

## **New Conservative government to remove admission fees from National Museums**

In 2015, Justin Trudeau said he would make life more affordable for middle-class Canadians. Instead, he raised taxes on 80 per cent of middle-class Canadians, got rid of tax credits that saved them money, and brought in a carbon tax that makes everyday essentials more expensive.

Today, too many Canadian families are working harder than ever, yet feel they are falling further and further behind. They are looking for help, and Justin Trudeau has proven he cannot be trusted to deliver it.

### **THE ISSUE**

- Under Justin Trudeau, life is getting harder and more expensive.
- Canadian families are under pressure and worried about their future. They have less money in their pockets at the end of the month. Nearly half of Canadian families are less than \$200 away from insolvency at the end of each month.
- For too many Canadian families, there simply isn't the extra money for the 'nice to haves.' The rising cost of the 'need to haves' – the everyday essentials – leaves little left for anything else.
- Justin Trudeau cancelled tax credits that helped parents afford sports or music classes for their children. He also stripped away tax credits that helped lower- and middle-class Canadians afford transit passes, and that helped struggling students afford textbooks.
- With the planned increase of the Trudeau Carbon Tax and his accompanying 'fuel standard,' the price of gas will increase by **31 cents/ litre**.
- One of the worst parts of the Trudeau Carbon Tax is how it particularly targets household essentials that low- and middle-income families depend on. With his planned increase, the Trudeau Carbon Tax will cost Canadian households up to **\$2,000** every year, depending on what province they're in.

### **THE PLAN**

As Prime Minister, Andrew Scheer will help you and your family get ahead. A new Conservative government will:

- **Eliminate admission fees to all national museums**, making them free for everyone – Canadians and tourists – 365 days a year.
- This will save Canadian families more than \$20 million per year.

Removing these fees allows Canadians to keep more of their hard-earned money. A review of the museums' most recent annual reports shows that admission fees are a relatively small share of museums' total revenues:

<b>MUSEUM / CORPORATION</b>	<b>VISITORS (2018-19)</b>	<b>ADMISSION FEES AS SHARE OF TOTAL REVENUE (%)</b>
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National Gallery of Canada	434,834	4.09
Canadian Museum of History - Incl. Canadian War Museum	803,000	7.49
Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21	71,504	5.44
Canadian Museum of Nature	489,289	8.4
Canadian Museum of Human Rights	291,346	7.98
Ingenium - Canada Agriculture and Food Museum - Canada Aviation and Space Museum - Canada Science and Technology Museum	936,000	10.4

We will replace admission fees with Parliamentary appropriations so the Crown Corporations that run our national museums have the same baseline operating funds. We anticipate that, over time, increased museum traffic will also lead to increases in voluntary donations, parking and gift shop revenues, and other revenues which can then be invested back into improved visitor experiences.

Notably, the Smithsonian Institution's museums in Washington, D.C. have operated with free admission to the public since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

A new Conservative government will also designate the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina, Saskatchewan as Canada's 10<sup>th</sup> national museum. This will build on recent efforts to designate national museums outside of the National Capital Region, boosting the local tourism sector in cities across Canada.

And to honour the achievements of our past leaders, we will designate the gravesites of past Prime Ministers and Governors General as national historic sites.

## THE CHOICE

- In 2015 Trudeau ran on change. Now he is forced to run on his record.
  - His record is one of higher taxes for you and your family and bigger handouts for well-connected corporations.
  - His record involves you working harder while lobbyists and Liberal insiders rewrite the rules for their own benefit.
  - His record involves raising the cost of everyday essentials and putting a better life for you, your children, and your aging parents more and more out of reach.
- On October 21<sup>st</sup>, Canadians have a choice between Justin Trudeau and a new Conservative government that will lower your taxes and put more money in your pocket:

As Prime Minister, Andrew Scheer will:

- Introduce the Universal Tax Cut, which will save a couple making average salaries \$850 per year
- Take the GST off home heating costs
- Scrap the Trudeau Carbon Tax
- Make maternity benefits tax-free
- Introduce a Green Public Transit Tax Credit

- Bring back tax credits for kids' sports, arts, and learning activities
- Introduce a Green Home Renovation Tax Credit
- Make museum admissions tax free

*Because it's time for you to get ahead.*