

Issue 2 – April 2015

Prepared by: Caroline Hemstock, Research and Policy Project Coordinator  
Under the direction of the AAISA Research Committee

## 2015 Alberta Election

On Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, Alberta will head to the polls. Elections are a crucial time for individuals and organizations to engage with the political process on social and economic policies. During this time it can be difficult to find concise and useful information on the issues that matter.

For this reason, AAISA has prepared a document that will provide the settlement sector with a quick snapshot of where each main political party stands when it comes to settlement and integration policy. A comparative chart is accompanied by a list of questions and resources. This information can be used to guide newcomer serving agencies as they engage with party leaders and candidates during the election at campaign events or via telephone and social media.

The following comparative chart was developed based on the content available on each political party's website and within their official platforms. Additionally, all parties were contacted to give an official statement on their policies as they relate to settlement and integration in Alberta. Statements given to AAISA are noted within the chart.

Political Party	Leader & Platform	Settlement and Integration Policies
<b>Alberta Liberal Party</b>	Dr. David Swann <a href="https://twitter.com/davidswann">@davidswann</a>  Platform available at: <a href="http://www.albertaliberal.com/">http://www.albertaliberal.com/</a>	<i>Explicit mention of settlement and integration policy in platform.</i>  <b>Policies:</b> Development of a "5 Point Plan to Help New Canadians:" 1. Settlement Funding: \$25 million boost to settlement funding for New Canadians in Alberta. 2. ESL Funding and Services: Provide appropriate levels of ESL funding and services by increasing funding to traditional and internet-based ESL training. 3. Foreign Credentials: Improve the foreign credential review process by working with professional groups to create streamlined pathways so new Albertans can have their training recognized. 4. Faster Pathways to Citizenship: Faster pathways to citizenship facilitated by settlement agencies can assist New



		<p>Canadians to reach their settlement goals.</p> <p>5. Career Development: Adequate funding so that career development and job search services are provided by settlement service agencies.</p> <p>Protection for paid farm workers by instituting stronger occupational health and safety standards—and ensure farm workers are covered by workers' compensation.</p>
<p><b>Alberta New Democratic Party (NDP)</b></p>	<p>Rachel Notley <a href="#">@RachelNotley</a></p> <p>Platform available at: <a href="http://www.albertandp.ca/">http://www.albertandp.ca/</a></p>	<p><i>No explicit mention of settlement and integration policy in platform. However, the Alberta NDP's Policy Team provided AAISA with the following statements:</i></p> <p><b>Related policies:</b> Recognition of the important work to support immigrants and promote integration done by non-profit organizations will be accomplished by increasing funding (\$25 million a year) to Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) which enhances community-based services and programs.</p> <p>Collaboration with federal government to advocate an increase in hours of funded English language training and to ensure that children, women and seniors, who are often the most isolated, have access to these programs.</p> <p>Investment in child care; while an improvement in the quality of care offered will be beneficial for all children, it will be especially important for immigrant children as it will allow them to develop important language skills.</p>
<p><b>Alberta Party</b></p>	<p>Greg Clark <a href="#">@GregClark4AB</a></p> <p>Platform available at: <a href="http://www.albertaparty.ca/">http://www.albertaparty.ca/</a></p>	<p><i>No explicit mention of settlement and integration policy in platform.</i></p>
<p><b>Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta (PC)</b></p>	<p>Jim Prentice <a href="#">@JimPrentice</a></p> <p>Platform available at: <a href="https://www.pcalberta.org/">https://www.pcalberta.org/</a></p>	<p><i>No explicit mention of settlement and integration policy in platform.</i></p> <p><b>Related policies:</b> Honour public sector contracts now in place, but as they expire negotiate new contracts based on the fiscal reality.</p> <p>Plan to reduce government spending by gradually—over three years—restraining spending across all ministries.</p>



		<p>Public services will be funded by stable revenues through progressive taxation that are structure around new tax brackets. Taxes will increase on income over \$100,000.</p> <p>Partner with municipalities to ensure their capacity to provide growing populations with the services and infrastructure they need through new city charters.</p>
<b>Wildrose Party</b>	<p>Brian Jean  <a href="https://twitter.com/BrianJeanWRP">@BrianJeanWRP</a></p> <p>Platform available at:  <a href="http://www.wildrose.ca/">http://www.wildrose.ca/</a></p>	<p><i>Explicit mention of settlement and integration policy in platform.</i></p> <p><b>Policies:</b>          Take full responsibility for provincial immigration (as Quebec has done) to ensure Alberta can attract the skilled work force needed for our economy.</p>

**Top 5 Questions to Ask Alberta Political Parties:**

1. What role do you believe the settlement and integration sector should play in welcoming newcomers to Alberta?
2. Where does your party stand on the role of immigration to support Alberta’s economy?
3. What specific strategies would your party implement to support the transition of newcomers to Alberta’s economy and communities?
4. How can the settlement and integration sector improve their engagement with the public policy process?
5. What are your recommendations for creating a collaborative relationship between the provincial government and newcomer serving agencies?

**Additional Resources:**

In addition to this bulletin, AAISA encourages its members and the settlement sector to consult multiple resources in order to better understand the salient electoral issues. AAISA recommends the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations’ (CCVO) [“Alberta Political Leader Response Summary”](#) for a review of each leader’s stance on, and ideas for, the non-profit sector. To find out where you, or your organization, fit in Alberta’s political environment, consult the [Vote Compass](#). For information on how and where to vote, consult the [Elections Alberta](#) website.