

Question 1:

The Green Party of Ontario wants to see a more streamlined system for all disabled Canadians, so that entry is simplified and that support comes in a much more timely way. By building with accessibility in mind and modernizing the places we live, we can make the barrier lower for persons with disabilities, making their inclusion more accessible.

The Ontario Greens want to prioritize the implementation of as much of the AODA as possible by 2025, as well as substantially strengthen AODA enforcement. Part of our improvement to funding models for education is allocation funds to ensure schools are able to comply with AODA.

In general, we want to invest back in people, and that includes investment in healthcare for improved access to health services for persons with disabilities. For those who qualify for ODSP, we want to see rates doubled and clawbacks reduced. For everyone, that includes an additional hospital facility in our public health unit, built to modern accessibility standards, to improve our healthcare capacity here.

Question 2:

Education should be easily accessible and designed to meet the needs of the students of today and the generation of tomorrow. But, we have been failing to achieve this. We can do better by addressing both the funding gaps that institutions face and the pressure of rising tuition costs on students.

The Ontario Greens would reverse performance-based funding and reimplement funding based on enrollment - with additional funding available for special programs. We need to start by increasing the base operating grant provided to postsecondary institutions to the weighted national average, and then tying it to inflation thereafter.

Additionally, the income level of students and their families should not be a barrier to accessing a university education. We recognize that in Ontario, students have the lowest per-student funding in Canada, resulting in among the highest student debt levels and tuition fees of any province. The Ontario Greens would properly fund higher education and reinstate the targeted free tuition program for low and middle income students, eventually guaranteeing full public tuition for all Ontario residents attending public colleges, trade institutions, and universities.

We also support increased funding and resources for food security, mental health and poverty reduction programs in postsecondary institutions.

Question 3:

In many municipalities, there are limited tools they have to build a diversity of housing options. One of the largest challenges to building affordable housing has been the lack of direct funding to non-profit development and cooperative housing. By bringing back these investments, which have been neglected for decades, we can reverse the decades of affordable housing not being built in meaningful numbers. I would love to see more options similar to WCRI built around university campuses, built with student needs in mind.

In general, the Green Party of Ontario wants to empower cities with the tools to properly plan and build a diversity of housing. That includes the ability to mandate family-friendly housing with 3 or more bedrooms, and plan neighbourhoods where everything required to live is within 15 minutes. More

autonomy would allow for proper urban planning around campuses that increase the housing supply, while also making neighbourhoods work better for the students living in them.

Question 4:

Immediately, the reversal to cuts to OSAP by converting loans to grants for low and middle income students can add some relief.

As part of our climate plan, the Ontario Greens are proposing incentives for businesses involved in green retrofits, reforestation, and other forms of green economy activity to provide Ontario students and youth with job experience. Even further, for specific Green Economy skills, we want to give 60,000 students a year of free college tuition plus a year of guaranteed work for targeted groups when they graduate. This would help Ontario become world leaders in the Climate Economy, instead of playing catch up.

For trade students, Ontario Greens want to modernize the apprenticeship system, so there is a centralized, modern, electronic place to match students to apprenticeship spots.

All of these will help students and new graduates get real life experience in industries that will need more people. With these incentives, Ontario's economy will be strengthened with the skills students are learning today.

Question 5:

We want to ensure our international students get the quality education they came here for. The Green Party of Ontario will ensure consistent and fair labour standards and working conditions for faculty, including contract faculty. We want equal wages for equal work.

We want a more caring Ontario to be our future. Although there are no specifics for changes to international student tuition rates, we want to help those who chose us access to recourse from predatory behaviour. They should have a pathway to continue to live and work here once they complete their schooling, and access to that information should be clear once they arrive.

Question 6:

The Green party of Ontario is a huge believer in active and public transportation. We want to half transit fares and upload the lost farebox revenue to the provincial level. This will be coupled with increased funding for improved service. It's unacceptable that there's no direct public transit between our region and Hamilton or Brantford. If someone wants to not drive, there's no feasible public transportation alternative. This is a problem when the closest healthcare access to certain specialties, like trauma and pediatrics, is Hamilton. That is a huge barrier for people. We need increased service to make public transit viable, and not a second-class experience.

The Green Party of Ontario firmly believes in more connected communities for a better future, and that means more investment in transit. It will take cars off the road and give people options to get where they need to go. This also includes investments in active transportation. Locally, that means supporting increased train service, iON phase 2, and increased connections between here and nearby population centres.