

New Conservative government to provide support to volunteer firefighters & search and rescue volunteers

In 2015, Justin Trudeau said he would be different. We now know he is simply not as advertised.

He said he would help the middle class. Instead, he raised taxes on 80 per cent of middle-class Canadians and brought in a carbon tax that makes everyday essentials more expensive.

Today, Canadian families are under pressure and worried about their future. They are looking for help, and Justin Trudeau has proven he cannot be trusted to deliver it.

THE ISSUE

In many parts of Canada, volunteers provide essential services like fire protection, emergency response, and search and rescue support.

The upfront and replacement costs of clothing and equipment for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers can add up quickly. These are over and above the personal and family costs of their service. Many volunteers are on-call 24/7/365, with calls coming in at all hours of the day and night.

Justin Trudeau has done nothing for these hometown heroes since taking office in 2015.

The National Fire Protection Association [says](#) 83 per cent of local firefighters are volunteers.

TOTAL local firefighters - Canada	152,650	100%
Career	26,000	17%
Volunteer	126,650	83%

Here's how that breaks down at fire departments across Canada:

TOTAL fire departments across Canada	3,672
All career firefighter departments	66
Mostly career firefighter departments	44
Mostly volunteer firefighter departments	50
All volunteer firefighter departments	3,061

Search and rescue volunteers also provide critical support to police and emergency responders in both urban and rural settings. Volunteers work outside in all weather, at any time of day or night, searching for lost or missing persons or rescuing them from life-threatening situations. They also play invaluable roles in the wake of natural disasters like floods, storms, and tornadoes.

The Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada (SARVAC) [reports](#) that 9,000 volunteers grouped into 300 teams across the country donate a total of 600,000 hours to training and searches every year.

In most provinces, volunteers must spend out-of-pocket for their expenses, which could include:

Jacket	\$500
Shirt	\$40

Basic 24-hr. survival kit (summer)	\$500
Basic 24-hr. survival kit (winter)	\$1,000
First aid training (bi-annual)	up to \$1000
Radio	\$400
GPS	\$400
Transportation	Varies

THE PLAN

A Conservative government led by Andrew Scheer will reduce the number of hours it takes to qualify for both the Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit and the Search and Rescue Volunteer Tax Credit – from 200 to 150 in a calendar year.

This will be done by way of minor changes to the *Income Tax Act*.

While we know the volunteers who donate 150 hours or more per year are not motivated by money to do what they do, this measure could inspire more people to get involved or encourage existing, casual volunteers to increase their commitment.

Recruiting volunteer firefighters has been a widely reported challenge in communities across the country – from [Alberta](#) and [Saskatchewan](#) to [Ontario](#) and [New Brunswick](#). Anything that addresses that challenge will help keep Canadians safe while also respecting the service of these critically important volunteers.

A new Conservative government will make it easier for volunteers to qualify for tax credits, recognizing their service to others.

THE CHOICE

You can't trust Justin Trudeau to help you get ahead. He has raised taxes, racked up debt and deficits, and made life more expensive for people across the country.

Many volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers work one or two jobs (or more) and give freely of their time. Their service and sacrifice deserve our respect and support.

A new Conservative government will allow our hometown heroes to keep more of their hard-earned money.

This election comes down to one question: Who do you trust to put more money in your pocket so you and your family can get ahead?

Only Andrew Scheer and Canada's Conservatives have a real plan to lower your taxes and to make life more affordable for you, for your family. It's time for you to get ahead.