

# Federal Election Party Questionnaire – Commitment to Canada’s Visitor Economy

The Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC) urges all federal parties to support the recovery of tourism as a powerful economic driver.

Prior to COVID-19, tourism was one of the fastest growing industries in the world. As Canada’s fifth largest sector, tourism was responsible for \$105 billion in GDP, provided 1 in 10 Canadian jobs, and was made up of 225,000 small and medium sized businesses across Canada.

Tourism is an important economic driver in every riding across the country.

Over the past year, however, the industry has suffered an unprecedented decline as a result of the global pandemic:

- » 85% drop in inbound travellers
- » 95% drop in airline revenues
- » 95% decline in ground transportation (train and motor coach) traffic
- » 80% decline of revenues in the accommodations sector
- » 500,000 industry jobs lost
- » No in-person conventions, trade shows or meetings, festivals, exhibitions or major events held in Canada

Canada’s visitor economy needs the elected party to **commit to work with industry on:**

- **targeted financial support for the hardest hit;**
- **delivery of a seamless national proof of vaccination certification program; and,**
- **implementation of progressive strategies to address critical issues such as the labour shortage and traveller confidence.**

**Please share your party’s thoughts on the following questions.**

1. The tourism industry is a powerful economic driver in Canada. How does your party plan to support tourism and the 1.8 million jobs it supported pre COVID-19, if you are elected?
2. Does your party support an overall national strategy, including targeted financial support programs, to help the hardest hit businesses in the tourism industry return to pre-pandemic business levels?

3. How will your party work to implement a national proof of vaccination system to ensure ease and security for Canadians and visitors?
4. Does your party support the reopening of our borders and the return of travel, given the health and hygiene protocols put in place by all Canadian tourism businesses?
5. How does your party plan to address the labour crisis, particularly in the tourism industry?
6. What immediate actions would your party implement to ensure the survival of the tourism industry in the short term if you were to form government?
7. How would your party collaborate and consult with tourism stakeholders to ensure government support measures fully meet the needs of tourism businesses and employees?