LIBERAL PROMISES TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES – WHAT ARE THEY?

The newly elected Liberal Government won 184 seats out of a possible 338. The Liberal Election platform promised a “fair and open government”. In terms of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada, the Liberals pledged to build a “renewed relationship” with Aboriginal peoples. Specifically, the Liberal made several significant campaign promises to Aboriginal peoples.

INQUIRY INTO THE MISSING AND MURDERED ABORIGINAL WOMEN:

The Liberals support an inquiry into the missing and murdered Aboriginal women.[[1]](#footnote-1) The Liberals promised to, within their first term as government, start working with Indigenous organizations, communities, and families of the missing and murdered women on the issue of the missing and murdered Indigenous women to allow the project to be relevant to the unique issues facing Indigenous women and girls.[[2]](#footnote-2)

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Liberals promised to implement all 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.[[3]](#footnote-3)

FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION

The Liberals promised to devote $2.6 billion for First Nations education over four years. In addition, they promised to spend an additional $500 million on First Nations schools’ infrastructure.[[4]](#footnote-4)

FIRST NATIONS WATER

The Liberals promised to eliminate all boil-water advisories in First Nations communities within five years.[[5]](#footnote-5) Neskantaga First Nation in Northern Ontario has had a standing boil advisory since 1995.[[6]](#footnote-6)

These are expensive and ambitious promises that will take time to address once the Liberals assume power. There are other issues too, like repairing the relationship between the federal government and the Assembly of First Nations and other national Indigenous organizations. The new Prime Minister’s choice of the next Minister of Indian Affairs and Norther Development will be telling in terms of the direction the Trudeau government will take on this file.

1. Stand with Justin: Call for inquiry into missing and murdered women retrieved from <http://petition.liberal.ca/stand-with-justin-call-inquiry-missing-murdered-indigenous-women-girls/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Resolution for Action for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, retrieved from <http://www.liberal.ca/policy-resolutions/110-resolution-action-missing-murdered-indigenous-women/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/compare-federal-party-platforms-and-election-promises-1.3271149> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Justin Trudeau promises $2.6 billion to First Nations education retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-election-2015-liberal-justin-trudeau-first-nations-1.3189872> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Justin Trudeau vows to end First Nations reserve boil-water advisories within 5 year, CBC News retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-election-2015-justin-trudeau-first-nations-boil-water-advisories-1.3258058> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Neskantaga First Nation demands action on 20-year-boil-water advisory, CBC News retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/neskantaga-first-nation-demands-action-on-20-year-boil-water-advisory-1.3256929> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)