

NDP Platform - [2021](#)

A truly public CBC

1. *Remove all ads from CBC English services, and from digital services in all languages. (YES, TIMELINE UNCLEAR)*
2. *Increasing funding so that the CBC can fulfill its public purpose. (YES)*
3. *End political appointments for the President and the Board of Directors. (YES)*

The NDP platform document contains relatively few details when it comes to their plans for CBC/Radio-Canada, though it does indicate general support for public broadcasting. Specifically, the New Democrats promise to “increase funding for CBC and Radio-Canada”. There is no precise figure assigned to the funding increase, other than a promise to “reverse the damage of decades of funding cuts”.

The NDP’s platform document does not address the issue of advertising on CBC. However, during his participation in The Leaders’ Series, a non-partisan interview series produced by FRIENDS, NDP leader Jagmeet Singh stated that he would like to get to a point where CBC is “free from having to rely on ad revenue”. When asked directly about whether or not he would support making CBC’s news platforms “ad-free”, Singh stated that he would support this move. In the interview, Singh did not provide a specific timeline for pursuing either of these changes to CBC’s revenue model.

The NDP platform document does not address the issue of political appointments for CBC, but during his interview for The Leaders’ Series, Jagmeet Singh committed to a non-partisan process to make such appointments.

Telling our own stories

1. *Compel companies like Netflix to invest an equal share of their revenues in the production of original Canadian content, just as Canadian broadcasters do. (YES)*

In their platform, the New Democrats commit to ensuring that “Netflix, Facebook, Google and other digital media companies play by the same rules as Canadian broadcasters”. Specifically, the party proposes to “create a level playing field” by modernizing the Broadcasting Act. Tech firms and streaming services would have to, “pay corporate taxes now, and support Canadian content in both official languages”.

Strong and credible journalism

1. *End the nearly \$2 billion in tax subsidies that reward Canadian businesses for buying ads from Google and Facebook at the expense of credible, legitimate, Canadian media. (UNCLEAR)*
2. *Follow Australia and France to force Google and Facebook to compensate Canadian news organizations for their content, including the CBC. (YES)*

The NDP proposes to close tax loopholes in order to “boost the integrity of our tax system”. The platform does not refer to any particular section of the Income Tax Act – in particular, it does not mention Section 19 of the Act, which is responsible for nearly \$2 billion in tax subsidies that privilege foreign tech firms like Facebook and Google over Canadian media.

However, the NDP have stated their commitment to leveling the playing field between Canadian media and foreign tech companies. During his interview for The Leaders’ Series, Jagmeet Singh stated that he, “would never support an uneven playing field where Canadian companies are at a disadvantage and foreign companies are given an advantage.”

The NDP platform document does not directly address the question of how or if Canadian news outlets will be compensated when their content appears on social media sites like Facebook or Google. However, during his interview for The Leaders’ Series, Singh stated that he would look to the Australian model to ensure news outlets are paid for journalism content when it is shared on social media sites like Facebook.

Canadian values in Canadian media

1. *Enforce existing laws. Governments already have a lot of power to crack down on platforms that facilitate illegal activity, but they refuse to use it. That has to change. If it’s illegal offline, it’s illegal online. (YES)*
2. *Make platforms’ Canadian executives personally liable for their company’s conduct, with penalties including possible jail time. (NO)*
3. *Change the law so that Canadian courts can block the flow of funds to repeat offenders. If you break the law, we should break your business. (NO)*

The NDP’s platform includes a specific commitment to addressing illegal and harmful activities taking place online, including ensuring that companies like Google, Facebook and others “take responsibility for what appears on their platforms”. The party promises to ensure that social media firms are held “legally responsible for the removal of hateful and extremist content before it can do harm.” In addition, during his interview as part of The Leaders’ Series, Jagmeet Singh stated that one of the tools New Democrats would use to enforce existing laws is to actually mandate federal security agencies like the RCMP to investigate illegal activities taking place online.

The NDP’s platform does not address the question of personal liability for social media platforms’ Canadian executives. It also does not address the possibility of imposing barriers that would prevent platforms that consistently break the law from accessing the Canadian financial system