



The Ontario Provincial Election *and* the Catholic Church

Election Date: Thursday, June 2, 2022

THE ECONOMY AND AFFORDABILITY

The Issue from a Catholic Perspective

As we prepare for the upcoming provincial election on June 2, 2022, the economy and affordability are issues that affect all of us. None of us is untouched by the need to earn money to support ourselves and our families, and to give back to our community.

So it matters who we elect to represent us in the provincial legislature, as they will be forming policy that will influence our collective well-being. We need to discern which party will not only foster an environment that will create sustainable jobs with livable wages, but will also address the needs of those most marginalized among us.

Our Catholic values dictate nothing less. As Pope Francis says, “the dignity of each human person and the pursuit of the common good are concerns which ought to shape all economic policies” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, #203).

The Pope also talks about the importance of dignified work with a living wage. Yet in today’s world where inflation is at a 31-year high and housing prices are at record levels, many younger people don’t know how they will ever be able to afford a home. And many people who are already holding numerous part-time jobs, find it difficult to make ends meet.

We owe it to future generations to carefully discern which party we believe will be guided by Catholic values in forming economic policies that enhance human dignity and protect the poor and the marginalized.

FACTS

- About 2.4 million Canadians, or 6.4% of the population, lived below Canada’s official poverty line in 2020 (*Statistics Canada*)
- The cost of living is rising at its highest level in over 31 years, with **gasoline up 39.8% year over year, grocery prices up 8.7% and shelter is up 6.8%** (*Statistics Canada, Mar. 2022*)
- The average home price in Ontario is **\$1,052,920** (*The Canadian Real Estate Association, Mar. 2022*) – 17x Ontario’s average annual income of \$62,049 (*Statistics Canada, Jan. 2022*)



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CANDIDATE BEFORE YOU VOTE JUNE 2, 2022

- How would your party ensure that all Ontarians are encouraged and enabled to enjoy the fruits of fulfilling labour?
- What concrete plans do you have to protect the most vulnerable in our society?

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING ON THE ECONOMY AND AFFORDABILITY

On The Dignity of Work

“Earning bread is what gives you dignity and if we do not give our people the ability to earn bread, this is a social injustice. Leaders must give everyone the ability to earn bread, because this earning gives them dignity.”

(Pope Francis, Jan. 12, 2022, during his weekly general audience)

On Housing

“Lack of housing is a grave problem in many parts of the world ... Not only the poor, but many other members of society as well, find it difficult to own a home. Having a home has much to do with a sense of personal dignity and the growth of families. This is a major issue for human ecology.”

(Pope Francis, Laudato Si', #152)

On Care for the Poor

“The Church’s love for the poor . . . is a part of her constant tradition. This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor. Love for the poor is even one of the motives for the duty of working so as to be able to give to those in need. It extends not only to material poverty but also to the many forms of cultural and religious poverty.”

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2444)

On Government Responsibility

“I would like to remind everyone, especially governments engaged in boosting the world’s economic and social assets, that the primary capital to be safeguarded and valued is man, the human person in his or her integrity: ‘Man is the source, the focus and the aim of all economic and social life.’”

(Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, #25)

“Governments must protect those who are marginalized in society ... must provide economic security and an acceptable quality of life for those who are unemployed, displaced, impoverished or afflicted by a mental or physical disability.”

(Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, On Choosing a Government)

We have a duty to be well-informed and to vote.

Learn more about the major political parties’ positions on issues of importance to Catholics.

For more details, visit:
www.archtoronto.org/election



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