

**Answers of Phil Brown, New Democratic Party, Nepean-Carleton
to questions from the PSAC**



PSAC questions	answers
<p>1- Quality public services a) Are you in favour of quality public services, universally accessible and delivered by permanent Public service employees?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>b) What will you do to protect and enhance food safety?</p>	<p>We will take action to ensure that food is safe to eat. We will work in consultation with consumers, workers and industry to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase the number of inspectors at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. -Increase administrative support so inspectors can spend more time on the floor and less time on paperwork. -Reduce worker injuries, increase the quality of the food, and ensure greater safety of products by introducing regulations on “line speed” in meat processing plants that match existing requirements in the European Union. -Improve the system for warning consumers of potential dangers with consistent policies for immediate public notification of food safety problems. -Require labelling of genetically engineered foods and farmed fish. -Require full accuracy and accountability for labels stating “Made in Canada”.

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<p>c) Are you in favour of the sale of government owned buildings to the private sector?</p>	<p>Absolutely not. Public ownership of government buildings is good stewardship and in the long-term public interest. However, the government needs to invest in "greening" its older buildings in order to help control long term operating costs, create "green jobs" while helping to "incubate" emerging green technologies, and because it is the right thing to do for the environment.</p> <p>In my business (website address: http://www.jacksonbrown.on.ca/jba/jba.php) I have worked to help build public and community-owned buildings providing for the common good. I frequently conduct comparisons of public ownership options to privatized "Public Private Partnership (P3) options and they always demonstrate the long-term cost-effectiveness of ownership. Several years ago, I teamed with a CUPE rep to debate Walter Robinson of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation over P3's. Some of my firm's recent projects include the new national headquarters for the Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Royal Canadian Legion, in addition to smaller projects such as community health centres and women's shelters. We have also just completed a new building for Andrew Fleck Child Care Services on George Street in the Market area.</p>

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d) If your party is elected will it pledge to reinstate the Court Challenges Program and the Law Commission of Canada?	Absolutely. It was a travesty that the Conservatives cut this funding which promoted fairness in our laws.
e) Will your party reverse the cuts to Status of Women funding within and outside government and restore funding for women's groups who do research and advocacy work?	Yes. The NDP will empower Status of Women Canada and other appropriate federal agencies to work to implement the recommendations of the report on Canada by the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
f) The last time the support program for Persons With Disabilities (PWD) was overhauled was in 1995. The cost of living has continually gone up since then. Do you think it is time for an overhaul of the support programs for PWDs?	Yes, and Canada needs to immediately implement the United Nations Convention on The Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
<p>2- Working conditions and negotiations in the public service</p> <p>a) Would you support the government reducing its use of precarious workers, by ceasing temporary help agencies hiring, and by reducing the number of part-time and contract workers?</p>	Yes. Labour fairness and long-term efficacy of the public service demand full-time employment opportunities, not short-term "temp" placements where agencies cream off profit while workers labour at a discount and without the opportunity for secure employment.

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b) Employees of the federal public sector want their negotiations to accelerate and result in fair pay increases. What will you do to ensure they get satisfaction?	Whatever I reasonably can as an MP
c) Are you in favour of abolishing distinct pay zones that apply to blue collars?	I don't know enough about distinct pay zones to comment.
d) Do you believe that pay equity should apply to all employees of the federal public sector?	Yes.
e) Do you agree to modify Part II of the Canadian Labour Code in order to offer pregnant or nursing workers the same access to leave with pay as under the Québec Labour Code?	I support maternity / paternity leave for new parents but I don't know enough about the details of the Canadian Labour Code and how it differs from the Québec Labour Code to comment more specifically.
f) Do you believe that Bill C-45 on health and security should apply to employees working on Parliament Hill?	All employees should be covered by health and safety regulations, but I don't know enough about the specifics of the situation on Parliament Hill to comment in more detail.

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<p>g) Are you in favour of modifying the rules concerning political rights of federal public service workers, in order to allow their full participation in the electoral process?</p>	<p>Yes, except in the case of those most senior policy-making management positions where political neutrality should be expected.</p>
<p>3- Greater justice in the taxation system What do you intend to do so that the taxation system stop widening the gap between rich and poor Canadians?</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reverse the Liberal and Conservative giveaways and restore a uniform 22.12% tax rate – what it was before the Martin and Harper governments began these giveaways. -Simplify the tax code by reviewing and eliminating outdated tax incentives and loopholes. -Tighten-up tax administration so everyone pays their fair share of taxes, and the billions of dollars in taxes currently owed, but not paid, are collected. -End the special tax breaks for the tar sand projects, and the big oil and gas industry. -Eliminate the loopholes that enable Canadian corporations to avoid paying the taxes they owe by running their finances through international tax havens, as spelled-out in the Auditor General’s report. -Recover unpaid loans and outstanding taxes from corporations that are doing business with the federal government by deducting such debts from the contract payments.

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	<p>In addition, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Introduce a Poverty Elimination Act to eliminate poverty in Canada by the year 2020: -Phase in a new Child Benefit. This benefit, modelled on the existing Canada Child Tax Benefit, will expand in phases to \$5,000 a year per child, and consolidate the current piecemeal system of benefits and tax credits for children into a single, better, non-taxable monthly cheque to parents. -Work with provinces to eliminate the provincial claw-back of much needed Child Supplement Benefits for families receiving social assistance. -Make substantial investments in affordable, accessible, child care for all Canadians. -Provide aggressive incentives help ordinary families and those with low or fixed incomes become more energy-efficient, helping to both reduce rising energy costs and contribute to the fight against climate change. -Establish a fair minimum wage of \$10 and index it to inflation. -Immediately reform the Employment Insurance system to ensure fairness and support for unemployed Canadians. -Institute a “Bring Canada Home” affordable housing plan. -Reinstitute a pan-Canadian affordable housing program. -Improve workplace standards and protect workers’ pensions. -Expand literacy and skills training.

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<p>4- National Child Care Strategy Will your government invest in a publicly delivered, national child care strategy to address the needs of families outside of Quebec?</p>	<p>Yes. We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Enact the New Democrats' Early Learning and Child Care Act – which has already passed Second Reading in Parliament - to establish the program in law for the first time in Canada. -Establish and adequately fund a Canada-wide child care and early learning program. <p>We will make high quality, accessible, affordable, non-profit and licensed child care available to Canadian families, including aboriginal Canadians. These initiatives will create 150,000 new child care spaces in the first year, growing to 220,000 spaces per year in the fourth year.</p>
<p>5- Environment If your party is elected to form a government, will you pledge to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the re-instatement of adequate funding of federal environmental programs; • support international initiatives calling for firm commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions; • and ensure that Canada lives up to its international agreements, including meeting the legally binding targets agreed upon when Canada signed on to the Kyoto Accord? 	<p>Yes. The NDP has a comprehensive environmental policy to combat climate change. We will implement legislation to achieve deep, science-based reductions of climate pollution in the post-2012 period, ensuring that our government can never again shirk its international commitments. We will also provide authority for the government to make regulations in order to meet these targets and set penalties for those who contravene regulations passed under the Act.</p>

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6- Anti-scab legislation Did you vote (or would you have voted) for or against the anti-scab bill tabled in 2007? What action would you take to have an anti-scab bill passed at the federal level?	I oppose vigorously the use of scab labour during labour disputes.
7- Working in French in the Public Service What do you intend to do to promote the use of French in the Public service, particularly in the National Capital Region?	I believe in promoting diversity in the public service, while ensuring that all Canadians have access to government information and services in the official language of their choice.