



Canada Bikes

Election 2015 Policy Questionnaire

Background

When the federal government supports investments in cycling infrastructure and programs, more people start riding. Health, sustainable infrastructure, diverse local and national economies, a clean environment, robust tourism industries...these are just some of the proven payoffs that should make cycling investment a key federal priority. Health care savings alone provides strong motivation. By meaningfully integrating cycling into a federal transportation strategy, conditions like asthma, obesity and other health costs can be minimized while health, lifespan, productivity and wellbeing increase. Canada, however, has yet to capitalize on most of the benefits that increased cycling would provide - estimated to return up to \$30 for every dollar spent. Safety remains a serious concern for most citizens and Canada lags far behind similar countries in daily ridership among adults and, alarmingly, in rates of cycling to school among children. We all want to see healthier, happier, safer, cleaner cities and that's why lawmakers everywhere are starting to advance cycling and why we need far greater federal participation. Most importantly, a majority of Canadians of all political stripes have told us that investing in cycling is simply the right thing to do.

Questions For the Leaders

*These questions are the outcome of the Canada Bikes-led National Strategic Consultation on Federal Government Priorities in 2014-2015. **Canada Bikes asks that each federal party leader (or their representative) provide formal responses to the questions outlined above by Midnight, Friday Oct.9th. Official responses should be emailed to info@CanadaBikes.org. We will review and publicly post the responses and share it with the many Canadians who love to ride a bicycle or would like to more often. We are also encouraging individual and local clubs to ask the same questions of their candidates. For more info on national cycling strategies see: canadabikes.org/towards-a-national-strategy***

1. Forging a National Strategy on Cycling. Countries who develop a strong national cycling strategy see escalating ridership and economic, social and environmental benefits. **In detail, what will your party do to develop a national cycling strategy?**

2. Investing in Safe Infrastructure and programs. Knowing the link between infrastructure and ridership, **what will your government do to hasten the construction of national, regional and local networks of protected bicycle infrastructure?**

*Bonus question answers are for fun. They will not be evaluated or judged. Leaders who provide an answer will automatically have a bonus point added to their score.

//Bonus question* ***For the love of riding a bicycle.*** Where did you last ride a bicycle, and what do you love most about it?

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