



Ontario Election 2018: How will the Parties Address Child and Family Poverty?

1. Will your party introduce a multi-year Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) with targets and timelines to lift children and families out of poverty? What specifically will your party do?	
PARTY	RESPONSE TO ONTARIO CAMPAIGN 2000
Green Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes. ▪ Invest to improve access to decent homes via inclusionary zoning and investment in affordable housing; ▪ Implement a basic income; ▪ Improve access to quality local food; ▪ Expand our current health care system to include mental health services, and; ▪ Create good green jobs for the future.
Liberal Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes. ▪ Launch consultation process for the next PRS within one hundred days of returning to office. Include investments across government – including in health, education and housing programs to address poverty. ▪ Continue Basic Income pilot.
Ontario NDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with Ontarians with lived experience, experts, frontline workers, federal and municipal governments, and community partners to develop comprehensive strategies for poverty reduction ▪ Recognize housing as a human right and sign on to the National Housing Strategy. ▪ Develop a Provincial Food and Water Strategy, to promote health through access to healthy food, put public access to drinking water first, and strengthen the resilience of Ontario’s food systems.
Ontario PC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No response provided

2. Will your party introduce further increases to the Ontario Child Benefit to help families support their children’s health and development? What specifically will your party do?	
PARTY	RESPONSE TO ONTARIO CAMPAIGN 2000
Green Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the existing Ontario Child Benefit to help families who live in poverty.
Liberal Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (No new commitment) ▪ Monthly benefits have more than doubled since introduction of the OCB. In 2017-18, OCB allocations were \$1,106.0 million and in 2018-19 this will rise to \$1,127.0 million. ▪ In 2018, invested \$15.4 million to the Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent benefitting almost 10,000 children and youth.
Ontario NDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fully endorse <i>Income Security: A Roadmap for Change</i> report. ▪ Continue to move income support for children outside of social assistance so all low-income families benefit. ▪ Shift amounts paid in respect of children’s essential needs in social assistance to the Ontario Child Benefit as a supplement targeted to the lowest-income families.
Ontario PC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No response provided

3. Will your party raise Ontario’s minimum wage to \$15/hour on January 1st? Will you increase the number of paid sick days from two days and enforce the protection of vulnerable workers? What specifically will your party do?	
PARTY	RESPONSE TO ONTARIO CAMPAIGN 2000
Green Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise minimum wage to \$15/hour with an eventual increase to meet living wage standards. ▪ Protect Ontario’s workers by closing loopholes that lead to precarious work.
Liberal Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase to \$15/hour on January 1, 2019 and future annual increases will be tied to the rate of inflation. • Provided 10 personal emergency leave days to all employees, two are paid. These days can be used when a worker or family member is sick, as well as for other personal emergencies. • Introduced 17 weeks of domestic violence and sexual violence leave, which includes 5 paid days.
Ontario NDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise minimum wage to \$15/hour for everyone and index future increases to inflation. • Require employers to provide at least three weeks paid vacation to every full-time employee, ensure that every worker has 5 paid sick days. • Require regular updates of workplace safety rules and WSIB rates and coverage. • Expand coverage and definitions of occupational illnesses. • Introduce Ontario Benefits, giving every worker workplace family benefits, including people in part-time or casual jobs, and independent workers. • Ensure any workplace can unionize when 55% of workers sign a union card. Introduce first contract arbitration.
Ontario PC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No response provided

4. Will your party adopt the recommendations of the Income Security Roadmap for Change report and its plan for transforming income security in Ontario - starting with a significant increase to basic Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates and moving to a standard flat rate structure? What specifically will your party do?

PARTY	RESPONSE TO ONTARIO CAMPAIGN 2000
Green Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support moving forward with a basic income for all Ontarians. ▪ In interim, address inadequacy of current social programs by immediately increasing Ontario Disability Support Payments and Ontario Works payments to rates that match the low income measure.
Liberal Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposed plan for reform begins to respond to all key action areas in the Income Security Roadmap. ▪ A 3% increase per year to rates over the next three years, the introduction of a Standard Flat Rate, changes to income exemptions (including benefits like CPP-D), access to mandatory vision and hearing benefits, and the elimination or simplification of a range of overly complex and onerous rules. ▪ Collapse basic needs and shelter into one Standard Flat Rate over next 2 years. ▪ Immediately remove the board and lodge category, which could lead to a rate increase of 43% for people receiving ODSP. By the third year, provide everyone on social assistance with a Standard Flat Rate. ▪ Increase in earning exemptions from \$200 to \$400 per month in the first year and in year two, to annualize the exemption to \$6,000 per year, a 150% increase compared to today. ▪ By the third year, this total annual exemption of \$6,000 will also apply to payments from CPP-D, EI or WSIB ▪ Change the rules defining “spouse” for unmarried couples from 3 months to 3 years. ▪ Fully exempt asset limits for people with disabilities.
Ontario NDP	<p>Full endorsement of Roadmap report’s findings and commitment to its recommendations including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishing a new, flat rate structure that is simple and fair applicable to both OW and ODSP. ▪ Increasing the OW rate by 10%, 7% and 5% annually and ▪ increasing the ODSP rate by 5% annually until 2021. Future increases will be based on income adequacy and set by an independent panel. ▪ Ensuring all adults have access to a consistent level of support, regardless of living situation ▪ Ensuring single adults and couples receive a standard flat rate that does not distinguish between basic needs and shelter.
Ontario PC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No response provided

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5. What specifically will your party do to get more low-income households into stable, long-term homes? Will your party support the construction of new social housing where low-income tenants pay no more than 30% of their total household income on rent?

PARTY	RESPONSE TO ONTARIO CAMPAIGN 2000
Green Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing is a basic human right. ▪ Use a “housing first” approach to develop dedicated supportive housing for people with mental health and addictions issues, physical disabilities, or acquired brain injuries ▪ Fund municipalities to renovate deteriorating social housing stock and introduce new social housing units in their communities ▪ Work with the Government of Canada to increase support for proposed and existing social non-profit and co-operative housing. ▪ Improve Ontario’s inclusionary zoning legislation; ensure the permanent creation of rental and deeply affordable units, mandating that developers include at least 1 new unit of affordable housing for every 5 new houses or condos, including purpose-built rentals. ▪ Update zoning laws to allow alternatives to single-family detached homes, such as tiny homes, secondary suites, and laneway housing.
Liberal Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently supporting the creation of over 22,000 affordable rental housing units and more than 335,000 repairs to social and affordable housing units; and, providing rental and down payment assistance to over 93,000 households in need. ▪ Investing up to \$200 million in operating funding for housing allowances and support services to assist up to 6,000 families and individuals over the next three years. We are also supporting the construction of up to 1,500 new supportive housing units over the long-term. ▪ Fair Housing Plan protecting homebuyers and tenants. This includes extending rent control to all private units, which protects tenants from unfair and unaffordable rent increases. ▪ We unlocked the value of provincial lands and expanded funding for affordable housing, ensuring the affordability of tens-of-thousands of existing and future homes. ▪ Through the Development Charge Rebate Programs, we will provide over \$200 million in municipal supports to create market and below-market housing ▪ The National Housing Strategy will deliver over \$4 Billion dollars to support housing in Ontario, including new construction, a portable housing benefit, and the renewal of tens of thousands of units of social housing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduced inclusionary zoning, which gives municipalities the power to force affordable housing as part of development projects.
Ontario NDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fund the province’s one-third share of repairing social housing across Ontario, with the municipal and federal governments contributing their one-third shares. ▪ Build 65,000 new affordable homes over 10 years. ▪ Sign on to the federal National Housing Strategy, which will fund the construction of about 20,000 units, including non-profit and co-op housing. Our 10-year capital plan will make additional investments to build the remaining 45,000 units. ▪ Provide the co-op housing sector with \$3 million to seed co-op bid development. ▪ Maintain rent-geared-to-income and rent supplements. ▪ Overhaul inclusionary zoning regulations, so they require a certain number of affordable homes in new housing developments to increase the percentage of affordable homes required and bringing rental properties under the regulations. ▪ Make rentals more affordable by introducing legislation to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Effective, reasonable, predictable rent controls that limit the use of above-guideline increases to “renovict” people ○ A rent registry, so tenants know how much a landlord has charged in the past ○ Protection for renters who pay their rent and abide by their agreements ○ Updated rules that recognize changing rental markets ○ Guarantees that rent remains affordable in the long term, while spurring investments in new, purpose-built rental buildings
Ontario PC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No response provided

6. Will your party commit to making child care more affordable by funding child care programs instead of individuals and putting in place low fees or no fees for parents? What specifically will your party do?

PARTY	RESPONSE TO ONTARIO CAMPAIGN 2000
Green Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phase in funding for a comprehensive early childhood education and care program to offer free daycare for working parents with children under age three, support stay-at-home parents, and increase ECE supports. ▪ Support incentives to offset capital costs for businesses so they can set up onsite daycare with matching work hours.
Liberal Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invest \$2.2 billion over three years to increase access to child care and affordability through publicly funded preschool starting in September 2020. Includes about \$1 billion over three years to support reduced fees and more subsidized spaces for infants and toddlers. ▪ This builds on investment to help 100,000 more children up to age four access licensed child care over five years and as part of this commitment, investing \$1.6 billion over five years in capital funding to create 45,000 new licensed child care spaces in schools and other community settings. ▪ Ensure families with low and middle incomes benefit from access to new spaces, by providing subsidies for approximately 60 per cent of all new spaces, moving Ontario towards universal accessibility. ▪ Supporting early childhood educators and program staff by improving compensation through a wage grid aligned with early childhood education workers working in full-day kindergarten.
Ontario NDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phase in an affordable, province-wide child care plan, starting with care for infants and toddlers in the second year of our mandate, and preschoolers in the third year. Plan and costs will be based on the Ontario Coalition for Better Childcare’s recommendations. ▪ Those with household income under \$40,000, won’t have to pay for public, licensed, not-for-profit child care. Fees for Households earning more will be based on ability to pay — with the average cost coming to \$12/day. ▪ Will not reduce existing subsidies. ▪ Expand number of not-for-profit, licensed, affordable child care spaces in Ontario by 202,000 — a 51% increase, adding more than 10% every year.
Ontario PC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No response provided

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<p>7. Will your party introduce targeted strategies to support groups at higher risk of poverty, including women, single parents, racialized and Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ2S+ communities? What specifically will your party do?</p>	
<p>PARTY</p>	<p>RESPONSE TO ONTARIO CAMPAIGN 2000</p>
<p>Green Party of Ontario</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the personal income tax exemption for low income individuals. ▪ Implement a basic income guarantee for all Ontarians. ▪ Fund community developed educational programs to address achievement gaps in school boards. Include requirement for programs with an intersectional lens that address racism, sexism, homophobia, and other oppressions. ▪ Provide supports for racialized groups, LGBTQ+, and those with disabilities in colleges and universities. ▪ Embed principles of the social determinants of health in approach to health care ▪ Evaluate Indigenous Supportive Housing Program (ISHP) and work closely with the Government of Canada and Indigenous housing providers to ensure Indigenous people have access to adequate affordable housing. ▪ Increase the number of secondary women's shelters in Ontario, particularly in the north. ▪ Double funding for immigrant settlement programs and economic bridging programs. ▪ Increases to Indigenous Student Bursary funding to keep pace with rising Indigenous population and enrolment, and remove citizenship and eligibility requirements that create barriers
<p>Liberal Party of Ontario</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current PRS tracks vulnerable groups with high poverty rates ▪ Poverty reduction initiatives include specific targeted supports for sub-populations. ▪ Mental health plan includes specific investments in targeted populations, such as LGBTQ2S+, Indigenous, and racialized communities.
<p>Ontario NDP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure every resident has free emergency room access and care regardless of their immigration or insurance status. ▪ Work with advocates to look at additional steps to improve access to care for all ▪ Fund women’s shelters and transitional housing and ensure there are services and programs available to help women recover from partner violence and abuse. ▪ Set aside a portion of the 65,000 units of affordable housing for women and their families escaping violence.
<p>Ontario PC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No response provided

8. Will your party expand pharmacare so that everyone has access to affordable prescription drugs? Will your party expand public dental programs so that everyone has access to oral health care? What specifically will your party do?	
PARTY	RESPONSE TO ONTARIO CAMPAIGN 2000
Green Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement a universal dental care program and a pharmacare program so that everyone has access to proper health care.
Liberal Party of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand OHIP+ for children under 25 to provide coverage for Ontarians 65+. ▪ Advocate for a national pharmacare program to make prescription drugs accessible for all Canadians. ▪ New Drug and Dental Benefit Program to provide \$700/year to cover dental costs for a family of four. ▪ Budget 2018 committed an additional \$1 million – now \$33.3 million total annually-- to improve access to healthy food.
Ontario NDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduce Ontario Benefits dental care plan providing workplace benefits for worker and their family, including people in part-time or casual jobs, in a plan that follows workers from job to job. ▪ Set a minimum standard of dental coverage, ensuring people have access to essential care. ▪ Require every employer to provide dental benefits to workers and their families that meet a minimum standard. ▪ Extend public dental coverage to every senior without retiree benefits and to every person on social assistance. ▪ Expand public dental services at those locations with capital investments of at least \$25 million to build new dental suites and operate mobile dental buses, especially in rural, remote and Northern communities. ▪ Implement universal pharmacare by 2020 —no exclusions
Ontario PC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No response provided