

# Justice Reform

INNER CITY  
VOTES

2021 FEDERAL ELECTION



## K \ Uᑲᑦ < UddYb]b[ 3'

Our current legal system is a failure given that recidivism rates, the percentage of people who end up caught in the 'revolving doors' of the prison system remains so high. The National Observer poll in **2018** shows that over 50% of Canadians believe the system is unfair.

## K \ m]g'h ]g' < UddYb]b[ 3

Our justice system is archaic as it has not kept pace with the evidence that demonstrates that dealing with root causes such as poverty is the more effective, humane and just way to address crime. The court and carceral (jails and prisons) system of today is ill-equipped to address the needs of those who enter it. There has long been an over-representation of Indigenous Peoples in the system with percentages of Black and other People of Colour on the rise. The system is particularly ill-suited to deal with the realities of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including people with mental illness, addictions and those trapped in our inequitable economic system.

According to the Department of Justice, Indigenous people make up more than 30% of federally incarcerated inmates but account for only 5% of the Canadian adult population. The proportion of Indigenous offenders admitted with an offense punishable by mandatory minimum penalties (MMP) has almost doubled between 2007-2008 and 2016-2017, from 14% to 26%. In 2018-2019, Black inmates represented 7.2% of the federal offender population but only 3% of the Canadian population. Indigenous and Black offenders were more likely to be admitted to federal custody for an offense punishable by an MMP. Calls for sentencing reforms only resulted in proposed legislation that would see roughly 1/6 of the 72 MMPs be eliminated. However, with the election, this legislation will not go forward. The epidemic of over-incarceration of racialized people must end. Justice reforms, especially restorative justice programs that promote accountability for harm done and empowers those who were harmed by crime could and should replace or severely limit our over-reliance on jails and prisons. Restorative Justice approaches have proven time and again that they are more effective, just and humane.

## Questions to Ask

- How will your party address the systemic failures of the current justice system?
- How would your party promote and fund restorative justice initiatives and other alternative justice reforms?

**Not Sure Who to Vote For Overall? Why not check out [CBC's Vote Compass](#) canada to take a quick survey to help figure out which party best represents your priorities?**

