

**Actions for Affordability**  
**Answers to the Questions for Candidates**  
**Federal Election 2025**

**Question: If elected, how will you support the development of affordable, non-market housing in the Yukon?**

Brendan Hanley (Liberal Party of Canada)

*We are focused on delivering more affordable, community-based housing. The Liberal Build Canada Homes is a major initiative to get the federal government back into the business of home building by providing over \$25 billion in financing to innovative prefabricated home builders in Canada, this is in addition to \$10 billion in low-cost financing and capital to affordable home builders. This is a part of the overall Liberal housing plan that is making the housing market work better by catalyzing private capital, cutting red tape, and lowering the cost of homebuilding.*

Katherine McCallum (New Democratic Party)

*I understand the struggle to find secure housing in the territory. My kids are both in their early twenties and can't find or afford housing, so they live with us still. They're lucky that they can. Not everyone has that privilege.*

*The NDP believes that we must invest in affordable and social housing so people can find a home and remain in the community they want to live. The NDP understands the important role of non-profit housing providers such as Safe At Home and Habitat for Humanity, and how essential it is to fund and support them in their work. The NDP has committed to a massive public infrastructure building program to build 100,000 government owned, affordable rental units on public lands.*

*We would also ensure that tenants can stay in their homes by bringing in a national Tenants Bill of Rights to end big rent hikes, renovictions, demovictions, and other unfair practices.*

*The housing crisis doesn't just have one quick fix. There are many exacerbating factors and we need to address them as a whole.*

*Our strategy addresses multiple areas at once to ensure that Canadians have safe and stable homes they can afford - wherever they are on the housing spectrum.*

## Food

**Question: What strategies does your party propose to decrease food insecurity rates in the Yukon, especially in rural Yukon?**

Brendan Hanley (Liberal Party of Canada)

*Food security is definitely a challenge in the Yukon, especially in our rural and remote communities. This requires a multi-faceted approach, that is community-driven. We must continue our investments in community-led, culturally relevant food systems that reflect northern realities - projects like the Ihdzi' Gathering Place in Mayo and YFNED's processing kitchen are strong examples of this approach. In addition to these infrastructure investments, we must continue to support community-led food programs like the TH Farm and YFNED's food education initiatives, which provide sustainable and culturally relevant solutions rooted in traditional knowledge. Furthermore, I recognize review of the Nutrition North program is welcome - as their definition of "isolation" currently leaves out communities like Beaver Creek.*

Katherine McCallum (New Democratic Party)

*I'm a single parent who raised my two kids in the Yukon, and even though I worked full time, I still found groceries unaffordable. And it's just getting worse. The government has a responsibility to make sure no one in Canada goes hungry — and that starts by treating food like it's a right, not a luxury.*

*Reducing food insecurity means raising incomes and supporting NGOs and First Nations and removing red tape so that they can operate food programs efficiently. It means putting a price cap on essentials at the grocery store, taking the GST off of essential purchases - grocery store meals, diapers and strollers, plus monthly bills including cell, internet and heating bills, and expanding programs like school lunches and community food funding.*

*Canada has the resources to end food insecurity. What's been missing is the political will. I would like to be a part of the movement that changes that.*

## Income

**Question: What steps would your party take to strengthen income supports for Canadians?**

Brendan Hanley (Liberal Party of Canada)

*Strong supports for Canadians are the foundations of a fair country. We will protect social programs Canadians rely on, including the Canada Child Benefit, which will rise again in 2025 to help families keep up with inflation. We're also delivering the new Canada Disability Benefit, starting this July, to support low-income working-age persons with disabilities. We have also expanded the Canada Workers Benefit, with automatic payments and annual increases. Though I know there is still more to do - there also continues to be a lot at stake - we need a government that builds a system of inclusion.*

Katherine McCallum (New Democratic Party)

*The current programs are falling short. There is no reason why seniors who have worked their whole lives shouldn't be able to afford groceries. There is no reason why anyone who has a disability should have to worry about clawbacks while also not being able to afford basic necessities.*

*We would double the Guaranteed Income Support for seniors and double the Canada Disability Benefit to ensure some of the groups struggling most get an immediate boost to their income.*

*We have put forward a bill to make it easier for Canadians to access the Canada Disability Benefit so they would only have to qualify once, under the territorial rules.*

*And we have put forward a bill to create a Guaranteed Basic Income to ensure no Canadian is left behind or falls through the cracks.*

## Health

**Question: What is your party's position on expanding the federal pharmacare plan to include a broader range of essential medications beyond just diabetes and birth control?**

Brendan Hanley (Liberal Party of Canada)

*The Pharmacare Act is a historic first step toward a universal, public pharmacare program in Canada. It ensures no one has to choose between paying for groceries and life-saving medication. We recently signed a \$9.5 million agreement between Canada and the Yukon, that will deliver free medications for Yukoners, with the first step covering contraceptives and diabetes-related drugs and supplies.*

Katherine McCallum (New Democratic Party)

*If your doctor writes you a prescription, you should be able to fill it—no exceptions. That's what real universal health care means—and that's what New Democrats are delivering.*

*The NDP fought for and won the first steps toward universal pharmacare—and we won't stop until every Canadian is covered. Our plan starts with the most prescribed medications, lowers drug prices, and protects our supply so no one is left behind.*

*In the last four years, with just 25 MPs, we fought for and won fully covered dental care, and contraception and diabetes medications for Canadians. This is just the beginning - we are committed to expanding this program to include more essential medications.*

## **Fair Taxation:**

**Question: How does your party plan to reform Canada's tax system to ensure that all Canadians contribute their fair share while generating revenue for essential public programs?**

Brendan Hanley (Liberal Party of Canada)

*We launched the 2025 campaign by announcing a middle-class tax cut that will help Canadians keep more of what they earn and build a stronger Canada in the face of President Trump's tariffs. This middle-class tax cut will save Yukoners, because working families shouldn't bear the biggest burden. Fair taxation helps fund the essential public programs Canadians rely on - from health care to income supports - and this is what we are committed to protecting.*

Katherine McCallum (New Democratic Party)

*Taxes are essential for protecting public services Canadians depend on. But it's necessary to ensure that these taxes are coming from those who can afford them and don't negatively impact Canadians who are struggling with the cost of living.*

*Having NDP MPs in government will ensure that more money stays in peoples' pockets and that we are fighting to restore fairness to our tax system.*

*Under an NDP government, we would increase the basic personal income tax exemption so that no one earning \$19,500 or less will pay any federal income tax.*

*We would remove the GST from essentials like baby items, cell phone bills, internet bills and heating bills.*

*We would reinstate the capital gains tax increase on the wealthiest .13% which would raise over \$17 billion to fund essential social services and programs that bring costs down for every day Canadians*

*We would close tax loopholes and remove subsidies for large corporations and big oil and gas companies.*

## Representational Data

**Question: How will you ensure that national reports and funding criteria incorporate regional cost-of-living differences that better represent the north? Additionally, what is your party's position on Indigenous data sovereignty, and data disaggregation?**

Brendan Hanley (Liberal Party of Canada)

*National programs absolutely must reflect the real cost of living in the North, we know well that a one-size fits all approach simply doesn't work. I do support Indigenous data sovereignty, and I am committed to working with organizations throughout the Yukon to better measure and reduce poverty in ways that reflect lived realities.*

Katherine McCallum (New Democratic Party)

*Quality data is key for our government and for our social service providers to be able to develop policies based on real-world evidence, rather than assumptions or guesswork.*

*That being said, we do see a very real lack of representation of the Yukon especially at a more granular level. This leads to a lot of federal decisions being made with the southern provinces and their needs being top of mind. In the face of incomplete data, we really need a strong voice in Ottawa who is focused on advocating for the needs of all Yukoners.*

*We need to look to our front line service partners and those who are on the ground every day and trust their experiences and the experiences they are sharing. That will ensure that we focus on real-life experiences and impacts over numbers.*

*I've been on the ground in the community in the Yukon for 18 years. I have worked with NGOs who have relied on funding and have seen first-hand how the requirements for grant applications and reporting can take capacity away from offering the services that are actually needed. I've experienced first hand NGOs not being able to receive funding they need because there isn't enough data - and we just need to wait for data that will potentially never come.*

*If I'm elected, I'll be bringing the voice of Yukoners and the service partners who support them to Ottawa. I'll be advocating and fighting for Yukoners and their very real experiences even when there aren't hard numbers.*

**Additional Questions**  
**YAPC Actions to Accountability Lunch & Learn**  
**April 10, 2025**

**How do you plan on balancing mining and development pressures while accessing traditional food systems and food sovereignty?**

**Katherine McCallum (New Democratic Party)**

We can't keep acting like mining and development automatically come first. Access to traditional foods, clean water, and the right to harvest from the land are not afterthoughts — they're rights protected under modern treaties, including the Umbrella Final Agreement and the 11 Self-Government and Land Claim Agreements here in the Yukon.

The federal government has a legal obligation to uphold those agreements. That means supporting Yukon First Nations in leading land use planning, saying no to projects that threaten food systems like the Porcupine caribou herd, and enforcing strong environmental protections. Food sovereignty starts with respecting Indigenous knowledge and leadership — and backing that respect with real action.

**Asking as a single income Yukoner- How do you plan to incorporate Renewable Resources to support energy in the Yukon?**

**Katherine McCallum (New Democratic Party)**

As a single-income Yukoner, you deserve affordable, reliable energy — and a real plan to transition to renewables. I support expanding federal funding for Northern renewable projects like wind, solar, and small-scale hydro, especially in off-grid communities.

That includes federal support for retrofitting homes to be more energy efficient, investing in grid upgrades, and creating targeted subsidies so low-income households can benefit from clean energy first. We also need to phase out fossil fuel subsidies and reinvest that money into community-owned power solutions.

**Given that poor mental health is recognized as a key underlying health issue for many people (Including children and youth) affecting their economic status and capacity to do well, what will you/your party do to increase funding and other supports to address this need?**

**Katherine McCallum (New Democratic Party)**

Mental health is a very personal issue for me. I, and others in my life have struggled with that and I have experienced first hand the difference that having the right resources, available at the right time can make.

It's time the federal government started treating mental health as what it is, health. I support expanding the Canada Health Act to include mental health services, ensuring they are publicly funded and universally accessible. This means direct federal funding to provinces and territories for hiring more counselors, psychologists, and social workers, especially in schools and rural areas.

We also need to increase funding for Indigenous-led mental health programs and expand culturally safe, land-based healing initiatives in the North. No one should be waiting months for support — especially children and youth.

Additionally, I advocate for the permanent funding of the 9-8-8 suicide crisis helpline and the creation of mobile crisis intervention teams, as recommended by the Canadian Mental Health Association. These measures will provide immediate support to those in crisis and help address the mental health needs of our communities effectively

We would also ensure prescriptions are covered by universal pharmacare and provide additional funding to the territory to improve mental health services.