

Questions received from residents

1. MUNICIPALITIES

- a. How would your party boost predictable, long-term funding to municipalities so that they can deliver the services our community needs?

An Ontario Liberal government would be a real partner to municipalities. Rather than follow Doug Ford's model of destructive cuts and attacks on municipal priorities we would empower municipalities to address the housing crisis and the climate crisis. We would fund the third stage of the LRT and give municipalities the funds to lower transit fares to one dollar. We would fund active transportation strategies to empower cities to improve bike lanes and sidewalks. We would expand funding to cut the waitlist for affordable housing, build thousands of affordable homes in Ottawa, and adopt a housing-first approach to homelessness in which people are given stable and safe living spaces.

- b. What can the provincial government do to help reshape and revitalize our downtown?

The provincial government should be investing in arts and culture, and helping small businesses recover or get started. This can make our downtowns more attractive destinations. We should also be investing in affordable housing, so that people aren't forced to live on the street in downtown areas. Banning handguns is also a measure that will make downtown Ottawa safer and make people want to spend more time here.

- c. Given the problems with the LRT do you feel the Ontario govt should stop using P3s

P3s have the advantage of saving money for the government over using fully public resources. If a private-public partnership yields a good outcome for a lower price than a public build would result in, then it is a good option. There must be a fully transparent bidding process for these partnerships to make sure that the public is getting the best deal possible. There also needs to be regulation and accountability to make sure the contractor is not wasting public money or building infrastructure that is highly flawed.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE

- a. What will you do to ensure access to school boards in communities where there is a significant lack of community centres and facilities? (Gyms, fields, etc.)

Schools are public spaces and should be shared with the community when not in use by students. I will support measures that makes it easier for the public to be granted access to school infrastructure.

3. ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE

- a. is your party in favour of Ontario tapping into hydroelectricity from QC ?
refurbishing decaying nuclear power plants

Ontario Liberals believe that the province should have a cost-effective mix of zero-emissions electricity. New gas plants should be banned, and existing ones should be phased out. If hydroelectricity from Quebec can result in better prices for Ontario consumers and empower us to remove fossil fuels from our grid, then it is an option that should be pursued. This decision however is one best left to scientists and economists who can judge if this is a good deal for Ontario. Nuclear energy also has the potential to be a strong part of our clean energy plan, but that is also an option that must be studied more by experts. When I worked as a lawyer on the nuclear safety commission, I learned the importance of strictly regulating nuclear power so that it can provide affordable and clean electricity to Ontarians.

- b. What is your environmental plan

Our Ontario Liberal climate plan will reduce emissions by half by 2030 to get us to net-zero by 2050. We will do this by empowering people to switch to electric vehicles, public transit, and active transportation. We will also shift our electricity to be totally free from fossil fuels, rather than increase our dependency on them as Doug Ford wants. We will also plant 800 million trees and create five new provincial parks. Ontario Liberals will update the Ontario Building Code to make buildings more efficient and incentivize people to undergo eco-friendly renovations like installing a heat pump or solar panel. Our climate plan is ambitious and contains many more measures than this, and I encourage you to read it on the Ontario Liberal website

- c. How will you protected wetlands?

Ontario Liberals will restore the power of conservation authorities so that they can have proper oversight of wetlands. We will also halt Doug Ford's harmful practice of using Ministerial Zoning Orders to expand development into protected ecosystems. We will not build in the greenbelt, and we will cancel Highway 413 which would pave over sensitive wetlands.

- d. If elected, what is the most important action you will take locally to improve the climate issue?

The most important local climate advocacy I will do is asking the provincial government to provide assistance to make it more affordable for people in Ottawa-Vanier to switch to green transportation methods like transit, active transportation, and electric vehicles. I will advocate for increased funding and for better transit for Ottawa-Vanier. I support the idea of a streetcar down Montreal Road to resolve the issue of Ottawa-Vanier not being well served by the LRT.

- e. How are you planning to proceed with climate change ?

With great urgency, mission, and priority.

- f. The intense, but short-lived (20 min) storm last week knocked out power to more than 1/3 of households in Ottawa, which equals to ~40% of the city's population. The Premier referred to this as once in a lifetime storm: however, climate change means increased instability of weather systems. There will be more of these and other climatic events. So, if your party is in power, how do you build environmental resilience in Ottawa.

Climate resilience should be integrated into our plans of how we build cities and housing. Our priority should be on doing our best as a species to prevent catastrophic climate change, but we should also prepare Ontario for the worst effects of the crisis. We should be building power lines underground, to avoid the problem of power outages. Technology has advanced to make maintenance on subterranean lines less difficult, and it would make people safer in the event of a storm. We should also improve the building code to make sure that buildings are prepared for the increasing intensity of natural disaster over the next century.

4. MINORITÉS

- a. Comment contribuerez-vous à la revitalisation du Quartier Français de Vanier ?

En travaillant vers une désignation de quartier historique francophone pour Vanier avec plus d'art et un parcours d'histoire et d'héritages francophone pour du tourisme et l'éducation.

- b. What does your party intend to do to increase access to French language education across the province (50/50) to ensure everyone can learn French and become bilingual ?

Access to French education is key. We need to improve funding for immersion programs and French schools. There is a strong willingness from Ontarians to improve bilingualism. The government needs to be responsive. Have the Sudbury University become a university par et pour les francophones.

- c. Que ferez-vous pour vitaliser la culture et les arts francophones et autochtones ?

Avec la création d'espaces dédiés aux arts pour mettre en valeur l'art et aussi en finançant plus d'événements mettant en valeur l'art et la culture.

5. LONG TERM CARE and HEALTH

- a. What role should the private sector have in sustaining our senior homes

If someone wants to pay more for a more luxurious stay in a retirement home, then that is their choice. However, all medical needs should be equitably delivered across all retirement

homes and there should be a basic standard of care and dignity across all these communities. Long-term care homes should not be run for profit, as profits should not motivate healthcare delivery.

- b. Interested in Long Term Care. What are we doing right and wrong? How do you propose to improve it?

There is very little that Ontario is doing right on long-term care. We need to revolutionize eldercare to shift toward a homecare guarantee, and small community not-for profit homes for those who need to be in a long-term care home.

- c. What priority will you give to long term care homes and will you regulate them with standards

Long-term care homes should have strict standards of care and have a much smaller number of patients, so that care can be more direct and attentive.

- d. What will you do to reduce the number of children on the waitlist for autism services?

We will implement a needs-based Ontario Autism Program for every child. We will hire a new special education worker for every school. We will also conduct a comprehensive reform of special education and better transition people into adult services. There needs to be an independent review of Doug Ford's failure to support children with autism.

- e. Que proposez-vous pour améliorer notre système de santé ?

Nous devons étendre la certification des travailleurs de la santé qui ont été formés dans d'autres juridictions.

- f. What does your party propose to address the shortage of family doctors in Ontario ?

We should be expanding the number of spots in medical schools and attracting doctors from other jurisdictions.

- g. Nurses are very unhappy, they are understaffed and underpaid. What will your party do about that?

We will repeal Bill 124 and ensure better respect for nurses.

- h. What improvements will you make to long term facilities.

We will move to a localized not-for-profit model.

6. EDUCATION

- a. Will you & your party ensure Min of education guidelines to school boards for shared public use of school facilities is enforced ?

Yes, schools are public spaces that should be shared with the community when students are not using them.

- b. Two of the candidates running in Ottawa-Vanier have been or are School Board trustees. Would these two candidates identify what initiatives they instigated with the School Board to improve student learning and safety during their tenure. And would all the candidates identify what steps they would take as an MPP to improve the learning environments in our schools.

As school trustee and president of the CEPEO I worked in close collaboration with my trustee colleagues and the board administration to agree on strategies to improve the quality of education and the learning environment for all our schools. Limited funding has always been a source of difficult decision making in deciding on priorities but I am proud that our board has always had the collaborative and consensual approach that allowed us to make the best decisions.

As MPP I will continue to fight for better investments in our schools to get rid of portables, to build more resilient schools that provide an inspiring learning environment and to adopt educational strategies that respect the pace of development of each child and that takes into account their different temperaments and their different ways of learning.

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7. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

- a. What is your opinion of a proportional representation electoral system, compared to the First Past the Post system?

I would be open to supporting a proportional representation system if it does not infringe on the need for strong local representation. Vote-splitting among progressive parties could also be addressed by introducing ranked ballots in every riding.

8. HOMELESSNESS

- a. What are your plans to deal with the homelessness epidemic that's going on in Ontario. How will you create solutions that will last and help people stay housed

We need a housing-first approach to homelessness. We need long-term solutions to keep people housed. This means building affordable and supportive housing so that homeless people can have their own units and get their lives on track. This requires sustainable funding from the province and consistent communication with the municipality about homelessness and affordable housing needs.

9. COALITION GOV

- a. Would your party agree to join in a coalition government and not form a one party government

Our parliamentary system allows for any cabinet and premier that has the confidence of the Legislative Assembly to govern. I will stand for the values that I have run on in this campaign on and support the executive that I think will best advance the interests of Ottawa-Vanier.

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11. OTHER

- a. Why should I vote for you ?

I have the experience and skills necessary to effectively advocate for our community needs. I am in touch with the residents of Ottawa-Vanier and represent them based on their needs rather

than ideology. I am also running on an ambitious platform to make housing affordable, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support our public healthcare and education systems.

- b. What are the top three priorities that must be addressed in Ontario?

Housing, Climate, Healthcare & Education

- c. How will your party manage the debt ?

We will gradually reduce the deficit through a targeted tax increase on extremely wealthy individuals and corporations. If forced to choose between funding essential programs and reducing the debt I will always choose to invest in Ontarians.

12. LICENSE PLATE AND ENVIRONMENT

- a. Both the NDP and the Liberals voted with Doug Ford to scrap the license plate sticker fee. Why? They didn't have to since the measure would have passed with a Conservative majority. At a time when Canada needs to be reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and the provincial government is so cash-strapped, this strikes me as irresponsible.

Ontario is in the middle of an affordability crisis, and now is not the time to vote against returning money to people. We have an ambitious plan to invest in transit and active transportation to allow for more people to live car-free lifestyles in the future.

13. QUEBEC AND HEALTH CARE -

- a. Would your party consider starting to refuse Quebec people receiving services from Ontario doctors and hospitals? Ontarians are having trouble finding doctors as well as facing long wait times for procedures in hospitals, because of all the Quebecers using our doctors and hospitals. As well the Quebec government never pays the full amount billed by doctors and hospitals, because doctors and hospital services cost less in Quebec. Therefore we, Ontario taxpayers are subsidizing Quebec people for medical services received in Ontario.

Ontario Liberals have a plan to cut wait times and ensure everyone has access to a doctor or nurse practitioner within 24 hours. We will do this by investing in healthcare systems and licensing more medical professionals to work in Ontario. The risk of denying service to people from Quebec is that people who have a medical emergency while visiting Ontario could be denied medical attention. It would be un-Canadian to not treat someone just because they are from a different province. It is unfortunate that this could mean that people exploit our healthcare system, but it would be difficult to resolve this problem without causing increased harm.