

Barrhaven BIA



Federal Election Candidate Survey 2021 Nepean Riding

The following questions were sent to ALL candidates in the riding of Nepean for the upcoming Federal Election on September 20, 2021. Candidates were given until September 8th, 2021 to respond and these are the responses that were received. Responses have not been edited and are included as received.

Candidate responses are in alphabetical order.

The Barrhaven BIA does not endorse or support any particular candidate and these questions were created to help our membership understand the different candidates and parties positions on issues facing businesses.

Chandra Arya - Liberal Party of Canada

1 - We invite you to introduce yourself to our members with a short bio/message.

Hello BIA Members,

In the last year and a half, Canadians have faced the crisis of a century. And we have faced it together.

You put on your mask to keep your neighbours safe. You cheered on our frontline workers. And, when it was your turn, you rolled up your sleeves to get your vaccine.

You did your part. You stayed true to who we are as Canadians. And so did we.

The federal government acted very fast and successfully developed (quickly modified when required), to implement and speedily deliver programs to support affected Canadians and businesses.

The **Canada Emergency Response Benefit** helped more than 8 million Canadians pay their bills and put food on the table. The **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** helped more than **5 million Canadians** stay on payroll. The **Canada Emergency Business Account** provided funding of up to **\$60,000** in partially forgivable interest-free loans to over **893,000 businesses**. The **Canada Emergency Rent Support and Lockdown Support** provided funding to over 200,000 organizations.

There were/are more programs to support Canadians. For post pandemic economic recovery, we have launched measures like **Safe Restart Program, Canada Recovery Hiring Program, Growth and Jobs Fund**, just to name a few.

So, as we finish the fight against COVID-19, let's build back better, together.

Let's find the real solutions to the real problems we face. Let's build a better future that gives everyone a real and fair chance at success. We can't afford to move backward. Not in the fight against COVID-19 or the climate crisis. Not on healthcare or childcare. Not for seniors, workers, or families.

This is our moment to decide where our country goes from here. This is our time to choose. And our platform is our path ahead for generations to come.

Forward or backward. This is our choice.

I believe in moving forward. For everyone.

Chandra Arya



Chandra Arya - Liberal Party of Canada

2 - What do you see as the main challenge facing local business owners and what solution(s) will you actively advocate for if elected?

Small businesses are the backbone of the Canadian economy, and I will always champion the needs of small businesses to ensure they thrive as we emerge from the pandemic.

Based on the conversations I have had with small business owners in Nepean, I recognize that many are desperate for stability given the fourth wave of the pandemic, and are encouraging the federal and provincial governments to get their act together to develop appropriate proof of vaccination policies. I am encouraged by the announcement by Premier Ford of the vaccine certification, but the delays were unacceptable.

A re-elected Liberal government will launch a \$1 billion COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Fund to support provinces and territories who implement a requirement for proof of vaccine credentials in their jurisdiction for non-essential businesses and public spaces.

Beyond this, we know that small businesses are facing challenges in hiring and re-hiring qualified workers, and that is why we have pledged to extend the Canada Recovery Hiring Program to March 31, 2022, so businesses can hire more workers and Canadians can get back on the job.

Chandra Arya - Liberal Party of Canada

3 - Considering the rapidly rising costs for most goods and services, staffing issues and continuing operational restrictions to local businesses as we weather a 4th wave of COVID-19, what is your plan to recover, stabilize and grow our economy?

One year ago, we launched a campaign to create over one million jobs and backed it up with major investments to extend supports, assist people and businesses with transition, and invest in the recovery. Thanks to our emergency programs and the hard work of Canadians, we are almost at our goal of creating one million jobs.

To date, Canada has recovered 92% of jobs lost during the pandemic. By comparison, the United States has only recovered 75% of jobs lost. We have nearly reached this milestone of a million jobs created despite second and third waves, because we committed to do whatever it takes for as long as it takes to get Canadians through the pandemic.

Recovery is underway in Canada. But recovery can't just be about getting back to the way things were before. It should be about making things better. It's about making work fairer, so that no one working full-time in Canada earns a wage that isn't livable. It's about equipping Canadians with the skills they want and need to be able to earn a good living. It's about making Canada a global leader in the race for talent and making it easier and fairer for Canadians to get a job by removing barriers to work such as child care. It's about securing our ability to harness the resources we have in Canada to drive clean growth around the world and securing our own supply chains in critical goods and services. It's about helping our businesses grow, especially small businesses, and making them competitive in our digital future. It's about the innovation, entrepreneurship, and determination of Canadians.

A re-elected Liberal government will restore employment to pre-pandemic levels—going beyond one million jobs—and ensure that the jobs that are created are good, well-paying jobs.

Chandra Arya - Liberal Party of Canada

4 - What do you propose as effective relief measures for small businesses during ongoing economic recovery and to address their debts incurred because of the pandemic?

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Government has recognized the scale of the challenge facing small businesses in the face of shifting public health restrictions. We have been there for small businesses, including protecting over 5 million jobs through the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, as well as providing over 800,000 small businesses with partially forgivable loans of up to \$60,000 through the Canada Emergency Business Account.

We recognize that many small businesses will need additional support, and that supporting them is key to a strong economic recovery. A re-elected Liberal government will continue to be there for small businesses, including by extending until March 2022 the Canada Recovery Hiring Program, which provides support so businesses can afford to hire the workers they need to recover and grow as local economies reopen.

In Budget 2021, we announced the Jobs and Growth Fund, a \$700-million federal program to support regional job creation and position local economies for long-term growth. Eligible businesses could receive interest-free, repayable contributions for up to 50% of authorized costs, and eligible not-for-profit organizations could receive non-repayable contributions for up to 90% of authorized costs.

We will move forward with our plan to unleash investments by improving the Canada Small Business Financing Program. This will increase annual financing by an estimated \$560 million, supporting approximately 2,900 additional small businesses. A re-elected Liberal government will:

- increase the maximum loan amount through this program from \$350,000 to \$500,000 and extend loan coverage from 10 to 15 years for equipment and leasehold improvements.
- Expand borrower eligibility to include non-profit and charitable social enterprises.
- Introduce a new line of credit.
- Expand loan class eligibility to include lending against intellectual property as well as start-up assets and expenses.

We also have to make sure that Canadian businesses are poised to compete and win in the global digital economy. We will move forward with our plan to implement the Canada Digital Adoption Program which will give microgrants of up to \$2,400 to small businesses so they can afford the costs of new technology. We will also offer zero-interest loans to small and medium-sized businesses so they can finance larger technology adoption projects

Sean Devine - NDP

1 - We invite you to introduce yourself to our members with a short bio/message.

Ever since I first ran for office in 2015, I've proven myself to be an effective and collaborative leader in my community. I've served for six years on my community association, and over that span I've developed numerous successful partnerships with elected representatives, non-profits, cultural communities, and of course small businesses in my community. The most significant work I've done was after the 2018 tornado that flattened my community of Trend-Arlington. From the day the tornado hit us and for many months after, I led and organized my community's recovery. For that work, I was honoured to receive the United Way's Community Builder of the Year Award and the Mayor of Ottawa's City Builder Award. Those awards are a testament to my hard work, to my ability to listen to and respond to the needs of others, and to be able to build strong relationships across many sectors. I have no doubt that I could bring these same qualities to my relationship with Barrhaven's growing and dynamic small business community.



Sean **NDP**  **NDP**
Devine
NEPEAN

Sean Devine - NDP

2 - What do you see as the main challenge facing local business owners and what solution(s) will you actively advocate for if elected?

Small businesses everywhere across Canada are continuing to have an extremely tough time meeting their expenses, especially since most businesses haven't yet seen a return to pre-pandemic revenue levels. So, it's a really hard time to be running your business. But small business is one of the engines that will drive our economic recovery, and so the government needs to support them with a continuation of the emergency funding measures that kept small business afloat over the past 18 months. The NDP wants businesses everywhere to know that it was the NDP that put pressure on the Liberals to set the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy at 75% of worker salaries, when the Liberals wanted to subsidize only 10%. The NDP's compassionate understanding of workers and the small business community saved thousands of jobs and kept small business alive.

Staffing continues to be a major concern (both employee retention and making payroll), as does paying monthly rent for brick-and-mortar businesses. The NDP would ensure that wage and rent subsidies continue while your business recovers through the pandemic. And we'll put in place a long-term hiring bonus to pay the employer portion of EI and CPP contributions for new or re-hired staff. And since more and more small businesses rely on credit card and virtual transactions, we'll put an end to gouging by capping credit card merchant fees at 1%. To help Canadian small business step out on the world stage, a New Democrat government will streamline access to government export services and make it simpler to break into foreign markets. We'll also provide small- and medium-sized businesses with a single point of contact to help ease regulatory processes and support compliance - freeing up time for entrepreneurs to invest in growing their business. And recognizing that a shortage of workers is a major barrier for many small businesses operating in rural areas, we'll make important new investments in training Canadians and boost support to traditionally underemployed groups, ensuring that they can access good jobs that pay a fair wage.

Sean Devine - NDP

3 - Considering the rapidly rising costs for most goods and services, staffing issues and continuing operational restrictions to local businesses as we weather a 4th wave of COVID-19, what is your plan to recover, stabilize and grow our economy?

The Financial Post reported this week that the Canadian economy is not bouncing back as quickly or as experts had assumed, with consumer confidence also declining. Clearly, the unprecedented impact of a global pandemic on fiscal stability cannot be addressed without a bold response. All parties agree that the federal government needs to continue investing in the post-pandemic economic recovery, since the market will not solve the crisis alone. We know that there will be deficits for the near future. But how each party intends to pay for historic government spending is important. The Conservatives say that “the budget will balance itself”, and that they intend to recoup spending through a loosely described of 3% growth in government revenues and promise no new taxes and no cuts to government services. And they don’t detail where the growth will come from. That’s a lot of faith to put into a future we can’t yet see.

The NDP’s plan to recover and grow our economy covers is bold and comprehensive. Parents – mostly women – without affordable childcare were forced to leave their jobs during the pandemic. Our commitment to affordable childcare will ensure that so many more women can enter the workforce, which will have a tremendous stimulus on the economy. The NDP is also the only party that is committing to a new deal for fair taxation so that the wealthiest Canadian individuals and large corporations finally pay their fair share.

When you consider the vast number of people that we anticipate will be moving to our city over the next few decades, Ottawa – and especially Barrhaven – is a fantastic place to invest in growing a small business. The Canadian economy will eventually bounce back from the pandemic, and this brings a critical opportunity. If we make the right choices now, we can make Barrhaven an even better place to invest, we can create and protect better jobs for the future, and we can make Barrhaven a shining example in small business development.

Sean Devine - NDP

4 - What do you propose as effective relief measures for small businesses during ongoing economic recovery and to address their debts incurred because of the pandemic?

Small businesses should have access to all the support they need to get through this crisis, grow, innovate and stay competitive in Canada and around the world. That's why the NDP stood up for emergency small business aid during COVID-19, lower small business taxes, opposed unfair merchant fees, and fought to make it easier to pass on small businesses to the next generation. It's why we'll continue to stand up for you. We know that there's so much more to do to help the small businesses that our communities rely on. That's why the NDP will continue tackling issues that impact your bottom line, like continuing small businesses wage and rent subsidies, covering the employer portion on EI and CPP contributions for new hires or re-hires, and capping credit card merchant fees at a maximum of 1%. And our plan for public, universal pharmacare will also save businesses approximately \$600 per employee with extended health benefits every year – and that also means that all small businesses can feel confident knowing that their employees are able to access the prescription drugs they need, to stay healthy, and stay at work!

Matt Triemstra - Conservative Party of Canada

1 - We invite you to introduce yourself to our members with a short bio/message.

Matt is proud to be born and raised in Nepean. He is a community leader, volunteer and public affairs executive. After a successful career working on Parliament Hill for Conservative Members of Parliament, Matt has spent the past decade working in the private sector in public affairs with some of Canada's top companies. He has a proven track record of working with all political parties to get things done.

Matt believes that life is all about service by volunteering. He has helped Ottawa's most vulnerable homeless population by serving as Chair of the Board of the Ottawa Mission and has volunteered with the Canadian Club, bringing together speakers for Ottawa's business community.

Matt is running because he's seen and experienced firsthand the struggles that families have faced during the pandemic. He wants to help Nepean bounce back, and see Canada's economy secured.

Matt and his wife of 17 years, Shayla, love living and raising their three amazing kids in Ottawa.



A campaign graphic for Matt Triemstra. It features a dark blue background with a red banner in the top right corner containing the word "ELECT" in white. On the left, the name "Matt TRIEMSTRA" is written in large white letters. In the center is a portrait of Matt Triemstra, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. On the right, the Conservative Party of Canada logo is displayed, consisting of a white maple leaf inside a white circle, followed by the text "SECURE THE FUTURE" in white, and "for Nepean" in a smaller white font below it.

Matt Triemstra - Conservative Party of Canada

2 - What do you see as the main challenge facing local business owners and what solution(s) will you actively advocate for if elected?

First, I think it's important to say that if elected as your Member of Parliament I will always look to individual business owners and organizations like the Barrhaven BIA for their views on new policies or programs. You should never be surprised by your government and we need to work together to advance solutions that work.

During this election, I have heard directly from workers and small business owners who are struggling. While rising prices and supply chain issues are common, the top issue I hear about is businesses struggling to get people to come back to work or to hire new people. We have heard that all across Canada, which is why Conservatives have advocated for a Job Surge Plan credit that provides between 25-50% of the salary of net new hires for 6 months following the end of CEWS. This will help employers get people back to work as the Emergency Response Benefits are responsibly wound down and help businesses get back up and running. Conservatives also know we need to support our Canadian based businesses who create jobs and support our economy. That is why we have a focus on Main Street - including a GST holiday in December. This will focus on supporting brick-and-mortar local companies and getting Canadians back to work.

Matt Triemstra - Conservative Party of Canada

3 - Considering the rapidly rising costs for most goods and services, staffing issues and continuing operational restrictions to local businesses as we weather a 4th wave of COVID-19, what is your plan to recover, stabilize and grow our economy?

Conservatives have a detailed plan which is available at <https://www.conservative.ca/plan/> to help all Canadians recover from COVID, rebuild and reopen our economy safely and to get people back to work. Our leader Erin O'Toole has a plan for every sector in every part of the country, instead of just help for some.

Conservatives will take immediate action by providing targeted help in the hardest hit sectors like tourism and restaurants by providing Canadians a tax credit for vacation expenses in Canada (up to \$1,000), and providing 50% rebate for food and non-alcoholic beverages purchased on Monday, Tuesdays or Wednesdays for a month once the country is fully re-opened.

To get Canada fully reopened, we have laid out a clear plan to get Canada to 90% vaccination levels - not through threats and intimidations used by Justin Trudeau that drives people who are hesitant away from getting the shot - but through a patriotic campaign and incentive-based system.

Conservatives are also committed to getting Canada back to being one of the best places to operate a business in the world. That means reducing barriers created by Justin Trudeau and his political mistakes with large markets like the US, India and China; reducing red tape; eliminating the disastrous small business tax grab where the Liberals called small businesses "tax cheats", and to eliminate the liberals tax on alcohol - which is hurting our local breweries and producers. If I am elected as your MP, I am committed to being a voice for ALL Nepean residents and businesses and will do everything I can to support our small businesses. With more than 15 years experience navigating government, I know how government works, how to advocate for my communities, and will not back down from what I believe is the right thing for Nepean.

Matt Triemstra - Conservative Party of Canada

4 - What do you propose as effective relief measures for small businesses during ongoing economic recovery and to address their debts incurred because of the pandemic?

Our Conservative team has a comprehensive plan to help workers and businesses and to get our economy moving once again. Like Erin, I know that governments set the conditions, but it is businesses like yours who drive jobs and our economy. With a Conservative government, you will have a partner to grow jobs and improve wages, instead of someone who calls all small businesses tax cheats and makes life harder for Canadians.

This includes winding down the Emergency Response Benefit that has more workers staying home with a new hires tax credit for 6 months by paying between 25 and 50% of salary. This will help small businesses get back to work.

We will have targeted support for hardest hit sectors like tourism and hospitality, but our plan will help all sectors in all parts of the country.

We will target support to Main Street - our core small and local businesses and create jobs - by launching a Main Street Small Business Loan for companies who need it - up to \$200,000. Like the Emergency Loans during the pandemic, we will make the loan 25% forgivable. And we have a plan to improve investments in local small businesses through the Canada Investment Accelerator by giving investors up to 25% tax credit on \$100,000 investments.

We will also address many of the problems created by the Liberal housing policies including a stress test that eliminated the bottom 30% of income earners from owning a home. We will increase supply of locations for new homes and help encourage the development of over 1 M new homes in 3 years - to bring prices back down and make housing more affordable.

We know that we need to get the economy growing again to secure the revenue needed to pay for the government services Canadians depend on. Restoring Canada's finances requires getting back to robust economic growth of 3% or more per year, which is the goal of our jobs plan and we can only do that by investing in our small businesses.

There is much more to the comprehensive policy by the Conservative party - I am happy to address any questions Members may have about these or other policies.