

LET'S DO THIS.

The election is in full swing and over the coming weeks. MLA hopefuls and their volunteers will be knocking on your door, asking for your support on election day (that is, if they haven't already).

A candidate on your doorstep provides a unique opportunity to engage one-on-one with your potential representative at the legislature. Sometimes it can be uncomfortable, but it's important to take the time to have a thoughtful conversation about issues that concern you, your family and your community.

Still, questions and key points can be difficult to remember when you open your front door to a friendly stranger, asking for you to vote for them. To help keep poverty top of mind, we've developed a handy "Let's Do This" cheat sheet.

Read it, print it and place it close to your front door, so when you hear someone at your doorstep, you'll be ready.

Find out more at letsdothisalberta.ca

Questions:

01. Does your party consider it a priority to continue to work towards ending poverty?

02. EndPovertyEdmonton has identified six areas, or Game Changers, that contribute to the cycle of poverty in different ways:

a. Eliminate racism: Our province can only reach its full potential when all Albertans get an equal chance to bring their talents to the table. Unfortunately, racism still exists and continues to impact minorities in a negative way.

How would your government work to ensure all Albertans have access to the same opportunities, regardless of race?

b. Affordable and quality childcare: Many Alberta families rely on childcare services while parents work to support the family. To give all children in Alberta the same strong foundation, all parents in Alberta need access to quality childcare they can afford. When childcare is an option for everyone, it addresses poverty on two levels — it takes strain off of families' budgets now, and helps prevent the cycle of poverty from continuing by making sure all children have a healthy environment in which to learn and grow.

What policies would your government implement to help all Albertans access affordable and quality childcare?

c. Livable incomes: Job loss and unemployment can lead to poverty, but that's not the whole picture. Many Albertans who live in poverty work full-time hours and some work two or three jobs to make ends meet. Mandating livable incomes for full-time work makes a province stronger by allowing individuals to

pursue further education or training, support their families and reach their full potential.

What actions would your government take to ensure working Albertans receive a livable income?

d. Access to mental health services: Mental illness can affect anyone. One in two Canadians either has, or previously had, a mental illness by the time they reach age 40. Left untreated, mental illness has high costs, both personally and financially.

How would your government support affordable mental health services for all Albertans?

e. Accessible and affordable transit: To pursue a career, get an education, or get involved in the community, people need a way to get around town. Effective, accessible public transit opens those doors for everyone. Alberta needs a public transit system that everyone can afford and that all of us can access, so that we're all free to seize opportunities where we see them.

How would your government support the creation of affordable and accessible transit?

f. Affordable housing: In a healthy budget, housing costs shouldn't take up more than 30% of a household's gross income. A shortage of affordable housing options makes that easier said than done, though.

What would your government do to address the need for more affordable housing in Alberta?

03. What other policies would your government develop to put an end to poverty for all of Alberta?

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