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The Green Plan

New solutions to old problems.





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Mike Schreiner
Leader of the Green Party of Ontario

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The Green Plan

**The Ontario you want.
The Leadership we need.**

A Message from Mike:

In my four years as an MPP in Queen's Park, I have learned a lot about working together to ensure Ontario is ready for the challenges ahead. I've also learned that the old-line parties have tried and failed to tackle the issues that matter most.

In a province as rich as ours, we should not have a province where a person working fulltime cannot find an affordable place to call home. We should not see patients lingering in hospital corridors waiting for care. We need to be climate leaders for a future that is already here.

Ontario Greens have listened and learned from people across our province. Our housing plan has been called a master class in delivering affordable housing solutions with connected communities where we live, work, play, and shop locally.

We're committed to ending the mindless development that is paving over the valuable farmland that feeds us and the wetlands that clean our drinking water and protect us from flooding. We will double the Greenbelt by creating a Bluebelt to protect our wetlands, keeping clean water in our rivers and lakes and out of our basements.

We are leading the way with Ontario's first stand-alone policy paper on mental health. We will expand OHIP to include access to more professional services and allow people to get the services they need when and where they need them.

Successive governments have not prepared us to succeed in the new climate economy. They may see climate change as just another election issue. We know that as the climate goes, so goes the economy and our children's future. We can't afford to wait. We need action now.

When it comes to climate solutions, I'm proud to say that Ontario Green policy is the gold standard for a new way forward. With plans for more renewable energy, electrification of transit, and programs like our green home retrofit incentive, we can create thousands of new careers and better jobs, help people save money by saving energy, and protect the people and places we love.

Our vision is for the Ontario we all want - caring, connected, and ready for the new climate economy.

Thank you,



Mike Schreiner

Leader, Ontario Greens



The Green Plan Priorities



1. Homes not highways

- Freeze urban boundaries, build 1.5M homes and provide people with more choices such as triplexes, fourplexes, and walk up apartments.
- Clamp down on speculation because homes are for people, not speculators.
- Invest \$1B/year to build 182,000 affordable community rental homes, including 60,000 supportive homes over the next decade.



2. Mental health is health

- Increase mental health spending to 10% of our health budget to include mental health care under OHIP
- Increase funding for children's mental health to reduce wait times to less than 30 days.
- Decriminalise drug use to improve lives, lower costs and treat mental health as a public health issue.



3. New Climate Economy

- Establish a transparent annual carbon budget to reach net zero by 2045.
- Electrify transportation, buildings and industry to crush pollution and lower energy costs.
- Provide up to \$15,000 in incentives for homeowners for energy retrofits to help people save money by saving energy.



4. Respect for People

- Repeal Bill 124, pay PSWs, nurses and ECEs a fair wage and hire 33,000 nurses.
- Double the rates for Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).
- Implement UNDRIP and act on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



5. Reinvest in health and education

- Help people age in place with a \$1.6B investment in home care.
- Support in-person learning and oppose any move toward mandatory e-learning or hybrid learning models.
- Enhance affordability and access to post-secondary by converting loans to grants for low and middle income post-secondary students.



6. Protect nature

- Permanently protect prime farmland, wetlands and conserve 30% of nature by 2030.
- Provide \$1B in funding for Indigenous climate leadership including Indigenous protected and conserved areas.
- Make infrastructure climate ready with a \$2B adaptation fund for municipalities.



A Caring Society



**Our plan emphasises the connections we all share.
It values the quality of life of all Ontarians."**

- Mike Schreiner, GPO Leader

The past two years have shown us just how much we rely on caring professions in healthcare, education, and social services to get us through.

But neglect and half-measures from years of successive governments have strained services we rely on every day.

Getting help when you need it should not be this hard. Whether you're a senior citizen waiting two years for a knee replacement or a person with a disability trying to survive off \$1169 per month, the system is broken.

The pandemic exposed the giant chasms in our healthcare system, leaving our ICUs over-run and our elders dying alone. Stopping the bleeding will take more than a band-aid.

Our vision for Ontario is one that clearly states that mental health is health. Bringing mental health services under OHIP will mean that people can afford and can access the care they need.

Our vision puts the dignity of people ahead of private profits or government red tape. If we are going to call nurses, PSWs and educators

heroes, then let's pay them that way. If we want to keep our hospitals stable, then let's treat illnesses before they become an emergency.

We offer solutions to make it easier for our elders to age in place, with dignity and real support. Solutions that will replace the profit motive in long-term care, with a real commitment to give each resident the care they need.

And after two chaotic years inside and outside of the classroom, students and teachers need stability in the school system. We need to properly invest in our education systems - from child care through post secondary.

We have a lot of work ahead of us if we want to create a common future that is fair, just and caring.

Ontario Greens offer a leadership approach that plans for the future by putting people and the planet above profit.

Ontarians care for one another. Our vision for Ontario is one where the government does too.



MENTAL HEALTH IS HEALTH



Mental health is such a critical issue that all parties should be talking about. It was a crisis situation before COVID-19, and the pandemic has only made things worse.”

– Abhijeet Manay, GPO Deputy Leader

Almost half of Ontarians said their mental health has worsened since the pandemic began, and one in four Ontarians is currently seeking help. The greatest barriers people face in receiving treatment are access and affordability.

But mental health is not a “nice to have,” it is a “need to have.” Decades of neglect from successive governments has led to long wait times and inadequate funding and support. Mental health touches all of our lives, and proper care should be available for everyone.

Ontario Greens introduced a comprehensive

mental health plan, “[Building a More Caring Ontario](#),” that lays out a strategy to make mental health care more affordable, accessible and comprehensive so anyone in this province can get the care they need when they need it.

We intend to expand OHIP to include regulated mental health care providers who are presently out of reach for so many Ontarians. We will treat addiction as a mental health issue and expand treatment options for people with complex needs. We will create a mental healthcare system that is affordable, accessible, comprehensive, and easy to navigate.

Increase access to publicly funded mental health care

- Make the investments needed to increase mental health spending to 10% of Ontario's healthcare budget.
- Include mental health and addiction care under OHIP by offering services provided by psychotherapists, psychologists, social workers, and other regulated professionals.
- Provide an immediate base budget increase of 8% to the community mental health sector to increase access to publicly funded care.
- Expand access to publicly funded mental health and addiction treatment beds to reduce or eliminate the need for expensive private care.
- Fully integrate mental health and addictions services into expanded Family Health Teams and walk-in clinics to improve early intervention. Include mental health and substance use as part of regular check-ups.

Create an accessible system with around-the-clock access

- Make investments to ensure core mental health and addiction services are available in all regions of Ontario so people can access care where they live.
- Establish clear pathways to navigate our mental health care system and trained system navigators to connect people to appropriate treatment and services.
- Implement a wait time reduction strategy for mental health services that sets targets, tracks wait times, and makes the information available to the public.
- Invest in a 3 digit, 24/7 province-wide mental health crisis response line so callers can be diverted from 911 and connected to a more appropriate service.
- Invest in the creation and expansion of 24/7 mental health focused mobile crisis response teams, crisis centres, rapid access addiction medicine clinics, and short-term residential beds across the province.

Improve access to care for children, youth, and students

- Reduce wait times to 30 days or less for children and youth by investing in front-line mental health care workers.
- Invest in expanding services for youth who face service gaps as they age out of the youth system of care.
- Make the appropriate investments so students can easily connect to community mental health professionals at or near primary and secondary schools.
- Ensure that mental health, wellness and resiliency training are included across the entire education system. Implement a comprehensive curriculum that covers issues such as mental wellness, coping skills, and stress management.
- Replicate networks such as the Guelph and Wellington County ACEs Coalition province-wide to increase programming available to prevent the effects of adverse childhood experiences.
- Invest in Youth Wellness Hubs province-wide as a one-stop shop for employment, health, education, recreation and housing support. Our goal should be to have at least one in each community across Ontario.
- Expand the Centre for Innovation in Campus Mental Health and increase funding for

peer-to-peer programming, frontline counselling, harm reduction tools, and training

to support well-being and resilience.

Treat mental health and addiction as a public health issue

- Work with the federal government to fast-track the decriminalisation of drugs and reallocate funding from the justice system to mental health care services.
- Establish mental health-focused crisis response teams in communities across Ontario to be deployed when people are experiencing a mental health or substance related crisis.
- Coordinate with public health units to collect and release data on the overdose epidemic, including detailed data on non-fatal and fatal drug poisonings.

Expand support for addiction care

- Take a Housing First approach and build 60,000 permanent supportive housing spaces with wrap-around services, and dedicate 10% of those homes to people with complex care needs.
- Increase the number of consumption and treatment sites throughout the province and expand the availability of harm reduction programs, including safe supply.
- Integrate paid peer support workers with lived experience into the planning and organisation of all substance use programming, and create a significant role for people with lived experience as part of the Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence.
- Declare the opioid crisis a public health emergency to free up funds and provide focused, coordinated government leadership to combat the crisis.
- Expand the distribution of naloxone kits.
- Reboot the Ontario Emergency Opioid Task Force to address the urgency and complexity of the drug poisoning crisis.

Expand care options for people with complex needs

- Define standards of care for common and complex mental health and addiction services to be used across the province.
- Conduct a needs assessment for acute and community-based mental health and addiction services by region, and make investments in acute care beds as needed.
- Expand specialist community mental health services and acute care capacity for people with eating disorders.
- Recognize suicide as a public health priority and invest in evidence-based prevention strategies that support the individual needs of people, including Indigenous and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.
- Support programs and services that take an intersectional approach to meet the needs of all people, including those with disabilities, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, women, Black, Indigenous, and racialized people, and those with housing insecurity.



HEALTH THROUGH A PREVENTATIVE LENS



A focus on preventing illness will provide healthy outcomes and quality care at the lowest cost to the public purse. ”

- Marlene Spruyt, GPO candidate and retired Medical Officer of Health

As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

While other parties wait for every crisis to reach a boiling point, our vision is to try to solve problems at their source.

When it comes to healthcare, this means helping people to access healthy food and a place to call home. It's also about early detection and treatment of illnesses in community clinics rather than the hallway of a hospital. Most importantly, it's a plan to respect nurses, PSWs and other healthcare workers to retain these professionals rather than burning them out.

We are now facing a backlog for care, with thousands of people still waiting for health care, support and services. It's even more challenging for rural, remote and Northern communities, where there were staffing shortages even before the pandemic.

With surgery backlogs and an understaffed sector, now is the time to expand a publicly funded, publicly delivered healthcare system that is equitable, accessible, and comprehensive - for all Ontarians.

Prioritise prevention in our healthcare system

- Partner with the federal government to implement a universal dental care program.
- Partner with the federal government to implement a universal pharmacare program. As an interim measure, publicly fund take-home cancer and rare disease medications.
- Increase upstream investments in the social determinants of health, such as social isolation, housing insecurity, and poverty to prevent substantial, long-term healthcare costs and severe disease.
- Support and promote healthy behaviours to prevent disease and reduce risk factors such as poor nutrition and smoking. These early investments will lead to better long-term health outcomes and reduce stress on the system.
- Improve environmental determinants of health by prioritising clean air, clean water, and access to healthy local food in all communities.

Create a robust system of primary care

- Support a publicly funded, publicly delivered healthcare system and oppose further privatisation of care.
- Expand access to family health teams in communities across the province and increase opportunities for physicians to join team-based models of care. Include a diverse array of healthcare providers in the teams to ensure a holistic, connected, comprehensive approach to health.
- Increase options for primary care, such as community health centres and nurse-practitioner-led clinics, to ensure access to non-urgent 24/7 care.
- Improve integration and connectivity across healthcare service providers through the use of digital data sharing and patient health coordinators.
- Improve diagnosis and OHIP-covered care for rare diseases, including but not limited to Lyme disease, long-COVID, and chronic pain disorders.
- Increase funding for and access to midwives and other community perinatal care services across Ontario.

Invest in healthcare workers

- Establish a nurse-led task force to make recommendations on matters related to the recruitment, retention and safety of nurses.
- Immediately repeal Bill 124 and the problematic sections of Bill 106 and allow all healthcare workers to bargain collectively for fair wages. Until then, provide a minimum hourly wage of \$35 to registered practical nurses and \$25 to personal support workers.
- Increase nursing program enrollments by 10% every year for 7 years and the number of trained nurse practitioners by 50% by 2030 to enable us to meet our target of at least 30,000 additional nurses.
- Support certification upgrades for healthcare workers through expanded bridging programs at publicly funded post-secondary institutions.
- Fast-track credential approvals for 15,000 international healthcare workers, including nurses and personal support workers.
- Guarantee access to the most appropriate

ate safety equipment in all healthcare facilities, and use the precautionary principle when protecting workers.

- Provide support for Black and Indige-

Support strong hospitals

- Increase year-over-year hospital base operating funding to a minimum of 5%.
- Work with the federal government to provide surge funding to reduce the backlog in surgeries, imaging, and other services.
- Invest in new and expanded hospitals as needed to meet demand in high

Protect Public Health

- Conduct an independent public inquiry into the Government of Ontario's response to the COVID-19 pandemic that will offer recommendations on preventative measures to reduce harm in the case of future health crises.
- Designate the Chief Medical Officer of Health as an independent officer of the legislature in a watchdog role comparable to that of provincial auditors, with annual publicly available reporting.

Fulfill remote and rural healthcare needs

- Rebalance the healthcare funding formula to ensure better access in rural and remote areas.
- Make permanent the 50 community wellness nursing positions supporting First Nations communities.
- Invest in increasing the number of Indigenous-led health clinics.
- Expand the roles and scope of nurse prac-

titioners as primary health care providers, especially in areas that lack primary care options.

growth areas.

- Expand funding to build additional hospice residences and fund all critical costs related to palliative care, including support for grief and bereavement services.
- Increase annual in-home palliative care funding.

- Enhance the ability of Public Health Ontario to carry out its mandate by ensuring robust public health science and laboratory support.
- Provide adequate and predictable funding to ensure future pandemic preparedness.
- Stockpile three months' supply of personal protective equipment for all healthcare facilities in the province.

- Use incentives to bring physicians and allied health professionals to Northern and rural communities.
- Create opportunities for specialist and subspecialist trainees to undertake electives and core rotations in the North.

Build a more equitable healthcare system

- Immediately strike a task force to develop policies and initiatives that address the adverse effects of racism, homophobia, and transphobia on peoples' mental health and the barriers they face to accessing healthcare.
- Provide cultural responsiveness training for all healthcare professionals across our system that is trauma-informed and rooted in equity and anti-racism.
- Increase core funding for community-based, grassroots mental and physical health supports in racialized, newcomer, and other communities that have traditionally been underserved.
- Improve the availability of supports and services in other languages, including French and Indigenous languages, and encourage service providers and programs to reflect the experiences and perspectives of the populations they serve.
- Mandate and fund the collection and meaningful use of socio-demographic and race-based data to identify and correct inequities in provided care and health outcomes.
- Expand the number of and fully fund women's health clinics and abortion clinics in Ontario.





CARE FOR ELDERS



The government failed to keep long-term care residents safe during the pandemic. A bad situation was made worse by a government that failed to act.”

– Carla Johnson, GPO candidate

The recent census showed that, in the next few years, one in five people in this country will be over the age of sixty-five. Many of us will live into our eighties. We need to bring support and care into our communities where the majority of people prefer to age in place – enjoying daily life within our homes.

In Canada, long-term care residents made up 81% of all reported COVID-19 deaths compared to an average of 38% in other countries.¹ The Toronto Star reported in December 2021 that for-profit long-term care operators paid nearly \$171 million in dividends

to shareholders in the first three quarters of 2020 while receiving \$138.5 million in pandemic funding.²

Those who built this province deserve to age with dignity. Let’s replace the profit motive with a real commitment to give each resident the care they need.

We have a plan to improve care in long term care and ensure that our elders are not treated as just another revenue stream by private investors. We must do better.

¹ <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0262807>

² <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/12/26/big-for-profit-long-term-care-companies-paid-out-more-than-170-million-to-investors-through-ontarios-deadly-first-wave.html>

Build more non-profit long-term care beds

- Build 55,000 long-term care beds by 2033 and at least 96,000 by 2041 to meet growing demand.
- Create more Indigenous-led long-term care homes and allocate a portion of the new beds to these homes.

Create an accountable, nonprofit long-term care system

- Increase base funding for long-term care by 10%
- Phase out for-profit long-term care and stop licensing new for-profit homes.
- Repeal Bill 218, which shields long-term care owners and operators from liability for negligence.
- Reinstate annual comprehensive inspections of long-term care homes without advance notice, and ensure homes with infractions face the legislated consequences.
- Transfer regulatory oversight of retirement homes to the Ministry of Long-Term Care.
- Create a system of formal oversight for long-term care Medical Directors working with the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Ontario Medical Association.

Improve resident care

- Legislate staffing in long-term care facilities to include a minimum of one nurse practitioner for every 120 residents and a staff composition that includes 20% registered nurses, 25% registered practical nurses, and 55% personal support workers.
- Mandate a minimum of four hours of nursing and personal care per resident per day, including a minimum of 48 minutes of care provided by a registered nurse and 60 minutes provided by a registered practical nurse.
- Increase long-term care resident access to allied health professionals, such as dietitians, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and social workers, to a minimum of one hour per day.
- Mandate continued professional development for staff on geriatric care, practices for caring for residents with dementia, and palliative and end-of-life care.
- Fast-track updated staffing plans and ensure consistency of care by requiring full-time personal support workers and nursing positions.

Prepare for future infectious disease outbreaks

- Prioritise licence proposals for small, community-based long-term care homes.
- Update design standards to improve outbreak management of infectious diseases.
- Stop contracting out food, housekeeping and laundry services.
- Recognise that essential caregivers play a critical role in residents' health and well-being, and ensure they can safely access their loved ones during prolonged infectious disease emergencies.
- Define the respective roles of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Long-Term

Care in addressing health emergencies, and ensure the safety of long-term care

residents is reflected in any provincial emergency plan.

Expand options for holistic care

- Better integrate long-term care, home-care, and caregiver services within the healthcare system to properly provide for the complex needs of residents.
- Implement an expanded choice, patient-centred long-term care framework that focuses on a continuum of care for seniors.
- Strengthen obligations for long-term care licensees to respect and recognise residents' gender identity, as well as their social, cultural, spiritual, and language care needs.
- Amend the Residents' Bill of Rights to align with the prohibited grounds for discrimination in the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- Amend the Residents' Bill of Rights by adding the right of residents to have accommodations made for themselves and their spouse or life partner so they can continue to live together in long-term care.
- Prioritise healthy, quality local food as an important component of resident wellbeing.

Improve home care

- Increase funding to home care services by 20% so that people can safely stay in their homes longer.
- Create a standard basket of core homecare services that providers must make consistently available across the province.
- Shift to entirely nonprofit homecare providers within the public system.
- Provide team coordinators as a single access point within family health teams to ensure care is consistent with patient needs.
- Mandate that personal support workers are paid a minimum of \$25 an hour and for their travel time between visits.
- Increase high-quality homecare options for those experiencing frailty, dementia, and disability.
- Collect meaningful quality indicators to hold homecare organisations accountable and to promote quality improvements.
- Pilot a support program as part of a basic income phase-in for those doing unpaid caregiving in families and communities.

Expand options to age in place

- Make it easier for seniors to live together by streamlining and simplifying the approvals process for cohousing and coliving developments. Repeal laws that would prohibit or create barriers to cohousing and coliving.
- Increase support for community centres and neighbourhood coalitions, which play an important role in encouraging community connections and reducing isolation for elders.
- Create incentives for retrofitting homes to make them safer and easier to age in place.



LIFELONG LEARNING



After two chaotic years inside and outside of the classroom, students and teachers need the government to bring stability to the school system and get back to high-quality, in-person education.”

– Matt Richter, GPO candidate

Learning is one of the great joys of living. We should all have access to education and training that suits our abilities and interests. Our lifelong learning curve should not be cut short by unnecessary obstacles. A 21st century educational system needs to keep pace with the changes and requirements of a society in transition.

We need new funding models and clear, affordable pathways to higher education.

For the Green Party, building a modern, more equitable education system is a must. Properly funding our educational support workers and retaining strong and committed teachers is paramount.

Investments in education are important for the health, wellbeing, and success of kids and young people now and for the future.

Improve funding models for education

- Establish an independent review of Ontario's education funding formula so it adequately reflects student needs, and review the formula every five years.
- Ensure the updated formula includes adequate funding for ESL grants, special education assistants, counsellors, and other specific supports to provide equitable access to learning and school activities for all students.
- Ensure the updated funding formula takes into account the unique needs of remote and rural schools.
- Address the repair backlog for Ontario public schools.
- Allocate funds to ensure schools are able to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).
- Provide funding for schools to make energy efficiency and ventilation improvements.
- Make funding available so that schools can buy zero emission electric school buses to replace retired diesel buses.

Strengthen in-school learning

- Support in-person learning and oppose any move toward mandatory e-learning or hybrid learning models.
- Cap grades 4 to 8 class sizes at 24 students at most and kindergarten at 26 students at most.
- Eliminate the EQAO standardised testing and update the elementary curriculum to reduce prescribed student outcomes.
- Increase funding for enhanced outdoor education, greenspace in school yards, and enhanced curriculum content on critical environmental topics such as food literacy and climate change.
- Implement a province-wide nutritious school lunch program.

Make equity a pillar of public education

- Address racism in schools with mandatory collection and reporting of race-based data for student, teacher and staff populations, as well as implementing standard procedures around the reporting of incidents of racism.
- Work with school boards to ensure recruitment and retention practices for staff are transparent and reflect the diversity of Ontario's population and ensure culturally relevant and responsive programming is included in mandatory staff training.
- End streaming in our education system to ensure equity for all students.
- Immediately remove all Resource Officers from Ontario schools.
- Establish clearly visible all-gender washrooms and update school communications to become more gender inclusive, recognising that gender exists on a spectrum.
- Update the curriculum to include informed discussions of anti-Black racism, 2SLGBTQIA+ prejudice, and all forms of discrimination across subject areas.
- Restore funding for the Indigenous curriculum program and work with Indigenous educators and community leaders to develop a mandatory curriculum on colonialism and residential schools, treaties, and Indigenous histories and experiences.

Support children with disabilities

- Address the growing waitlist for Ontario Autism Program (OAP) core services by building the capacity of autism providers, and fund the OAP to bring families into the program as rapidly as possible.
- Fund OAP increases every year as inflation and the number of children registered in the program increases.
- Establish an ultimate wait time benchmark for diagnosis and access to core services once registered in the program.
- Work with the federal Government and other provinces in the development of a National Autism Strategy to develop standards and a funding model to provide supports and services for autistic people of all ages.
- Provide educators multi-discipline training to help them address student sensory and behavioural issues and adopt teaching strategies that support students with a wide spectrum of accommodation needs.
- Build on the work done with the OAP toward a new Ontario Disability Support Program that would provide funding for therapeutic and respite services and supports for people with all disabilities, beginning with children and youth.

Improve access to and equity in post-secondary education

- Immediately reverse the Ford government's cuts to OSAP by converting loans to grants for low and middle income students and eliminating interest charges on student debt.
- Index the base operating grant for Ontario's post-secondary institutions to the weighted national average, followed by inflationary increases year to year.
- Replace the faulty performance-based university funding model and restore the more stable and equitable enrolment-based funding model.
- Ensure consistent and fair labour standards and working conditions for all faculty, including contract faculty. Remove wage constraints and pay equal wages for equal work.
- Develop province-wide, culturally relevant, trauma-informed and survivor-centric standards for sexual and gender-based violence on post-secondary campuses in consultation with experts, frontline workers, students and survivors.





Sarah Chaudhary Canoeing on Biggar Lake

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



As Leader of the Ontario Greens, I commit to upholding Indigenous rights to self-determination, and to act with real respect for treaty obligations.”

- Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario

We need meaningful action toward reconciliation.

The government has a legal and moral obligation to work with Indigenous communities – with full partnership, participation, and respect.

Reconciliation with Indigenous communities is essential and includes acknowledging the role of traditional knowledge and systems. A key step in this direction will be to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Our plan seeks to acknowledge the reality of Indigenous people in Ontario, including the understanding that centuries of colonialism and broken promises have made building trust difficult.

We want to see the province come to the table with funding for Indigenous-led initiatives in climate leadership, healthcare and housing.

Work in partnership with Indigenous communities

- Implement UNDRIP to ensure equity for Indigenous peoples.
- Establish true nation-to-nation relationships with Indigenous peoples.
- Recognise First Nations' right to self-determination and establish a co-management stewardship model for the development of provincial resources with fair revenue sharing.
- Recognise and integrate Indigenous laws and legal traditions in the negotiation and implementation processes involving treaties, land claims, and other constructive agreements.
- Support Indigenous land defenders in asserting their treaty rights and actions taken to confront threats to their traditional lands.

Address the legacy of colonialism and residential schools

- Work with the federal government to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- Make the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation a statutory holiday.
- Restore funding for the Indigenous curriculum program and work with Indigenous educators and community leaders to develop a mandatory curriculum on colonialism and residential schools, treaties, and Indigenous histories and experiences.
- Work with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify, collect, and provide copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system in Ontario.
- Reform child welfare and protection services to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in provincial care by ensuring Indigenous communities are served by Indigenous-led providers. Produce annual reports on the number and proportion of Indigenous children who are in care.

Fix the healthcare gap

- Work with the federal government and Indigenous communities to identify and close the gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
- Increase the number of Indigenous professionals working in healthcare through training and mentorship opportunities and ensure their retention in Indigenous communities, particularly in northern and remote communities.
- Increase the number of Indigenous-led health centres, youth programming, crisis support teams, and support suicide-prevention training.
- Provide properly funded Indigenous-led supports for survivors of residential school trauma.
- Publish annual progress reports and assess long-term trends and indicators in areas such as suicide, mental health, chronic diseases, and availability of appropriate health services to ensure equity in access to care.

Fund an Indigenous-led housing strategy

- Fund 22,000 Indigenous-owned and operated permanent homes under an Urban and Rural Indigenous Housing Strategy. The strategy and implementation would

be led by Indigenous communities to create homes for Indigenous peoples living in Ontario.

Support community rights to a healthy environment

- Work with the federal government to immediately end all boil water advisories.
- Work to repair the damage at Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemoong;
 - Pursue government commitments to clean up mercury contamination and ensure free, informed and prior consent for Grassy Narrows, Wabaseemoong communities, and all other Indigenous communities for future industrial decisions;
 - Provide evidence-based assessments in line with the recommendations from the Mercury Disability Board Expert Panel to ensure fair compensation is received by those who qualify.
- Restore provincial funding for source water protection and expand drinking water source protection to Northern, remote and Indigenous communities.
- Provide adequate funding and training opportunities for a First Nations Water Authority to own and operate their own water and wastewater utilities to work toward finally ending boil water advisories.
- Recognize and provide \$1B in funding for Indigenous-protected and conserved areas, in which Indigenous governments play the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance and knowledge systems.





AN EQUITABLE ONTARIO



We have a lot of work to do to build the Ontario we want, where your gender or the colour of your skin does not create barriers to the quality of life you want to live.”

- Nira Dookeran, GPO candidate

We've made tremendous strides, but there is still work to be done to make Ontario a place where everyone belongs. Still today, racialized communities, women, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and people with disabilities face disproportionately more barriers in accessing quality health care, economic opportunities, and within the justice system. Inequity has many faces. It comes in the form of uncon-

scious bias and overt racism, gender based gaps in pay and opportunity, and neglect of those that must deal with physical and neuro-diverse challenges.

Ontario Greens are committed to building a more accessible and equitable Ontario. We have a lot of work ahead of us if we want to create a common future that is fair, just and caring.

Improve quality of life for people living with a disability

- Double Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates as a first step to implementing a Basic Income, and tie future increases to inflation.
- Evaluate and improve the Assistive Devices Program to better meet the needs of those requiring assistive tools, including more up-to-date devices, training, and fewer barriers to access.
- Ensure that new affordable housing stock is accessible, and require affordable housing retrofits to meet the same standards.
- Review all Ontario laws for accessibility barriers and ensure that all future funding and policy choices are made through an accessibility lens.
- Update, improve and implement the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act as quickly as possible.

Prioritise gender equity

- Work with the federal government to ensure continued funding for universal access to high-quality, \$10-a-day childcare in all communities so women have more opportunity to re-enter the workforce.
- Provide Early Childcare Educators, more than 95% of whom are women, with a fair wage of at least \$25 per hour.
- Immediately revoke Bill 124 to allow healthcare workers, including nurses (91% of whom are women), to negotiate fairly for the wage increases they deserve.
- Implement the Pay Transparency Act.
- Require that public corporations' boards and executive level positions have an adequate proportion of women represented, with a goal to achieve gender parity.
- Apply a gender-based analysis to all government legislation and programming to advise on how gender equity can be better achieved.
- Support survivors of gender-based violence by increasing funding for Sexual Assault Centres, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and legal supports.

Fight to eradicate systemic racism

- Fully fund the Anti-Racism Directorate, reversing the recent cuts.
- Require anti-racism and anti-oppression training for all public sector employees and legislators.
- Require the Ontario Public Service to commit to eliminate racism and discrimination, conduct random external audits, data collection and reporting, and establish a safe harassment and discrimination reporting system for staff.
- Pass the Our London Family Act to change the way we address Islamophobia in Ontario.
- Ensure Indigenous communities are served by Indigenous-led child welfare providers to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in provincial care.
- Address the overrepresentation of Black children in provincial care by the development of frameworks to provide culturally appropriate services to Black children, youth and families. Identify and address existing standards and structures that continue to harm Black families.

- Provide annual reports on the number and proportion of Black and Indigenous children who are in care, and establish an

independent office to investigate claims of unfair treatment by case workers called in to assess a child's circumstances.

Support and improve rights for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities

- Create a comprehensive strategy to ensure equitable, inclusive and affirming access to care and treatment for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities within our healthcare system and long-term care.
- Expand and improve access to provincially funded healthcare services for 2SLGBTQIA+ Ontarians, including gen-

der affirming procedures and transition medications.

- Dedicate resources and funding to directly support 2SLGBTQIA+ youth groups.
- Mandate standards to have safe, accessible, all-gender washrooms in all public spaces in Ontario.

Address discrimination in our justice system

- Ban the practice of carding and delete existing data that has been collected from carding in the past.
- Reform the Special Investigation Unit to ensure transparency and justice for racialised individuals who are victims of violence and discrimination at the hands of law enforcement.
- Acknowledge and commit to addressing the disproportionately violent and discriminatory law enforcement experienced by Indigenous, Black and racialised people.
- Decriminalise drug use, expand safe consumption sites, and shift funding from the justice system to healthcare.
- Develop a 3 digit dedicated crisis response

line and health-focused crisis response teams to respond to mental health and substance related calls.

- Ensure that court mental health workers are available in all regions of Ontario to divert more individuals living with a mental health issue and/or substance use concern out of the justice system and into mental health and addictions services and supports.
- Restore adequate funding to Legal Aid by boosting their base budget and develop a long-term, structurally stable funding plan.
- Immediately appoint more full-time, qualified, and competent adjudicators to the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario to ensure timely and effective case hearings.

Equity through language access

- Ensure that interpreters, translators, or multilingual written materials are available in publicly funded services. Improve awareness of their availability.
- Ensure all government announcements are signed in both ASL and LSQ.

- Provide tools for nonprofits to have french language resources.
- Create incentives to increase the number of french-speaking individuals in teachers college programs.



RESPECT WORKERS AND INCREASE ECONOMIC SECURITY



We can't afford to wait to treat workers with the respect they deserve, including paid sick days and fair wages."

- Syam Chandra, GPO candidate

The pandemic has reminded us who keeps our cities running during dark times. Decent wages, paid sick days and safe workplaces must be the standard, especially as life is getting less and less affordable for people in Ontario.

We can't afford to wait to treat workers with the respect they deserve, including paid sick days and fair wages.

We're also on the cusp of a major transformation in the world of work. The rising number of people in the gig economy deserve the same rights and protections as other workers.

Ontario Greens believe in treating people with dignity and fairness. This is one reason we support immediate increases in social assistance as the first step towards a Basic Income Guarantee that will provide economic security and resilience.

Improve workers' rights and wages

- Increase the floor of the minimum wage each year by \$1, starting at \$16 in 2022, with a top-up in cities where the cost of living is higher.
- Increase the number of provincially-legislated paid sick days from three to ten, and provide small businesses financial support to fund the program.
- Ban employers from requiring a sick note from a medical practitioner when an employee is ill.
- Restore and improve workers' rights to collective bargaining and immediately repeal Bill 124 and the problematic sections of Bill 106.
- Provide all workers with full and equal access to employment rights and benefits programs like EI, CPP, and WSIB, as well as equal pay for equal work, regardless of whether the employee is permanent, part-time, temporary, or casual.
- Immediately end the practice of deeming whereby the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) unfairly cuts benefits for workers.
- Review the Pension Benefits Act to ensure 100% coverage of defined benefit pensions by the Pension Benefit Guarantee Fund in an involuntary pension plan wind up.

Strengthen rights and protections for gig and temp workers

- Implement a "Gig Workers' Bill of Rights," including, but not limited to, the following:
 - To protect gig workers and end the misclassification of employees, enact a presumption of employee status and the ABC test under the Employment Standards Act.
 - Ensure payment for all hours of work, from app sign-in until sign-out, with a clear and concise breakdown of how pay is calculated.
 - Ensure gig workers real wages are not reduced below the minimum wage by compensating for necessary work related expenses.
 - Make gig work count towards Permanent Residency applications.
- Close the loopholes that can lead to precarious work, including stricter regulations relating to the temp agency industry.
 - Mandate that temp agency workers earn the same as directly hired workers when they do the same work, and that temp workers must become full hired employees after three months.
- Develop a program of portable extended health benefits for workers in the gig economy, retail and hospitality sectors that is tied to the employee even if they were to change employment.

Measure economic progress and wellbeing with evidence-based data

- Replace the GDP as the key metric of government success with an Index of Wellbeing to better measure societal progress, economic and environmental wellbeing, and people's quality of life. This system will help to inform government spending and programming.

Implement a Basic Income and end poverty

- Phase in a Basic Income, with the first step being to double ODSP and OW rates and reduce aggressive clawbacks.
 - Eliminate any unnecessary red tape, reporting requirements, and other barriers typically faced by those needing financial support.
 - Maintain all existing supplementary supports that are available with current income assistance programs.
- Include meaningful consultation with people who have lived experience with poverty and existing social assistance programs in the design of all programs and services aimed at client-centred approaches for reducing poverty.
- Annually report disaggregated data on the proportion of the population that experiences chronic homelessness, unmet health needs, food insecurity, lack of literacy, and low-paid work.
- Prohibit “payday” lending that takes advantage of those facing financial hardship as a violation of anti-racketeering laws, and work with credit unions to develop a low-cost, small loan alternative to help people get out of debt.





Connected Communities



We believe in creating vibrant neighbourhoods where we can live, work and play. It's time to stop Ontario's expensive pro-sprawl, anti-climate agenda."

- Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario

Thriving communities are places where there are a mix of homes people can afford near transit, amenities and parks.

Unfortunately, the affordability crisis means that finding an affordable home to rent or buy is pushing us further and further away and forcing us into long, soul-crushing commutes. It's also turning homeownership into a pipedream for most Ontarians. Greens have a bold plan that the Toronto Star called a "master class in housing policy," and it begins with cracking down on land speculators driving up housing prices.

Past governments watched the problem get worse, but we have a plan to unlock solutions like triplexes, fourplexes and midrise apartments, and to restore protections for renters. We will work with nonprofits to build 182,000 affordable community housing rental homes because everybody deserves a roof over their head.

Community is more than a home - it's the streets, parks, workplaces, schools, and shops that give communities their spirit and identity. Our goal is to build communities where we can access work, services and recreation

within 15 minutes of home, because less time commuting means more time for family and friends.

It just so happens that building dense, mixed-use connected communities is also the best thing we can do for the environment, as it cuts down on car pollution and spares our natural areas from more urban sprawl. Our vision is one of bustling main streets, bike lanes, urban gardens, electric buses, convenient EV charging spots, walkable streets, and so much more.

We'll also deliver on the urgent needs that rural and Northern communities have been waiting for - like high-speed Internet across rural Ontario and passenger rail service to Northern Ontario.

Where we live, work, and play all combine to affect quality of life. Our vision is to create livable, affordable and connected communities.

And we have a plan to do this that won't sacrifice our environment or our health, and won't create policies that line the pockets of land speculators at the expense of building great housing and communities for people.



ADDRESS THE HOUSING CRISIS



We have solutions to make housing more affordable. To create neighbourhoods without paving over nature. And to build for a climate-friendly future.”

- Aneep Dhade, GPO candidate

Housing affordability is a real challenge to many people across the province. Housing costs are rising faster than people’s incomes. So many households are spending more than 30% of their income to meet their basic housing needs.

The struggle to find affordable housing looks different to residents of Northern communities, small towns, and rural counties than it does in the GTHA. But wherever you are, it’s a challenge to find a liveable, affordable place to call home.

The crisis is province-wide. There are no neighbourhoods in Barrie, Guelph, Hamilton, Kitchener, Peterborough, Ottawa or Thunder Bay where the average one or two-bedroom

apartment is affordable for a full-time minimum wage worker.

We urgently need to build more well-designed, affordable, purpose-built rental housing and to repair and maintain the supply we have. We need to adopt a Housing First strategy and work to end homelessness. We need to clamp down on speculation and provide funds that can be reinvested back into affordable housing, and we need to create more pathways to home ownership.

Our comprehensive housing plan, “[Building Livable & Affordable communities](#),” lays out a strategy for making sure everyone has a safe, affordable and accessible place to call home.

Build affordable housing & protect our existing affordable supply

- Build 182,000 new permanently affordable community housing rental homes over the next decade, including 60,000 permanent supportive homes.
- Mandate inclusionary zoning and require a minimum of 20% affordable units in all housing projects above a certain size.
- Create a seed fund for co-operative housing through direct funding and mortgage support.
- Renew 260,000 community housing rental homes over the next decade, in partnership with the federal government, under the National Housing Strategy.
- Provide nonprofit housing providers with the support and access to capital needed to purchase rental buildings to maintain affordability in perpetuity and explore preemptive right-to-buy for nonprofits.
- Partner with nonprofits, co-ops, and community land trusts to use public land for permanently affordable rental housing and attainable home ownership options through low-cost long-term leases.
- Prioritise and speed up the development approval processes for projects led by or in partnership with non-profit housing providers, and provide low-interest loans via a new revolving fund.

Create more pathways to ownership

- Allow single family dwellings to be divided into multiple condominium units to create more attainable home ownership opportunities within existing neighbourhoods.
- End blind bidding to ensure that the home purchase process is transparent.
- Make home inspections mandatory, at the seller's expense, to save new homebuyers money on unexpected repairs.
- Consult on and develop a down payment support program to help low and middle income first-time homebuyers.
- Develop and support alternative home-ownership pilot programs such as co-housing, tiny homes, and rent-to-own to assist low and middle income first-time homebuyers.
- Increase incentives and streamline the application process for first-time homeowners to add affordable rental units to their primary residence to help pay down their mortgage.

Provide security and support for renters

- Reinstate rent controls on all units to regulate rental increases year-to-year and implement vacancy control to limit rent increases between tenancies.
- Extend financial support to 311,000 Ontario households via the portable housing benefit.
- Establish a clear system for above-guideline rent increases that governs which renovations are necessary and can qualify for an increase in rent.
- Update and strengthen sections of the Residential Tenancies Act that deal with the state of repair for multi-unit buildings to ensure tenants have homes that are safe.
- Strengthen rules and penalties for renovictions and bad faith evictions to

keep apartments affordable.

- Increase funding for the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) to hire additional adjudicators, add transparency to the ap-

pointment process, and eliminate forced online hearings. This will help address delays so that both landlords and tenants have timely access to justice.

Address speculation and corruption in the housing market

- Implement a multiple property speculation tax on people and corporations who own more than two houses or condominium units in Ontario. The tax will begin at 20% on the third home and increase with each additional property owned.
- Work with municipalities to implement a province-wide vacant homes tax to make it harder to use vacant homes as a lucrative place to park cash.
- Implement an anti-flipping tax on quick turnaround sales.
- Crack down on money laundering and implement a beneficial ownership regis-

try to avoid the practice of nameless companies trading properties.

- Implement a database that tracks pre-construction condo sales. Developers will be required to collect and report comprehensive information about buyers to provincial tax authorities to ensure compliance.
- Work with all levels of government and housing experts to develop regulations to ease the financialisation of both our affordable rental housing stock and single family homes.

Take a Housing First approach and end homelessness

- Restore the goal of ending homelessness in Ontario within ten years.
- Resume the homelessness census cancelled by the Ford government.
- Utilise a Housing First model to ensure that stable, permanent housing solutions are the first priority when helping those in need.

- Engage communities who have lived experience with homelessness in program development, as well as communities that face disproportionate levels of homelessness, including newcomers and racialized people.

Expand housing options for people in crisis and transition

- Build 60,000 permanent supportive housing units over the next decade through innovative partnerships with public, private, and non-profit housing organisations.
- Deploy temporary and permanent supportive modular housing projects on provincially owned land as quickly as possible.

- Increase annual funding for women's shelters as well as safe and accessible transitional and supportive housing options for women and their families. Increase funding for culturally appropriate transitional housing.



STRONG NEIGHBOURHOODS



Urban sprawl is expensive, terrible for the environment, and destroys farmland and wetlands.”

- Laura Campbell, GPO candidate

We can't sprawl our way out of the housing crisis. In fact, it will cost us more to do that.

Paving over nature costs us more because it increases flooding and takes necessary investments to replace what nature does for free. It eats up farmland, which is disappearing at an alarming rate.

Sprawl also costs us more in taxes, adds to traffic congestion and increases air pollution. And that's all in addition to the environmental damage sprawl creates.

We don't need to sprawl to meet demand. Expert data suggests that there is no need to expand beyond our current growth boundaries right now because we already have enough

land set aside for development.

What we need instead is smart development that encourages us to use land wisely in order to build vibrant neighbourhoods with a mix of housing types - such as laneway houses, single family homes, triplexes, quadruplexes, walk-ups, condos, and co-ops.

An essential part of any community is small business. We want to make it easier for small businesses to succeed.

Whether we live in an urban city, a rural hamlet or somewhere in between, our communities can have local shops, services and parks that are close by and easy to get to.

Champion smart growth

- Freeze urban boundaries.
- Develop a “15-minute” neighbourhood framework that suits a variety of towns and cities across the province by working with municipalities on rezoning.
- Reverse the Ford government’s changes

to the Growth Plan that encourage sprawl and revise the Growth Plan to promote healthy density.

- Require that intensification targets are met with distributed density throughout urbanised areas.

Build infill housing near transit

- Build 1.5M homes in a variety of innovative forms within urban boundaries over the next 10 years.
- Update the Planning Act, Provincial Policy Statement and other applicable laws and regulations to expand zoning permissions to allow for triplexes and fourplexes as-of-right within existing urban boundaries.
- Update planning laws to prezone for missing middle and mid-rise housing on transit corridors and main streets.
- Require minimum housing densities at transit stations and along transit corridors as part of the Growth Plan and transit funding agreements between the province and municipalities.

- Work with all levels of government to transform appropriate publicly owned land for affordable housing, such as above transit facilities and in transit station surface parking lots.
- Reinstate the provincial brownfield remediation fund to support municipalities to safely build affordable housing on previously industrial sites.
- Develop a framework that encourages the construction of housing on commercial properties, such as abandoned plazas and warehouses, where safe and appropriate.
- End mandatory minimum parking requirements for all new developments when they are constructed.

Ensure community consultation is inclusive

- Work collaboratively with municipalities on a province-wide “Yes, in My Backyard” initiative to raise awareness of the benefits of infill housing within existing neighbourhoods.
- Encourage municipalities to meaningfully engage with prospective residents, not only current residents, when consulting on zoning changes and new developments to ensure all voices are heard during the planning process.

- Explore innovative approaches to planning consultation that ensure processes are genuinely inclusive and meaningfully engage all citizens. For example, engaging people in community locations that they frequent such as coffee shops or transit stops, or providing childcare to ensure broader community participation.



Strengthen community hubs

- Increase funding for local libraries and ramp up publicity around the important community programming that they offer.
- Increase support for community centres and neighbourhood coalitions, which play an important role in encouraging community connections and reducing isolation for elders.
- Restore funding, improve communication and outreach, and provide reduced fees for the community use of schools to ensure their availability as important hubs in our communities.
- Provide free and low-cost community programming in high-needs neighbourhoods, including but not limited to covering costs for free evening, weekend, March break, and summer permits.
- Invest in more Youth Wellness Hubs and community centres that offer access to local mental health services, spaces for social interaction, and supports for families.

Create vibrant neighbourhoods

- Support municipalities to create infill greenspaces so that there is one within a 10 minute walk of all homes by 2030.
- Amend zoning rules to allow for small businesses such as corner stores to open within residential neighbourhoods.
- Provide start-up funding for community-owned healthy food markets and increase support for community gardens through land gifts and organisational support to eliminate urban food deserts.
- Improve the community benefits system for major infrastructure projects to increase the social and economic benefits received by the local community.

Help small neighbourhood businesses recover and thrive

- Expand the Digital Main Street program to include nonprofit organisations and provide fulfilment platforms that better enable small, local businesses to compete with large online companies.
- Develop a small business grant program for Black-owned businesses.
- Support the increased staycation tax credit and ensure it includes dining at restaurants.
- Work with insurance providers to develop an affordable commercial insurance program for small businesses
- Develop a program to help COVID-affected small businesses file for bankruptcy in a fair and non-punitive way.
- Improve opportunities for small local businesses and nonprofits to win public contracts through targets and by decreasing current financial and informational barriers.
- Allow Ontario's craft spirits, brewers, and wine producers to open independent, off-site stores; allow boutique wine, craft beer and artisan spirit retail outlets; improve the distribution network to work for small businesses; and allow access for hospitality to purchase from these suppliers at a wholesale price of up to 20%.

Create a new regulatory framework for small business

- Undertake a review of regulations in order to weed out red tape and costs that disproportionately affect small businesses.
- Create standardised leases to ensure fairness and transparency and ensure that priority is given to existing tenants when leases are up for renewal.
- Create rent control guidelines for year-over-year increases that apply to all commercial tenants, including new tenants, and implement a mechanism to enforce rules and resolve disputes.

Support local arts and social enterprises

- Decrease land taxes payable for buildings in which below market rent opportunities are available to creative and social enterprises.
- Develop a made-in-Ontario social enterprise strategy with the nonprofit and cooperative sectors to drive local job creation and support rural, remote, and urban self-reliance.
- Create a stabilisation fund for the nonprofit sector to ensure that nonprofits and charities can help rebuild the economy and communities.
- Affirm the arms-length operations of, and increase investment in, the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.
- Reinstate support for the Indigenous Culture Fund.





GETTING FROM A TO B



Transportation is the biggest source of pollution in Ontario. Investing in clean transit systems is a priority for Ontario Greens. People need affordable options to get around, and they need relief right now."

- Priyan De Silva, GPO candidate

To crush climate pollution, Ontario needs a real plan to decrease the use of fossil fuel vehicles responsible for an enormous share of climate pollution. We can rapidly move towards low carbon transportation options, including electric cars, buses, bikes and walking.

More highways means more congestion, period. We are the only party fully committed to stopping urban sprawl and building livable, affordable, and connected communities so people aren't forced to spend hours in expensive, soul-crushing commutes.

Regional public transit is a key part of our

transportation plan, including the GO and Northlander. Instead of pumping billions of dollars into climate-polluting superspawler highways like Doug Ford is proposing, we're committed to building connected communities where everyone has an affordable way to get around.

Our goal is to make it easier for people to choose healthier, lower carbon options for their commutes. This includes dedicating permanent, long-term funding for walking and cycling infrastructure so that our cities and towns are safe to get around.



Connect communities with clean, efficient transit options

- Stop building new highways. Cancel planned unnecessary highways such as Highway 413, Holland Marsh Highway, and the widening of Highway 417.
- Create dedicated truck lanes on Highway 407 to reduce congestion and the need for more highways.

- Prioritise public transit in all transportation planning decisions.
- Immediately cut transit fares in half for at least three months across all Ontario transit systems, including municipal, GO and Northland services to help people avoid the soaring costs of gas.
- Restore the 50% provincial cost-share for transit operations in order to reduce fare increases for users.
- Electrify Ontario's transit system as quickly as possible, including by adding 4,000 electric and fuel-cell buses by 2030.
- Triple the number of dedicated bus lanes by 2025.
- Ensure all transportation decisions are evidence-based, without political interference, and include consultation with planning experts throughout the planning process.

Increase transit connections outside of the GTHA

- Expand all-day, 2-way GO service to leave every 15 minutes during peak periods and every 30 minutes off peak, including weekend service. Offer at least one express service each way during weekday peak periods.
- Establish a clean, affordable, accessible intercity electric bus service to connect all communities across the province, ensuring connections in small, rural communities and dedicated bus lanes.
- Fully fund the Northlander passenger rail service.
- Explore on-demand systems for public transit, especially in suburban and rural communities.
- Support regional fare integration and seamless travel between transit systems.

Connect neighbourhoods with people-powered transportation

- Implement Vision Zero to prioritise road safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Create a fund for municipalities to build protected bike lanes while preserving safety and curb access for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Support sharing and rental systems for bikes, e-bikes and low-emission vehicles with incentives geared to income.
- Require secure bike parking and e-bike charging to be provided in new and existing multi-unit buildings, in surface parking lots, and at all government buildings.
- Redesign roads to reduce motorists' speed in areas that are a particular danger to pedestrians and cyclists, and eliminate hazards such as slip lanes.
- Require all new or resurfaced highways to have paved shoulders for safe cycling. Establish commuter cycling networks across Ontario.

Connect people with better broadband

- Make broadband internet an essential service and roll out high-speed access across the province.
- Use regulations to level the playing field for small, local internet service providers.
- Support provincial funding for programs to study best practices for teleworking as a climate-friendly alternative to commuting.



INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES



Ontario Greens support implementation of the AODA in our communities and will continue to advocate for accessible government services for all Ontarians.”

– Nicki Ward, GPO candidate

Inaction by successive governments has delayed implementing the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), so unfortunately the original goal of full accessibility by 2025 is likely impossible.

Our communities should be built with everyone in mind, not just folks who are able-bodied. As we modernise the places we live, let's make our streets, homes, buildings accessible to people with mobility issues so they are no longer cut off from their communities.

The beautiful thing about accessibility is that it makes places more enjoyable for everyone.

Ontario Greens are fully committed to mandating universal design to ensure that all new housing is accessible for all and suitable for aging in place.

Our communities need to be accessible and inclusive. They need to work for everyone.

Prioritise the implementation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

- Implement as much of the AODA as possible by 2025, and create a clear path for the remaining pieces to be completed as soon as possible thereafter.
- Strengthen Accessibility Standards under the AODA to ensure the standards meet the needs of people with disabilities.
- Enact comprehensive Education Accessibility and Health Care Accessibility Standards and strengthen the Employment and Transportation Accessibility Standards under the AODA.
- Revamp the Information and Communications standards to keep up with rapidly changing technology.
- Review and revise the Design of Public Spaces standards.
- Substantially strengthen AODA enforcement.

Build accessible homes and businesses

- Develop new comprehensive Built Environment accessibility standards by revising the building code for new construction and major renovations.
- Ensure that new affordable housing stock is accessible, and require all affordable housing retrofits to meet the same standards.
- Create incentives for retrofitting homes and buildings that make them accessible.
- Ensure that design professionals are provided adequate training in accessibility awareness and inclusive design.
- Substantially improve the accessibility of the Ontario Public Service's workplaces, services and facilities.
- Provide clear, in-depth guidelines and deliver more responsive, comprehensive support for AODA implementation to organisations through free, independent technical advice.





PEOPLE-POWERED GOVERNMENT



We are more than just taxpayers. We are individuals, family members, part of our community – we are citizens.”

– Bonnie North, GPO candidate

Municipalities have been under immense pressure these past few years.

Previous governments downloaded many social costs onto municipalities. With municipalities covering these costs, there is less money for other vital services such as transit, libraries, community centres, parks and municipal building retrofits.

We believe the Ontario government needs to be a partner in helping fund these important services.

Just over half of eligible voters in Ontario actually turn out to the polls– a sign of the deep cynicism that people have about politics. Governments have given them so many reasons to be distrustful, from gas plant scandals to the influence of big donors. Many

Ontarians have lost faith in our political system and simply given up on going to the polls on election day. Many believe that under the present system, their vote doesn't even count.

That's why Ontario Greens prefer proportional representation voting systems that are truly representative of the electorate.

But even under a first past the post system, Greens do politics differently, with a willingness to work across the aisle to get things done and a focus on people over party.

Ontario is only as strong as the people that lead it. Encouraging participation in running, voting and all areas of the political system are important pieces of our democracy.

Support and strengthen municipal governments

- Grant municipalities autonomy to implement revenue tools to fund critical infrastructure needs and services.
- Provide financial support for municipalities to bolster local infrastructure:
 - Provincially fund 50% of shelter and community housing costs while allowing municipalities to maintain management control.
 - Restore the 50% provincial cost-share for transit operations and support electrification plans for all municipal transit systems.
- Create a dedicated \$2B per year Climate Adaptation Fund for municipalities.
- Increase collaboration and consultation between municipalities and the province.
- Assess the use of City Charters as a mechanism to empower major Ontario cities, such as Toronto, and prevent inappropriate interference in local democracy by the provincial government.

Democratic reform

- Create a diverse, randomly selected Citizens Assembly on electoral reform with a mandate to provide binding recommendations on modernising Ontario's electoral system to ensure that every vote counts and the legislature reflects the democratic will of the people.
- Allow municipalities the option to use a ranked ballot voting system for elections.
- Create limits for municipal elections whereby no person may contribute more than \$1000 to all candidates, combined.
- Reduce donation limits for provincial political parties, candidates, and constituency associations to \$1000 per year.
- Restore Auditor General oversight of government advertising.
- Require a five year cooling off period before MPPs and government advisors can register as lobbyists.

Make politics more inclusive and collaborative

- Make funding available for non-profit organisations that provide additional training and mentorship opportunities for women, Black, Indigenous, racialised, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals who are considering running for political office.
- Reduce the voting age to 16 years old.
- Increase the quality and quantity of local public input in provincial decision-making by creating new channels to give citizens a voice, both through MPPs and ministries.
- Allow the introduction of electronic petitions to the Ontario Legislature.

Protect voter rights and empower citizens

- Make the day of a general election an official paid holiday.
- Enforce strict accessibility standards at voting stations.
- Increase the number of mobile polls at hospitals, seniors' residences, and for people with accessibility issues which prohibit them from easily leaving their homes.



Mike
Scott

The Ontario you want
The Leadership we need

New Climate Economy



We can act now to build a more caring society and a new climate economy. Together, we can transform Ontario from a climate failure into a world leader.”

- Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario

We need honest, ambitious climate action now.

The path forward is laid out in our [ambitious, honest and achievable climate plan](#), one that relies on bold action - not half-measures - to get us to real net-zero emissions by 2045.

Ontario is missing out while the government doubles down on gas plants and urban sprawl, scraps renewable energy contracts, goes to court over carbon pricing, and snubs cash incentives to make EVs affordable for the average person.

If Ontario wants to attract jobs and investment in the trillion dollar clean economy, we need to show that we're a province that takes climate change seriously.

We can create hundreds of thousands of jobs retrofitting our buildings, manufacturing EVs, and creating low-carbon products and technologies. And we'll take care of our own backyard, preserving nature as our best defence against climate change and moving to a zero-waste economy.

We can support farmers on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Agriculture must be part of

the solutions to the climate crisis. Our plan calls for protections and investments to help local food systems thrive.

Our communities and infrastructure were never built to withstand the extreme weather events that are becoming common and more intense with each passing year. We need to support municipalities in adaptation. Working with Indigenous communities, we also need to protect and restore nature, which will reduce climate pollution and help us adapt to extreme weather events.

Stopping climate pollution is also an opportunity to improve our overall health and well-being. Even meeting the comparatively modest federal climate targets would save about 112,081 lives between 2030 and 2050 due to air quality improvements alone.

The climate crisis provides an opportunity to embrace a future where we take care of each other and the planet. Ontario has the innovative businesses, natural wealth, geography and workforce to take the lead. It's time to start now.



REAL NET ZERO BY 2045



The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is clear that there must be 'rapid, deep. and immediate' cuts to emissions."

- Dianne Saxe, GPO candidate and former Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

The transition to a low carbon economy and a net-zero future is laid out in our climate plan, [Roadmap to Net Zero](#).

Year after year, scientists tell us that we need to urgently phase out fossil fuels. Governments make promises about cutting emissions, and then make policy decisions that do the opposite. Greens will get Big Oil out of our wallets for good, and introduce the first Zero Carbon Law that will keep Ontario within our fair share of the world's total remaining carbon budget.

We will end fossil fuel subsidies immediately. We'll also join other provinces by adopting Zero Emission Vehicle standards and position Ontario at the forefront of the EV revolution, from mining to manufacturing. Incentives for green building retrofits will create good jobs, reduce climate pollution and help people save money by saving energy.

Action on climate change needs to be strong and immediate, and it can be an opportunity for Ontario to lead North America in the new climate economy.

Phase out fossil fuels

- Establish a Fair Share Carbon Budget for Ontario for the rest of this century and incorporate a legal annual reporting re-

quirement on progress and pollution reduction plans.

- Cut carbon pollution in half by 2030 and hit real net zero by 2045. Take over administration of the federal carbon fee system and increase the price by \$25 until it reaches \$300/tonne in 2032. All carbon fee revenues collected from individuals will be returned to individuals as dividends.
- Work with the federal government to establish border carbon adjustments to create a level playing field for Ontario's low-carbon producers.
- Eliminate fossil fuels from electricity generation the fastest way compatible with our fair share carbon budget, aiming to phase out fossil gas by 2030.
- Stop new gas hookups and new fossil fuel infrastructure by 2025.

Move to renewable, clean energy sources

- Double Ontario's electricity supply by 2040 and make Ontario's electricity emission-free as quickly as possible in order to electrify transportation and buildings with clean energy.
- Allow homes and businesses with renewables to earn credits toward energy use for excess energy production.
- Electrify everything practicable, including buildings, transport and industrial energy.
- Negotiate to buy and/or exchange power with Quebec if both power and transmission are available at a reasonable price.
- Add at least 7500 MW of short- and medium-term storage to help our electrical grid run smoothly.
- Don't build new uranium mines or nuclear plants that add to our huge pile of dangerous nuclear waste that has already been in "temporary" storage for 50 years. Shut down the aged Pickering Nuclear Plant as scheduled or earlier if continued operation is unsafe.

Increase access to electric vehicles and charging infrastructure

- Increase demand for new low-emission vehicles with cash incentives up to \$10,000 for buying a fully electric vehicle and \$1,000 for an e-bike or used electric vehicle.
- Phase out the sale of new gas and diesel passenger vehicles, medium-duty trucks, and buses by 2030.
- Require trucks in urban areas to be 50% Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEV) by 2030, and 100% ZEV by 2040.
- Make electric charging infrastructure:
 - Increase the number of fast-charging stations on every 400 series highway rest stop.
 - By 2023, require all new or re-surfaced parking areas (public and private) to install EV charging.
 - Provide a tax incentive for businesses to install charging infrastructure.
 - Require existing parking lots and garages (public or private, above ground or below) to install access to EV charging in 25% of spots by 2024, 50% by 2030, and 75% by 2035.
 - Amend the building code so that new homes are EV charging ready.
- Create EV supply chains to grow jobs and businesses in Ontario (see Build our New Climate Economy for detail).

Make buildings energy efficient

- Create hundreds of thousands of new jobs by retrofitting 40% of existing homes and workplaces to net-zero (conservation plus heat pump and solar, for example) by 2030 and 100% by 2040 to help people save money by saving energy.
- Amend the Building Code, so all new commercial and residential buildings are built with the lowest carbon footprint possible and net zero by 2028.
- Provide net-zero retrofit grants for non-profit housing providers, co-ops and low-income households to lower their energy costs and consumption.
- Release the pent-up demand for green retrofits by ensuring owners and tenants have access to low-cost financing and incentives to insulate and electrify their home. This will reduce energy bills and protect Ontarians from international energy price jumps.
- Encourage the use of sustainable and non-toxic building materials, and remove regulatory obstacles to mass timber construction using FSC-certified wood.
- Make building-level fossil fuel use transparent through labelling and disclosure.
- Establish strong, integrated conservation programs for electricity, gas and water, including ensuring that multi-unit buildings improve energy efficiency and install individual meters for every unit.

Lead by example

- Set aggressive GHG targets for provincial government operations, and expand pollution reduction programs to include hospitals, schools, universities, and other public institutions.
- Put a strong climate lens on all government decisions, including a shadow carbon price on capital investments.
- Eliminate fossil fuel use in new and renovated government buildings by 2025, and in all government buildings by 2030.
- Require all large public and private organizations to disclose and reduce their carbon footprint and climate-related financial risks.

Support municipalities to be climate leaders

- Provide municipalities and practitioners with knowledge, technical expertise, resources, and training via a Green Infrastructure Support Hub.
- Attract private investment into municipal and commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy programs (PACE, also called Local Improvement Charges) with seed capital and a provincial loan-loss guarantee.
- Allow municipalities to borrow money to make municipally owned buildings more efficient and pay the loans back out of the savings.
- Require all municipalities to adopt plans for reducing corporate and community emissions as far as possible to net-zero by 2045, and give them the authority and tools to implement them, including long-term, predictable funding.
- Restore the 50% provincial cost-share for transit operations and support electrification plans for all municipal transit systems.



BUILD OUR NEW CLIMATE ECONOMY



Climate action is job action. It's as simple as that."

- Christian Proulx, GPO candidate

Ontarians are problem-solvers, not problem-deniers. The path to a net-zero future is not easy, but it is clear, and Greens are ready to roll up our sleeves and lead the way on climate action.

We can make this happen. We can make choices that build livable communities and a better economy. Choices supporting green innovations that lead to new businesses, careers and better jobs, and that make it more costly for industries to pollute and more profitable for them to decarbonize. Choices to cover the tuition costs for skilled trades and clean energy so that we can launch a massive green workforce.

And choices to give people who need it the most a helping hand as the world makes the transition.

Billions of dollars are flowing into the new climate economy. If Ontario wants to attract these jobs and investment, we need to show that we're a province that takes climate change seriously. We must show strong support for growing green businesses, including supporting a skilled workforce, research, financing, inputs and procurement to help them thrive.

Ensure a just and equitable transition

- Focus at least 25% of the overall benefits of public investments to reduce climate pollution on disadvantaged communities.
- Fund a \$6B climate bonus for low-income households by adding a 1% climate surcharge levy on the province's top 10% income earners.
- Focus conservation subsidies on retrofits that reduce energy use for those unduly affected by the cost of energy, especially rural, remote, low-income, and Indigenous communities.
- Redirect the annual \$7B taxpayer subsidy for electricity prices to support energy efficiency and climate action, maintaining energy subsidies only to those in need while also providing free access to upgrades that lower energy costs and consumption.
- Conduct a transition census of vulnerable jobs and economic sectors to develop strategies that help workers and businesses adapt to a new climate economy.

Train today for the jobs of tomorrow

- Create hundreds of thousands of new jobs by retrofitting 40% of existing homes and workplaces to net zero by 2030, and 100% by 2040.
- Modernise the apprenticeship application process to provide candidates with an electronic, single-entry access to the apprenticeship application and registration process.
- Reduce the ratio of journeypersons to apprentices to one-to-one.
- Increase training opportunities by providing incentives for businesses that participate in training and certification programs in job growth areas such as green building, biomedical technology, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation.
- Provide incentives for businesses involved with green retrofits, reforestation, and other forms of green economic activity to provide Ontario youth with valuable job experience.
- Over the 4 years, give 60,000 people the skills and experience to work in the green economy through a year of free college tuition plus a year of guaranteed work when they graduate with targeted recruitment of women, Indigenous people, and racialized communities.

Support and grow green businesses

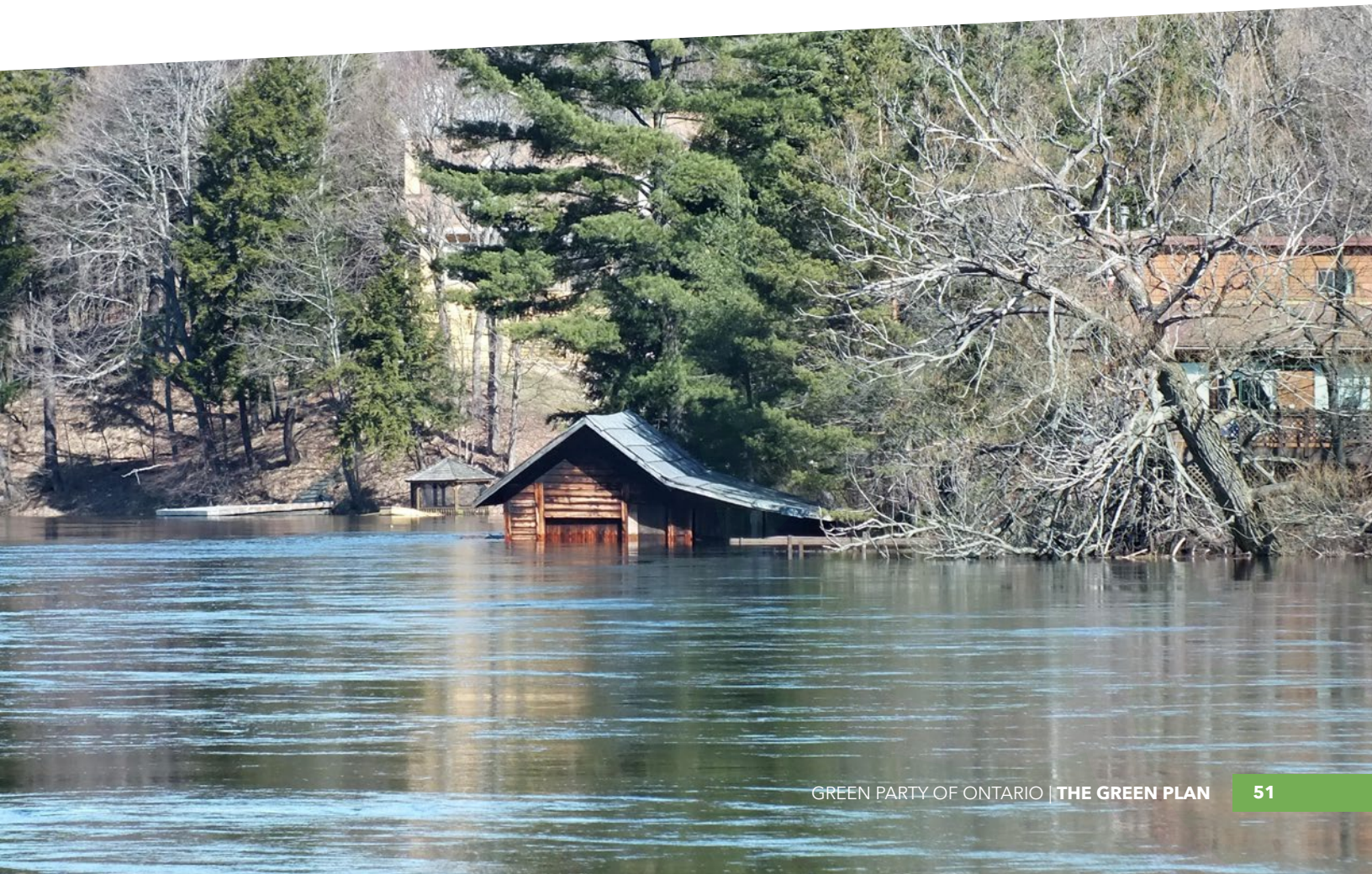
- Build on Ontario's strengths in mining, innovation, financing, and auto manufacturing to create a strong electric vehicle manufacturing strategy and electric transportation industry supply chain.
- Provide incentives for businesses investing in energy efficient and low-carbon equipment, buildings, and vehicle fleets.
- Starting in 2023, set a minimum and increasing percentage of public procurements of GHG intensive materials that must be low-carbon, providing a market for heavy industries that are transitioning to low-carbon technologies and processes.
- Redirect existing business support programs to help small and medium-sized businesses scale up or transition to the green economy.

Prepare Ontario industries for the new climate economy

- Scale up EV innovation and production through an EV technology innovation fund and a Climate Bank.
- Set strict standards for polluting industries and help them meet their goals via support from low-interest loans, the Ontario Centres of Excellence, collaboration with clean-tech providers, and public procurement.
- Fund research, demonstration, and commercialisation of low-carbon industries and low-carbon capital investments in existing industries through grants and loans.

Make Ontario safe and resilient

- Plan how to manage the health risks to people, including heat, wildfire smoke, flooding, drought, and insect-borne diseases.
- Create a Climate Adaptation Fund funded by a dedicated adaptation levy to help get the overdue work underway to prepare municipalities, infrastructure, buildings, agriculture and forestry to withstand the increased effects of climate change.
- Require all large public and private organizations to evaluate their vulnerability to climate shocks and stresses, and to plan how to manage them.
- Integrate climate resilience into land use planning and when designing, sizing and siting infrastructure.
- Expand natural infrastructure on private and public lands to increase resilience to climate risks.





PROTECT OUR NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS



Let's protect the places we love by conserving and protecting at least 25% of Ontario by 2025, and 30% by 2030, especially areas of particular importance like wetlands and natural heritage."

- Michelle Angkasa, GPO candidate

Ontario's wetlands, forests and watersheds are just some of the benefits our natural environment provides that make Ontario special. These ecosystems are key in keeping our air and water clean and protecting the good soil we depend on to grow our province.

Protecting our natural heritage helps preserve biodiversity and directly affects some of our most important economic sectors: tourism, forestry, food, and farming.

When it comes to climate change, our natural ecosystems provide our best low cost solutions to maintaining a clean water supply and providing flood protection.

Now is the time to strengthen protections for the places we love, the natural heritage we celebrate, and the food and water resources that sustain us. We need to expand the Greenbelt by adding a new Bluebelt that protects our supply of clean water.

Protect natural spaces

- Protect at least 25% of lands and water in Ontario by 2025 and 30% by 2030.
 - Work with Indigenous communities to establish Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) where Indigenous governments have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through their laws, governance and knowledge systems.
 - Permanently protect Provincially Significant Wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and Provincial Wildlife Areas on Crown land.
 - Protect and restore natural areas that sequester carbon and protect biodiversity, including grasslands and peatlands, old growth forests, and ecological corridors between protected areas.
- Strengthen and fund the ecological integrity role of Ontario's public parks system and create five new provincial parks.
- Strengthen the Greenbelt Act and make new highways through the Greenbelt illegal.
- Reward sustainable forestry and land management practices that protect the Boreal forest.
- Enhance urban tree canopy targets and improve legal protection for urban trees. Dedicate 15% of the existing infrastructure funding for green infrastructure, including urban forests.

Safeguard our source water

- Double the size of the Greenbelt to include a Bluebelt of protected moraines, river systems, and watersheds that includes the Paris Galt Moraine, Carruthers Creek, Grand River Watershed, and many other critical bodies of water.
- Work with Indigenous Peoples and the federal government to establish National Marine Conservation Areas in Hudson and James Bay, and in the Great Lakes.
- Implement a plan for cutting phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe to 44 tonnes by 2026 and support the creation of a phosphorus recycling facility..
- Restore provincial funding for source water protection under the Clean Water Act and expand drinking water source protection to northern, remote and Indigenous communities.
- Bring back oversight and public consultation to reduce flooding and protect people and the places we love. Mandate vegetated setbacks along lakes, rivers, flood plains and drains.

Use water sustainably

- Fix the Permit to Take Water process
 - Stop industrial water extraction and ban bulk removal of water from a watershed.
 - Restore municipal regulation of aggregate extraction below the water table.
- Add water usage to reporting obligations for large buildings and the public sector.
- Incentivise water conservation and reuse, such as greywater systems in households.
- Require multi-unit residential and commercial buildings to install water metres.

Reduce waste

- Set high recycling and management standards for printed paper and packaging (Blue Box) materials, and a minimum standard of 85% for plastic packaging by 2030.
- Adopt clear, stringent, and enforceable extended producer responsibility standards for waste and packaging generated at workplaces, schools, and in public places - the sectors responsible for the majority of Ontario's waste.
- Expand the federal government's list of banned single-use plastics to include water bottles, coffee cups and other unnecessary packaging.
- Ensure a broad range of right to repair legislation to extend the life of goods and protect purchasers.
- Ban food waste from landfills or incinerators and expand food waste collection to all municipalities across the province.
- Set targets to significantly reduce Ontario's material and consumption footprints and track and report on progress.
- Set required minimum use of recycled aggregates in infrastructure projects as well as providing research and education funding to ensure that all reclaimed concrete material can be re-engineered and re-used as effectively as possible.

Stand strong for environmental justice

- Strengthen and uphold the Environmental Bill of Rights.
- Require the Ministry of Environment to develop and report on a strategy to address environmental racism.
- Establish more strict monitoring and enforcement standards for air and water pollution in areas where communities are exposed to potential health risks from multiple industries.

Strengthen environmental oversight and public consultation

- Restore the Office of the Environmental Commissioner.
- Establish and enforce industry sector standards for air and water pollution that protect health.
- Restore a robust environmental assessment process and reverse changes that allow for assessments to be "streamlined."
 - Ensure assessments consider climate impacts and climate friendly alternatives to a project as part of the evaluation process.
 - Restore automatic environmental assessment of public-sector projects, plans and policies, including timber management on Crown lands and regional assessments.
- Include private sector projects that will have long term environmental impacts, including mining and smelters.
- Rapidly repeal all recent changes that limited Conservation Authorities' authority and provide stable funding mechanisms so Conservation Authorities can fulfil their mandates, including watershed level protections.
- Reverse changes in Bill 245 that merged all land use planning tribunals, including the Environmental Review Board, into the Ontario Land Tribunal, and reverse damaging changes to the Local

Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT).

- Uphold the duty to obtain free, prior and informed consent from First Nations and

Protect biodiversity

- Restore the original Endangered Species Act, 2007 and a science-based system for determining species status, recovery, and habitat protection while eliminating exemptions for industry.
- Properly fund and support endangered species recovery efforts and habitat stewardship programs.
- Cancel the Species at Risk Conservation

Strengthen animal welfare rules

- Ban the breeding, possession, use, and sale of wild exotic animals as pets and implement a more comprehensive licensing system for zoo facilities housing exotic wild animals.
- Ban road-side zoos and prohibit inhumane and unsafe animal-visitor interactions as per the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums guidelines.
- Enhance animal welfare standards for animal agriculture. Implement more robust

Métis communities regarding decisions that may affect them.

Fund (aka “Pay to Slay”) that allows businesses to simply offset their harm to biodiversity by paying into the fund.

- Protect pollinators by ending the outdoor use of neonicotinoid pesticides. Restore the pesticide advisory committee.
- Regulate new outdoor lighting to include dark sky protection.

regulations and inspections of the housing, sale, and transport of agricultural animals and ensure enforcement.

- Oppose the use of furs on ornamental, except by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit persons, and where such use is protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Repeal all provincial breed-specific legislation.





HELP LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS TO THRIVE



We need to protect farmland that is being paved over at an alarming rate. We have to act now to support farm-to-table agriculture here in Ontario.”

- Aneep Dhade, GPO candidate

In Ontario, we are losing farmland at an alarming rate of 175 acres a day, largely to urban sprawl and aggregate mining. We need to provide permanent protections for prime agricultural land to keep it from being destroyed by urban sprawl, highways, and gravel mining that threatens our groundwater supply.

Greens will support farm-to-table agriculture here in Ontario, making it easier for small farms to use the latest technology, access the internet and turn a profit. We'll also provide support for farmers to adopt more sustainable practices so that farming and climate action go hand-in-hand.

Healthy soil is essential for the health of Ontario's farms and food system. It also impacts yield and quality, water and nutrient retention, resilience, biodiversity, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. So we need to support our family farms while they protect this precious resource.

Our plan provides solutions that will create better connections between farmers and consumers and build a stronger, healthier regional food system. It's increasingly expensive for Ontarians to put food on the table, and the current sprawl agenda of paving over the farmland that feeds us does not help this.

Protect farmland

- Freeze urban boundaries now.
- Permanently protect prime farmland from being lost to non-agricultural use, such as urban sprawl, highways, and gravel mining.
- Move class 1 and 2 soils from the White-belt to the Greenbelt.

Increase access and support for local, nutritious food

- Introduce a nutritious school lunch program for the public school system.
- Provide start-up funding and land for community-owned healthy food markets, community gardens, and rooftop growing spaces, particularly in urban food deserts.
- Set measurable, made-in-Ontario food purchasing targets for all public institutions.
- Treat surplus food as a valuable resource. First, use it to feed people, then animals, and never send it to landfill.
- Provide tax incentives for local food and beverage manufacturers who purchase inputs grown by local farmers.

Support local sustainable farming

- Pass the Organic Products Act to regulate the use of the term “organic” within Ontario.
- Invest in research and innovation that improves the sustainability of how we grow, produce, and distribute our food.
- Revise crop insurance programs to support farming practices that improve soil carbon and soil health.
- Incentivise on-farm composting of agricultural waste that results in biogas recovery.
- Invest in an Organic Growth Strategy to support transition, small-scale certification, access to organic advisors and capital, expansion of organic research programs, and increased promotion of Ontario’s organic products.
- Ban the routine use of unnecessary antibiotics in healthy animals.
- Pay farmers for programs that produce, enhance and maintain ecosystem services leading to cleaner water and air, habitat, carbon sequestration and climate resiliency on agricultural lands (e.g. ALUS).

Invest in the next generation of farmers

- Create policies that support the retention of family-owned farms, farming by experienced farmers among new Canadians, and the succession of farms to a younger generation of farmers.
- Provide education and grant opportunities to encourage students to enter into the agri-food business.
- Promote training in specialty programs that focus on sustainable practices and soil-health within agricultural schools.
- Continue to enhance the supply management system to include more farm products and ensure offsets or grants for those looking to enter the system or with a lower ability to produce.

- Rebuild agricultural extension programs and hire soil-health focused agronomists.
- Purchase available farmland and place it in protected Land Trusts so it can be made available for dramatically lower costs to new farmers who would otherwise not be able to afford farmland.
- Advocate for the federal government to restrict farming products from future trade deals.

Make family farming more profitable

- Ensure the Federal-Provincial-Territorial grocery retailer code of conduct is mandatory, enforceable, transparent and benefits both customers and farmers.
- Increase investments in the Risk Management Program to meet or exceed the previous 85% coverage to improve financial security for farmers.
- Establish a food processing infrastructure fund to support investments by Ontario-based companies in food processing facilities.
- Eliminate property tax penalties for farmers with small-scale, value-added production facilities on farm.
- Protect farmers against losses for up to ten years as they transition from chemical agriculture to soil-health agriculture.
- Shift program dollars from supporting industrial and intensive animal agriculture to supporting soil health and regenerative agriculture.

