

# Further Explorations of Fairness

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Let us continue our examination of fairness, a subject we've already started to unpack in earlier discussions. Our ambition is to push the conversation beyond the mere dissemination of facts. The People's Party of Canada (PPC) beckons us on a journey marked by intellectual depth, advocating for a discourse rooted in logical and critical analysis rather than the transient allure of emotional stimuli. Championing principles like "Calm minds, Wise Choices" and "Intellect over instinct," the PPC emphasizes an approach to decision-making that is thoughtful, well-informed, and resilient against the ebb and flow of passing emotions. When it comes to our PM, it is fascinating to note how the allure of charismatic leadership can sometimes detract from the essential task of scrutinizing their policy frameworks and the broader implications these policies may have for our shared future.

The PPC is committed to fostering an environment ripe for engaging debates, encouraging a community not of passive followers but of proactive, reflective individuals. This emphasis on intellectual engagement over emotional reaction is particularly vital in our current era, dominated by rapid, visually driven communication. An illuminating exercise comparing the online representation of politicians based on their physical appeal versus their policy contributions reveals a significant bias towards the "dreamy" aspects of some leaders. This, while amusing, underscores the critical need to refocus our political discourse on issues of substance and factual evidence, steering clear of the superficial.

At its essence, the PPC's mission is intricately linked with the concept of fairness, a principle that requires a rich and nuanced comprehension. Drawing from Canada's distinguished history of

spearheading social and political advancements, the PPC seeks to rekindle the flames of true democracy, celebrating our historical milestones while ambitiously paving the way towards a future where fairness is realized, not just in theory, but in the everyday lives of all citizens.



Let's consider one example to illustrate thinking about fairness and how governments might exercise simple folly at attempting a solution. Today, Canadians face pressing challenges, particularly in the realms of housing and education, which starkly highlight the systemic obstacles to actualizing fairness. The trials of apartment living, including the challenges of noise disturbance, cramped spaces, and less-than-ideal study environments, vividly illustrate how one's living conditions can profoundly affect educational achievements and overall life quality. I speak from a temporary experience here, and if you have not, then your imagination and empathy are required. Envision a student endeavouring to study in a compact, bustling city apartment, constantly besieged by the cacophony of urban existence, which disrupts their focus and academic pursuits. The absence of a private, tranquil space not only muddies the separation between areas for rest, recreation, and study but also significantly undermines the student's capacity to fully immerse themselves in their academic journey. Such conditions, often stemming from necessity rather than preference, can drastically impede a young individual's educational

progress and performance, highlighting the urgent need for policy reforms that not only make housing more affordable but also consider the wider implications of living conditions on the well-being and future success of our youth.

A thorough critique of the prevailing housing policies, especially the strict mortgage stress tests and other regulatory frameworks, uncovers how these ostensibly well-meaning policies have inadvertently exacerbated the divide between aspiring homeowners and perpetual renters, disproportionately burdening families with limited financial resources. These measures, designed to temper an overheated housing market and shield borrowers from assuming unsustainable debts, have paradoxically rendered the prospect of homeownership an increasingly distant dream for many, thereby deepening socio-economic rifts. The PPC ardently challenges this governmental over-extension, advocating for market-oriented solutions that enhance accessibility to homeownership and, consequently, contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society.



One possible solution would entail more of a free-market solution. Consider a free-market approach to helping Canadians acquire mortgages, several strategies could be implemented to ease the process. One method could involve risk-based pricing, which assesses borrowers individually rather than applying blanket regulations like the mortgage stress test. This would allow interest rates and terms to better reflect each borrower's actual risk level, potentially making it easier for financially responsible, yet lower-income individuals to secure home loans.

Increased competition among banks and lending institutions is another benefit of a free-market system. This competition could lead to better rates and terms for borrowers as lenders work to attract customers with more appealing mortgage options. With fewer regulatory constraints, lenders might also be encouraged to introduce innovative mortgage products tailored to the

diverse needs of Canadians, such as mortgages with longer amortization periods to lower monthly payments.

Adjusting regulations around mortgage insurance could further ease the financial burden on home-buyers. Currently, buyers with less than a 20% down payment are required to purchase mortgage insurance. Modifying these requirements or offering more insurance options could make buying a home more accessible.

Encouraging the growth of private lending markets would provide additional avenues for financing, especially for those who may not fit the traditional banking criteria. Private lenders often offer more flexibility in terms of qualification and rates. Simplifying the mortgage approval process by reducing paperwork and streamlining requirements could also make the journey to home-ownership smoother and more efficient for buyers.



Taking just a bit more time dealing with private lenders, the role of private lenders in the mortgage market introduces an essential element of choice and flexibility for prospective homeowners. These lenders often operate with a different set of criteria from traditional banks, offering loans to individuals who might not qualify under more conventional frameworks due to irregular income, self-employment, or a less-than-perfect credit history. By expanding the lending landscape to include these private entities, the market becomes more adaptable and capable of meeting the unique financial situations of a wider array of borrowers. This inclusivity not only broadens access to homeownership but also stimulates competition, potentially driving innovation in mortgage products and services. Private lenders can thus play a pivotal role in making the housing market more accessible and responsive to the needs of all Canadians, embodying a free-market principle that values diversity and opportunity in the path to owning a home.

Adopting an adjustable regulatory framework that can swiftly respond to economic changes ensures that policies remain relevant and not overly restrictive under varying market conditions. Moreover, promoting financial education could play a crucial role in a free-market approach,

empowering individuals with the knowledge to make informed decisions about credit, budgeting, and the home-buying process, thereby enhancing their likelihood of mortgage approval.

One possible venue for financial education is high school. Introducing high school students to the intricacies of mortgages, including the different types available and the underlying mathematics, is crucial for their financial literacy and future independence. Understanding mortgages empowers young adults with the knowledge to make informed decisions about homeownership, interest rates, and long-term financial planning. By grasping the concepts of principal, interest, and amortization, and how they interplay in the context of a mortgage, students can better assess the impact of these loans on their future financial health. This education can demystify the process of buying a home, making it more accessible and less daunting. Moreover, it equips students with practical skills in budget management and critical thinking about debt, which are invaluable in navigating the complexities of adult financial responsibilities. By integrating mortgage education into high school curriculum's, we lay the groundwork for a more financially savvy generation, capable of making choices that lead to stable, prosperous futures.

By weaving together these strategies, a free-market approach could create a more dynamic and accessible housing market in Canada, where the dream of homeownership becomes a reality for a broader segment of the population.

The PPC's conceptualization of fairness extends beyond the traditional dichotomies of political discourse, championing a vision of a society where every Canadian possesses the opportunity to thrive. By tackling the fundamental drivers of inequality, such as oppressive housing policies and the predicaments of urban apartment dwellings, the PPC is dedicated to forging a path towards a society where fairness is experienced tangibly by all.



There should be a pause here for the PPC could propose nothing out of the ordinary, and nothing special for a specific segment of Canadians. Much rather, by losing the tight controls that stifle

home ownership (red tape) and allowing the market to dictate interest rates and the controls required, home ownership is easier to attain. When a government has an agenda of control, this does not mesh well with lenders who are in the business of lending money. I do not pretend that this is a very simple approach to a complex problem, but it does illustrate the options that are not available because of government control.

Note that this article is just an example of having an open mind, in this case, focused on the concept of fairness. It is through open discussion that we can evolve PPC's policy initiatives based on the philosophical foundations of fairness, by examining specific proposals and their capacity to sculpt a Canada that is more just and equitable. This exploration is not just an exercise in identifying the shortcomings of the current system but a forward-thinking quest to envision and realize a society that reflects our collective aspirations for fairness, democracy, and prosperity. While the example about home ownership is not meant to be a cure, we have examined ways of lifting restrictions and providing a diversity of solutions, give more Canadians opportunities. The current mortgage rules are a problem, but we would expect that. I was told by a female bank teller that mortgages are like pantyhose, where one size fits nobody.

This foray into the realm of fairness, fueled by the PPC's guiding principles and the philosophical insights of esteemed thinkers like John Rawls, transcends mere scholarly inquiry. It is a clarion call to action, urging us to partake in informed and constructive discussion as we collectively navigate the future of our nation. As we move forward, let us commit to engaging with these ideas deeply, critically, and constructively, all in the service of advancing our society and ensuring a bright future for generations to come. This dedication to expanding our understanding and actively engaging in the conversation is crucial as we confront the complexities of building a fair and prosperous Canada for everyone.