

# Election 2006 Find out who's on your side.

This federal election is all about choices: the choices you make about the kind of Canada you want for yourself, your family, and your neighbours – and the choices the parties make about whose side they're on.

- Who will work to help make life better for you and your family?
- Who will deliver on the priorities you care most about?
- Who will help build a better society for all Canadian working families?

This brochure is a starting point. It looks at some of the key issues you might want to consider as you think about who you're going to vote for.

We invite you visit us at:

**betterchoice.ca**

to find out more.

Learn more. **Get involved.**  
Make a difference  
– **for every working family.**

This election is critical. You can make a difference by:

1. Visiting us at [betterchoice.ca](http://betterchoice.ca).
2. Registering online for email election updates.
3. Visiting the web sites of each party.
4. Talking to your local candidates.
5. Contacting your union about its election activities.
6. Sharing this leaflet with family and friends.
7. Electing an M.P. who will fight for working families.

When **working people stick together,**  
we can make a difference  
for all Canadians.



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making a better choice

putting  
working families  
first



Federal Election 2006

## 1 Health care: Who will put you and your family ahead of corporate profits?

We need to stop the growing privatization of our health care system. It's happening now:

- Your tax dollars shouldn't be going to private care in for-profit clinics that charge high fees, take doctors out of the public system, and will only make wait lists longer in our public hospitals.
- Prescription drug costs are out of reach for too many people – particularly seniors – because drug patents and profits for multinational drug companies are put ahead of affordable health care for you and your family.

### Who is on your side in protecting health care for your family?

Look for the candidate and party that will:

- Stop the growing Americanization of our health care – so that you and your family can get the care you need when you need it, without extra fees.
- Fight for immediate action to take on the big drug companies by limiting patent protection and making cheaper generic drugs available sooner.



## 2 Pensions: Who will make sure employers pay you the pension you've earned?

You work hard all your life. Your retirement security shouldn't be put at risk. But more and more, that's the reality as workers' pensions take a back seat to the interests of big corporations:

- Half of all company pensions are in a funding deficit with an insecure future.
- Workers' pension benefits are left far behind banks and other wealthy creditors if a company goes bankrupt.

### Who is on your side in protecting your pension?

Look for a party that will:

- Fight to make sure that your pension is protected from big corporations that may try to get out of their pension obligations by claiming bankruptcy or by selling off the company and its assets.

## 3 Who will make economic equality for women a priority?

Women's economic equality has worsened, in spite of government lip service to pay equity. Today, women with university degrees earn only 69.8 percent of what men do – that's 5 percent less than a decade ago.

Women under 30 earn less today than they did two decades ago.

### Who is on your side fighting for economic equality for women?

Look for candidates who will take a strong stand for:

- Proactive pay equity legislation that makes equal pay a reality for working women.



## 4 Who will stand up for workers' rights?

Long-promised updates to anti-scab legislation have never materialized, sometimes resulting in violent conflicts and prolonged disputes. In the provinces where we have anti-scab legislation, we have shorter strikes and settle contracts more quickly.

### Who is on your side in protecting the rights of workers?

Look for a party committed to:

- Passing anti-scab legislation that will ensure a balanced playing field during contract bargaining.

## 5 Education and training for working families – not just the wealthy

It's time for the federal government to invest in education and training – instead, we've seen \$10 billion in corporate tax breaks with no guarantee that jobs will be created or workers will be trained. Workers need proper training to upgrade their skills and to help us build a more productive economy.

All of us want to see our children and grandchildren have a better future through quality education and skills training. But all too often our hopes are being driven out of reach by a lack of training spaces or tuition fees that are too expensive for working families.

### Who is on your side in expanding access to affordable education and training?

Look for a party that:

- Sends a message that access to education and skills training isn't just for the rich – you and your family should be able to get the skills you need without taking on massive debt.
- Makes it easier for workers to retrain or upgrade their skills by providing income support through Employment Insurance.



## 6 Jobs with decent wages and benefits for all Canadian workers

In today's economy, half of all new jobs are part-time or low-paid – being employed doesn't necessarily earn you a living anymore. In fact, 75 percent of families living below the poverty line have a family member working but in a poorly paid job.

And “free trade” is being used as an excuse to ship Canadian jobs overseas, and chip away at wages and benefits in order to hike corporate profits. This is not the Canada we want for working families today – or for our children tomorrow.

### Who is on your side in protecting Canadian jobs and decent wages?

Look for immediate action to:

- Make jobs with family-supporting wages and benefits a priority, rather than handing profitable corporations even more tax giveaways that don't guarantee a single new job.
- Protect Canadian jobs from trade wars and being moved overseas by taking on the Bush administration and standing up for fair trade for Canadian workers.