

CUPE VOTES

“STRATEGIC VOTING” AND OTHER ELECTION MYTHS

MYTH #1: *Voting NDP is a wasted ballot. I have to vote “strategically” to stop Andrew Scheer’s Conservatives from winning.*

REALITY: The NDP is running to strengthen workers’ rights, expand health care to cover Canadians head-to-toe, and take real action on the climate crisis and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. That’s a platform CUPE members can and should proudly stand behind. It’s better to vote for ideas you believe in than to hold your nose and vote for the lesser of two evils. Our country faces serious issues and problems that require new kinds of leadership – we can’t afford to keep going between the red and blue status quo. The “strategic” vote is to support the party that supports us – and that’s the NDP.

MYTH #2: *The NDP will raise my taxes and destroy the economy if they’re elected.*

REALITY: This is old rhetoric from corporate elites that simply doesn’t add up. Just look at the NDP government in BC right now. They’re investing in thousands of new affordable housing units, opening thousands of \$10-a-day child care spaces, and lots more – all without raising taxes on families, and all while leading Canada in economic growth. It’s just a question of priorities.

MYTH #3: *Public services cost too much - the government needs to make cuts to balance the budget.*

REALITY: Public services are the great equalizer in our society. For example, universal health care is fundamental to our identity as a country. Instead of undermining them, we should be strengthening our public services. If the government wants to balance the budget, they should start by making the wealthy pay their fair share.

MYTH #4: *The Liberals have been good for working Canadians.*

REALITY: Justin Trudeau doesn’t care about Canadian workers. He proved it when he campaigned against increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour in 2015. He proved it again in December 2018, when he used back-to-work legislation against striking postal workers, who were fighting for better workplace safety protections.

MYTH #5: *The Liberals are good for the climate.*

REALITY: The Liberals have kept Stephen Harper’s weak climate targets and spent billions of dollars upholding Stephen Harper’s subsidies to prop up the fossil fuel industry.

MYTH #6: *The Liberals and Conservatives are the only ones who understand the economy.*

REALITY: Under Liberal and Conservative governments, life has gotten easier for the wealthy and well-connected, and harder and more unaffordable for the rest of us. Average hourly wages for Canadians haven’t budged in 40 years, while the wealthiest in our society keep getting richer. Unlike the Liberals and Conservatives, the NDP understands that the economy is only “working” if it’s working for everyday people.

MYTH #7: *Unions shouldn’t be getting involved in politics.*

REALITY: Our job as a union is to make life better for our members. Beyond the bargaining table, elections are often the most important opportunity for us to fight for good ideas that will help make life better for CUPE members and working Canadians.