

WHAT ARE THE POLITICAL PARTIES PROMISING?

Find here questions Ottawa residents are asking their candidates and what we have heard the Political Parties say.

This summary was completed on May 25th, while Parties continue to share their platforms. Visit Political Party web-sites and follow the news to find more.

MAKE YOUR CHOICE AND VOTE

For information on when, where and how to vote, visit www.elections.on.ca or call 1-888-668-8683

- » **GREEN PARTY** Leader: *Mike Schreiner* www.gpo.ca
- » **LIBERAL PARTY** (current government) Premier: *Kathleen Wynne* www.ontarioliberal.ca
- » **NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP)** Leader: *Andrea Horwath* www.ontariondp.ca
- » **PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY (PC)** Leader: *Doug Ford* www.ontariopc.com



Why do Provincial Elections matter?

Because they make decisions on services that affect our everyday lives.

Like what?

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| » Education | » Provincial Parks | » Provincial Courts |
| » Children's Aid | » Employment Rights | » Affordable Housing |
| » Health Care | » Newcomer Settlement | » Hospitals |
| » Long-Term Care | » Transit | » Childcare and Early Years |
| » Social Services | » Correctional Services | » Natural Resources |
| » Ontario Work | » Provincial Police | » Environment |
| » ODSP | | |

VOTE IN THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ELECTION, JUNE 7th, 2018!

MAKING VOTES COUNT www.makingvoicescount.ca Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres • **WOMEN REDUCING POVERTY TOGETHER - MAAMAWÉ** City for All Women Initiative (CAWI), Funded by United Way Ottawa and Status of Women Canada.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

CONCERNS

We are facing a crisis of homelessness with over 10,000 households on the wait list. We need new affordable housing (not costing more than 30% of a household income), existing housing needs repairs and people need supports to remain in their housing.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. *Will you commit to sustainable funding to make rent affordable and to preserve and increase Ontario's affordable housing stock?*
2. *Will you increase funding for supportive housing, homecare and community support programs for Ontarians who are aging, living with mental health issues, or who need support to live independently?*
3. *How will you ensure that a range of culturally-appropriate housing options and supports are available for Indigenous people (First Nations, Inuit and Métis)?*
4. *The Portable Housing Benefit for women fleeing domestic violence is scheduled for implementation in July 2018. Will you commit to sustainable funding to implement the Portable Housing Benefit so as to ensure women can access and keep affordable housing?*

Green Party

1. Provide funding for municipalities to renovate deteriorating social housing stock and introduce new social housing units.
1. Increase support for proposed and existing social non-profit and co-operative housing.
2. Not found yet.
3. Ensure that Indigenous people have access to adequate affordable housing.
4. Expedite the announced portable housing benefit that will assist women fleeing violence to move to another province, and to find affordable housing in another province if needed.

Other proposals:

- » Put a tax on vacant property to make it harder for speculators, whether foreign or domestic, to use real estate as a lucrative place to park cash.
- » Add a surtax on quick turnaround sales to reduce speculation.
- » Improve Ontario's inclusionary zoning legislation to ensure the permanent creation of rental and deeply affordable units.
- » Use a "housing first" approach to develop dedicated supportive housing.

Liberal Party

1. As of May 30, 2017, landlords in Ontario cannot increase the rent for most private rental units by more than the amount set by the Government of Ontario.
1. Rebates up to \$125 million in development charges over five years for construction of new purpose-built rental apartment buildings in municipalities with low vacancy rates or high tenant populations.
1. Commit \$547 million over five years for repairs and retrofits that will help support the energy efficiency and long-term sustainability of social housing buildings.
1. invest \$3 million to establish a Cooperative Housing Development Fund that will encourage the creation of new cooperative housing.

1. Set guidelines for municipal governments to require inclusionary zoning practices, ensuring that new developments include affordable units.
2. Not found yet.
3. Not found yet.
4. Piloted the Portable Housing Benefit for women fleeing violence and have now committed (\$10 M in 2018-2019 and \$15 M in 2019-2020) to implement it.

New Democratic Party (NDP)

1. Overhaul the government's inclusionary zoning regulations which require a certain number of affordable homes in new housing developments.
1. Provide the co-op housing sector with \$3 million to seed co-op bid development.
1. Crack down on housing speculators who are driving up housing costs.
1. Is committed to funding the province's one-third share of repairing social housing.
1. Build new affordable homes — 65,000 of them over the next decade.
1. Invest in 30,000 new supportive housing units over the next 10 years.
2. Create 15,000 more long-term care beds over five years.
3. Not found yet.
4. Not found yet.

Progressive Conservative Party (PC)

1. Affordable housing is a pressing issue that needs leadership from all levels of government.
1. Review the province's real estate portfolio to increase housing supply or municipally led affordable housing.
2. Not found yet.
3. Not found yet.
4. Not found yet.

AFFORDABLE TRANSIT

CONCERNS

Ottawa transit fares are among the most expensive in the country. Ottawa City Council requested more funding from the Province to keep fare rates lower. In asking for the EquiPass, City said would bring down the fare if the Province contributed.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Will you increase the amount of money the province gives the City in public transit operating funds and require that Ottawa use 50% of this increase to reduce the cost of fares?

Green Party

- » Provide permanent operational funding support for municipal transit services in order to reduce fare increases for users.

Liberal Party

- » Through the Ontario Seniors' Public Transit Tax Credit, Ontario seniors are now eligible for a refundable credit equal to 15-per-cent of their eligible public transit costs.
- » In 2017, the province committed \$357.2 million in gas tax funding to 105 municipalities, providing service to 142 communities, the most since the program began in 2004. The funding is expected to increase to about \$401.3 million in 2019–20, \$481.5 million in 2020–21 and \$642 million in 2021–22.

New Democratic Party (NDP)

- » Fund 50% of net transit and paratransit operating costs across Ontario.
- » That means investing over \$800 million across the province.

Progressive Conservative Party (PC)

- » Make Ontario's transit systems more customer friendly, including free, reliable, consistent WIFI on go trains, by harmonizing fares where possible, and by ensuring all facilities accept the same forms of payment.
- » Fulfill the existing commitments to complete major transit projects already under construction.



CHILDCARE

CONCERNS

Parents need more spaces to reduce long wait lists. The current system is a patchwork of services that are unaffordable, lack flexibility and in which staff are not paid the professional wage deserved.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. *Will you work with cities to build a non-profit system that is affordable, inclusive to children with special needs and flexible for those working outside regular hours?*
2. *Will you create a system with core funding that does not rely on parent fees so that care can be affordable and the Early Childhood Educators can be paid a salary that recognizes their education and experience?*

Green Party

1. Increase funding for licensed child care spaces.
2. Not found yet.

Liberal Party

1. Ontario is investing \$1.6 billion to build 45,000 new licensed child care spaces, in schools in 2017, and expanding to other public spaces and communities across Ontario over the next five years.
1. Ontario is helping 100,000 more children aged 0-4 access affordable, quality, and responsive licensed child care in schools, homes, and communities over the next five years in Ottawa.

1. Ontario budget to fund free child care for preschoolers (free licensed care) from age 2.5 until they are old enough to begin kindergarten.
2. Not found yet.

New Democratic Party (NDP)

1. If your household income is under \$40,000, you won't have to pay for public, licensed, not-for-profit child care. And if your household earns more, your fees will be based on ability to pay — with the average cost coming to \$12 per day.
1. Expand the number of not-for-profit, licensed, affordable child care spaces in Ontario by 202,000 spaces — a 51% increase, adding more than 10% every year.
2. Immediately begin increasing the wages for ECEs to ensure people see this as a career that can support a family.

Progressive Conservative Party (PC)

1. Provide up to \$6,750 per child through an Ontario Childcare Rebate depending on household income.
2. Not found yet.





INCOME SECURITY

CONCERNS

Since the drop in OW and ODSP rates by 22% in 1995, people on social assistance find it difficult to keep food on the table while paying other costs of living. The punitive attitude in the provincial regulations results in people being blamed for their poverty and not receiving the assistance they are entitled to receive.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. *Will you commit to transforming Ontario's Income Security System from a punitive approach to one that is respectful, culturally appropriate and client-directed?*
2. *Will you immediately increase OW and ODSP rates enough to lift people out of poverty?*
3. *What will you do to address wage gap that people from equity-seeking groups' experience (i.e. Indigenous, women, racialized people and people living with disabilities)?*

Green Party

1. Modernize the eligibility requirements for Ontario Works to further empower recipients to find and maintain meaningful work. End the claw back of employment earnings that create a disincentive to work.
1. Ensure that social assistance programs are responsive to the needs of people with mental health and addictions-related disabilities
2. Immediately increase Ontario Disability Support Payment and Ontario Works payments toward rates that match the low income measure.
3. Not found yet.

Other proposals:

- » Provide a benefit rate at 100% of the Low Income Measure as a Basic Income Guarantee for all Ontarians
- » Support a quick transition to a fully developed basic income program after the completion of the pilot.
- » Improve on the current pilot setting the benefit rate at the Low Income Cut off and by lowering the tax back rate to reduce penalties for incre.

Liberal Party

1. Developed Income Security: A Roadmap for Change that aims to achieve income adequacy and transform the income security system including OW and ODSP.
2. The Income Security: A Roadmap for Change suggests increase benefits for people accessing social assistance by three per cent a year for each of the next three years.

Other proposals:

- » Increased the minimum wage in Ontario to \$14.00 in January 2018. Will increase to \$15.00 in 2019.

- » With \$1 extra increase, a full-time minimum wage worker will take home at least \$1,899 more (post tax) (<http://behindthenumbers.ca/2018/04/17/15-minimum-wage-still-trumps-tax-cuts/>)

New Democratic Party (NDP)

1. The focus of the social assistance should be based on a trust, working together, and solving problems.
2. Endorse the provincial Income Security Roadmap for Change report and its findings.
2. Work with the Income Security Reform Working Group, First Nations Income Security Reform Working Group and Urban Indigenous Table on Income Security Reform to achieve the objectives laid out in the Roadmap.
2. Establish a new, flat rate structure.
2. People receiving Ontario Works will receive increases of 10%, 7% and 5%.
2. People receiving support from the Ontario Disability Support Program will see annual increases of 5%.
3. Continue Ontario's Basic Income pilot.
3. Increasing the minimum wage to \$15 before indexing it to inflation.

Progressive Conservative Party (PC)

(1., 2., 3.) Not found yet.

Other proposals:

- » Freeze Ontario's minimum wage at \$14 an hour.
- » Eliminate provincial income tax for residents who earn less than \$30,000. This would result the loss of revenue of roughly \$500 million a year for the province.
- » According to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), people making between \$25,000 and \$29,999 paid about \$703 in personal income tax.
- » Reduce corporate taxes to attract businesses to Ontario.

I can see the MPPs (Members of Provincial Parliament) we elect make decisions on services that affect our everyday lives.

Yes, they can make housing more affordable.

They can make public transit and childcare more affordable.

Where does the province get the money to pay for all this?

The province gets its money from personal income tax and corporate income tax.

It also gets its money from HST and transfers (\$) from the federal government.



What will happen if the province doesn't get enough money from taxes or cuts taxes?

The province might cut services that we use every day.

This means we might have to pay for some services on our own. It always costs more to buy services individually than buy them in bulk like governments do.

