to 21. Several countries – including New Zealand and the United Kingdom - have explored different avenues to restrict the sale of these products to young people and lower the number percentage of smokers to 5 per cent of the population.

We are committed to working with provinces, territories, and Indigenous leadership to determine how we can lower the percentage of Canadians who consume these products, with a specific focus on how to curb youth consumption.

3. Aligning tobacco and vape product taxes annually to adjust for inflation.

New Democrats recognize that increasing excise taxes on tobacco and vape products is one way to send a strong message to young people about the dangers that these products can have – especially on young people. By increasing the excise tax, we can help pay for anti-vaping and anti-smoking programs, as well as reduce expenses incurred by the healthcare system.

4. Protecting existing nicotine pouch regulations to prevent youth access and ensuring that new and emerging nicotine products do not fuel nicotine addiction among youth.

New Democrats are committed to protecting existing nicotine pouch regulations, recognizing that they serve an important role in preventing youth from accessing these products. We will also ensure that emerging products in this market are similarly regulated to protect young people.

Preventing Cardiac Arrest

1. ***Funding public awareness campaigns about cardiac arrest and the need for bystanders to intervene with CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and AEDs (automated external defibrillators).***

New Democrats recognize the value that early access to CPR and defibrillators provide in saving thousands of lives every year. For this reason, we will continue supporting programs that increase education and awareness of life-saving procedures (including for students and community organizations, improving the availability of defibrillators in public spaces, ensuring existing and future AEDs meet readiness standards, and supporting better data gathering on cardiac-related events to ensure we have the tools to respond in an emergency.

2. ***Implementing training programs for the public on the use of CPR and AEDs.***

Yes – New Democrats recognize that the first step towards saving lives is empowering Canadians to react quickly in an emergency. By expanding access to training programs on CPR and defibrillators, we believe that everyday Canadians can do more to save lives while waiting for emergency responders to arrive.

3. ***Expanding the availability of AEDs in high-traffic public areas, rural communities and areas under federal jurisdiction.***

Yes. The availability of AEDs in public has led to a marked increase in lives saved from cardiac events. New Democrats will continue to call for expanded availability of these life saving device, as well as standards to guarantee their upkeep and readiness should they need to be used.

Promoting Women's Heart and Brain Health

1. ***Funding to increase public awareness efforts around women's risk factors and their unique health needs relating to heart disease and stroke for all groups and sectors, including health professions, health system leaders and decision-makers, educators and the general public.***

New Democrats recognize the historical imbalances in research and health promotion that prioritizes women. We know that women are less likely to be resuscitated by lay responders when compared with men, and the warning signs of stroke or cardiac events are more likely to be overlooked in women.

New Democrats are committed to support a multi-year effort to accelerate innovation and knowledge in women's rehabilitation and recovery from heart disease and stroke.